

the growth of business and the intricacies of railway working increase in the coming year as in the past, what will be the bill if the work is postponed for say another 10 years? Each year of delay only adds to the cost. One thing the Government of this State should do and it is that in any future railway work there should be provision made that the cuttings and the sleepers used should be adaptable for the standard gauge. The country should be prepared to do this right away because there will be an economic saving. I think I have touched on pretty well the whole scheme and the extracts I have quoted show that the British Ministers and the Press are out to assist us in every possible way, and that so far as the North is concerned, it is our duty as well as that of the Commonwealth to put up schemes for the peopling of that part of Western Australia. England is prepared to assist us with schemes to settle people in the Esperance country, or even the goldfields country, but they say with regard to the North that it is people who are accustomed to similar climatic conditions who should be sent there. Therefore it is imperative that the Government of Western Australia should get busy at once and not wait for the completion of the South-West settlement scheme. The Government can go on perfecting their organisation, and I am sure that every member of the House and the community will be only too pleased to render every assistance possible. But we must not expect one man to take it on himself to do everything, and to say "I am the man; there is no one else who has any ideas." I am criticising our Premier with all due respect. I have no intention of being in any way offensive, but I say that he is trying to do too much and that he must listen to other people. Boards should be formed to assist in the organisation work so that new settlers may be readily absorbed. I have been told that a board was actually formed to deal with the immigrants on their arrival, but that as soon as the Premier returned from England that board was disbanded. Sir James Mitchell is not only Premier, but he is Treasurer, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Repatriation, and now he wants to carry out single-handed this great immigration scheme. The man is not born who can do it. He certainly does not exist in our Parliament to-day. If we got good organisations going, and appointed boards to assist in handling the new arrivals, it would be to the best interests of the immigrants themselves and the country generally. It is my wish to see the scheme extended to all parts of the State and the House should support the motion I have submitted.

On motion by Hon. J. Ewing, debate adjourned.

BILL—BROOME HILL RACECOURSE.

Read a third time and passed.

House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 12th September, 1922.

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

QUESTION—CATTLE SHIPMENT FROM WYNDHAM.

Mr. DURACK asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is it a fact that the motor ship "Kangaroo" is now on her way from Wyndham with a shipment of cattle from the Government-owned Moola Bulla Station, intended for sale on the metropolitan market? 2, Were any of the producers on the coast from Wyndham to Carnarvon notified that the "Kangaroo" was available to them for this trip; if so, who were notified, and when? 3, Is it the policy or intention of the Government to run the "Kangaroo" or any other State ship to their own advantage, irrespective of the producers? 4, Why did not the Government avail themselves of the market provided by the Government meatworks?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Yes. 2, Probable dates State vessels would be available were discussed with all the usual shippers before the season commenced, and bookings fixed according to the applications received. 3, No. 4, Although primarily established for the maintenance and care of aborigines, the station is also a business undertaking, and the Aborigines Department is not restricted in its trading. The department decided to avail itself of the best market offering, as the cattle were not specially required at the meatworks.

QUESTION—ROAD MAKING, FEDERAL GRANT.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Minister for Works: 1, Of the amount allocated to Western Australia by the Federal Government for the relief of unemployment by road making, etc., how much has been authorised for expenditure? 2, In what districts has any of this money been spent or authorised to be spent? 3, In view of the fact that both the Geraldton Municipal Council and the Geraldton Road Board has been waited on by deputations of unemployed returned soldiers, will he authorise the expenditure of some money from this source in that district?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: The matter is still under consideration.

QUESTION—WHEAT FOR HOME GRISTING.

Mrs. COWAN asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Does he know that prime wheat for home gristing is almost unobtainable by householders at present? 2, Is he aware that, to make use of the only quality on sale, it is necessary to spread it out first and pick the foreign matter from it by hand? 3, Can he suggest how the really prime article can be obtained, or inform consumers whether the Wheat Board will inquire into the scarcity at present existing?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, No. Marketable wheat, i.e. wheat of fair average quality standard of the State always contains a small percentage of foreign matter. Specially cleaned wheat is obtainable from flour mills where the demand warrants the expense. 3, There is sufficient wheat on hand, including supplies already at mills, to meet local requirements till the new season's wheat is harvested.

PAPERS TEMPORARILY DISCHARGED.

Mr. SPEAKER [4.36]: I wish to inform the House that I have received a communication from the Minister for Mines to the effect that the papers laid on the Table of the House relating to prospecting for oil in this State are required at the Warden's Court to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. I have issued instructions that they are to be discharged from the Table for that purpose. The papers will be returned to-morrow afternoon, or on the next day.

BILL—CLOSER SETTLEMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 5th September.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [4.37]: After the speech delivered by the Leader of the Opposition in connection with this particular Bill, it is not necessary to deal with it at any great length. In common with other members, I believe that most people are in agreement that a measure of this description, or a measure that will be effective along these lines, should be passed, in order to bring into better utilisation or cultivation land that is required for closer settlement. Throughout Australia and New Zealand, the experience has been that such a measure has been necessary. This arises from the fact that in the early allocation of land, it was customary to give comparatively large areas to encourage people to settle on the land. Then, as land became more valuable, as settlement proceeded further back, and as the lands were put to use, it became necessary that these large holdings should be cut up into smaller areas. Except for a few conservative die-hards, who are scattered throughout various parts of the State, people generally will agree that the interests of the State are of paramount importance as

against the interests of private individuals. Some of these individuals think that because they have the freehold of their respective estates they have the right to deal with them as they like. No matter what the State may require, because these people hold the title to the land, they consider themselves the final arbiters to decide whether the land shall or shall not be utilised. As agriculture is the principal industry of Western Australia, settlement here has been seriously retarded, because there is a considerable acreage of land of good quality held up, and that land is still lying idle. At any rate, it is not used to the extent it should be used. Some of those people have different ideas as to the methods to be adopted in the utilisation of their land. They are apparently satisfied with a small income from those estates, without worrying too much about them. They think because they are satisfied, others should be satisfied too. We have come to that stage when we have along our railway system, built as the result of the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, estates of different areas, some of 1,000 acres, in places where 50 acres would be a large holding, and some from 20,000 to 30,000 acres where 1,000 acres would be sufficient to enable a man to obtain a good income. I dealt with this matter fully when speaking on the Address-in-reply. I said then, and I do not think I over-stated the matter, that there are about two million acres of land within seven miles of railways already constructed. That land comprises first and second class areas which could be utilised but which are lying idle. I know that some of it is conditional purchase land, the owners of which have not been in possession for a considerable period. In such circumstances, we could not do much, but in the older settled portions of the State there are areas ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 acres or more which are held by individuals who are not utilising their properties to the extent they should be doing. The return placed on the Table of the House at the request of the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) shows that, although the Premier says it is not so, there is still a considerable area of land in the Avon Valley which is not being put to use.

The Premier: It is not there.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not see how the Premier can get away from the return.

The Premier: It is easy to say that that is the position.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The fact remains that we have a plan showing the amount of cleared land in that area and showing what is utilised. From what the plan discloses, we must come to the conclusion that there is a considerable area in that locality which is not being used adequately and, in some cases, not even cleared.

The Premier: I wish it was there. I know that part of the country well, just as you know the Geraldton district and what is happening there.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I will deal with the position at Geraldton.

The Premier: I do know the position at York.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Every member of the House who represents a country constituency, and even the member for Perth (Mr. Mann), who has interests in the country, knows of areas that are being held up against the interests of the well-being of this State.

The Premier: That is so.

Mr. WILLCOCK: There is no doubt on that point. As to the Geraldton district, within 25 miles of that centre there are a number of estates held in large areas. I went to some trouble to find out particulars regarding these huge areas. Among those held are the following:—Mr. McKenzie Grant, 14,000 acres; C. P. Murray, 4,200 acres; A. E. Grant, 19,000 acres; J. B. Percy, 15,000 acres; L. Davis, 4,000 acres; Readhead, 20,000 acres; Logue, 7,000 acres; and Hamersley, 6,000 acres. In addition to those, there are many more. The estates are within an area served by four different railway lines, yet the land has been held by individuals for the last 30 or 40 years and has not been utilised to its full extent.

Mr. Mann: Those estates are all improved.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Not all of them. There is one holding of 7,000 acres in the Greenough area in one block, and although it comprises good York gum land, nothing has been done with it except to put up a ring fence. This state of things should not be allowed to continue. This Bill is an endeavour, though I think an ineffectual endeavour, to deal with estates of this description. What applies to big areas applies also to small areas. Closer settlement should not apply only to agricultural land. Land is being used for wheat growing which could be put to better use, and the State should have a right to purchase such land for closer settlement. We have been told that in the Northampton district 50 acres of land would be ample for a man to make a good living on. In that district there is 2,000 acres of commonage, but because of some idea among the officials of the Mines Department that some day mineral wealth might be discovered there, they refuse to allow this land to be used for closer settlement. There is another estate named Warranooka which could be subdivided and which, instead of having no one on it at all, would be sufficient to enable 20 families to do really well. Everybody in the district, the road board, the ratepayers, the progress association and the Repatriation Department, and every public body which has considered the matter, has agreed that it is against the best interests of the district that this land should be locked up.

Mr. Underwood: Is there anyone there desirous of buying land?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Of course. Any number of people would settle on the commonage, and take it up under the ordinary conditions.

Mr. Underwood: As a commonage.

Mr. WILLCOCK: No, as agricultural land. It is not necessary to have an area of 2,000 acres for a commonage in that portion of the district.

Mr. Underwood: We require plenty of commonages.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I agree, but where there is an excellent market for vegetables, fruit, etc., we should make these comparatively large areas available for settlement and provide an opportunity to utilise some of it for the purposes for which it should be utilised. I do not say that the owners of the areas I have quoted are doing nothing with the land. Some of them are enthusiastic, energetic and capable men who understand the business of land production. They, however, have inherited these large areas and are satisfied with an income of £3,000 or £4,000 a year by running sheep. We have a considerable area of sheep land farther back from the coast, and the State should be able to say whether this land near the coast should not be utilised for wheat growing or in some cases for dairying, instead of for sheep walks. Large as the wheat areas of Western Australia are, we cannot afford to have land such as this, intersected with three or four lines of railway, used as at present, merely for grazing a few head of sheep and cattle. The editor of the "Australasian," after travelling all over Victoria, visited this district a few years ago and admired the beautiful dairy cattle, the blood horses and the excellent sheep, pheasants and antelopes, etc., but on asking himself whether the best use was being made of the land, had much against his inclination to confess that the best use was not being made of it from the State point of view. Along the Midland Railway there are 50 or 60 estates comprising areas of 5,000 to 10,000 acres of excellent wheat-growing land which have been held for years and years and are used merely for sheep. I am not talking about the Midland Railway Company's land. What applies in my district applies throughout the wheat-growing lands of the State. The whole country-side is crying out for reform in our land settlement policy. If we want people to grow wheat, we at present have to chase them out to Bencubbin or Wyalcatehem.

Mr. Pickering: Where there is very good land.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes, but why send them out to places where they have to pay freight amounting to 6d. a bushel on their wheat?

Mr. Pickering: Not from Wyalcatehem.

Mr. WILLCOCK: What is the freight from Wyalcatehem?

Mr. Mann: Fourpence.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If wheat were paying an equitable rate, the freight would be considerably higher. We shall have to modify our views and make a readjustment of railway freights on agricultural products. We have unremunerative lines because so much land in the proximity of our railways and close to the coast is not being utilised to its fullest extent.

Mr. Pickering: There is so not much land around Wyalcatchem held in that way.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. WILLCOCK: There would be no necessity to chase settlers out to Wyalcatchem and Beneubbin if such land as I have mentioned were made available.

Mr. Underwood: Where is the wheat land near the coast?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I have given the particulars of 100,000 acres held by 10 men in the Geraldton district, and in the Midland district there is 200,000 to 250,000 acres—not the land of the Midland Railway Company—also held in large estates. This Midland land is within 50 or 60 miles of the port of Geraldton and sufficient wheat ships could enter the port of Geraldton to take away all the wheat which could be produced there for many years to come. This Bill has been introduced to remedy a state of affairs which everyone agrees should not exist. Some provision should be included to prevent any individual acquiring too much freehold land. There is no limit to the area of freehold land which any one person might acquire. When a man makes good on the land, his natural desire is to take up more land and the Government are purchasing and subdividing estates, while at the same time permitting individuals to acquire land to such an extent as to render subdivision in their cases necessary. The law should be amended to provide that no individual should be able to hold the large areas which some people seem bent on acquiring at present. This should apply to wheat growing and other lands, excepting perhaps city or suburban lots, which could be effectively taxed.

Mr. Marshall: If you did that, they would dummy.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Perhaps so, but it would not be an easy matter for a man to dummy more than the maximum area which any one individual would be allowed to hold. This principle is recognised in regard to our pastoral lands. An individual cannot be beneficially interested in more than a million acres. This area, I think, is too large, but it was necessary to fix a maximum and, in some districts where the land is not much good, a million acres might not be too much. It cannot be gainsaid, however, that there is being utilised for sheep walks much good land that could be utilised for wheat growing. Five or six years ago there was a comparatively large area of land along the Midland Railway utilised for wheat growing. Gradually this land has been going out of use until to-day only about 50 per cent. of it is used for wheat growing. The rest is used for sheep raising. The owners have done well and do not care to take what they describe as the risk or gamble of growing wheat when they can make an assured income out of sheep, at any rate, sufficient for their needs, though perhaps not so much as they could make out of wheat growing. This Bill

should apply to pastoral areas. During the last three or four years we have heard a lot about closer settlement of the pastoral areas, but this measure does not deal with them. Certainly an amending Bill a couple of years ago fixed a maximum of a million acres as the area in which one individual might be beneficially interested, but considerably smaller areas should be enforced in the case of good land. We talk about peopling the great empty spaces and making Australia safe for the white race, but all this talk is balderdash if we allow one individual to hold up to a million acres of pastoral country. We must realise that this country is capable of carrying ten times as many sheep and twenty times as many people, and we should not permit these areas to be held up as they are at the present time. It is sometimes argued that we have entered into a definite contract with the pastoral lessees, but the definite contract contention is not so binding in the case of leasehold as of freehold. If we can deal with freehold land, which is supposed to be absolutely owned in every sense of the word by the holder, surely we can do something to deal with leasehold land. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the Bill will be absolutely ineffective in the direction of compelling owners to utilise their land. The provision in the Bill is three times the land tax. On an area of 10,000 acres at 15s. an acre, which is the maximum price for first-class Crown land, a man would have to pay a penalty of only £30 a year.

The Premier: That is not right.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Premier can work it out, and I have no doubt that his surprise will be as great as mine was. The value of land for taxation purposes is very low. It is taken on the road board valuation and we all know that road boards usually impose a low value so that it will not be necessary to pay too much by way of taxation.

The Premier: On your figures, the penalty would be £95.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Whether the measure was operating or not, the owner of the land would have to pay taxation at the rate of 12d. or 1d. in the pound, according to the value of the improvements. Even if the amount were £45, the owner would in ordinary circumstances have to pay one-third of that sum leaving £30 by way of penalty. Therefore a man would have to pay only £30 a year extra to hold up this huge area of land. He could make that out of 100 sheep if he liked to keep them on the property. Look at it from another aspect. If the land were improved it would pay 1½d. in the pound, and it would then take 160 years before the Government could get the value back in taxation. Are we going to allow people to hold up these lands if it is going to take us such a length of time in order to get the value back? We are not taxing the land very much, and it shows that the taxation proposal will be ineffective. Even if 3d. in the pound were paid

it would take 80 years before the value was returned.

Mr. J. Thomson: You must sympathise with the pioneers.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We would have 160 years in which to do that.

The Premier: There would be plenty of time in which to think it over.

Mr. Underwood: What land are we going to get by means of this Bill?

Mr. Munsie: None.

Mr. Underwood: Could you sell a block of land to-day?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Of course. Some of the land about which I have been talking, around Geraldton, has been sold for as high as £7 per acre. I know of one block of 1,000 acres which was sold for this price.

Hon. P. Collier: A big estate was bought by the Government the other day.

Mr. Underwood: No one else will buy these estates.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The property to which I referred was bought by a private individual who knew the value of it when he paid £7 an acre for it. If a selfish landowner wants to hold up land against the interests of the State he should be made to pay dearly for doing so. The Bill, however, will not have this effect. Such a person should be made to pay at least ten times the amount of the tax.

Mr. Pickering: Why not confiscate the land?

Mr. WILLCOCK: This would not be confiscation. I do not see that individuals should be allowed to hold up land beside existing railways when we remember that no less a sum than £20,000,000 is invested in the railway system, and that because of the holding up of that land the railways are showing a loss of over £400,000 per annum.

Mr. A. Thomson. Is that the reason why?

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is absolutely the reason. Everyone who has gone closely into the question of railway administration will know that that is the reason why the railways do not pay. There is too much land lying in close proximity to existing lines which is not being used productively. Mr. Stead, in his report recently, advocated the imposition of an unimproved land tax with the idea of bringing the unused land beside railway lines into cultivation. The only effect of the measure will be that it will bluff a lot of people into paying more land tax, and the Treasurer will smile in consequence. The Bill provides that 30 days after it is passed into law—

Mr. Munsie: We give them 30 days to make them honest.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes, and from the Treasurer's standpoint there are many people who are not paying enough, and who are not productively utilising the land they hold. These people will be bluffed into paying the increased amount of the land tax. I hope that when the Bill is in Committee we shall be able to increase the penalty and also that we shall succeed in extending the operations of the measure to pastoral areas and to conditional purchase land, if that land has been

held by one individual for over 10 years. I would not bring the individual who has held his land for only two or three years within the scope of the Bill. That would be ridiculous and unfair. But if a man is utilising only a small portion of his land, and he cannot use the whole of it, we should bring him within the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. A. Thomson: What about the man with the family?

Mr. WILLCOCK: There are many people here who are poor because they thought too much of the grandchildren they might have had.

Mr. A. Thomson: What about those who have sons?

Mr. WILLCOCK: There are many people who are land poor, and who have practically failed on the land because they were holding up areas larger than they were able to handle, hoping that they might be able to use those areas for their sons at some future time. If those people had taken up smaller areas they would have done well.

The Minister for Works: Do you not recognise any rights in freehold property?

Mr. Underwood: I recognise no right that impedes the progress of this State.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The hon. member will be able to deal with that aspect later on. I trust that we shall be able to alter the rate of the tax and that we shall also be able to make the Bill apply, as I said a few moments ago, to pastoral areas and particularly to conditional purchase lands after 10 years occupancy. That will bring about the effective cultivation of idle lands, yield more revenue to the railways, improve our finances, and also improve our position from the developmental point of view. If we can bring this about we shall get out of that position which, if it continues, will effectually kill the development of the State.

Mr. ANGELO (Gascovne) [5.10]: I do not like this Bill very much; it savours of confiscation.

The Premier: You supported it last year.

Mr. ANGELO: I am going to point out, however, that there are safeguards. The Bill strikes at fundamental principles, and if we are not careful they may recoil on us as a boomerang.

The Minister for Agriculture: Have you had a look at the speech you made on this Bill last year.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes. Another thing is that if we are not very careful the Bill might have a serious effect on the finances on the State. We know what Western Australia owes to the financial institutions, not only the banks, which have been very generous in the way of assisting development, but also institutions such as Dalgety's and others. We must not do anything to impair the titles which those people hold as mortgages, or in any way cause them to get a scare which will prevent them from taking such securities in the future.

Mr. Lambert: We want them to get the wind up.

Mr. ANGELO: The trouble is that those people are only able to get the rough outlines of a measure such as this, and they do not know the exact conditions. Then it goes out to the world that we are going back on the titles we granted to people for freehold land. I quite agree with the Premier and with the majority of the members of the House that something is necessary to compel better use being made of large tracts of land adjacent to our railways. We must try to make our railway system pay, and the only way in which that can be done is to bring these lands into a state of greater production. A person very often finds that there is something wrong with his system, and his doctor advises an operation. The man does not like the operation, but when he finds it is necessary he undergoes it. I do not like the Bill, but I think that a measure somewhat on the lines proposed is necessary. One thing I am rather glad to see is that when we analyse the Bill more closely, we find there are provisions in it which prevent the land being taken over or confiscated, provided the owner uses it. After all, the land was sold to the present holders as agricultural land; it was sold to them so that they could carry on the pursuit of agriculture and thereby produce wealth for the State. If they do not use it for that purpose they cannot complain if some measure is carried by our Parliament to compel them to do so. They can retain the land provided they use it in the direction for which they acquired it. The Bill is not complete unless conditional purchase lands are brought within its provisions. It opens up the way in which holders of conditional purchase lands can evade those provisions.

Mr. Lambert: You have not one of these people in your district, and so you speak most fearlessly.

Mr. ANGELO: A conditional purchase holder may put up the whole of his purchase money, but there is nothing to compel him to take out a title. The land is freehold to all intents and purposes, and until the individual takes out a title he does not come within the provisions of the Bill. The Bill we are told will have for its object the bringing of land adjacent to our railways into a state of greater production. I am told on very good authority that most of the land between Balinun and Pemberton is held under conditional purchase conditions in large tracts. Unless conditional purchase lands are brought under the measure, all that country will probably continue to be held in its present state of unproductiveness. As regards the taking out of a title, a man has to pay a certain amount for a Crown grant, and there is nothing to compel him to take out that grant. This matter might be considered by the Premier, and in replying the hon. gentleman will no doubt tell the House whether I am right or wrong. As to the compensation clause, I think it is not fair to take away a man's land on his valuation for taxation purposes. A man places such a valuation possibly on land which, being unimproved, is not of much

value to him. He does not put on it the full value which the land would represent to him if he were making use of it.

The Premier: He must put on it the price at which he is prepared to sell it.

Mr. ANGELO: I doubt very much if that is the case. If a man has a piece of country which he is not using, he values it for taxation purposes at what it is worth to him for the time being. He hopes later to increase its value, and sooner than sell it for very little he will improve it. This matter is one requiring the most serious consideration. It is the most important feature of the Bill. If we are going to dispossess a man on taxation value, it will at once create a precedent, establishing it as the policy of the Government. Later, when resuming land for other purposes, such as railway construction, the Government may be compelled to take over on taxation values. It might come back to us again in that way.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is not much danger of that.

Mr. Munroe: Let us take the risk.

Mr. ANGELO: It is a point to be considered. There is another point I wish to make. We must always bear in mind that the mortgagee of any land has a good title from the Government as mortgagee provided he has registered the mortgage. Now, the mortgagee has never bothered to find out what value the mortgagor has placed on his land for taxation purposes. The mortgagee values the land for loan purposes at what he considers it is worth. It may be worth £20,000, and he may have lent £10,000 on it. The owner may for taxation purposes value the land at £5,000. If the compensation clause remains as it is, the Government might come along and say to the owner, "You have valued your land at £5,000; we will acquire it at £5,000." Where does the mortgagee come in then? I guarantee that not a single mortgagee has troubled to discover what valuation the owner has placed on his land for taxation purposes. The mortgagee must be protected just in the same way as the owner. We must do our best to protect the financial houses which have done so much towards the development of the State. My idea is that if the owner and the Government cannot arrive at the valuation of the land to be acquired—

Mr. Lambert: Call in the mortgagee?

Mr. ANGELO: No; we should have an arbitration in the same way as the measure provides for arbitration as to the value of improvements. The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) is trying to be humorous, but this matter is so important that we should discuss it seriously. Many years ago a measure somewhat on these lines was adopted in New Zealand, and one of the things they were most careful about there was to see that if a man's property was acquired he got a fair return for that property.

Mr. Munroe: New Zealand only gives the owner 10 per cent. on his taxation value.

Mr. ANGELO: I am speaking of some years ago.

Mr. Munsie: That was so some years ago.

Mr. ANGELO: I was told of an instance where the arbitrator assessed the value at a higher figure than the owner had asked for, because the arbitrator found that the land was more valuable than the owner at the time realised.

Mr. Lambert: Why do not you look up the New Zealand land laws?

Mr. ANGELO: I am talking of the time when Sir Robert Stout presided over the lands arbitration court.

Mr. Lambert: That was for the Maoris.

Mr. ANGELO: No. For the assessment of the improvements we need men who know something of the subject. It is very hard to assess the value of improvements on some properties. Certain improvements may be regarded as invisible improvements. Take the case of a man who has to clear stones and rocks off his land—good land, but absolutely useless until the stones and rocks have been removed. A little while ago I met a farmer who told me that it had cost him £3 per acre to clear the stones and rocks off his land, and that as they were cleared away he put them into a gully.

Mr. Mullany: That man is probably utilising the land.

Mr. Munsie: The Government would not take that land away from that man.

Mr. ANGELO: But how about the valuation of his improvements?

Mr. Munsie: That man has nothing to fear.

Mr. ANGELO: But the board might say that he was not utilising the land to the best interests of the State. He might be carrying stud stock on it, and the board might be of opinion that wheat should be grown on the land. We must be very careful about these provisions. There is also the eradication of poison, which may have cost a considerable amount of money. But there is nothing to show for it later. On that account we must have as valuers men with knowledge of local conditions and the cost of such work.

Mr. Mullany: Under the Bill one member of the board must have knowledge of local conditions.

Mr. ANGELO: Yes; and we must be very careful to see that that valuator is a man who understands the subject.

Mr. Munsie: And also a member of the Primary Producers' Association.

Mr. A. Thomson: That would be no crime, would it?

Mr. Munsie: It is going pretty close to a crime.

Mr. ANGELO: A man's books may show what his improvements have cost him; but many of our lands, as we know, were cleared many years ago, when the farmers did not keep books. Although I do not like the Bill, I think a measure of this description is necessary if we are going to put our railway system into a payable condition and utilise the lands adjacent to it. I shall therefore vote for the second reading, hoping that when the Bill is in Committee we shall be able to

amend it so as to remedy some of the inaccuracies and other matters which I have pointed out.

Mr. MULLANY (Menzies) [5.28]: I agree with the main principles of the Bill, and I welcome the measure as an initial attempt in this State to endeavour to compel people holding agricultural lands which are unproductive to make them productive. The measure does not go as far, possibly, as I would like it to go; and I have some doubt as to whether the Bill, if passed in its present form, will have the effect foreshadowed by the Premier in his second reading speech. However, in view of the reception which practically the same measure got in this House and in another place last session, one has to look at the nature of the opposition. In both Houses one finds a section strenuously opposing the Bill. The reason given for rejecting it last session by one section was that in their opinion the measure did not go far enough, although those members themselves, and also the party organisation to which they belong, are clamouring that something should be done to compel people withholding lands from use either to utilise them or allow someone else to do so. Another section of the opposition to the Bill are quite as strenuous, but on entirely different grounds. They say that to an extent this Bill is confiscation, and amounts to the breaking of a contract which people have with the Crown, inasmuch as the Crown has given those people a title to the land they are holding. So we have opposing the Bill a combination of those people who are clamouring for land reform with those others who are actually holding the land without utilising it. It is remarkable the different receptions which this Bill has met with, last session as contrasted with this session. The Leader of the Opposition twitted the Colonial Secretary with his remarks on the Bill last session, when that hon. member, as a private member, said he was disappointed with it, that it did not go far enough. The Leader of the Opposition asked the Minister, would he now be prepared to advocate in Cabinet that they should go further this year? But the most remarkable change of attitude is that presented by the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering). Last year that hon. member, speaking on the second reading—

Mr. Pickering: I have had time to consider it since then.

Mr. MULLANY: Last year the hon. member said—

I endorse the Bill in its main principles. It arose out of the general cry for unimproved land values taxation, the underlying idea of which was to burst up large estates. It must be borne in mind that the large estates were acquired under the existing land laws, and that any drastic measure for taxation would be unjust if it had the effect of robbing those who took up the land in the conviction that the land laws would be respected.

This session the member for Sussex said he was at one with the Leader of the Opposition in condemning the measure, but for a different reason, the hon. member's objection being that the basis of the Bill was really a breach of contract. What a marked contrast in the sentiments voiced by the hon. member last session and his remarks this session!

Hon. P. Collier: That conference must have met in the meantime.

Mr. MULLANY: Last year he said he endorsed the main principles of the Bill, but this year he is quite opposed to the measure. He said also that one of his objections to the Bill was that the proposed board would be a purely Government nominee board. He suggested that the board should be composed of land owners, primary producers' nominees, and representatives of the Associated Banks. He practically suggested that the board should consist of landholders and the banks who had provided those people with their money. The suggestion is just about as logical as would be a proposal to constitute a fair rents court wholly of landlords or, alternatively, of tenants. Last year the hon. member had no complaint against the board, but this year, although the board has been considerably broadened, he takes exception to its composition. Last year's proposed board was to have consisted of, in addition to the members to be appointed, an officer of the Department of Lands and Surveys, and an officer of the Agricultural Bank; under the present Bill the board is to have also a member who has local knowledge of the matters under inquiry for the time being. So the composition of the board has been broadened, notwithstanding which the member for Sussex, who was in favour of last year's proposed board, is entirely against the present proposal. I do not agree with those members who suggest that the hon. member's change of attitude is due to some conference. I believe the hon. member has force of character and strength of mind sufficient to account for his change of views, that the real reason is to be found in the further consideration he has given the measure since last year. I do not for a moment believe that the hon. member would be influenced in the slightest degree by any decision of an outside conference or executive. Certainly there does appear to be a great discrepancy in his attitudes, that of last session and that of to-day. I do not propose to go into the details of the Bill, but I would remind the members of the Opposition that had the Bill been passed last year we would to-day be in possession of valuable information compiled by the board. Members opposite declared that land adjacent to the railways is not being utilised to its fullest extent. My own observations have led me to think the same. How much better would it have been had we now been in possession of comprehensive reports from the board which would have come into being had the Bill been passed last session. Ere this we would have had definite reports from men of knowledge, re-

ports showing whether, in reality, the lands along the railways are not being utilised.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have that on the Table, from the officers of the department.

Mr. MULLANY: But only perfunctory reports, reports made in the ordinary routine of business. The hon. member must agree that, had the board been appointed, its specific reports would have been of much greater value to us. On such reports alone would we be able to judge the truth of the contention by the Leader of the Opposition that the taxation proposals of the Bill are not sufficiently drastic. It would have been of benefit to the State if the board had been appointed last year and allowed to get to work straight away.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have been paying a lot of money for very little results.

Mr. MULLANY: The hon. member knows that desultory reports have come in, but he must admit that none of them has been thorough. Under the Bill the question would have been systematically gone into, and within 12 months we would have had reliable data to go upon. I will support the second reading.

On motion by Mr. Underwood, debate adjourned.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1922-23, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1922-23.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply to receive the Annual Financial Statement, Mr. Stubbs in the Chair,

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.45]: The presentation of a Budget in bad times is never a pleasing task. This is my fourth Budget. The preparation of a Budget is a troublesome matter. In a great country like this people have many legitimate claims upon the Government which require to be satisfied. We cannot develop a large area like this without many calls being made upon the public Treasury. For some years past we have been getting very short of money, due to circumstances over which the State has probably very little control. No doubt the war has had an effect, while the aftermath of the war is still being felt the world over. I hope before long trade will be restored and that the position generally will brighten up.

Our present position.

In this State we have less cause for complaint because of that trouble than any other part of the British Empire. People natur-

ally feel anxious about the financial position of Western Australia. They want to know what can be done with the money at our disposal, and how our revenues can be increased. I sympathise with them in their anxiety, but I hope directly to show how some of their anxiety may be dispelled. The aggregate taxation, both State and Federal, to say nothing of the amounts collected by local authorities, is very heavy. In talking of the Federal tax we must not forget that part of the money collected by the Commonwealth comes from the Customs House, which returns a large amount each year. I have no means of estimating the amounts collected by local authorities, but I do know that the Federal collection amounts to £936,000, while the State collections amount to £1,050,000. We have to remember where this taxation is placed, and where it comes from. Lord Morley said, "Taxation, no matter how imposed in the first place, eventually goes down to the man who works." I think the correct quotation is, "Goes down to the worker."

Hon. M. F. Troy: The Chamber of Commerce does not admit that.

The PREMIER: I do not know why the Chamber of Commerce should not admit it. I want it to be admitted. Probably 80 per cent. of the spending power of the community comes from those who have a comparatively small income. We can only pay taxation out of production; we cannot get it from any other source. I agree with what Lord Morley says. I hope to show later on what we may expect to do with very little increased taxation. During the debate on the Estimates we shall no doubt hear something of the Licensing Bill. I hope the 10 per cent. tax will be passed by the House. We shall also hear something about economies. We always do hear about them. If members could only hear the requests made to Ministers by way of deputations, they would understand the big claims that are made upon the Government. In this growing country people make demands upon the Treasury without any consideration for the financial position. Our imports are heavy, and are in some measure inseparable from present development work in many directions. Our wheat belt shows that there has been a greater development in agriculture than at any other time in the history of the State. In the circumstances our exports are satisfactory, particularly when we remember the falling-off in our gold yield. Unfortunately there are fewer men employed in the mining and timber industries than has been the case for many years. I do not know whether there will be a revival in the mining industry, and whether the mines will be able to start up again. I hope that will be the case. The employers must remember that some consideration is due to the employees.

Mr. Lutey: They are going slow now.

The PREMIER: I hope the mines will start again soon and that the employers will remember they have a responsibility towards those who work for them.

Mr. Marshall: It is very hard to impress them with that fact.

The PREMIER: I hope the position in the timber industry will shortly undergo a change for the better. It should be possible to revive the timber export trade very shortly.

The Metropolitan Area.

In the metropolitan area a number of factories have been established, and many of the older factories have increased their output. This has provided some measure of employment. One-half of our population lives within the metropolitan area. That is too great a proportion. No matter what may be done, it is certain the metropolitan area will grow. There are enough people working in Eastern Australia supplying the wants of the people of this State, to people a city half the area of Perth. It would be better for us to have those people working here, even if they lived in the metropolitan area. There is no stopping the metropolitan area. Building is going on everywhere. I wonder how all these people live, and how all our industries exist on the small population engaged in primary production. There is employment for everyone in the State, but it is work for the most part on the land. Doubtless there would be more work in the metropolitan area if some of the skilled trades were better supplied with men. Land development means permanent and ever-increasing employment. The development that is going on so rapidly in the back country is largely clearing development. I know of no better investment than the clearing of first-class land.

Summary of Financial Position.

I must now go into the awful mass of figures, as one has to do when presenting a Budget. Afterwards, I shall have something to say upon other matters, and something on the financial question. I have had distributed a summary of the financial position. This has no connection with the many returns attached to the Budget. I have had it prepared for the convenience of members. Last year the estimated revenue was £7,050,910. We actually received £6,907,107, or a decrease of £143,803. I estimated that the expenditure would be £7,621,590, whereas we actually expended £7,639,242, an increase of £17,652. One might claim that this was good budgeting. I cannot say that the expenditure under every head came out as I expected it would. The estimated deficit was £570,680, but the actual deficit was £732,135, an increase of £161,455. From public utilities last year it was estimated we would receive £3,852,939. We actually received £3,890,777, or an increase of £37,838. From trading concerns we expected to receive £184,701, and we actually received £152,047, a decrease of £32,654. The estimated expenditure on public utilities was £3,039,018. We actually spent £3,050,090, an increase of £11,072. The interest and sinking fund expenditure was estimated to be £1,537,144,

whereas the actual expenditure was £1,519,506, a decrease of £17,638. The total deficit on these undertakings was estimated to be £538,522. The deficit on public utilities and trading concerns was actually £526,772, a difference of £11,750. Under Governmental, the estimated revenue was £3,013,270, and we actually received £2,864,283, a decrease of £148,987. This was due to the fact that the proposed tax on the Licensing Bill, £110,000, was not passed by the House, and to £39,000 being short collected on taxation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have £14,000 short collected, shown at the end of July. That was indicated by the Press.

The PREMIER: The sum I have stated was the amount short collected. The expenditure under Governmental was estimated to be £1,898,016, and it actually was £1,935,105, an increase of £37,089. Under Special Acts the estimated expenditure was £1,147,412, and the actual expenditure £1,134,541, a decrease of £12,871. It will be seen from the summary that under the heading of public utilities the estimated deficit was £538,522 and the actual deficit £526,772, a decrease of £11,750. Under Governmental the estimated deficit was £32,158 and the actual deficit £205,363, an increase of £173,205 due to the causes I have stated. The total deficit should have been £570,680, but it actually was £732,135, an increase of £161,455. That was the position in 1922. I hope hon. members will be in a more pleasant mood than they were last year when the Licensing Bill was being considered. Since last year we have had a Royal Commission on the question, and I hope there is no doubt about the Bill going through.

Mr. Munsie: You will not get the money even if you pass the Bill, because the money will not be there for you to get then.

The PREMIER: Give me the Bill, and I will get the money.

Mr. Munsie: We cannot give you any more taxation to squander. You have had too much already.

The PREMIER: The hon. member says we have had too much to squander, but the hon. member will admit that the increased expenditure is due not only to the increased cost of commodities, but also to increased salaries and wages to every person employed in the Public Service.

Estimates for 1922-3.

The estimated revenue for this year is £7,260,342, or £353,235 more than last year. The estimated expenditure is £7,649,951, or £10,709 more than last year. The deficit last year was £732,135. This year it is expected that the deficit will be £389,609, which represents a decrease of £342,526. It is estimated that this year we shall get from public utilities a revenue of £4,077,325, or £186,548 more than last year. From trading concerns we expect a revenue of £108,047, or £44,000 less than last year. It will be seen, too, that the expenditure on public utilities this year is estimated to be £2,964,667, or £85,423 less

than last year. Interest and sinking fund on State trading concerns we expect this year to be £144,097. Interest and sinking fund on public utilities for this year are estimated at £1,346,697. The amount of £144,097 for State trading concerns includes £78,000 interest on the Wyndham Meat Works. The amount finds a place here merely for the purpose of the statement; the £78,000 will come out of Consolidated Revenue. The total decrease under these heads is £256,683. While I did hope that we should get a far better result from the public utilities and trading concerns, still, this is a considerable step towards balancing. I think that there should be no loss at all on those concerns, that the total expenditure on them should be covered by the total revenue earned. However, I anticipate showing a deficit of £256,683 under these headings. Governmental revenue for this year is estimated at £3,074,970, or an increase of £210,687. Expenditure under the same head is estimated at £1,829,450, showing a decrease of £105,655. Special Acts account for £1,365,040, or £230,499 more than last year. The deficit under this head last year amounted to £205,363, and this year is expected to be £119,520, a decrease of £85,843. Hon. members have before them a summary showing how these amounts add up. Of course we expect an increase in taxation and increased revenue from public utilities, but altogether I think the Committee can be satisfied that when the year closes we shall not have exceeded the estimated deficit. I have pointed out that the deficit on last year's operations ought not to have been so great, and would not have been so great if we had got in the revenue we expected from the Licensing Act Amendment Bill and from land and income taxation. The delay in collecting land and income tax was due, to some extent, to the late passing of that measure by Parliament. We ought to be getting more revenue, because there is more trade and more production. The returns before hon. members are the same as those supplied year after year, but of course brought up to date. They contain abundant information, and hon. members, if they read them, will know a great deal about the finances of the State. I have told hon. members what I expect the deficit to be; and I wish to say that the printed forms are supplied merely for the convenience of hon. members. Now I want to show how the deficit is divided between the various separate activities of government, which, of course, cover many fields. Public utilities we have already discussed. Then there are the State trading concerns, and advances to thousands of people—agriculturists, miners, and others; and we have, of course, our free services, which show a tremendous expenditure. Domestic expenditure really represents the free services rendered by the Government. The revenue we expect from taxation is £1,050,000, while we expect to receive in hospital fees a sum of £83,200. The expenditure on domestic or free services we expect to be £1,188,090, or £54,890

more than the revenue. However, £1,188,090 is a very serious amount for a small community to spend on free services.

Cost of Public Service.

I want hon. members to note that on administration, apart from free services, we expect to spend £641,360—not a very large sum. We often hear members of this Chamber say, "You can economise and cut out hundreds of thousands of pounds spent on the Public Service." There are some members of this House who have been public servants, and can tell the House something about the subject. I do not see how so much can be cut away from the £641,360, which is the total paid under that heading. There has been considerable increase in the work undertaken by the Government during the last few years, and I do hope hon. members will realise how small the sum is in view of that fact. I do not say for a moment that one ought not to economise. I say that there should be economy wherever it can be practised. I do not wish it to be inferred that if a man in the Public Service is found to be unfit he should be kept. In such a case he ought not to be kept. For the most part, however, the civil servants, as controlled by the permanent heads, do give satisfactory service; in fact, I consider that we have a great many able men in our Public Service. Under special Acts we are paying from this vote a total of £1,365,040, which gives a grand total of £2,006,400. Under the same heading we get in a revenue of £1,325,580. Added to that amount is £616,190, recouped by the Agricultural Bank, the Industries Assistance Board, the Workers' Homes Board, and the Soldier Settlement Scheme. However, the revenue here falls short of the expenditure by £64,630. We have, therefore, a loss of £119,520 on governmental or free services, and on the administrative side known as the Public Service.

Public Utilities.

I have already stated that public utilities are expected to do better this year than last year. I do not think the revenue I have estimated is too much to expect. I believe, too, that the general revenue of the departments will be very much greater than estimated under this heading. On the expenses side of public utilities we have £2,964,667. A good deal of economy has been practised, and I think everybody in the great spending departments like the railways is doing his utmost to economise; and I hope we shall achieve better results on this side too. The interest and sinking fund charges in respect of public utilities amount to £1,346,697. The shortage under public utilities is estimated at £234,039.

State Trading Concerns.

State trading concerns are expected to return from their profits a sum of £41,950. Then there is recoup of interest, etc., in respect of

trading concerns, £66,097. Under special Acts and for interest and sinking fund we must pay £144,097. Thus there will be a shortage on the trading concerns of £36,050, due of course to the interest on the enormous sums paid in respect of the Wyndham Meat Works. But for that fact the balance would not be unsatisfactory.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The PREMIER: Before the tea adjournment I informed the Committee that it was expected we would lose on the public utilities and trading concerns an amount of £270,089 during the year. That, added to the deficiency under the heading of Governmental makes the estimated deficit for the year £389,609, which, as I have already pointed out, will be much less than the deficit last year. Hon. members will probably ask why the deficit for the first two months of the current year has been so heavy. It amounted to £380,000. It must be remembered that the deficit for July is always heavy, because July revenue is really that collected for a comparatively few days in that month. Then it has to be remembered that the amounts to be recouped grow year by year, always getting larger. Land rents come in twice a year, namely, in September and in March. Interest recoups on account of the capital invested in the Agricultural Bank, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, the Industries Assistance Board, the Workers' Homes Board, the State Trading Concerns, and so on, only come in quarterly or half-yearly. These concerns represent a total investment of capital of 10 million pounds. A great deal of borrowed money is invested and the interest is debited to revenue each month, but not credited monthly. Then there are transfers of expenditure apportionable to loans, and these are only made half-yearly. Revenue collection by the Taxation Department, on account of the current financial year, does not usually begin until five months of the year have elapsed. Licensing revenue, which I hope will be much larger this year, is largely due and collected in December. Revenue from rates on water supplies does not begin to come in for the first three months of the year, pending the issue of rate notices. Then again, interest on properties transferred to the Commonwealth is only paid in June. I feel sure we can live up to this estimated deficit of £389,000 for the year. I do not claim that that is satisfactory, but I do claim that it represents a very considerable reduction on the deficit for last year.

The Loan Position.

I wish to comment on the loan position. There are some people who are very fond of saying that the State is insolvent. They discuss the financial position of Western Australia as if it were not sound. The financial position is very sound indeed, because our money has been well invested in good and solid assets.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is only a repetition of what your party said about the Labour Government.

The PREMIER: The hon. member can do better than that now.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You expended 1½ millions more than we did in five years.

The Minister for Works: Look how we spent it!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have nothing to show for it.

The PREMIER: I do not know about that. If the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) will come with me, I will tell him something about how we expended the money, and I will show something for it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I will go with you.

The PREMIER: Then come over straight away. The total loan indebtedness as at the 30th June last was £54,959,778. The sinking fund represented £8,370,160, which, deducted from the gross indebtedness, leaves a net indebtedness as at the 30th June last of £46,589,618. Of our loan authorisations there is still a balance of £1,589,570 available for flotation. The net public debt per head of the population is £137 ls. This is the highest our debt per head of population has ever reached, and it is largely due to the amount of money borrowed for the purposes of the Soldier Settlement Scheme.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The debt per head has increased from £109 in 1916, when we left office.

The PREMIER: You left a lot to be paid. However, this increase is largely due to the expenditure on soldier settlement. The loan expenditure for the last financial year totalled £2,455,000. We funded portion of the deficit, amounting to £802,000, and we paid off an accumulated overdraft at the London Bank as at 30th June, 1921, amounting to £1,805,000. During the whole of the year before last, we drew from the bank rather than go on the market at a time when money was so dear. Last year we went on the London money market on two occasions. This was due to the fact that we did not float a loan during the previous year. I have already pointed out that we liquidated the bank overdraft of £1,805,000, and this was done by the issue of Treasury bills in London on the authority of this Chamber. These bills were subsequently redeemed by the first loan of three million pounds, the balance being required for the purpose of redeeming old local stock. The second loan was for two million pounds, and this was floated in London during the early part of this year. The position at the 30th June last, therefore, was that we had £2,000,000 of new money, this being the second loan to which I have referred, £2,000,000 for the redemption of Treasury bills in London, £1,119,000 for the redemption of local bills and so on, and portion of the deficit of £802,000 was funded. The cash in hand at the end of the last financial year was £645,213. I want to show the Committee how this money is invested. On

railways and other public utilities, we have £29,000,000 invested; on trading concerns, £2,500,000; on the Agricultural Bank, the Industries Assistance Board, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, Group Settlement, and the Workers' Homes Board, £10,000,000—a lot of that money has been lent to various people—on public buildings, £1,250,000; due by the Commonwealth, respecting transferred properties and public buildings, £900,000; stocks in store, £970,000; and on harbours, other than Fremantle and Bunbury £1,564,000. These items make up a total of £46,184,000. There are some millions represented by other investments which I regard as sound and which take the form of roads and bridges, the rabbit proof fence and various other works. I think hon. members will see that this expenditure has been incurred in connection with solid investments, covering our total indebtedness. I am not including, of course, the expenditure in connection with the development of mining, which accounted for a large sum, the development of agriculture, also involving a large amount of money, and other moneys spent in order to foster the development of this country. These vast sums of money are still doing their work in opening up the various parts of Western Australia. When people say that our assets are not good, they talk without knowledge of what they are discussing.

Federal Per Capita Payment.

We know the per capita payment by the Federal Government to Western Australia amounts to 25s. This was a special payment from the Federal Government to Western Australia, and it started at an amount of £250,000, and has been decreasing annually by a sum of £10,000 per year. The payment received last year was £135,738. This, added to the interest on transferred property, 3½ per cent. only being paid, amounting to £29,063, brought the total payment by the Commonwealth to the State Government for last year to £583,767. This special per capita payment to Western Australia was very properly made, because we contributed to the Federal Government far more per head of our population than did any other State. It would be only right, and it should be possible, for the Federal Government to show more consideration to a State contributing more than a fair share towards the Federal finances. It seems to me that it would be a fair thing if every State of the Commonwealth paid a fair share towards the Federal Government on a per capita basis, rather than continue the present system. That was the original scheme and it was perfectly fair. In any case, owing to the fact that we consume more highly-dutiable goods than do some other States, we have to pay more than our fair share.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We are paying £2 per head.

The PREMIER: We should get some consideration for that. I have informed the Committee that the loan indebtedness, in-

cluding all expenditure, is covered by the investments I have mentioned. The total deficit as at 30th June last amounted to £5,505,565. If hon. members will look at Return No. 7, they will find full particulars as to how that amount is made up.

Government Property Sales Fund.

The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) was rather critical the other night regarding the Government Property Sales Fund. The fund was originally established on the 1st July, 1904, and from that time to the 30th June, 1921, £1,171,496 12s. 11d. was received. That comes, of course, from both loan and revenue, and represents the sales of plant, etc., purchased in a previous financial year, so that it is part loan and part revenue.

Mr. Angelo: There is very little on account of revenue.

The PREMIER: There is a fair amount.

Mr. Johnston: Is the proportion known?

The PREMIER: During the last financial year the amount received was £64,558 14s. 9d. The amount expended to the 30th June, 1921, was £1,028,176 13s. 5d., while last year the amount expended was £95,811 3s. 6d., making a total expenditure of £1,123,987 16s. 11d. There is thus a balance on hand of £112,067 10s. 9d. I do not know if it is generally understood, but I would like to tell hon. members that we pay into a sinking fund on account of this money that comes from these sales of property purchased with loan money.

Mr. Angelo: As long as they are spent on reproductive works, it is all right.

The PREMIER: Well, for the most part, they are. Not all our loan money is spent on works directly reproductive, but where the reproduction is not direct, it is certainly indirect. I think it will be found that the permanent assets created by loan expenditure are very substantial, and hon. members, if they will look closely into the account, will find that the money has been fairly well spent.

Sinking Fund Payments.

Cash payments from the Treasury to sinking fund during the year totalled £322,130, while the earnings of investments by the trustees, including interest and discount, amounted to £416,066, the total added to the sinking fund being £738,196, less redemptions, £9,600, which leaves a net sum of £728,596 standing on the books. I hope the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) will not object to this table. The having of the sinking fund means a very great deal to the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is because of the good investment in London, brought about by the war.

The PREMIER: We contributed to the sinking fund from revenue £5,089,828, while interest on investments amounted to £2,276,932, and discount on stock purchases and cash held for redemption of debentures £1,023,300, making a total of £8,390,060, less brokerage and expenses £19,900, or a total of £8,370,160.

Of this amount £6,898,589 represents our own stock purchased at a discount.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Will it be necessary to put any of those stocks on the market to redeem others?

The PREMIER: No. I explained to the House the other night that we would never again place those stocks on the market. If it were necessary to go on the market now to pay off a loan, probably we should find it more convenient to issue a new loan. I think we should use new money and cancel those stocks. That is the advice I have from London.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That would mean a considerably higher rate of interest.

The PREMIER: When stocks are put on the London market, the price is based on the interest paid. If you were to put 3 per cent. stock on the market, you would get per £100 just what the investment is worth on the day's basis. Hon. members have been told that while in London I looked into the question of sinking fund, with the result that the trustees agreed to forego further sinking fund on the goldfields water supply loan, amounting to £75,000 per annum and interest of approximately £23,000 per annum, or a total of £98,000 per annum. We shall still have more in the sinking fund in 1927, when the loan matures, than will be needed to take up the loan.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But our 3 per cent. stock has been bringing £78. If we were to raise a new loan to redeem that, we would have to pay 6 per cent.

The PREMIER: I have told the hon. member that the rate of interest fixes the value of the stock.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That does not apply to-day.

The PREMIER: Oh, yes, it does. It certainly would not pay us to sell our stock in the way the hon. member suggests. I do not know that I need say any more about the sinking fund. It is a very substantial amount, and we are paying too much into some of our funds. Of course one half per cent. was never intended to cover the whole of a loan at maturity, but some of our sinking funds will do more than provide full payment of the loan.

The Immigration Scheme.

I want to discuss immigration. I refer, of course, to the arrangement I made with the Prime Minister before leaving for England, which I completed in England with the Imperial Government. Under this scheme we are to get £6,000,000. If the money be at 6 per cent., the interest contributions by the Federal Government and the British Government will be £1,200,000. Thus the total fund will be £7,200,000. Almost all of the £6,000,000 will be placed in the Agricultural Bank for investment. Of this, £3,000,000 is to be advanced to the wheat farmers who are already on the land and who have 600 acres or more cleared. Others having less than 600 acres cleared will be financed by the

ordinary funds of the Agricultural Bank, provided by repayments from previous loans. It is necessary to do this because we must have work for the new arrivals when they come here, and also because we must have increased production.

Mr. Latham: Do you intend to extend that to soldier settlement?

The PREMIER: If necessary the soldiers, too, can participate, although they are fairly well provided for already. The £3,000,000 is to be invested in the wheat areas, if the people there will take it. There will be left £3,000,000 towards settling the 6,000 farmers in the South-West. This carries out our agreement.

Mr. Willcock: Your agreement does not specify the South-West.

The PREMIER: Yes, the South-West division. These English people will settle in the South-West, probably between here and Albany. The wheat farmers are to be assisted to clear more land. To create 6,000 farms will cost probably £4,800,000. Against this we shall have £3,000,000, and we shall have returned from the Agricultural Bank during the next six years—the time which will elapse before the final payment on these 6,000 farms need be made—£1,500,000. Then we shall have to build the railway from Bridgetown to Denmark, probably at a cost of £350,000.

Mr. Pickering: Can you do it for that?

The PREMIER: I think so, with rails cheapening. The advantages of this expenditure will be—first the clearing of 2,000,000 acres of wheat land and the establishment of 6,000 new farms. We shall have in the fund £1,200,000, representing the contributions of the Federal and Imperial Governments to cover losses and expenses.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is not that interest?

The PREMIER: Yes, of course.

Mr. Angelo: You cannot use it as a saving of interest and as security also.

The PREMIER: It will be necessary to cover losses and expenses connected with the work. One cannot advance large sums of money without losing something. It is to be remembered that the money advanced to individuals is paid for by individuals. If we advance £6,000,000 to individuals, we charge interest for it, and they have to repay their loan plus the interest.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will have to pay the interest after five years. Will it not take that money for interest at 6 per cent.?

The PREMIER: No, we pay 2 per cent. It is capital placed in the Agricultural Bank. That is the net result. The profit on £1,200,000 is to cover losses and incidental expenses.

Mr. Davies: What interest would you charge the borrower?

The PREMIER: Just as little as we can under the Act. The bank will have the money as capital. By these means the cost of providing education and other facilities will be met. Every one of the new arrivals

will contribute something to taxation, to railways, and to revenue in many respects. The general taxpayer will have the advantage of the increased annual production. I think it is a splendid arrangement for the State; at any rate, nothing better was ever previously suggested here. We were the first to arrange with the Federal Government and with the Imperial Government after they had passed their Bill. We were there on the spot and we got in before anybody else had time to ask.

Mr. Pickering: Did not that Bill say that they would contribute half the cost?

The PREMIER: Under the Bill the total cost was £1,500,000 for this year and £3,000,000 for each succeeding year. Some people will say I ought to have done better. But no member, nor anybody outside, said before I set out that I ought to do even so much. Nobody made such a suggestion. Yet these people—

Mr. O'Loughlen: Who are they?

The PREMIER: They are not sitting with my friend. If members now have anything to suggest for the good of the country, let them suggest it. I have listened for years for a suggestion as to how we could people and develop this country.

Mr. Angelo: Is it not true that Mr. Lawson is now going Home to endeavour to get the same terms as you have got?

The PREMIER: I believe so.

Added Production.

Practically everybody in this State favours immigration. Before this scheme was initiated we were willing to bring people out and settle them here, paying the whole of the cost; and even on those terms we considered it a good investment. I admit there can be no immigration unless there is work for the people who are here and work for the people who are coming here. It is intended to provide work now and for all time. The scheme would not be a sound one if it operated otherwise. We cannot bring people here unless there is work for them to do; we cannot bring them here unless we can continue to find work for them. There is no one here who would have said, "We cannot bring people here at our own cost." Everyone would have said, "Yes, bring them here, even at our own cost." The arrangement, however, is that the people are to be brought to Western Australia at the expense of the Imperial and Commonwealth Governments. It is intended to bring 75,000 people out, and the cost of bringing them out will be £2,100,000. If we had to pay £12 per head to bring them here as we paid prior to the war, it would cost us £900,000. I have shown that we should have £1,200,000 to cover our costs, interest and so on, or a total of £2,100,000. That is a clear gain as against the previous system.

Mr. Angelo: What is the fare now?

The PREMIER: Thirty-six pounds.

Mr. Angelo: The other day the Minister for Education said it was £12.

The PREMIER: He was referring to one-third of it. I repeat that we shall have losses. However, we shall get this money returned to us from the borrowers and it will be re-invested for further works in the State. When we have used £6,000,000 as we shall do in the next few years, we shall, with the repayments and the addition of interest have put into solid work in this country £7,800,000 by the end of six years. Thereafter we shall have an added production from the soil as a result of this expenditure of not less than £4,000,000.

Mr. Willcock: Is not there sinking fund to be provided for this loan?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. Willcock: Then that will have to be added.

The PREMIER: There will be a small sinking fund, of course, but I am now referring to the next six years when no sinking fund will be payable. I have no great fear of the financial proposals under this scheme. Members are quite familiar with the scheme, particulars of which were published in January of this year. The scheme was submitted to Mr. Hughes in December last and his co-operation was secured. Then at the suggestion of the Leader of the Country Party and other members, I went to London and submitted the proposals to the Imperial Government, who acquiesced in a triangular agreement prepared under an Imperial Act. The measure was passed while I was in England. From time to time I met representatives of every party in the British Parliament and discussed with them Australia and our immigration proposals. Our scheme was the first one submitted. This scheme is now complete.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It has been signed, then?

The PREMIER: I have already told the House that the Imperial and Federal Governments pay the whole cost of landing the immigrants in Western Australia. The Federal Government have arranged to raise loans up to £6,000,000 as required for the development of the south-western division of the State.

Mr. Willcock: That is very much better than confining it to the South-West only.

The PREMIER: I have told members that one-half of the money is to be expended on the development of the wheat belt. The south-western division runs from the Murchison River right down to the south coast and includes the wheat belt. The south-western division must not be confused with the South-West. We must increase production in the wheat belt and have wealth coming in year by year while the work of development in the South-West is going on. This is one of the essentials to the success of the scheme. We must provide work for our own people as well as for the newcomers. We are clearing now and propose to clear at the rate of not less than 1,000,000 acres per annum. Under this arrangement, on a six per cent. basis, the Imperial and Federal Governments will each contribute one-third in-

terest for five years equalling £600,000, and in the next three to five years the State must absorb 75,000 men, women and children from Britain. I hope we shall absorb many more, because in addition to the immigrants who come out under this scheme, many more people who are paying their own way are coming to Western Australia.

Mr. Willcock: I hope we shall keep them.

The PREMIER: I hope so, too.

Mr. Munsie: You will have to find land for them.

The PREMIER: Our contract is to settle 75,000 men, women, and children. We are getting out men with families, and we hope to be able to keep them. Young people will move about, but married men who establish their homes here should settle down and remain here for all time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are generally better off than the single men.

The PREMIER: They are always better off. When trouble comes they have a home, whereas the single men too often have nothing at all. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) will no doubt agree with that. The 6,000 men are to be settled in the South-West after they have acquired local experience up to 12 months and they must be settled under group settlement conditions. Members have asked for details of the scheme. I think the scheme is perfectly simple. There is nothing new in the idea. We have been bringing people to Western Australia for years and years, and actively for the last 15 years, and this scheme merely means the settlement year by year of a few more people than we have been handling during the last three years. It is a settlement scheme such as we have faced with our soldiers during the last three years, and very little more.

Mr. Davies: It means settling 500 a week, including women and children.

The PREMIER: That is so. We must provide work and we must make by the settlers' own labour 6,000 new farms. We also have to finance the scheme.

Reply to Critics.

I have explained all these aspects, but critics who are not in the House probably prefer not to be enlightened. We have heard a lot of criticism, and to some of it I intend to refer. The criticism has been a long, involved, inaccurate, and undigested mass of matter. There has been a good deal of it in another place. According to one member in another place, the cost of the scheme is estimated at £20,000,000. This sum includes—why I do not know—ordinary loan expenditure for five years amounting to £10,000,000. Certainly our ordinary loan expenditure during the last five years, apart from land settlement, amounted to £3,750,000. This is a fair specimen of the accuracy of some of the criticism. In this case the amount was overstated threefold.

Hon. P. Collier: That hon. member broke down under the burden.

The PREMIER: I am not surprised to hear it. Again it was said that the Imperial Government would get £8 per head, representing the trade on 75,000 people, which would be equal to £600,000, and would thus pay the Imperial Government's interest contribution. The British trader might get £8 per head for goods supplied, but the British Government would get no portion of that sum at all. The people of this State are asked to believe that the British Government are going to make money out of this scheme. Of course they cannot. Britain has supplied us with goods for the last 70 years and probably will continue to do so during the next 700 years.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is what Col. Amery said.

The PREMIER: It was said that established farmers would absorb only 5,000 men, and that 6,000 would be settled. I shall deal fully with this aspect later on, but it did not occur to this critic that 6,000 houses would have to be cut for settlers alone. All that material and produce must be handled. Then again, he overlooked the facts that roads must be made, and that the quick development of the wheat belt would absorb many men. I wonder if he ever read the scheme. He went on to state that there would be no production for five years. A friend of mine, speaking of the South-West, said he did not think that land would take five years to develop and sweeten. He said the climate was as mild as a mother's smile and the soil as kindly as God's love.

Hon. P. Collier: That was at a banquet.

The PREMIER: That gentleman described the country well; very much better than I could do it.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You have not quoted it quite correctly.

The PREMIER: Those words are quite near enough for me. In a final wild flight, the same critic drew a comparison with the terms obtained by Victoria. So far as I am aware, Victoria has not finalised its scheme. This critic proclaims that Victoria gets £300 per settler against Western Australia's £8. In July last year the Premier of Victoria explained that the Imperial Government would lend a new settler £300, and that the State Government would supplement this amount by £900 to £1,200. This loan was to be repaid by the settler, the two Governments sharing repayments and losses pro rata. In other words, if there was any loss, the Imperial Government would have to share it with the Victorian Government. Of what good would that scheme be to us? A similar offer was made to me when I was in London and I would not look at it. I said it was of no use to us. Consequently we got the other scheme. On a £1,500 advance the Imperial Government would take one-fifth of the risk and the State the other four-fifths. The conclusion reached was that the State should not carry any risk, and that the Imperial and Federal Governments should provide the money altogether. It should be their scheme, their work and their funds. We

should have nothing to do with it. But the man who pays the piper usually calls the tune. Would this House or the people of this State agree that the control of the settlement of this country should pass into other hands? This goes even beyond unification. It is a reversion to the old Crown colony days. We prefer to control our own development with the cheapest money this State has ever had. There are captious critics who profess to offer to help us. I would be very glad of their help. I suggest that they should first master the details of the scheme, and then give us all the honest support and help they can. If they can show that they can do better, very well. We should all help in this scheme, and if they can help too I shall be very glad. They are not constructive in their criticism, only destructive. They are uninformed and reactionary. Their criticism is not worth the paper it is written on. I have told the committee how it is proposed to spend the £6,000,000.

Providing Employment.

It will provide employment for those who are already on the land, it will be used in the settlement of the South-West, and provide for 75,000 people. The settlement of the new arrivals begins when they have gained local experience. I have not agreed to settle every man who comes to this country, but I am going to make 6,000 farmers of the 75,000 men, women, and children who come here. Our own people are taking up land at a greater rate than they have attempted to do for many years past.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Things are so bad they are glad to get anywhere.

The PREMIER: Someone has to do the work of this country. If the hon. member and the people he represents all become farmers, and it seems that they do intend to go on the land, someone will be required to do the work that will have to be done in Fremantle, handle the wheat for export, fill the vacancies in the factories, and assist in supplying the wants of the people generally. For every man who is engaged in farming there are at least 10 men working for him in some other part of the State.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Our own people cannot get land in the South-West.

The PREMIER: Yes, they can. It is expected that the new arrivals will have become acclimatised and gained local experience within, say, 12 months after their arrival. This means that the last of the 6,000 persons must be settled about four years after the landing of the first batch under the agreement.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Settle those who are already here.

The PREMIER: The business of the farm making will be completed within six years. The proposal is to bring in 25,000 men, women and children each year. We intend to bring almost exclusively married men with families. We can settle them on arrival

if we choose, without making them wait 12 months for their experience. No doubt many of the new arrivals will already be experienced, so that they may begin work at once. We propose to clear 2,000,000 acres. There is also an enormous amount of clearing being done by people who do not require Government assistance. Probably an additional 50 per cent. will be added to the 2,000,000 acres as a result of clearing by the expenditure of private money. The clearing of 2,000,000 acres will mean the employment of a large number of men. It will take 4,000 men to clear 1,000,000 acres in 12 months. Clearers do not work all the year round, but work on the farms at other times. When 1,000,000 acres have been cleared, the area must be cropped. In the wheat belt the cropping is done almost at once. The cropping of the land will employ 4,000 men, and the handling and shipping of the resultant grain will mean the employment of another 4,000 men. We propose to settle this year 2,000 of our own people if they are available.

Mr. O'Loughlin: There are 10 men at Pemberton with ample money of their own, but they cannot get land.

The PREMIER: They can get it to-morrow.

Mr. J. H. Smith: They cannot get it.

The PREMIER: We want 200 men for group settlements.

Mr. J. H. Smith: We do not want sustenance. We want to be on our own.

The Minister for Agriculture: They must want special blocks.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Not at all.

The PREMIER: The same programme will be repeated in the second year.

Work following Settlement.

A tremendous amount of work will follow settlement. Six thousand homes must be built, and there will be 2,000 cottages required for our own people who are now settling on the land. Then there will be the cutting of the timber, the transport, and the erection of the dwellings, as well as the marketing of the additional produce required for the new arrivals.

Mr. Angelo: Does the agreement allow you to go outside the South-West corner? One clause of the agreement refers to the South-West coastline and a line drawn between Bunbury and Albany.

The PREMIER: It is the South-West division.

Mr. J. H. Smith: That is a wise precaution.

The PREMIER: Beside these things there will be the establishment of 20 new towns in the South-West, and the supplying of the new farmers and the new population; the erection and operation of factories, road and railway construction and drainage work; and the activity in clearing, fencing, and improving land by private individuals, which is already in evidence. In Fremantle and Perth there is great building activity going on.

Mr. McCallum: Fremantle was never so dead.

The PREMIER: Building was never so active as it is now.

Mr. McCallum: There have never been so many men out of work as there are to-day.

Settlement of local people.

The PREMIER: They need not be out of work. We propose to settle under the group system and otherwise 2,000 of our own people during the next 12 months. We can settle a thousand during 1924, and another thousand during 1925; this will be additional to the immigrants. We shall absorb a large number of men on the land during the next three years.

Mr. Willcock: That was not in the original scheme.

The PREMIER: That is apart from the scheme.

Mr. Angelo: Can we use this money for that purpose? We have not seen the scheme.

The PREMIER: We must settle 6,000 people with that money. We should also settle our own people.

Mr. Angelo: There is a clause telling you where to settle them.

The PREMIER: There are some gentlemen who know more about the scheme than I do.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Colebatch says the settlement is to be between Bunbury and Albany.

Mr. Angelo: We want to know.

Mr. Johnston: We want to see the agreement.

The PREMIER: I have told hon. members what it is, and I will not tell them any more. It is the South-West division of the State. No one knows better than a late official of the Lands Department what that means.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Colebatch says something quite different.

The PREMIER: I will supply the hon. member with a copy of the agreement.

Mr. Johnston: That is what we want.

The PREMIER: I propose to settle 1,000 people as vine growers. They will take up 50 acre blocks, about 15 acres of which will be planted. It is also proposed to settle 1,000 apple growers. I found when in London that the Australian dried fruits were much wanted. In the timber country there is some magnificent land. There will also be settlement on drained country, on treeless country, and on light scrub country. I think we have 1,000,000 acres of treeless land. A good deal of it will be swamp land in the South-West which will need to be drained, but once drained, it can be settled. We have made experiments in Albany which are satisfactory. We have drained the Peel Estate, and the work there is satisfactory. The possibilities and value of our swamp lands are well known. The possibilities of our lighter lands have yet to be established by experiment. There is a large area of such country to work on. That the work can be done by

these people in the South-West under the group settlement is understood. They will clear and bring 25 acres under the plough. They will fence, erect their houses and cultivate their land. They will lay down 20 acres in permanent pasture, reserve five acres for cropping, and five acres will later on be planted with apples. Then there will be the stocking of the land, and the furnishing of the necessary plant and tools. The settler will gradually clear the remainder of his holding and lay it down in pastures or use it for other paying crops. The crops will consist of fodder, clover, oats, etc., potatoes and onions for the market, maize, and apples. The stock will consist of cows, for dairy produce, pigs for the market, and poultry. There is no better country anywhere for the production of food for the household than the South-West. Vegetables can be grown with the greatest of ease. Butter can be made at the factories.

Overtaking the Imports.

Some doubt is expressed as to whether all this produce can be sold if it is grown. We imported last year butter to the value of £444,000, bacon and ham £137,000, cheese £60,000, eggs £20,000, potatoes £40,000, onions £15,000, dried fruits £55,000, jams and canned fruits £137,000, and milk £210,000. The total value of the food exported from the Eastern States, excluding sugar, was £2,080,000. This big importation has been going on for many years. The 6,000 farmers I have spoken of will do well if they can produce that amount of stuff in the near future. There is work to be done for our own markets. We will have to establish butter and bacon factories, and later on factories to handle our fruit. When the local market is supplied and we have saved this big importation we can export butter, frozen pork, fresh and dried fruit, jams and other things.

Mr. J. Thomson: And bananas.

The PREMIER: Yes. This country must be peopled if it is to be held by the British race, and it will have to be peopled speedily.

Mr. Angelo: And every part of it.

The PREMIER: Yes, every part of it. I will come to the North-West in good time.

Land Settlement.

Now I want to tell the Committee a little about land settlement. In the three years from July of 1916 to July of 1919 there were 2,746 applications approved, totalling 1,392,464 acres, or an average area of 507 acres. In the three years from July of 1919 to June of 1922 there were 8,758 applications approved, of a total area of 5,117,106 acres, the average area being 584 acres. In three years we have gone up by 6,000 blocks and by 3,800,000 acres. I do not think hon. members will expect more to be done. It is a fair record.

Mr. Munsie: Does that include repurchased estates?

The PREMIER: Yes; but that area would be very small.

Mr. Munsie: It has a lot to do with the number of settlers, though.

The PREMIER: Yes; but the area would be very small, notwithstanding. In any case, the total acreage applied for and approved is four times that which was dealt with in the previous three years. The last year's settlement was almost a record. Of course the area will fall now year by year, with the development of the South-West, because there the blocks average only a little over 100 acres. However, I want the Committee to realise that the Lands Department have been fairly active. The area dealt with during the last three years is a tremendous one. Of course there is a demand now for land. People say, "Why cannot we get land?" They cannot get land at any quicker rate than that at which we can survey it. The number of blocks surveyed during the three years from July of 1916 to June of 1919 was 2,073, of a total acreage of 733,189, the average area being 354 acres. During the three years from July, 1919, to June, 1922, the number of blocks surveyed was 6,335, of a total area of 2,895,042 acres, and of an average area of 457 acres.

Lands and Surveys.

Now, as to the revenue and expenditure of the Lands Department. Last year's ordinary revenue expenditure shows an increase over the previous year's of £16,218. This is due to the firewood cutting on the Peel estate being recovered by sales, and also to the recovery of the cost of tree pulling for private persons. The cost of surveys must increase. For last year contract surveys show an increase of £11,239. Esperance lands and dams show an increase of £6,027. This is due to activity in anticipation of railway construction. Of course, unless the land is developed rapidly, the railway can have nothing to do. Drainage in the South-West and water supplies in the wheat belt are responsible, too, for some increases. Now I want to show that the revenue of the Lands Department does not reflect the increased activity, and that is by reason of the 1917 Act, which makes selections rent free for a period of five years. In the five years from July, 1917, to June, 1922, 5,693,451 acres of C.P. land were selected. On this area the yearly rental under the present system amounts to £6,965, and the C.P. value to £1,787,641. Under the old system the yearly rental on that acreage would have amounted to £89,379, and the average of rent deferred £16,483. The loss of revenue due to reduction in the price of land amounts to £707,000, representing an annual revenue reduction of over £30,000. The outstanding purchase money owing to the Lands Department amounts to £2,837,407— a fairly big amount.

Agricultural Bank.

The Agricultural bank has outstanding principal to the amount of £2,798,050, and outstanding interest totalling about £253,000,

making a grand total outstanding of £3,051,050. The approximate number of clients of the Agricultural Bank is 8,150, and the average advance outstanding, including interest, is £374. It has always been a puzzle to me how in the early days, say 15 years ago, settlers got round with their work of improvement and development so cheaply. In those years they improved as little as possible, and so the majority of them did with very small advances. I have told the Committee that I want to clear one million acres of land this year. During the eight weeks since I returned, there has been authorised for clearing advances a total of £165,228, or an average of over £20,000 per week. This represents, of course, the rate that is anticipated under the immigration scheme. The total of clearing advances granted since the 1st June, 1922, is £520,119. But hon. members will please bear in mind that the work authorised to be done during the past eight weeks in respect of land clearing alone amounts to upwards of £165,000.

Mr. Munsie: Does that include Newdegate?

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. Munsie: It is to be hoped the work will be better than that.

The PREMIER: Yes. I would not say too much about it, though.

Mr. Munsie: There will be a lot more said about it yet.

The PREMIER: No doubt; but we will wait till that time comes.

Agricultural Bank Repayments.

Now I want to talk about the payment of Agricultural Bank interest charges. In the early days the rate of interest was pretty low, of course, and we charged the settlers five per cent. In those days it was arranged that for five years the settler should pay interest only, and that repayments of principal were to be over the following 25 years at £4 per cent. per annum, plus interest payments, decreasing as the principal was reduced. This meant heavy payments during the early years. What I propose to do is to make repayments lighter. We must get our money back, but we want to make the process as easy for the borrower as possible. We are now engaged on the question of making the payments lighter in the early years. During the first 10 years that the repayment of principal operates, the payments are far too heavy. We can make the strain very much lighter for the settler, and still get our money back. This consideration will be appreciated by the settlers, and will prove a great help to them. The hardest years are the first 10 years.

Industries Assistance Board.

Now I come to the Industries Assistance Board, and I know the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) will give me ear for a minute or two. The number of ordinary assisted settlers, that is assisted week by week, is 730. The number of soldiers assisted is 992. The number of pro-

perties abandoned, but not forfeited, is 205 for the year. The number abandoned and forfeited is 14. The number of cases in which assistance has been stopped though the clients are still on the holdings is 405. Of what are termed class C cases, cases of Government indebtedness, there are about 400. The settlers on the board have under crop this year 615,000 acres, and it is expected that they will get a return of £983,000. The total of advances made since the inception of the board is £6,082,988, which, less the amount of Government indebtedness and road board rates of £1,011,396, represents £5,071,592 cash distributed amongst traders. That is the amount which has reached the traders as the result of the farmers' work done under the board. The gross amount owing to the board would be covered by the amount coming in from crop, and by the amount owing for wheat, and by the permanent assets created. The amount coming in from the wheat pool this year would wipe off the debt to the board within half a million sterling. The board settlers have produced some 22 million bushels of wheat since the board started to operate, and the proceeds of that wheat represent £5,822,421. The outside creditors were owed by board clients £678,228 when the board started operations, and the amount outstanding on the 31st March, 1922, was £322,162, leaving still owing an amount of £356,066. I think the outside creditors are entitled to be paid that balance by the settlers, but I say that, if it had not been for the board, the outside creditors would not have got nearly as much as they have already received.

Mr. Willecock: That is a question.

The PREMIER: I do not say in every case, of course. In some cases the outside creditor would have got more. I mean on the whole. I am not referring to outside districts so much, but to the scheme generally, which is all I can speak of. It is true that many I.A.B. farmers have not been fair to the old creditor, but have left him, taking their trade elsewhere, which is absolutely wrong. Soldier settlers have been advanced by the Agricultural Bank a total of £3,883,429, and by the Lands Department a total of £794,584, making in all £4,678,013.

Mr. Munsie: Who was it established the Industries Assistance Board?

The PREMIER: I forget.

Mr. Munsie: I thought you might be able to inform the Committee who had established the board.

The PREMIER: I do not know that it is my duty to inform the Committee who established the board, but I will tell the Committee that the Labour Government established the board.

Mr. Munsie: That is it.

The PREMIER: That is right. The Labour Party happened to be in power at the time.

Mr. Munsie: I thought it just as well that you should let some of your friends know.

Mr. Latham: It is not good to say too much about the I.A.B. in the early days of operation.

The PREMIER: I do not know that I have criticised any of my friends to-night. The Opposition established the wheat scheme, too.

Mr. Munsie: That is so, and a bad job it would have been for this country if they had not been established, both of them.

The PREMIER: At any rate, the total commitments in connection with soldier settlement amount to £5,360,506. The Lands Department has incurred a large expenditure in connection with estates not yet sold, such as the Peel estate and the Bateman estate. Then there is the rebate of interest received from the Federal Government, amounting to 2½ per cent. for a period of five years. Thus, on £4,000,000, this equals £500,000, and it is on the same basis for any other advances that are made. This is to cover the rebate of interest to the soldier settler, losses and other charges. The member for Collie (Mr. Wilson) spoke about losses that must be faced; this item covers those losses. Regarding pastoral selection, new pastoral areas have been taken up during the past three years representing 67,529,076 acres.

Group Settlements.

I do not think I need say much regarding the group settlement scheme, as we have discussed it already in the House. It is a question, however, that mainly involves finance.

Hon. P. Collier: Was that 67,000,000 acres of pastoral land all new country?

The PREMIER: Yes; and some 68,740,537 acres were taken up in the preceding three years.

Hon. P. Collier: All entirely new?

The PREMIER: I am glad the hon. member spoke. The total number of new pastoral leases taken up was 917. For a considerable portion of the three-year period ending the 30th June last, the land was closed except to soldiers. To continue my references to the group settlement scheme, further groups have been settled and there is land available for another 10 groups. We have placed all the available married men in the 30 groups established, and we now require an additional 200 suitable married men for this work. There will be no difficulty in settling them, because the winter is past and it is easier now to get them down to that part of the country. These groups are doing splendid work and the men participating are working for themselves. It is not a wages job; they are working on an allowance sufficient to keep them going. They are preparing their own places. Hon. members know the position and I need not discuss it at any length. The men there are only working under supervision and preparing the holdings for themselves and erecting their houses, stock and so on having to be provided later on. Our trouble will come when they reach the stage of production, because many

of them have not had experience along those lines and we will have to supervise them. It is then that the pinch will be felt. However, they are doing good work, and I believe good results will be achieved in connection with this movement. A good many of the men settled there are from Kalgoorlie, from Fremantle, and from other parts of the State as well.

Mr. Munsie: A good many more in Kalgoorlie want to go there.

The PREMIER: We will be glad to have married men. I hope the hon. member will give me their names so that we can proceed.

Mr. J. Thomson: I have the name of one here.

Mr. Heron: We will give you some to-morrow morning.

Mr. J. Thomson: But there is no land.

The PREMIER: The hon. member can say so, but we are selling land more rapidly than we have ever sold it before, and if he wants land he can go to the Lands Department and get it. Of course, the hon. member should be told that the Town Hall site has gone, but, so far as we have got land, it is available.

Mr. Willcock: There are no corner blocks for him.

Mr. Mann: That knocks him out.

The PREMIER: I will not deal with the various departments in detail, because the Ministers in presenting the Estimates for their respective departments will be able to do that.

Education Department Expenditure.

I would refer, however, to the Education Department. As with other departments, the expense in connection with the Education Department still increases. This increase is automatic and, so long as our system continues, it cannot be avoided. As our people settle the country areas, they must have educational facilities. The metropolitan area is well supplied not only by means of State primary and secondary schools, but by the private schools and the University. Why should we not have high schools in the country districts?

Mr. J. Thomson: You have a high school at Northam costing £16,000, and one at Bunbury costing another £16,000—all money thrown away.

The PREMIER: The member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson) says we have thrown away money by establishing a high school at Northam! That is the best expenditure the State can face and so it is regarding Bunbury as well. Later on, we shall put up schools at Albany and Geraldton too. If boys can be educated in the districts where they live and near the industries they are to follow, it is better to do that rather than bring them into Perth.

Mr. Pickering. Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: At any rate, we are opening these schools.

Mr. Pickering: Claremont has its Training College.

The PREMIER: We will continue until we have catered for the people. Why should we centralise higher education? Why should we not decentralise these facilities and enable boys living in their home districts to have these advantages?

Mr. Marshall: Claremont is well provided for. There is no need for Claremont to growl.

The PREMIER: Claremont has its Training College and it is a fine building, not more so, however, than is justified by such a fine town. We shall have a fine building at Bunbury, but no finer than is justified by that fine town. I hope, too, that suitable buildings will be provided for Albany and Geraldton as well.

Mr. Latham: Is it true that they are seeking for a secretary in New South Wales now?

The PREMIER: I cannot say. So far as I am concerned, I want the boys to be educated in their country districts.

The North-West.

As to the North-West Department, hon. members will agree that the North-West is a valuable part of the State. I think it is more valuable than the people of this country imagine. There is magnificent pastoral land in that part of Western Australia, not all of which is stocked or occupied. That country is capable of carrying a great deal more stock than it is running at present.

Mr. Pickering: You want the Closer Settlement Bill applied to that part of Western Australia.

The PREMIER: In the far North-East, we have another 40,000,000 acres of good pastoral lands in the hands of the State. Some 17,000,000 acres of it has been proved to be the best watered part of Western Australia; it is nearly as well watered as Java. It has a rainfall of 60 inches and we should be able to do something with that land. There is always a chance of mining development there, and there is also a chance of finding oil. I had the pleasure in reading statements by Professor David, who says we may find a river of oil near the Ord River. May that river be soon discovered!

Members: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: There is apparently a big chance of finding oil there, and if only we find oil, many of our troubles will be over. Prospecting is being carried out and the necessary boring is being attended to. Quite apart from these aspects, we know of the possibilities of tropical cultivation in the North-West. We know we have great possibilities ahead of us there and we should be able to settle a vast number of people in that part of Western Australia. Mr. Jones, the cotton expert from Queensland, is now in the North with the enthusiastic member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale). When we get his report, I hope we shall find that we can grow cotton with success in the north-western part of the State. We import £10,000 worth each year and if we can grow

cotton here, a start should be made with that industry. I do not know why we should not grow all those things necessary to meet our requirements within our own State. Another source of development in the North-West lies in our fishing industry. We should be able to develop the whaling industry, and the by-products can and will be utilised. Apart from that, we have other forms of fishery activities which can be promoted, and we have, of course, the pearling industry in addition. We produce 80 per cent. of the white pearlshell of the world. When I was in London a lady asked me if we produced pearls in Western Australia. The lady was wearing a beautiful pearl necklace and I said, "Yes, you are probably wearing Western Australian pearls now." She asked me if we produced good ones and I replied, "Yes, and they ask not more than £10,000 a piece for them." The lady got a shock and I told her of one pearl for which £10,000 had been asked and which had been produced in Western Australia. I suppose a million tons of fish go to waste each year which should be made use of. The possibilities of fishing from Carnarvon northwards present ample opportunities for industry. The North-West Department has been formed and I am glad that the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) is here at the present time. We are doing good work, affording the people there attention and facilities to a greater extent than has been the case in the past. Every matter connected with the North, including shipping, meat works and other activities, has been placed under the control of the North-West Department. We shall develop the North-West, and that before very long. Development, once it is commenced there, will be rapid. We have to organise, however, so as to get things under way, but once these preliminaries are attended to, the rest will be simpler.

Mr. Pickering: What about the iron deposits in the North-West?

The PREMIER: There are great possibilities ahead of that industry, but I have referred to that in connection with mining. The Works Department will be answered for by the Minister in charge.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He did not spend the £30,000 he was given last year.

The PREMIER: Some has been transferred to the North-West Department.

Mr. Clydesdale: The Minister will not spend more than he can help.

The Minister for Works: I will spend it if you will give me the money.

The PREMIER: I can assure the Committee that the Minister will spend all he can get.

The Minister for Works: I will not waste it.

The PREMIER: Matters affecting this department will be discussed by the Minister for Works. Just at the present time, of course, there must be expenditure.

Metropolitan Utilities.

There is the water supply for Perth which has always been a disturbing factor. No one has been satisfied with the water the Minister supplies.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What about Fremantle?

The PREMIER: The Perth water supply will not be satisfactory until we get a big scheme from the hills. It will cost a considerable amount of money. I believe the whole of those activities that are purely metropolitan area matters, such as water supply, sewerage and drainage and the like, should be handed over to the local authorities.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why not have the same thing in the country?

Mr. Underwood: Would you hand over the trams too?

The PREMIER: Yes, everything properly belonging to the metropolis.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They will have little Parliaments of their own!

Mr. Underwood: And the markets as well?

The PREMIER: The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) comes from Fremantle where they run most things for themselves. I do not know why the city people cannot run the trams for themselves too.

Mr. Mann: They are willing to do so.

The PREMIER: They should.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are not willing to do it.

The PREMIER: I think these matters could be properly managed by the local authorities. The Works Department has now undertaken the construction of railways which have been authorised owing to the fact that material is cheaper, and the conditions to-day demand that these railways should be attended to now.

Mr. Mann: Will you build them by contract or by day labour?

The PREMIER: I hope by contract. Railways we shall discuss on the Loan Bill, but I may say I am anxious that the Esperance line should be finished by the time the land is producing.

Mining.

Turning for a moment to the Mines Department, I may say the goldfields have produced £146,987,698 worth of metal. The production of the coal mines represents £3,313,418, and of other minerals £5,214,784. In 1920 we had 8,496 men employed in mining, whereas in 1921 the number had fallen to 7,084, or a decrease of 1,412 men. That is the sad part of it. I am sorry those men had to go, because it means decreased production. It means also that about 1,000 miles of railway built to serve the goldfields is becoming less profitable day by day.

Mr. Heron: Because of the go-slow policy of the mining companies.

The PREMIER: No, I do not say that. I do not blame anybody for it. Our goldfields have paid £28,201,330 in dividends. The area of auriferous country is very large. Ob-

viously, there must be a great many mines undiscovered, and a great many deposits of minerals yet to be unearthed. When we think of prospecting from Ravensthorpe to Hall's Creek, we realise that it is a pretty big call. Some of this country is in a very dry area, and is not easy of prospecting. A great deal of that country must be entirely unprospected. We have gold and nearly all the base metals; I suppose no other country possesses a wider range of mining opportunities. Just now we are producing copper, lead, tin, gold, tantalite, asbestos and many other minerals. I hope there will be a revival of mining. Very encouraging reports of small finds are coming in from day to day, and if the prospectors continue their work the chances are they will find something better. Our railway service has shown improved earnings, and will show a further improvement. Our railways ought to pay; of that there can be no doubt. Unfortunately, we have very few people per mile of railway, and many miles of railway in goldfields areas are not doing very much just now. The Government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the railways, and the report of that Commission, the Railway Commissioner's reply, and a further reply by Mr. Stead and the Commissioner are before members. They have not yet been considered by Cabinet.

Agriculture.

The operations of the Agricultural Department will be discussed by the Minister for Agriculture. He has a staff of competent advisers, doing very valuable work, indeed the department is doing better work to-day than ever before. Expert advisers are helping the wheat grower and the fruit grower, and serving to protect the country against pests and diseases. We must strengthen that department from time to time. I do not know that we could have any more enthusiastic man than we have in Mr. Sutton, the Director of Agriculture.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He will always please the Minister, if he can.

The PREMIER: It is a most important department, exercising a big influence on the production of the State. Mr. Sutton is particularly useful in respect of wheat development. I wish to refer to our lighter lands. A very thorough test should be made of those lands. It will cost probably £20,000, spread over a number of years. Such a test would be well worth the cost. Reports show that crops are being grown on light lands this year. I propose to ask the House to embark upon this work, which will be of considerable benefit to the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I hope you will put a farmer on to it, not leave it to some of the professional officers.

The PREMIER: Here is an interesting return to which the Minister has drawn my attention: It shows that the area under crop has increased by 398,000 acres or from 1,840,000 acres last year to 2,238,000 acres

this year. It is a very fine increase in the area under crop, and will produce probably £1,000,000 worth of more wealth this year than was produced last year. It constitutes a record for the State, for it is 100,000 acres ahead of the increase of 1916, which was our previous record.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I hope you will get as much wheat..

The PREMIER: I hope we shall. At any rate it is a very fine record, due in large measure to the efforts of the Minister for Agriculture. I hope that next year we shall have an increase of from 500,000 acres to 600,000 acres above the present crop. I suppose hon. members know the value of wheat production. We got nearly £5,000,000 from wheat last year.

The Wheat Pools.

May I say a word or two about the compulsory wheat pool? It has handled 76,113,000 bushels of wheat, sold 75,764,000 bushels, and has 349,000 bushels on hand. The total amount realised for wheat since the pool started is £23,927,000. I want to place on record the appreciation of the Government of the work done by the men on the wheat board from time to time. We have had very good service from those men. To-day the board is composed of Messrs. Paynter, Cotton, Moran, Burgess and Weir. We have had very capable management. Our pools have been wonderfully successful. They have actually accounted for every bushel of wheat received. There have been losses, of course, but they were more than covered by the increase in weight. It is a wonderful record for six years of pool activity. I do not suppose any other State in the Commonwealth has done quite as well as this State. I am sure no other State has had so little trouble with its pools. It says very much for the management under the board, and for the management in the first place of Mr. Sibbald and, more recently, of Mr. Keys.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Does that mean that they have accounted for every bushel of wheat received by them?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The farmers would get a shock if they knew.

The PREMIER: Well, tell them.

Hon. P. Collier: It will be a surprise to the Chamber of Commerce that the State pool has been so successful.

The PREMIER: It is certainly most satisfactory. I do not know that any other Government department has ever put up so good a record.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It has not been a Government department; it has been a special board.

The PREMIER: A Government department all the same. Nothing better could have been done for the farmer.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You made a mistake in discontinuing it.

Mr. Pickering: Has not the board been paid for their work by the pool?

The PREMIER: I am talking about the management of the pool. My friend does not like even that. I am not saying anything about the voluntary pool, but I am expressing appreciation of the management of the compulsory pool. Of course they were paid for their work, paid by the farmer. I hope the farmer will never have to pay more than he paid last year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If my motion had been carried, the farmers would have paid less. Mr. Moran said so the other day.

The PREMIER: I do not agree. I think the arrangement a very good one. There was the board, the general manager, and the Westralian Farmers Ltd. handling the wheat.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Mr. Moran said you would have saved £15,000.

The PREMIER: I know, on paper. Up till now the scheme has been very satisfactory to the farmer. He will never do any better; I hope he will never do any worse. I do not see why the new pool should not be as well managed as the old one. It must be managed by an expert. Of course the farmer has to take some risk. He took all the risk under the compulsory pool. Fortunately, he got through without much loss. The voluntary pool can be just as well managed as the compulsory pool, and I hope it will be. Some of the farmers would prefer the compulsory pool, but as a whole they asked for the voluntary pool. I hope sufficient wheat for our own requirements will be kept in the State, and I hope the price of wheat for local consumption will be based on present London parity. Under the free market of the old days the millers accepted the responsibility of providing for our own requirements. Nobody ever questioned the miller. They knew he would keep enough. Now, of course, the pool has to see that we have sufficient to eat. No farmer wants more for his wheat sold locally than London parity. He does not want less and he should not be asked to take less. He is entitled to London parity and that ought to be satisfactory to him.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have some fear and trembling regarding the handling of the wheat of I.A.B. clients.

The PREMIER: We have been talking a great deal about land settlement. Three years ago the total production from the land, including the agricultural, pastoral, dairying, and poultry-farming industries, etc., amounted to £9,999,000. Last year the total value was £14,145,000. Of course prices varied somewhat, but the increase was £4,000,000, attributable chiefly to agriculture. Manufactures, too, produced £1,200,000 worth of goods more than three years ago. This is indeed satisfactory and bears out what I have said that industries are being established. Recently I went to Subiaco and inspected the pottery works, and I was informed that they had an order for 4,450 tons of plates for Sydney.

Mr. Willcock: You mean dozen!

The PREMIER: Yes, 4,450 dozen. It is possible to shut out the sun with a half-penny. The hon. member should re-

member that we are reaching big figures now. Recently, too, I visited the glass bottle works. At Fremantle we have meat works ready to operate and I am hopeful that they will be operating soon. At Carnarvon we have meat works ready to operate when the meat market improves. The Wyndham Meat Works are operating this season and are doing better than ever before. We also have bacon and numerous other factories. In this State we can produce anything we require, but we must remember that when we export our commodities, they must be of first rate quality. According to tests made the wheat of this State is equal to the world's best; the apples of this State are equal to the world's best; the wool of this State is equal to the best of its kind in the world, and so too our raisins and currants and the other commodities we export. I am right in saying that everything we wish to export can be produced in very high quality. Therefore there should be no fear of a glutted market. People are sometimes apt to grumble about what is produced in this State, but it is a fact worth remembering that there is nothing we do not do well. The great goal at which we should aim is to produce these commodities in much bigger quantities.

Mr. Munsie: We even produce deficits.

The PREMIER: Yes, due to many causes, and we produce critics who are always ready to trot out for the edification of other people the fact that we have had some deficits.

Mr. Munsie: You did not forget it when you were on this side of the House and when the deficit was only a wee baby.

The PREMIER: I am very glad to be able to refer so hopefully to the things which are being done. Croakers should take a walk around Perth and Fremantle and see the activities which, I think, would satisfy them that we are making progress. For the enterprising, there is opportunity in almost every direction. Our natural industries can be developed goodness knows how far. We can

produce from the soil twenty times as much wealth as we are producing. Our secondary industries can be and ought to be developed. Every year we send to the East a tremendous amount of money for commodities which ought to be produced here. Our transport and trade facilities are far in advance of our population and production. By immigration we are making a determined and well-ordered effort to increase our population and our industries.

Why Hesitate?

I believe that every man in this country is willing to help in this work of increasing production. There need be no fear for the future. Whether we are capable of achieving the greatness which is possible remains to be seen. I think we are. If this State does not become great under the rule of the Parliament of to-day, it will become great under some other Parliament at some future date. It is our duty to the State, to the Commonwealth and to the Empire to develop our country to the best of our ability. I do not know why we hesitate. I do not know why we have waited so long. This work has to be done. Western Australia is capable of supporting hundreds of thousands of people. When are our industries going to become great? When are our mines going to be worked and our many other possibilities exploited? The time is now. I hope members will agree with me that our duty is clear and that they will join with the Government in having this development speedily undertaken. Our duty to the Empire is clear and our duty to ourselves is clear, and I hope this great work will be undertaken as it ought to be.

I move the first item on the Estimates, namely—

Legislative Council, £985.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

[Return No. 1.]

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1921-22, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

REVENUE.

The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	£	7,050,910	£
The actual amount received was	£	6,807,107	
Or a total net over-estimate of			143,803

EXPENDITURE.

The actual amount expended was	£	7,639,242	£
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	£	7,621,590	
Or a net under-estimate of			17,652

DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.	Over-Estimate.	Under-Estimate.
TAXATION—	£	£	£	£
Land Tax	22,451	...	...	...
Licences	109,806	...	...	...
Income Tax	14,128	...	...	...
Dividend Duty	2,995	...	...	...
Totalisator Tax	...	792	...	...
Stamp Duty	10,071	...	...	...
Probate Duty	...	6,817	...	...
Commonwealth	...	1,423	...	...
TERRITORIAL, ETC.—				
Land Revenue	11,271	...	...	...
Mining	1,791	...	...	...
Timber	1,471	...	...	...
Law Courts	...	2,354	...	...
SPECIAL AOTS—				
Interest	...	...	9,551	...
Sinking Fund	...	...	36,869	...
Forests Act	...	...	...	5,773
Pensions	...	...	...	1,708
Tramways Purchase Act	...	...	...	7,787
University of Western Australia	...	...	...	900
Fire Brigade Contribution	...	...	...	9,438
Residue	...	...	958	...
DEPARTMENTAL—				
Premier	...	...	...	8,790
Colonial Treasurer	...	6,966	...	17,802
Minister for Lands	11,859	...	...	5,257
Minister for Mines	1,821	...	5,229	...
Minister for Education	...	6,210	...	26,080
Minister for Agriculture	...	339	909	...
Minister for Public Health	...	5,193	...	2,883
Minister for Justice	2,237	...	3,122	...
Colonial Secretary	...	9,878	4,078	...
Minister for Works	...	4,627	13,168	...
Printing	19,385	...	...	...
Forests	...	8,652	...	...
Residue	...	...	...	223
PUBLIC UTILITIES—				
Railways	...	47,835	...	49,191
Tramways	6,076	...	9,145	...
Electric Works	...	12,140	213	...
Fremantle Harbour Trust	10,012	...	...	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	1,800	...	...	...
State Batteries	...	3,563	...	1,441
Water Supply and Sewerage	...	10,805	11,880	...
State Trading Concerns	32,654	...	...	...
Yandanooka Estate	549	...	690	...
Royal Mint	...	7,446	...	...
Butter Factories	17,744	...	18,186	...
Government Refrigerating Works, etc. (net)	...	...	58	...
Aborigines Cattle Station	1,207	...	...	467
Residue (net)	18	...	...	...
Totals	278,843	135,040	115,036	132,683
Net under-estimates		£143,803		£17,652

a Transferred from "Miscellaneous."

[Return No. 2.]

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1914-15 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1922-3.

Heads.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	Estimated 1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
TAXATION—									
Dividend Duty ...	93,916	103,585	105,554	109,462	133,062	144,748	244,969	177,005	177,000
Stamp Duty ...	64,398	64,858	67,035	80,719	112,104	178,543	177,404	184,928	170,000
Land Tax ...	36,433	47,711	42,431	63,388	34,182	46,415	57,791	42,549	75,000
Income Tax ...	80,646	91,630	90,667	98,501	228,560	271,386	334,320	320,874	380,000
Totalisator Tax ...	12,125	12,442	14,775	18,713	42,489	45,911	57,448	57,792	57,000
Probate Duty ...	40,156	44,284	40,963	38,710	40,329	121,951	42,406	76,817	75,000
Licenses ...	44,288	43,448	40,912	39,963	40,325	40,243	41,020	41,194	116,000
Total ...	371,962	407,958	402,337	449,456	629,061	844,197	955,358	881,159	1,050,000
DEPARTMENTAL—									
Land ...	296,606	322,670	282,223	257,368	300,604	330,740	342,362	338,729	338,000
Mining ...	56,935	23,408	20,947	19,291	17,643	24,050	24,108	22,929	21,300
Royal Mint ...	28,389	29,215	30,616	30,213	30,992	37,318	23,005	24,446	21,500
Timber ...	43,003	35,367	27,379	39,248	26,818	54,010	70,796	73,529	57,050
Departmental Fees, etc. ...	334,421	395,546	431,608	418,537	453,938	564,934	759,702	864,848	931,465
Law Courts ...	23,140	21,217	21,279	20,754	19,724	23,497	25,210	26,353	27,000
Harbour Dues ...	36,952	34,564	37,334	31,705	32,930	36,790	49,159	46,009	46,700
Commonwealth ...	631,287	616,104	594,467	699,239	585,668	598,273	593,834	583,767	581,335
Total ...	1,450,733	1,478,091	1,445,503	1,416,355	1,468,317	1,668,612	1,888,176	1,980,610	2,024,970
PUBLIC UTILITIES—									
Harbour Boards ...	115,739	102,234	87,355	85,168	106,287	157,687	185,470	173,188	182,000
Railways ...	2,049,762	2,098,304	1,878,434	1,829,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,805,335	2,940,000
Tramways ...	114,028	118,946	125,714	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924	281,000
Batteries ...	39,562	70,614	61,200	69,355	57,876	49,067	69,467	57,663	57,675
Avondale, Harvey, and Yandanooka Es- tates ...	17,645	28,279	26,675	29,346	19,529	14,865	12,020	7,543	3,100
Water Supply and Sewerage ...	404,501	414,580	404,737	379,925	371,615	361,583	402,354	406,151	408,000
State Dairy Farm ...	3,108	2,700	2,924	2,576	8,476	2,844	3,250	2,514	a
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	15,668	20,377	30,651	27,542	28,726	32,138	35,735	40,615	48,350
Tourist Cave Houses, etc. ...	...	10,414	8,053	6,463	8,457	11,079	13,884	14,482	14,500
Electric Works ...	...	...	10,007	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120	139,000
Butter Factories ...	...	...	...	15,771	19,189	18,717	27,548	17,766	23,700
Total ...	2,759,913	2,865,848	2,635,750	2,610,059	2,675,130	3,174,087	3,758,689	3,893,291	4,077,325
TRADING CONCERNS—									
Ferries ...	5,385	5,800	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	108,047
Hotels ...	28,511	27,051							
Steamships ...	101,919	158,167							
State Fish Supply ...	4,899	10,555							
Saw Mills ...	303,118	236,818							
Shipment of Nor'-West Cattle ...	...	26,835							
Brickworks ...	991	10,220							
Quarries ...	10,306	11,101	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	108,047
Meat Stalls ...	28,275	30,272							
Implement Works ...	73,713	88,453							
Total ...	558,117	605,081	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	108,047
GRAND TOTAL ...	5,140,725	5,356,978	4,577,007	4,622,536	4,944,851	5,863,501	6,789,565	6,907,107	7,266,342

a Included in Departmental.

[Return No. 3.]

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1914-15 TO 1921-22, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1922-23.

Head.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	Estimate, 1922-23.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts	1,700,641	1,821,159	1,910,901	2,012,927	2,112,108	2,232,199	2,416,565	2,644,009	2,855,834
His Excellency the Governor	1,523	1,540	2,094	1,549	1,807	1,935	2,343	2,227	2,159
Parliamentary and Executive	12,101	12,198	12,329	11,597	9,520	10,111	11,350	11,423	11,477
Council									
Premier	1,430	1,326	1,438	1,744	1,796	2,114,540	2,24,044	18,185	13,553
Treasury	9,325	11,603	12,667	11,150	9,046	12,627	11,667	14,909	14,782
Audit	8,871	8,269	8,847	8,946	9,023	10,337	11,697	12,613	11,994
Compassionate Allowances...	1,792	3,002	8,700	8,882	4,167	8,425	6,450	4,964	7,784
Government Motor Cars	3,770	2,699	2,366	1,868	4,459	5,006	2,580	1,703	1,384
Government Savings Bank...	22,067	21,240	21,752	21,515	22,428	26,474	30,470	31,798	32,584
Government Stores	10,087	15,362	13,559	10,980	12,172	14,810	15,580	21,480	18,980
Literary and Scientific	11,130	9,353	10,472	10,442	8,280	8,759	8,900	9,250	9,250
London Agency	2,613	7,933	5,472	7,871	8,210	10,840	12,602	12,032	11,271
Public Service Commissioner	9,748	1,760	1,853	1,555	1,192	1,023	3,483	2,553	2,715
Taxation	12,351	14,305	17,861	18,001	21,040	25,404	33,872	14,468	12,983
Workers' Homes	4,834	4,654	3,556	3,112	3,230	3,515	4,048	6,047	9,291
Miscellaneous and Refunds...	48,246	47,784	50,203	48,717	47,398	75,210	77,873	117,156	81,086
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	59,840	62,694	64,698	60,030	57,302	63,957	73,551	67,010	64,510
Woods and Forests	10,458	8,565	10,096	11,220	10,873	12,962	16,129	16,439	15,869
Land and Surveys	62,093	45,565	46,286	46,326	44,703	59,816	90,182	108,182	100,368
Land Settlement for Soldiers					2,960	14,492	11,753	13,207	15,100
Agriculture	26,891								
Rabbits and Vermin	15,940	46,275	57,600	54,438	62,455	68,410	65,863	58,973	58,449
Stock	9,031								
Agricultural Bank and I.A. Board	11,372	30,736	22,341	38,394	41,130	52,224	53,134	61,016	64,204
Crown Law and Branches	77,216	74,527	68,615	69,697	59,089	71,760	87,186	78,077	78,528
Education	312,299	317,656	334,132	353,793	366,054	414,330	490,160	556,026	559,533
Office of Colonial Secretary	26,934	30,252	31,189	32,297	27,322	27,655	37,718	34,814	31,897
Aborigines	10,259	8,449	9,710	9,452	12,447	6,134	10,423	10,244	9,190
Charities and State Children	85,767	87,545	86,575	88,411	90,485	118,352	88,281	93,563	95,466
Fisheries	8,725	4,106	4,484	4,756	6,277	7,431	7,146	8,377	5,774
Quails	21,658	22,295	20,765	20,126	21,596	25,791	26,684	26,098	25,350
Harbour and Light and Jetties	28,198	23,758	26,247	27,087	19,587	21,985	22,479	22,073	21,316
Lithographic	5,279	5,262	5,742	4,716	4,885				
Lunacy	50,585	59,197	62,770	60,533	64,578	80,146	97,422	89,840	91,758
Medical and Health	109,692	118,898	131,087	129,022	155,673	210,868	197,840	130,093	129,526
Police	130,428	126,699	120,560	130,586	132,157	164,097	174,829	178,065	178,287
Printing	42,703	46,937	44,484	36,085	38,216	54,749	76,688	71,881	70,584
Public Works	132,780	86,505	107,161	98,702	104,615	116,488	123,938	93,597	73,892
Department of the North- West							270	2,042	22,895
Total Departmental ...	1,387,136	1,369,061	1,470,556	1,440,324	1,486,892	1,808,201	2,012,320	2,049,278	1,949,402
PUBLIC UTILITIES.									
Railways	1,508,317	1,515,613	1,455,871	1,454,650	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,337,391	2,248,000
Tramways	75,237	81,244	90,571	104,031	107,705	144,028	198,264	202,995	208,000
State Batteries	49,766	71,839	83,367	71,042	50,674	61,558	69,221	80,891	63,994
Water Supply	222,701	234,172	248,208	220,112	227,232	245,967	284,495	281,846	277,404
Yandanaoka	29,248	33,022	26,771	8,221	10,041	8,842	4,561	2,311	120
Refrigerating Works, etc.	11,546	16,760	21,364	19,078	19,096	20,505	24,235	27,707	26,156
Avondale and Harvey Estates	1,481	4,619	3,798	3,768	3,378	1,853	1,461	1,671	1,600
Tourists	8,895	11,957	10,231	6,415	8,476	10,985	13,115	14,176	14,206
Aborigines Cattle Station	5,153	4,426	4,062	5,610	5,219	8,079	11,814	12,080	10,533
Electricity Supply			8,254	20,488	23,297	43,010	83,088	95,784	98,000
State Dairy Farm	3,548	3,152	3,141	2,776	3,096	4,664	4,338	3,940	
Butter Factories				16,668	20,537	18,620	26,503	15,073	20,809
Trading Concerns						8,449			
Total, Public Utilities	1,915,884	1,975,724	1,950,544	1,934,415	2,064,729	2,586,383	3,145,173	3,059,815	2,966,264
TRADING CONCERNS.									
State Steamers	109,117	139,592							
State Brickworks	2,754	9,827		1,430					
State Implement Works	142,300	150,875							
State Quarries	11,384	5,884		1,450					
State Sawmills	411,994	231,862							
State Hotels	26,472	26,487							
State Fish Supplies	6,255	14,702		3,200					
State Meat Stalls	30,229	26,216		34,489					
Shipment of North-West Cattle									
Less Rebates, etc. ...	5,744,166	5,774,498	5,338,001	5,423,235	5,663,729	6,626,783	7,574,058	7,753,202	7,771,500
	37,624	69,297	61,237	99,956	66,864	95,056	97,767	114,460	121,549
Total ...	5,706,542	5,705,201	5,276,764	5,328,279	5,596,865	6,531,725	7,476,291	7,639,242	7,649,951

a Includes transfer from Miscellaneous.

b Includes £45,071 for loss on operations Royal Commission Control

of Trade. c Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Immigration, Messengers' Exchange, and Observatory.

d Increase in rebates £3,091.

e Included under Printing.

f Includes £1,447 Tourists and Publicity.

g Included in Lunacy.

[Return No. 4.]

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR 1921-22.

	REVENUE				EXPENDITURE				Net result on Estimate and Actual.		Net result on Year's Transactions.	
	Estimated.	Actual.	Increase.	Decrease	Estimated.	Actual.	Increase.	Decrease	Better.	Worse.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Governmental ...	3,013,270	2,864,283	...	...	1,898,016	1,935,105	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	...	1,147,412	1,134,541	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3,013,270	2,864,283	...	148,987	3,045,428	3,069,646	24,218	...	...	173,205	...	205,363
Public Utilities ...	3,852,939	3,890,777	...	...	3,039,018	3,050,090	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trading Concerns	184,701	152,047	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	...	1,537,144	1,519,506	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4,037,640	4,042,824	5,184	...	4,576,162	4,569,596	...	6,566	11,750	...	...	526,772
Totals ...	7,050,910	6,907,107	5,184	148,987	7,621,590	7,639,242	24,218	6,566	11,750	173,205	...	732,135
Net ...	...	...	£143,803		...	...	£17,652		£161,455			

[Return No. 5.]

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED FINANCIAL POSITION FOR YEAR 1922-23.

	REVENUE			EXPENDITURE			NET RESULT.	
	Estimate.	Compared with actual Revenue for 1921-22.		Estimate.	Compared with actual Expenditure for 1921-22.		Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Increase.	Decrease.		Increase.	Decrease.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Governmental ...	3,074,970	...	...	1,829,450	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	1,365,040	...	...	...	...
	3,074,970	210,687	...	3,194,490	124,844	...	...	119,520
Public Utilities ...	4,077,325	...	...	2,984,867	...	...	...	...
Trading Concerns	108,047	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Acts ...	...	...	...	21,490,794	...	...	...	...
	4,185,372	142,548	...	4,455,461	...	114,135	...	270,089
Total ...	7,260,342	353,235	...	7,649,951	124,844	114,135	...	389,609
Net ...	...	...	...	...	10,709			

a Public Utilities, £1,346,697. Trading Concerns, £144,097.

[Return No. 6.]

STATEMENT SHOWING SPECIAL EXPENDITURE AND REDUCED REVENUE NOT FORESEEN WHEN ESTIMATES WERE PRESENTED, YEAR 1921-1922.

Department.	Increased Salary or Wage.	Other Special Expenditure.	Loss of Revenue.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
Civil Service ...	4,652	...	...
Education ...	15,180	...	...
Railways ...	28,000	...	...	Loco. Running Staffs Award
Do. ...	4,000	...	...	Salaried Staff Award.
Lunacy ...	300	...	...	Engineers.
State Children ...	...	5,304	...	Increased Assistance.
Labour Bureau ...	...	821	...	Unemployment.
Arbitration Court ...	...	750	...	Increased work.
Colonial Secretary's Department	335	...	...	Cleaners.
Mines ...	400	600	...	Special Reports—Oil finds, etc.
Goldfields Water Supply...	...	...	8,000	Reduced water consumption on fields.
Taxation ...	...	...	38,780	Short collection, due to amalgamation and late passing of Act.
Licensing ...	...	...	110,000	Bill submitted to Royal Commission.
Wyndham Meat Works	...	...	78,000	Interest not recouped to Revenue.
Total ...	50,847	7,475	234,780	

[Return No. 7.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, ALSO ANNUAL AGGREGATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1921-22.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual.		Aggregate.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ 12,372	£ ...
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,165,244	...	87,211	...	74,839
1901-02 ...	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...	123,184	...
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...	231,659	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295	83,364	...
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885	...	46,521
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379	...	119,900
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829	...	208,729
1907-08 ...	3,376,641	3,379,006	...	2,365	...	211,094
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537	...	312,631
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...	...	102,692
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...	13,299	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409	...	121,110
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405	...	311,515
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411	...	446,926
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816	...	1,012,742
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223	...	1,360,965
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,704	...	699,767	...	2,060,722
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743	...	2,766,465
1918-1919 ...	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015	...	3,418,480
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,531,725	...	668,225	...	4,086,705
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725	...	4,773,430
1921-1922 ...	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135	...	5,505,565

[Return No. 8.]

SYNOPSIS AND BALANCE SHEET AT 30th JUNE, 1922, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1919.		1920.		1921.		1922.	
Dr.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
London County, Westminster, and Parr's Bank ...	106,215	0 3	461,200	14 3	1,805,000	0 0	118,000	0 0
Commonwealth Government ...	53,934	1 11	...	...	27,937	6 9	8,356,962	6 9
Sinking Fund ...	6,157,257	17 0	8,846,128	1 5	7,742,692	0 11	...	...
Treasurer's Advance ...	19,328	7 11	...	...	...	...	2,230,318	10 0
General Loan Fund ...	227,519	0 3	589,132	12 3	369,167	14 6	400,000	0 0
Australian Wheat Board ...	250,000	0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Government of Victoria ...	5,504,059	2 1	5,797,619	4 8	5,918,475	4 3	5,801,447	5 6
Government Savings Bank ...	195,000	0 0	220,000	0 0	245,000	0 0	260,000	0 0
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits Trust and Deposit Accounts generally ...	2,020,817	6 5	3,038,329	8 10	2,457,095	11 6	2,478,958	6 0
	£15,143,128	16 4	£16,952,410	1 5	£18,565,367	17 11	£19,646,286	7 3
Cr.								
Soldiers' Settlement—Advances by Commonwealth Government...	53,934	1 11	...	...	...	...	15,256,334	3 2
Investments ...	12,499,632	10 8	13,510,000	6 4	14,642,912	5 4	932,140	15 10
Stores on hand ...	519,693	8 2	551,792	18 11	792,007	3 0	...	...
Treasurers' Advances, and other Advances ...	...	...	55,422	7 1	624,871	0 5	463,772	8 6
Cash in hand—Treasury ...	7,898	0 7	...	...	4,507	5 5	5,888	6 2
Wheat Certificates ...	723,349	9 11	164,118	13 2	41,965	5 8	...	...
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits General Account ...	5,000	0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
Government Savings Bank Account ...	191,029	9 5	568,591	18 2	351,680	18 7	393,977	5 3
Fixed Deposits with Bank ...	274,835	8 4	360,819	18 2	154,770	9 11	141,410	3 8
Eastern States ...	10,000	0 0	10,000	0 0	...	...	490,813	8 5
London ...	85,369	6 6	74,190	13 11	76,320	9 10	53,354	18 8
Remittances and Drafts in transitu ...	114,260	8 6	375,345	16 2	10,555	15 2	46,371	8 10
Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	2,465	14 10	...	...	680,725	11 4	1,418,860	6 4
Deficiency Account ...	652,014	9 11	668,224	12 7	610,827	0 10	421,863	7 5
Sundry Debtors, etc. ...	3,446	7 7	3,036	16 1	...	...	...	...
	£15,143,128	16 4	£16,952,410	1 5	£18,565,367	17 11	£19,646,286	7 3

a Includes £191,500 temporarily advanced for redemption of Debentures and Treasury Bonds.

[Return No. 9.]

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1920-21.

Year.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties. at 3½ per cent.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10	703,723 ^a	...	Nil	703,723
1910-11	569,578 ^a	...	Nil	569,578
1911-12	365,614	232,265	40,048	638,527
1912-13	382,591	222,554	30,465	635,610
1913-14	400,855	212,751	27,358	640,964
1914-15	403,772	203,127	24,388	631,287
1915-16	398,076	193,544	24,485	616,105
1916-17	386,008	183,974	24,485	594,467
1917-18	386,779	174,350	38,110	599,239
1918-19	391,809	164,696	29,163	585,668
1919-20	414,068	154,937	29,268	598,273
1920-21	419,448	145,287	29,099	593,834
1921-22	418,966	135,738	29,063	583,767
Totals	5,641,287	2,023,223	326,532	7,991,042

^a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 10.]

LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

							£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	55,300,722	
Do. 1921-22	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,162,326	
Total Authorisations								57,463,048
Flotations—								
General Loans	...	...	...	...	...	...	33,578,253	
Local Debentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,312,270	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,349,138	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,456,875	
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock under Deficiency Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,758,160	
Commonwealth Advances	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,418,782	
Balance available for Flotation								1,589,570
Actual Loan Indebtedness—								
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,039,667	
Flotation during year—								
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	163,840	
Local Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,375	
Local Debentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	145,867	
Inscribed Stock (Local)	...	...	...	...	...	...	882,080	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	...	...	...	...	...	877,803	
Inscribed Stock, London	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,000,000	
								56,173,622
Less Redemptions—								
Bonds Loans, 1878, 1881-4	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,600	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,704	
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	35,350	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,009,750	
Treasury Bills	...	...	...	...	...	...	149,440	
								1,213,844
								54,959,778
Less—								
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)	...	...	...	...	...	...		8,370,160
Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1922								46,589,618

							£	s.	d.
Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	137	1	0
Do. do. do. do. 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	*124	15	11
Do. do. do. do. 1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	119	7	3
Do. do. do. do. 1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	116	7	0
Do. do. do. do. 1918	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	0	8
Do. do. do. do. 1917	...	...	...	...	...	...	118	5	5
Do. do. do. do. 1916	...	...	...	...	...	...	109	19	9
Do. do. do. do. 1915	...	...	...	...	...	...	101	12	10
Do. do. do. do. 1914	...	...	...	...	...	...	94	4	11
Do. do. do. do. 1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	85	17	2

*NOTE.—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.

[Return No. 11.]

LOAN FLOTATIONS, DEBT, AND EXPENDITURE ON 30th JUNE, 1922.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways and Tramways (including Electric Power Station)	20,856,313	20,469,073	19,290,890
Harbours and Rivers	4,471,808	4,414,872	4,023,494
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,901,828	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally	1,925,648	1,925,045	1,578,162
Sewerage	1,276,608	1,276,351	1,142,146
Erection of State Batteries and Treatment Plants	325,555	325,279	302,439
Development of Goldfields	1,741,171	1,723,954	1,562,481
Development of Agriculture	5,184,057	5,166,972	4,716,343
Telegraphs	276,721	223,817	269,308
Roads and Bridges	580,544	553,998	425,050
Public Buildings	937,125	927,423	898,639
Immigration	74,982	74,982	56,392
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels	78,052	78,052	68,398
State Steamships	440,393	440,393	471,972
State Saw Mills	258,968	258,968	238,764
Agricultural Bank	2,308,213	2,308,213	1,686,132
State Implement Works	149,716	149,716	135,771
South Perth Ferries	24,447	24,447	12,967
State Milk Supply	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards	42,480	42,480	30,101
State Quarries	19,499	19,499	12,910
State Fish Supply	3,286	3,286	3,162
Crawley and Dalkeith Estates, Harvey Estate, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, Purchase of Land at Nedlands, and Purchase of House for Residence of Agent General	127,378	127,378	103,502
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts	114,469	114,469	105,000
Miscellaneous	149,192	149,108	75,471
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital)	334,468	334,468	286,000
Fisheries	12,208	12,208	11,807
Land Settlement for Soldiers	4,473,026	4,436,505	4,742,669
	49,647,239	49,040,618	45,469,879
Redemptions ... ..	...	606,621	...
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	...	1,929,086
Loan Proceeds outstanding ... ..	...	...	17,384
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	...	2,230,890
	49,647,239	49,647,239	49,647,239

a Includes £717,877, expended at Wyndham Freezing Works. b An additional amount of £364,427 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 9).

	£
Indebtedness as above	49,040,618
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds	1,566,000
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act	3,758,160
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	260,000
Commonwealth Advances unallocated	335,000
Gross Public Debt	54,959,778

(Return No. 12.)

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1921-1922 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Undertakings.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1919-20.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1911-12.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions	323,296	145,724	75,786	154,720	181,394	246,994	350,855	520,344	1,080,910	1,406,802	1,320,309
Tramways—Perth Electric	95,835	34,419	27,473	7,239	3,073	29,445	33,528	22,909	16,026	497,389	...
Electric Power Station	184,345	18,783	17,890	25,886	23,506	61,033	63,170	149,885	69,048	...	...
Fremantle Harbour Works	49,009	46,089	51,855	46,345	42,449	49,004	53,704	106,055	66,142	77,379	35,813
Fremantle Dock and Slip	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	1,291	1,868	11,336	80,842
Harbours and Rivers generally	42,632	72,245	50,322	29,603	42,485	72,354	55,510	58,014	21,890	61,790	69,109
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	21,348	19,436	...	...	15,167	11,059	47,268	120,473	140,582	160,931	63,572
Water Supply	196,231	194,172	49,115	46,636	59,080	65,426	118,275	127,669	191,523	234,184	31,417
Development of Goldfields	43,630	43,902	32,581	16,152	10,861	19,329	19,142	47,283	50,659	78,143	92,345
Development of Agriculture	1,042,606	1,600,739	2,060,579	1,442,740	156,083	169,483	165,727	79,271	156,752	155,432	362,406
State Smelter, Ravensthorpe	74,674	31,698	5,458	80,000	478,170	...	199,890	602,110	...	...	...
Assistance to Settlers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Immigration	8,278	12,024	5,205	1,867	1,107	2,352	4,640	16,665	56,218	63,447	96,805
Steamships	200,000	10,000	14,591	...	...	409	141,065	...	5,907	100,000	...
Workers' Homes Working Capital	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97,500	278,000	150,000	...
Saw Mills	...	88,863	...	...	...	214	511	29,069	126,416	43,691	...
State Hotels	6,858	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	589	10,000	6,546	17,091	17,580	...
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	13,516	161,825	118,285	78,948	25,000	93,165	172,335	271,612	506,638	259,808	...
Agricultural Implements Works	...	39,929	15,772	...	...	1,292	4,627	18,436	43,070	...	...
Brickyards	...	705	1,326	1,165	20	...	547	11,507	13,710	1,121	...
Ferries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,974	2,000	4,993	...
State Fish Supply	...	...	...	...	...	131	3,031	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings	44,440	24,963	10,602	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	31,004	44,166	38,699	91,707
Roads and Bridges	12,566	32,121	14,719	4,231	2,473	2,557	6,152	5,026	6,167	37,818	23,106
Perth-Fremantle Road Reinstatement	...	...	...	...	20	839	7,663	21,198	...	...	...
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account)	...	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	55,000	...	...	...
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge	19	...	1	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,582	...	...	...
Sundries	9,710	7,841	3,089	2,262	1,729	2,676	2,798	5,225	17,652	8,881	12,121
Wyndham Freezing Works—Working Capital	86,000	...	100,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fisheries	32	5,870	5,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2,454,925	2,586,404	2,663,320	1,049,736	1,054,178	855,183	1,684,042	2,821,608	2,913,010	3,409,218	2,809,562

a Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £238,310.
Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,527,664.

b Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,947,772.

c Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £80,107.

d Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £1,947,772.

e Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £83,063.

f Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £983,914.

[Return No. 13.]

PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

Loan.			Sinking Fund.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS.				£ s. d.	
<i>Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1899-1915...	998,353	1934	1	679,510 6 2	Controlled by Crown Agents. Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	592,261 18 10	
1897-1900...	3,500,000	1935	1	1,217,910 5 10	G.S.R. Purchase. Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	743,613 0 11	
1896 ...	2,500,000	1927	3	2,462,817 0 9	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1900-1902...	680,000	1935	1	185,339 14 5	
1902-1905...	2,600,000	1935	1	653,336 18 1	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1907-1908...	2,000,000	1947	1	312,105 19 6	
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	87,470 5 10	Issued for redemption of Local Stock.
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	74,264 14 3	
1911 ...	1,650,000	1955	½	146,864 18 6	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	42,574 14 6	
1912-1914...	6,000,000	1962	½	202,395 9 9	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	31,447 10 0	
1922 ...	914,798	1940	½	b	Issued for redemption of portion of Debentures matured 1st January, 1921.
<i>Local Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1903 ...	556,550	1923	1½	932,955 16 10	£139,839 was issued for redemption of Local Inscribed Stock. Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
1904 ...	322,470	1924	1½		
1911 ...	1,922,305	1926	½		
1912 ...	528,908	1932	½		
1913 ...	867,965	1934	½		
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½		
1913 ...	716,708	1933	½		
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½		
<i>Debentures.</i>					
1904 ...	246,100	1924	1	...	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£604,472), Debentures (£168,300), Inscribed Stock, London (£,585,202), Issues under the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts (£3,758,160), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£5,456,876) which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances (£4,389,916).
1921 ...	116,710	1924	½		
1918 ...	697,000	1927	½	...	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£604,472), Debentures (£168,300), Inscribed Stock, London (£,585,202), Issues under the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts (£3,758,160), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£5,456,876) which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances (£4,389,916).
1872-1888...	52,800	...	1	5,301 3 7	
	35,041,852				
Various ...	19,917,926	Various	...	...
Total Debt	54,959,778	Accrued Fund	Sinking	8,370,159 17 9	
Previous year's totals	49,039,667	...	...	7,841,563 17 0	
Increase on year ...	5,920,111	...	...	728,596 0 9	

[Return No. 13—continued.]

a Consisting of—						£
Treasury Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	163,840
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement	...	...	...	...	...	877,803
Local Stock, 6 per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	802,080
Local Stock, 6½ per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	80,000
Inscribed Stock, London	...	...	...	...	...	5,000,000
Local Debentures	...	...	...	...	...	145,857
						<hr/> 7,069,580
Less—						£
Treasury Bonds, redeemed...	...	...	...	...	...	35,350
Debentures, London, redeemed	...	...	...	...	...	9,600
Commonwealth Advances—						
Soldiers' Settlement, redeemed	...	...	...	...	...	9,704
Treasury Bills (Net)	...	...	...	...	...	85,065
Local 4 per cent. Stock	...	...	...	...	...	1,009,750
						<hr/> 1,149,469
						<hr/> 5,920,111

b. Contributions not paid until 1st July.

[Return No. 14.]

SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS.

ANALYSIS OF FUND.

Contributions from Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£	5,089,928
Interest on Investments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,276,932
Discounts on Purchases, and Cash held for redemption of Debentures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,023,300
									<hr/> 8,390,060
Less Brokerage and Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,900
									<hr/> 8,370,160
Total of Fund									<hr/>

INVESTMENTS.

Maturity.					Rate.	Nominal Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Western Australian Stocks	1935	...	...	...	3 per cent.	1,293,561	16	11
	1936	...	...	...	3 per cent.	431,959	0	3
	1927	...	...	...	3 per cent.	782,910	9	5
	1935	...	...	...	3½ per cent.	1,265,043	3	3
	1927-1947	...	...	...	3½ per cent.	443,746	16	1
	1935-1955	...	...	...	3½ per cent.	928,700	13	6
	1940-1960	...	...	...	3½ per cent.	82,504	9	2
	1942-1962	...	...	...	4 per cent.	965,161	10	6
	1930-1940	...	...	...	5½ per cent.	445,106	16	7
Western Australian Debentures	1930-1940	...	...	...	6 per cent.	251,600	0	0
	1939	...	...	...	4½ per cent.	8,295	0	0
Total					...	£6,898,589	15	8
Other Stocks Crown Agent's Investments					...	677,404	3	9
National War Bonds, 5 per cent., 1927					...	555,621	8	10
British Government Treasury Bills					...	30,000	0	0
War Gratuity Bonds, 5½ per cent.					...	131,186	6	4
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption £140,000					...	31,447	10	0
Cash (Less over investments)					...	45,910	14	2
Total Sinking Fund					...	£8,370,159	17	9

[Return No. 15.]

SINKING FUND AND DEFICIT.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (Less Brokerage and Expenses),	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,600	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	180,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	390,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	280,883	239,445	520,328	7,600	512,728	699,757
1917-18 ...	306,782	237,405	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	319,101	257,457	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
1919-20 ...	319,892	386,628	706,320	12,200	694,120	668,225
1920-21 ...	342,277b	460,761	803,038	10,300	792,738	686,725
1921-22 ...	322,130	416,068	738,196	9,600	728,596	732,135
Totals ...	£3,155,043	2,761,259	5,916,302	101,455	5,814,847	5,518,863

a The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1922, was £5,505,565, the difference being due to a credit balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return. b Includes £21,375 by Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 16.]

ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 1922-23.

Items.	Estimated 1922-1923.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Dr.	Cr.
	£	£	£	£
Avondale and Harvey Estates	2,100	1,600	...	500
Bunbury Harbour Board	18,000	...	...	18,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust	164,000	...	...	164,000
State Batteries	57,675	63,994	6,319	...
Albany Cold Stores	200	...	...	200
Aborigines Cattle Station	11,500	10,533	...	967
Government Refrigerating Works	5,650	5,604	...	46
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs	4,700	3,619	...	1,081
Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc.	24,300	15,590	...	8,710
Perth City Markets	2,000	1,143	...	857
Yandanooka Estate	1,000	120	...	880
Butter Factories	23,700	20,809	...	2,891
Tourist Resorts, Caves House, etc.	14,500	12,609	...	1,891
	329,325	135,621	6,319	200,023
Net Surplus ... ..	...	...	...	193,704
Railways	2,940,000	2,248,000	...	692,000
Tramways	261,000	208,000	...	53,000
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage	198,000	113,091	...	84,909
Goldfields Water Supply	185,000	132,499	...	52,501
Other Undertakings, Hydraulic	25,000	31,456	6,456	...
Electricity Supply	139,000	96,000	...	43,000
	3,748,000	2,829,046	6,456	925,410
Net Surplus ... ..	...	...	...	918,954

[Return No. 17.]

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR 1921-22.

	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund.	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways	18,935,603	2,337,391	756,737	142,000*	3,236,128	2,805,335	...	430,793
Tramways	779,081	202,990	35,524	3,400*	241,920	248,924	7,004	...
Electricity	530,997	95,734	24,684	2,250*	122,718	119,120	...	3,598
Metropolitan Water Supply	2,277,802	113,550†	72,023	15,167	200,740	194,145	...	6,595
Goldfields Water Supply ...	3,044,178	132,502†	86,448	43,448	262,398	187,122	...	75,276
Other Hydraulic Under-takings	295,837	31,456	12,509	5,508	49,473	24,884	...	24,589
All other	3,111,971	136,411	117,722	30,277*	254,133	311,247	26,837	...
	28,975,469	3,050,090	1,105,647	242,050	4,397,787	3,890,777	33,841	540,551
Net ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	£507,010	

* Sinking Fund subject to final adjustment.

† Includes Interest on Debentures.

[Return No. 18.]

RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	miles	miles	miles	miles	miles
Number of miles open	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,639	3,539
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open	£	£	£	£	£
	16,914,106	17,147,931	17,211,977	17,318,344	18,073,088
Revenue	846,460	848,010	850,377	851,636	862,515
Working Expenses	1,454,650	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,337,391
Interest Charges	654,059	665,100	690,618	716,398	756,737
Total Annual Cost	2,108,709	2,237,207	2,700,441	3,143,473	3,094,128
Gross Revenue	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,805,335
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue being burden on Taxpayers	279,856	358,454	425,015	454,862	288,793

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 19.]

RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Capital Cost of Construction and Equip- ment	£ 586,900	£ 592,361	£ 619,874	£ 654,047	£ 779,081
Working Expenses	104,931	107,705	144,028	198,264	202,890
Interest Charges	27,274	27,007	28,223	29,767	35,524
Total Annual Cost	132,205	134,712	172,251	228,031	238,520
Gross Revenue	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924
Surplus	9,275	...	15,458	...	10,404
Deficiency ... ..	...	654	...	3,031	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 20.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Capital Cost of Construction and Equip- ment	£ 393,865	£ 419,308	£ 437,362	£ 456,274	£ 530,997
Working Expenses	20,486	28,297	43,018	83,088	95,784
Interest Charges	17,382	18,726	19,643	20,644	24,684
Total Annual Cost	37,868	47,023	62,661	103,732	120,468
Gross Revenue	32,580	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120
Surplus ... ..	...	141	311	...	...
Deficiency	5,288	...	...	8,382	1,348

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 21.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE.

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	1,983,039	2,014,762	2,054,913	2,182,403	2,277,802
Working Expenses *	83,440	84,959	95,090	111,276	113,550
Interest Charges	53,384	56,736	60,514	64,613	72,023
Sinking Fund	12,379	12,831	13,353	14,052	15,167
Total Annual Cost	149,203	154,626	168,957	189,941	200,740
Gross Revenue	162,728	150,065	155,996	181,376	194,145
Surplus	3,525	...	...	...	...
Deficiency ... ..	...	4,561	12,961	8,565	6,595

* Includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £33,510.

[Return No. 22.]

RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

—	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	3,005,472	3,005,464	3,013,437	3,039,232	3,044,178
Working Expenses ^a	104,920	98,476	116,938	130,898	132,502
Interest Charges	97,611	97,685	97,679	99,098	86,448
Sinking Fund	80,236	80,260	80,255	80,645	43,448
Total Annual Cost	282,767	276,421	294,872	310,641	262,398
Gross Revenue	200,170	196,974	180,464	195,975	187,122
Deficiency	82,597	79,447	114,408	114,666	75,276

^a Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 23.]

RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment	186,182	184,413	201,505	231,500	295,837
Working Expenses	31,752	30,005	33,939	42,321	31,456
Interest Charges	7,970	8,044	8,416	10,027	12,509
Sinking Fund	4,808	4,822	4,798	5,055	5,508
Total Annual Cost	44,530	42,871	47,153	57,403	49,473
Gross Revenue	27,026	24,576	25,126	25,003	24,888
Deficiency	17,504	18,295	22,027	32,400	24,585

[Return No. 24.]

RETURN RELATIVE TO OTHER PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR 1921-1922.

	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Framantle Harbour Board	2,076,452	...	80,249	80,249	156,988	76,739	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	443,823	...	14,644	14,644	16,200	1,556	...
Batteries	394,415	64,891	13,804	78,695	57,663	...	21,032
Estates	7,063	3,982	1,850	5,832	7,543	1,711	...
Aborigines Station	25,170	12,030	850	12,880	4,343	...	8,537
Albany Cool Stores	20,915	186	937	1,123	143	...	980
Government Refrigerating Works	51,849	7,513	1,000	9,670	5,645	...	2,011
Perth City —Markets ...	...	1,157	...	...	2,014	...	...
Metropolitan Abattoirs...	50,468	15,693	2,391	18,084	23,837	5,753	...
Butter Factories	6,928	15,073	427	15,500	17,756	2,256	...
Tourist Resorts	19,843	12,729	893	13,622	14,462	860	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	15,045	3,167	677	3,834	4,633	799	...
Total	3,111,971	136,411	117,722	254,133	311,247	89,674	32,560
Net ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	£57,114	...
Less Estimated Charge on account Sinking Fund ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	30,277	...
Total Surplus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	£26,837	...

RAILWAYS.—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1913-1914.		1918-1919		1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	202,668	6.53	178,613	7.80	215,779	8.58	270,227	10.71	246,227	9.97
Ores and other Minerals ...	396,346	12.78	242,162	10.52	251,367	11.18	347,448	13.78	322,743	13.06
Wool ...	6,945	.22	81,915	1.39	33,089	1.32	15,836	.62	19,526	0.79
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	111,604	3.60	83,245	3.62	114,677	4.66	100,802	3.99	99,462	4.03
Wheat ...	299,143	9.64	410,852	17.85	467,009	18.56	299,483	11.87	367,637	14.83
Other Grain and Flour ...	93,574	3.02	183,344	7.97	228,995	9.10	128,019	5.07	132,866	5.38
Firewood ...	677,944	21.86	535,282	23.29	429,011	17.05	475,434	18.85	464,781	18.82
Local Timber ...	749,092	24.15	290,860	13.01	349,078	13.87	497,345	19.72	443,396	17.96
Imported Timber ...	22,733	.73	942	.04	2,325	.09	4,547	.18	2,280	0.09
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	26,773	.86	45,826	1.99	50,153	1.99	50,607	2.07	54,007	2.19
Fertilisers ...	73,325	2.37	61,363	2.67	79,457	3.16	87,849	3.48	95,081	3.89
All other goods ...	441,771	14.24	227,385	9.88	265,033	10.54	243,659	9.66	220,747	8.94
Total ...	3,101,918	100.00	2,301,300	100.00	2,515,971	100.00	2,521,256	100.00	2,469,753	100.00

Class of Goods.	1913-1914.		1918-1919.		1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	56,373	4.04	58,355	5.12	70,795	5.51	129,615	8.61	128,895	8.19
Ores and other Minerals ...	69,218	4.98	48,094	4.62	58,699	4.57	87,170	5.78	87,691	5.57
Wool ...	12,058	.88	54,972	5.28	47,475	3.69	41,286	2.74	47,684	3.03
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	69,493	4.76	49,455	4.75	68,773	5.35	57,047	4.44	70,615	4.40
Wheat ...	188,607	9.93	138,948	13.34	173,055	13.46	169,594	11.05	222,264	14.13
Other Grain and Flour ...	45,429	3.25	75,864	7.23	99,481	7.74	71,907	4.75	77,419	4.92
Firewood ...	62,268	4.46	68,066	6.83	40,624	3.18	50,272	3.33	60,553	3.21
Local Timber ...	299,294	21.44	125,700	12.06	167,432	13.03	310,656	21.18	299,687	19.04
Imported Timber ...	10,919	.78	669	.06	1,103	.09	2,802	.15	1,735	0.12
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	34,263	2.45	48,074	4.61	52,358	4.07	60,966	4.04	64,031	4.07
Fertilisers ...	33,830	2.42	12,501	1.20	19,709	1.53	26,803	1.77	30,405	1.93
All other goods ...	567,262	40.04	378,162	36.30	485,909	37.78	485,160	32.10	492,422	31.80
Total ...	1,395,911	100.00	1,041,840	100.00	1,235,413	100.00	1,608,658	100.00	1,573,301	100.00

[Return No. 28.]

TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, ETC.

	1900-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Railway Revenue ...	£1,849,397	£1,858,014	£1,898,570	£2,047,823	£2,382,022	£2,163,790	£2,217,250	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811	£2,463,136	£2,913,611	£3,054,258
Railway Mileage ...	2,145	2,376	2,598	2,854	2,967	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,639	3,589	3,539	3,539
Wool exported ...	£969,904	£1,047,456	£1,008,858	£904,938	£907,363	£817,630	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,952,141	£3,937,106	£2,388,119	£3,202,145
Wheat produced (bushels)	5,802,668	5,997,540	4,358,904	9,168,594	13,331,350	2,624,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,303,787	8,845,387	11,222,950	12,248,080	13,904,721
Hay produced (tons)	195,182	178,891	299,695	255,751	278,585	156,932	395,172	236,989	267,163	250,014	379,025	264,244	368,720
Wool produced ...	£6,553,314	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,932	£5,185,732	£4,803,206	£4,361,698	£3,924,197	£3,580,850	£2,637,832	£2,425,852	£2,385,753
Wool exported ...	£907,702	£932,800	£1,001,693	£906,308	£1,142,280	£808,392	£442,014	£310,983	£274,280	£332,980	£465,734	£1,137,223	£1,040,640
Coal produced ...	£114,487	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374	£137,576	£140,388	£182,852	£192,248	£219,260	£311,731	£399,424	£404,521
Other Minerals (exported)	£329,471	£155,277	£150,490	£195,764	£215,819	£169,094	£155,213	£189,124	£275,856	£247,691	£218,067	£199,394	£375,534
Number of Sheep ...	4,731,737	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375	4,456,186	4,803,850	5,529,960	6,384,191	7,183,747	6,697,951	6,532,905	6,508,177
Number of Cattle ...	793,217	825,040	843,638	806,294	834,265	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,647	880,844	849,803	893,108
Number of Horses ...	125,315	134,114	140,277	147,629	156,636	161,625	163,006	169,730	178,151	180,094	174,919	178,664	180,334
Area of land selected (acres)	1,004,780	1,922,112	1,973,565	1,408,108	998,851	502,551	308,590	235,640	547,583	611,135	1,469,684	1,728,455	1,924,129
Area of land leased (acres)	10,330,373	9,514,310	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	39,571,708	19,178,124	20,354,785	28,641,868
Area of Land under cultivation	4,685,007	5,300,832	5,650,628	6,717,226	7,320,533	7,648,766	8,056,374	7,822,549	7,587,820	7,582,716	7,325,519	6,758,272	6,704,062
Area of land under crop (acres)	722,086	855,024	1,072,653	1,190,901	1,537,923	1,867,547	2,180,456	2,004,944	1,679,772	1,605,088	1,628,163	1,804,986	1,901,500
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,279,852	2,408,803	2,597,156	2,767,276	3,331,304	2,366,855	2,491,537	2,548,339	1,094,000	2,122,439	2,860,040	2,843,470	3,275,487
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,271,879	2,419,078	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,375,282	2,794,822	2,492,875	2,557,986	1,102,205	2,111,894	2,659,302	2,825,586	3,221,586
Exports, including Gold ...	£8,576,659	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,846,039	£10,415,095	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	£14,683,027	£5,807,335	£10,922,875	£16,068,790	£12,258,639	£13,181,555
Exports, excluding Gold ...	£3,530,560	£3,752,783	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,954	£3,002,276	£4,795,057	£5,562,966	£3,607,335	£5,927,471	£12,619,962	£10,440,617	£10,637,783
Imports ...	£6,932,731	£8,450,855	£9,283,722	£9,589,745	£9,727,473	£8,301,230	£8,983,000	£9,385,010	£7,649,233	£8,023,900	£12,368,331	£14,836,241	£12,048,779
Savings Bank's Deposits <i>d</i>	£2,400,099	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872	£3,743,135	£3,640,874	£3,523,851	£3,606,076	£4,415,732	£5,046,930	£6,142,756	£5,276,218
Savings Bank's withdrawals	£2,070,776	£2,667,377	£3,316,113	£3,684,046	£4,600,884	£3,878,854	£3,628,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,293	£4,128,161	£5,936,575	£6,223,806	£5,571,329
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	3,487	11,597	9,069	5,244	3,663	6,816	14,166	12,117	2,811	7,453	6,746	1,123	1,523
Population ...	271,162	287,745	301,904	313,223	323,047	321,227	312,785	305,980	307,858	319,207	329,694	333,120	339,501

* Season ended 28th February.
 † Year ended 31st December.
 ‡ As on 30th June.
 § Amended since previous issue.

† Year ended 31st December.
 ‡ As on 30th June.
 § Amended since previous issue.

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