

**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** [3.13]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 25th August, 1942.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.14 p.m.*

**Legislative Assembly.**

*Tuesday, 18th August, 1942.*

|  |      |     |
|--|------|-----|
| Questions: Rubber shortage, substitute tyres | .... | 210 |
| Charcoal and iron smelting                   | .... | 210 |
| Address-in-reply, seventh day                | .... | 210 |

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

**QUESTIONS (2).****RUBBER SHORTAGE, SUBSTITUTE TYRES.**

Mr. **SAMPSON** asked the Minister for Industrial Development: 1, Is he aware that, due to the rubber shortage, U.S.A. army tanks and other military vehicles are being equipped with steel treads instead of rubber, and that "tiptoe wheels" for use on farm tractors, instead of rubber-tyred wheels, are becoming widely popular? 2, That the cost of the iron-shod wheels is less than half the cost of rubber-tyred wheels? 3, As all available rubber is urgently required for other purposes, will he give consideration to the encouragement of local manufacture of "tiptoe" type of wheel as a substitute for rubber-tyred wheels, now commonly used on farm tractors?

The **MINISTER** replied: 1, and 2, No. 3, Yes.

**CHARCOAL AND IRON SMELTING.**

Mr. **KELLY** asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is an experimental blast furnace to produce charcoal pig-iron being established in Western Australia? 2, Is it the Government's intention thoroughly to test the possibility of Koolanobbin iron deposits? 3, Is it also intended to test the timber adjacent to Koolanobbin for its hard charcoal content and chemical purity?

The **MINISTER** replied: 1, No. A project to establish a commercial charcoal iron blast furnace is receiving attention. 2, The possibility of using the Koolanobbin iron deposits has received consideration. 3, Information covering these timbers is already available.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Seventh Day.*

Debate resumed from the 13th August.

**MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER** (Subiaco) [2.20]: When I entered the House, about seven years ago, I thought in my innocence that we framed Bills to be passed by a majority; that they were then sent on to another place which was considered a House of review, and when reviewed in that House, if passed by a majority, the Bill after certain formalities had been complied with, became law. I am sadly disillusioned! I found that the House of review was not necessarily a House of review and that it was able to throw out a Bill without even knowing what was in it. I further found that it was able to initiate legislation, and practically duplicate the legislation commenced in this House, and that very similar Bills might be discussed in both places which would be a great waste of time. I began to wonder what was the use of the other place. I then found that it had a great use as a bulwark for the Government of the day. It was not a stronghold in the interests of the St. George's-terrace financier or the middle-class person or the rentier, but it was a bulwark for any irresponsible legislation. The Government, or a member—I am not simply speaking of the Government—may bring down any extraordinary and extravagant type of Bill, promising everything for nothing and wasting time in debate, knowing full well that when the Bill reaches another place, that aristocratic stalwart of democracy will throw it out.

This enables the Government, or the members of the House, to go to the people at election time and say, "I told you so. I would give you Utopia, but these people in this particular place—a place which by the by we would abolish, although we fight like Kilkenny cats to get a seat there—have thrown out our Bill." The voters say, "Miserable sinners! Do not worry. We will send you back and you can abolish that place." So one party at least has the abolition of

the Upper House as a plank in its platform, trusting that it may never happen. If we had but one House—and I am not advocating that we should—I think that all members would take good care that the legislation came within the realm of practical politics. I can only conclude that, constituted as we are, hypocrisy marches on, and both the Government and some members are able to say as did a one-time Premier of this House—"Thank God for the Upper House!" It is time we became reconstructed and had committees from both Houses to advise us upon all Bills before they are printed. This would save staff; it would save "Hansard"; it would save printing, and above all it would save amendments to Acts almost before the ink had dried on them.

May I speak for one moment on a ghost which pervades this House? The ghost's name is dead; it is about time the ghost was buried. Last session I wished to speak upon the subject of bottled beer or bottled alcohol. The Speaker informed me that I could not be permitted to deal with the subject because there was a motion on the notice paper bearing upon it. Consequently I was not permitted to speak. It is easy to see how every member of the House could be muzzled if we only had sufficient motions on the notice paper dealing with contentious subjects. In a democratic institution such as this we should bury "May."

Now I wish to refer to the firewood shortage which, during the recent winter months, has constituted a scandal. This has been mentioned in the House previously, but I assure the responsible Minister that hundreds of families in Perth have often gone without hot meals this winter because they had little or no firewood. That is a scandal. There were many men, especially soldiers, who would have been willing to cut and stack the wood and, given the transport, convey it to woodyards and from there to wives and families and others who were without wood. Many children have not had hot meals. I have taken wood in my car to people who could not get supplies from the woodyards, even if they could afford to pay for it. If the wood was obtained and the Government provided the transport—

Mr. Fox: The soldiers would not do that work.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Of course they would. Co-operation between the mili-

tary and civil authorities should be arranged to permit of the men doing it.

Mr. Fox: Attempts have been made and the military authorities will not allow the men to do it.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Wood is not the only article in short supply; there has been a shortage of potatoes and onions. There has been a tremendous muddle in handling these matters. The price of onions has been fixed at about £54 a ton in this State, and in the Eastern States it has been £60; therefore supplies went to the Eastern States. Much the same thing applies to potatoes.

Let me now refer briefly to clothes rationing. Admittedly, this is a Federal matter, but I think we should protest whenever we find the Commonwealth authorities are wrong. Mr. Coles was here saying how wonderfully the people had taken to rationing. It would not matter very much to Coles's stores which have large stocks of unrationed clothes. The member for Greenough told us that in many of the shops goods were being sold for less than their value—expensive suits and shirts were being sold for almost nothing.

Mr. Patrick: I did not say that; I said it was to avoid making too high a profit.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Then I withdraw that statement. They are selling goods at low prices in order to get coupons so that they may obtain more goods. That is the reason given to me by the heads of some of the firms.

Mr. Patrick: It is not right.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: It means that the small man will have to go out of business because he cannot afford to reduce his goods to a price that is an infinitesimal part of their value. Such a system is grossly unfair. If the coupon system had been arranged on a money basis, it would have been a better and fairer method. At present a person with money can buy very expensive clothes which are lasting, while a poor person has to buy a cheaper line of clothes, giving the same number of coupons, with the result that the richer person will become better and better dressed as the years go by, while the poorer person will become shabbier and shabbier. Had the coupons been based on money value, the stupidity of not rationing certain goods and of rationing other goods would not have applied.

At present we find unmade Manchester goods rationed while the same goods made into articles are not rationed. This means that manpower, machinery and extra money have been expended on the made goods. A few days ago a friend of mine wanted 100 pairs of sheets for a hospital. She went to a firm and offered to take a bolt of sheeting and have the sheets hemmed by voluntary helpers, but the firm could not sell the unmade sheeting without coupons. Consequently the hospital had to wait till girls or men machined the sheets so that they could be obtained without the coupons being handed over. This surely is a denial of the Press propaganda that money, machinery and manpower must be saved. Further, we find many goods such as leather bags unrationed, while it is almost impossible to get shoes repaired. If the coupons had been on a money basis, young girls who are wearing expensive furs would not have been able to spend the money on such articles. Therefore I say the coupon system as adopted is unfair, undemocratic and unequal in sacrifice, and is not encouraging thrift and money saving.

I wish to reply to the statements made by the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe. I consider that the hon. member has already been sufficiently chastised through the Press and otherwise for his remarks. The man in the street is especially vehement in his denunciation of the speech, and concludes by saying it is time the State Parliament was abolished. We are all aware of the hon. member's upright character and that he often brings forward points of view merely in order to create debate. I recall that he delivered a famous speech—it was called famous because the Premier said it was the most logical speech of the session—on illegal betting and the observance of the law. The hon. member, who is an ex-Minister for Justice, said he did not believe in observance of the law. I have a copy of his speech in "Hansard" before me.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: Read it.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The motion read—

That this House instructs the Government to give instructions to the Chief of Police to use immediately all statutory powers to close all betting shops, houses, dwellings and places of whatsoever kind where illegal betting is conducted, so that the law of the land may be honoured.

The hon. member, in speaking to the motion, said—

I am opposed to the motion and am opposed to permitting starting-price betting under license.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: I said I was opposed to the police administering the Health Act.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The hon. member also said—

I feel that gambling has within itself its own safeguards. . . . I am opposed to the rigorous suppression of starting-price betting.

That is all I wish to say on that matter. In my opinion, the hon. member purposely introduced the debate to get the other point of view. I have no doubt that debate for debate's sake stimulates thought; but action is required and we have ample laws on our statute books to deal with these troubles. However, vested interests, votes or incompetency deter us from giving effect to our laws. In the vice squad we have a body of people anxious to do the work that we should have done, that is, clean up the city, and the hon. member criticises. Criticism is nearly always destructive. We have a mountain of work to do in this State, and if we do not do it the people will appeal to the Federal authorities, as they are already doing, and thus our rights will gradually dwindle and eventually be taken from us.

I agree with the hon. member that evolution, rather than revolution, is the surest way to permanent well-being. But I cannot agree that evolution is aided by license to do evil, or that compulsory revolutionary reforms retard the upward growth of the individual. I also agree that in times of war and economic distress, prostitution increases. But why should it increase? Is it not a fact that we, as legislators, have failed, when we see girls selling themselves for adornment or for food, and jeopardising the health of the nation and the lives of children yet unborn? Either in war or in economic distress I think we are to blame for that. The hon. member mixed his metaphors the other day—and I think he did so really as a bait for further debate—when he said that vice was love and love was vice. At present we have a wave of unadulterated vice and irresponsibility sweeping through our town, especially in the young, and the causes are many.

Mr. Cross: Mainly war causes.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: However, there is no economic necessity for it. Some girls have left honest livings to take on this particular life. I do not call it vice when a girl is driven by economic necessity to a life of prostitution; but in neither case poverty and irresponsibility or viciousness, does love enter. It is purely money or entertainment. Is it not shameful that young girls should take on a life of vice when they are needed for war work and production? The hon. member objected to Press headlines stating that women were being rounded up and I quite agree with him. We have many agreements as well as disagreements; but I object still more strongly to his statement that women are governed by a sex urge, which impels them to trail the streets seeking companions. I have not come across this language before. We may apply such language as sex urge to cattle, but it would be an insult to cattle, because cattle—if left alone—select their companions. I believe there is no male below the human that infringes the law of prohibition during the period of gestation and lactation. I may be wrong, but I do not think so. Some negroes even do not transgress that law, but not so the whites. Degeneracy is inborn in the white race because the laws of nature are not observed.

The hon. member sympathised with the girl who asked the magistrate, "How can we be nice when we are tracked down?" Did he take the trouble to find out the girl's record, to ascertain whether she had an infection and, if so, how many service men were probably hors de combat because of that girl? This is the truth: I know of one girl who infected 40 service men, but we do not know how many women—some of whom may be young mothers or will one day become mothers—those 40 service men infected in turn. The hon. member gave statistics of the appalling number of sub-normals in an intelligence test taken in the United States. We all know that venereal disease and drink are the two main causes of sub-normality in children. Increasing delinquency is partly due because children are born of tainted parents; and, also of course, owing to lack of legislation and administration they grow up undisciplined. The other night I attended a lecture to the V.A.D. by Dr. (Col.) D. S. Mackenzie. He told his audience that 60 per cent. of the

male population of Perth was infected with venereal disease.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Sixty per cent.?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Yes.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He was telling a deliberate untruth when he made that statement.

Several members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I questioned him; and when I went into the subject I found that a great many might have been congenital.

Hon. C. G. Latham: The percentage is far too high. I am surprised that a responsible person would make such a statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he gets in touch with Dr. Mackenzie and finds out for himself. I am repeating a statement that was made, and what I thought was that the great proportion of the cases might have been congenital.

Hon. C. G. Latham: What an insult to our parents!

Mr. Cross: And to the public!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: If that statement is true, one can imagine the enormous percentage of people in this State that must in some way be infected with venereal disease. The Leader of the Opposition must bear in mind that the disease affects even the third and fourth generation. The speech of the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe did much harm but also some good, because weak-kneed officials feel that they should not interfere in civic affairs. It did harm because the girls mentioned feel that there is sympathy with their acts; harm because the Commissioner has appealed to the Commonwealth Government for regulations to deal with venereal disease. We have a Health Act on our statute book.

The Minister for Mines: It is one of the most stupid Acts on our statute book.

Hon. N. Keenan: Then amend it.

The Minister for Mines: Why did you not do so?

Hon. N. Keenan: That was 13 years ago.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The Minister for Mines: This is one of the oldest things in the world.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for Subiaco may proceed.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: There is sufficient authority in the Act for dealing with V.D. cases. To those members who do not know the composition of the vice squad, I would point out that it consists of a liaison officer from the American Forces, representatives from our own service men, and officers of our police force. I commend Commissioner Hunter and his officers for the way in which they deal with those who are charged. As far as I can ascertain, they are very courteous in handling girls, and do not use undue pressure. It has been questioned whether men are dealt with in the same way as women. I do not think civilians are, but service men definitely are.

Our girls are sent to gaol, where they have no right to be sent, and they are not given adequate treatment for curing the disease with which they are afflicted. I believe that when the Americans first came here, they had only a couple of V.D. cases in their midst. The number rose so alarmingly and rapidly, however, that the authorities determined to find out who were the carriers and, if possible, warn their men. Their organisation is wonderful. They found out who were carriers in nearly all cases, but could do nothing to stop the career of the girls concerned.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: Did they not sign a statement to the effect that the girls were infected?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Any man who stated that a girl had infected him would be such a rotter that I would like to hang him.

The Minister for Mines: That is the Health Act of this State.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I know. Nevertheless, there are ways of getting round these things.

Several members interjected.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: I am not going to continue unless members stop talking.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The vice squad found that, while patients suffering from smallpox, diphtheria and other infectious diseases of that kind, were required to be rigidly isolated, it was difficult to isolate girls affected with venereal disease unless they were definitely charged with having that complaint, and that was very difficult to do. As in all instances the girls apprehended by the vice squad were known to be

living loose lives they were charged with vagrancy, and not with having venereal disease. I would like to ask anybody which charge he would prefer to have made against him; whether he would sooner be charged with vagrancy or with having venereal disease which was untreated. It was much kinder to charge the girls with vagrancy, as otherwise their futures would have been ruined.

Mr. Cross: Their names should not have been published. That was rotten.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: That is so. I do not believe that gaol is the place for these girls. We must find some other place for them, although I am not one of those who plead for a specific home. If they were sent to such a home, they would be branded as girls who had suffered from V.D., and their future lives would be tainted. All the larger hospitals should have wards attached to them in which these girls could be detained until they were cured. If a girl returned to a life of vice after having been cured, she could then be sent to a home where she could be educated and, if possible, trained to take a place in the community life. I have seen special institutions in other parts of the world. They have usually been in countries where prostitution has been licensed, and they have not been wholly a success.

Our girls are young and not hardened offenders. They are not the Roe-street type. At this point I should like to say a few words about Roe-street. I do not think there is in the heart of any city in which I have been a more degrading sight than is to be witnessed in Roe-street. The landlords of those houses should have been gaoled long ago, the houses burnt, and the City Councillors branded for having allowed such an iniquity to exist. I dare say that every member of the City Council would give his life to prevent his child becoming a Roe-street girl but, by permitting such a condition of affairs to exist, they are allowing other men's daughters to enter upon that life. I know all the arguments in favour of the retention of the Roe-street houses. They are near the Police Station and easily controlled. But to see young men queuing up at the entrance to these places makes one wonder what sense of decency is left either in the Legislature, the City Council, the men themselves, or the women inside the houses.

Mr. Thorn: Or the landlords!

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Yes. With the influx of so much money into the country, many Americans have taken blocks of flats, and that is another difficulty that has to be faced, because our younger girls are visiting those flats. They do not go to Roe-street. Most of these girls are not hardened, but they go by invitation to the flats. Some of their acquaintances may be perfectly innocent, but these places are all known to the American Intelligence officers and, should a man become infected, it is very easy to locate the girl responsible. The vice squad do not always arrest people. The other night they saw a girl with a young man in a bedroom in a certain hotel. She was very young. They took her away and found lodgings for her elsewhere for the night, and later sent her home. If members feel that my criticism has been too strong, I would like them to go round with the vice squad one night, to any of the dark parts of our city and witness the indecent sights that are to be seen there.

At the same time, I want to stress that there are thousands of young soldiers in this State who are honourable and refined and live continent lives. Some of them are married, and are excellent husbands, and we can be very proud of them. Thousands of young girls are excellent companions for these soldiers, and they are girls upon whom no shadow of suspicion could rest. Many homes are open to the men, and the householders are pleased to have them. I am sorry that because a comparatively few people are leading an indecent life, it has been found necessary to have what is now called a vice squad. It must be remembered, however, that a few people can ruin a nation. What are we to do about it? We have 6 o'clock closing, but I do not think that is enough. I have come to the conclusion that the sale of alcohol should be permitted throughout the State only during meal hours. I do not urge this for the city alone, because at present immediately the hotels close at 6 o'clock in the city, taxis convey people to places 20 miles out that are not closed.

Mr. Thorn: They are closed 20 miles out.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Well, 25 miles!

Mr. J. H. Smith: Where do they get the petrol?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: They get it. I believe the authorities are now treating

18 or 19 girls in the Fremantle Gaol. That is a disgrace. They should not be there. They cannot possibly be cured in the time during which they are supposed to be detained, unless the medical officer does what he can do under the Act—keeps them there for as long as he likes.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: He cannot do anything of the kind.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: The hon. member knows the Act better than I do! I could read it, but I will not detain the House any longer on that particular subject. If members will turn to page 145, of Vol. 1 of the 1939 Statutes they will find that the medical officer, by order of the Lieut.-Governor, can detain these girls for as long as he desires. Among other things that have been done is that Dr. Atkinson has appealed to the Federal authorities. To that I very much object. I do not see why we cannot clean up our own backyard, and see that our men coming back from oversea return to their homes as clean as when they went away, and ensure that the children of our State are protected. When the Minister for Health wanted a home for elderly women who had to be evacuated from Fremantle, he secured one in about a week. If he had wanted to do anything in the matter I am discussing he could have put up a hut attached to every hospital, similar to those which can be seen on the Esplanade. That could have been done at very small cost, and no disgrace would have attached to the girls going to the hospital to be treated.

Furthermore, we should teach our young girls eugenics between the ages of 15 and 17. Just a little while ago I saw a woman in the corridor who told me that her child was under the control of the Child Welfare Department. Yet that girl is leading a loose life, and the woman came to ask me what she could do. Tomorrow, of course, I must verify the statement that the child is under the control of the department, before I can do anything further.

Mr. Thorn: Is she in an institution?

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: No, she has been allowed out to work. This case shows that the vigilance exercised over these girls is not sufficient. Another precaution that should be taken is to prevent chemists from selling drugs. It is against the law, but they do it. The drugs that are sold stop the symptoms of disease, but according to

what doctors tell me, do not prevent infection. I believe that delinquency in youth, prostitution in girls, and criminal tendencies in youths and young men are partly caused through diseased parents.

It is our duty to see that the laws are obeyed, and that our educational system embraces complete training in eugenics, trades, arts, domestic science, nursing and civic laws. Training in eugenics is necessary to educate youth to the rightful use of sex, and the disaster accompanying its abuse. Training in trades, arts, nursing and domestic science is necessary to fit boys and girls to make a living, and give them occupation during the adolescent period, the most important time of their lives. They must be educated in civil laws in order that they may know the responsibility they have to themselves, to others, and to the State. Lately I have heard a lot about a second front. I should like to see a moral second front in Australia in which every man, woman and child could fight, and which would give us a greater chance of winning the war and of maintaining the peace.

**MR. CROSS** (Canuing): I regret that the Premier is still indisposed, and sincerely hope he will soon recover and be amongst us again, taking part in the discussions and activities of the session. I regret also that we are still carrying on under war conditions, and that we have now reached what is practically the most critical period in the life of the British Empire. Now, as never before, there is real need for every section of the community to combine in a total effort to wage a total war. If that end is not achieved, I am somewhat fearful of the consequences even at this stage. I am not one of those who are unduly pessimistic. I have given the matter much thought and have closely studied the progress of the war. Members will be aware that in the past I have made forecasts. Today I propose to present a brief survey of the position and perhaps indicate what I think will happen in the future. I believe the position is so serious that we should have a special session to consider war problems and those that will arise subsequently, with a view to taking necessary action now. In my opinion the services of private members are not sufficiently utilised, and I am convinced that some of the present-day muddles could

have been avoided had use been made of our experience and knowledge. I shall mention one or two instances later on to lend point to my statement.

Germany and Japan have chosen to wage total warfare. It has taken the British Empire nearly three years of war to realise that the hostilities can end only in defeat—either for us or for our enemy. Only one factor will prevent the war continuing to that climax and prevent it being waged until one side is totally defeated, and that is a revolution in one of the countries concerned. Such a development is not entirely beyond the ground of possibility. Hitler is a student of Genghis Khan. Probably members do not know much about that historic figure because not one treatise on Genghis Khan has been printed in the British language, but in Germany there are five such publications. Genghis Khan was one of the greatest military strategists the world has ever known. He understood what is now known as blitzkrieg warfare in all its aspects. He was a warrior out of High Asia. He lived 700 years ago, and it is remarkable to think that the methods pursued today by Germany and Japan are along lines similar to those developed by Genghis Khan, although today our enemies have the advantage of modern developments in the art of warfare. Genghis Khan was the first man in history to demonstrate the effectiveness of blitzkrieg warfare by attacking vital lines of communication and supplies. He adopted that policy in attacking the Syr Darya chain of fortified cities in Persia. Writing to the Shah of Persia in 1218 the doughty warrior said, "Thou hast chosen war; what thou hast chosen thou knowest not. What the end of this will be God alone knows."

The Minister for Labour: This is something like a speech!

**MR. CROSS:** Genghis Khan used swift-moving perfectly co-ordinated armoured horsemen and did not strike at one of the recognised fortresses. He struck beyond the fortified lines right at the vitals of the enemy. In some instances his enemies were compelled to walk out of the fortresses. Such are the tactics that are being followed by Hitler today. We well remember the tactics adopted by the Japanese in the war against Russia. It was a war of supplies, surprise and rapid movement. The Japanese are pursuing the same course

in the present war, and are striking without warning. If members remember the Russo-Japanese war which commenced in 1904, they will appreciate the fact that from the time Japan torpedoed the Russian Fleet in Port Arthur, little was heard of her activities on land until May of the following year. It was then that Japan struck and found the Russian armies unprepared.

Genghis Khan realised that the value was not so much in his horsemen themselves as in their mobility. He discovered that the surest way to victory was to hammer at the vitals of his enemy, and so he moved swiftly behind fortified positions with the object of cutting off supplies. In warfare speed is essential but very expensive. A very small increase in speed, comparatively speaking, can easily double the cost. That applies whether an aeroplane, a tank or a battleship is concerned. Today speed and mobility are extremely important. To date this war has demonstrated that no newly-developed types of weapons are being used. In the last war the Germans used flame-throwers, tanks, planes and machine guns. The only outstanding definite development that has been manifest during present-day hostilities is that the power of the offensive is superior to the power of the defensive. In other words, mobile weapons have conquered the machine gun which in the past, through defensive action, made possible the static conditions of the 1914-18 war. It has now been demonstrated that the power of the offensive will gain the ascendancy over the element of defence, and that will be so in this war unless some more powerful weapon for defence purposes is developed.

Mr. North: That is very good when we consider the position in the Solomon Islands!

Mr. CROSS: The power of the offensive in the present war will become even more powerful with the further development of the internal combustion engine. We must expect that development. In yesterday's paper we read a cabled report from America in which it was claimed that, with the development of the internal combustion engine, the United States had turned out a fighter plane that is more formidable and faster than the best available today.

Adolf Hitler is the modern lord of lightning warfare and strikes at the vitals of his opponent. His idea is to secure the paralysis of supply lines. If members contemplate

his strategy in the light of the past three years of the war they will appreciate that Hitler first struck at Norway so as to obtain plentiful supplies of iron-ore, the one essential mineral of which he was primarily short in Germany. Then he struck at Poland to secure manganese and copper supplies. Later he threw Germany's weight against the Balkans and the Ukraine in order to secure wheat and other commodities necessary for his war machine. He already had Holland and Denmark and so had made sure of his supplies of fat. He then pushed into Rumania in order to secure oil. Anyone who has studied the position must have realised that sooner or later Hitler was bound to strike south through the Caucasus with a view finally to reaching additional supplies in Persia, for lubricating oil is a prime essential among his needs. I have heard people say recently that Russia will crack up when the line of the Caucasus is penetrated. I do not expect that she will be able to hold out in that area of the war for very long because the Russian army that is now cut off from Moscow will have to retire, and will be thrown back on British resources in Persia and Irak. That is why I think the decisive battle of the Russian campaign will probably be fought in that locality, and members will remember that that was my prediction when I spoke on this subject last year. I do not know what preparations Britain has made in Syria and Persia, but I anticipate that at no distant date war will be carried into territory that is part of the British Empire, via Persia.

It would not be surprising if Hitler took the short route through Turkey. If he adopts that course, then for the first time the Turks will descend from the fence and they will be on our side. Members need not worry on that score. The Turks cannot afford to lose the war any more than can Great Britain and America. Moreover, the Turkish army is powerful. We must be prepared to see the Caucasian army cut off from their sources of supply, in which event they will be, practically speaking, without tanks. Very soon their requirements will have to be furnished by Great Britain and the future progress of the war will depend to a marked degree on whether Great Britain can hold the oilfields of Persia. Should those oil supplies be lost our difficulties will be accentuated. There will un-



doubtedly be heavy repercussions. As for the effect upon Egypt if we lose those oil-fields, I do not know where supplies will be procured except from America, which would mean that every gallon of petrol or lubricating oil would have to be brought from America and across the Indian Ocean, traversing water infested with Japanese submarines even if there should be no German submarines in that part of the globe. Vast quantities of petrol and lubricating oil will be required to meet the requirements of the Navy, Army and Air Force, particularly when we remember the extent of the forces that will have to be thrown into Persia to counter the German army.

Mr. Thorn: You ought to be on the War Council. You should not be here!

Mr. CROSS: There is not the slightest doubt that the position gives a great deal of concern to thinking people, because in it the future of India as well as the future of the Middle East and Egypt and the Suez Canal are wrapped up; that is to say, wrapped up in the fate of Persia. Occasionally the question is asked, what will happen if Germany does get the Caucasus? Simply this, that the vital need of the Germans for carrying on the war almost indefinitely, namely lubricating oil, will be supplied. If the Germans obtain a sufficiency of lubricating oil there is no possibility, apart from a revolution in Germany, of the war ending within the next five years.

I visualise also that it will not be long before a second front is opened. That second front might be opened just where we need it. Its opening might eventually prove to our advantage. In my opinion, there will soon be a second front opened in Siberia, where the Japanese are bound to attack. I shall soon tell members why. Japan has already secured the glory box of the Pacific—Java and Malaya. The Japanese now have all the territories that produce copper, iron-ore, cotton, rice, rubber, tin, quinine and spices—each of these being unprocurable by us now. The Japanese have a still bigger prize, however, in the North than they would find in Australia. That prize is waiting for them in the North, and to secure it will mean much less trouble; or at all events the Japanese think so. Some people therefore wonder just what will be the position of Russia when the Caucasus has been lost and Hitler starts his next drive. In some quarters the

opinion is held that Russia will then pack up. I do not believe it. My belief is that Hitler will never take Moscow. He has had one try. Moscow, however, is a real fortress.

Mr. Boyle: It is reassuring to hear that.

Mr. CROSS: Not many members will be aware that for years past, for at least 15 years, the Russians have been preparing for what they expected—an attack by the Germans. The Russians have been preparing throughout those years to defend Moscow, whose streets have been doubled in width. During the last decade Moscow has been half re-built. The railway system around Moscow, supplemented by a system of canals, has been planned in a manner which will be most suitable for Russia in a war of this magnitude. There are 11 railway lines, not passing through Moscow, but diverging from that city and reaching the various strategic points of Russia. Around Moscow there is a belt of railways which are connected up with each of the principal lines. The Russians are able to move what are practically fortifications on specially prepared rails, and these will give a good account of themselves.

When Hitler declared war on Russia, Great Britain sent experts to Moscow to give the Russians some good advice, to tell the ignorant Russians what they had better do. But those experts, when they got there, found what? That the anti-aircraft defences of Moscow were ten times as good as those of London! To find that Moscow had thousands of anti-air attack guns! Sir Walter Citrine, the president of the British Labour Congress, who visited Russia, stated it was remarkable how the Germans, though nearly at Moscow's gates and attacking every day with hundreds of planes, were able to send very few planes indeed over the defences of Moscow. The German planes could not get past that wall of fire.

With all confidence I say, never mind about the River Volga, the Germans will never get into Moscow. But even if the Germans did capture Moscow, Russia would not be conquered. Russia has the will to fight on. Anyone who thinks Russia will pack up has another thought coming. The Red Army is fighting for the youngest country in the world. More than half of the 200,000,000 people in the Russian Republic are under 21 years of age, and they are fighting for their own liberty and for

the liberty of the world. The Russians are the first people in the world to construct a society based not on greed but on the cult of labour and creative activity and human solidarity.

Geography is an important military weapon. Geography is one of the most important of all military weapons. Geography it was that beat the great Napoleon. Geography beat Russia in 1905 and 1906 when she was fighting Japan; and geography will beat Hitler and Germany, and Japan as well. Russia has been at war with Hitler and Germany for something over 13 months, and Hitler has got into Russia for a distance of 550 miles or thereabouts. Hitler has got only through the first skin of Russia. How many members realise the enormous size of that country? Russia made preparations for three five-year plans of action, and in a few minutes I shall tell members something of what has been accomplished during those years. The Russians were the only people who tried to get ready for this war. The sun rises at Vladivostok, on the Pacific Coast, at say seven in the morning, and that same sun rises on Moscow ten hours later! I state that in order to convey to members some idea of the stupendous size of Russia. When Hitler's armies get to the Volga, they will find that the fast-flowing river is one of the hardest in the world to cross.

Even if the Germans cross the Volga, they will never be able to conquer the enormous fortifications of Stalingrad, or to capture Moscow. Incidentally, the four millions inhabiting Moscow will be able to go on making every sort of munitions of war. As long ago as 1938 Stalin began to move his industries from the west to the east. In point of fact, Russian factories located eastward are so fully equipped as to make it possible for Russia to carry on the war with Japan independently and to confront Hitler simultaneously. If Moscow fell, what would happen? The Germans would find numberless formidable obstacles in the steppes and forests extending eastwards from Moscow.

Nine hundred miles east of Moscow which, 12 years ago, consisted of barren wastes, stony steppes and forests, whole mountains have been cut in halves. In the Urals, 900 miles east of Moscow, is a mountain, known as Magnetic Mountain. On the Ural River, the Russians have constructed a dam that

would put the Canning Dam in the shade. I have a photograph showing the magnificent city that has been built there in the last 12 years. Hundreds of thousands of workers today are turning out munitions of war, and this year the largest tank factory in the world is being opened at Magnitogorsk. There are also huge steel and iron mills, textile mills and chemical factories. This, however, does not represent the end of Russia's preparations.

Mr. Thorn: Who put up that matter for you?

Mr. CROSS: I have not to ask anyone else to do it, as does the hon. member. East of the Urals, for hundreds of miles where once nomadic tribes roamed, are strings of cities with mighty industries, industries that would place cities like Birmingham and Sydney in the shade. The iron-ore in Magnetic Mountain is the best in the world, containing as it does 80 per cent. of magnetic ore, and there is sufficient to last the world for a hundred years. The iron-ore output of the smelting works at Magnitogorsk is the largest of any city in the world, even including American cities. Let me now refer to Kuznetsk, in central Asia. It is situated a thousand miles east of Magnitogorsk and is another new city. Kuznetsk is rich in coal and has extensive iron factories. This is one of the largest coalfields in the world, and is connected by a double railway with Magnitogorsk, Moscow and other cities. Novosibirsk is another large city, having 400,000 workers engaged in munition factories. Most of these places do not appear as yet on any published map. Close to Novosibirsk is Uralmash, which has the largest steel rolling mills in the world.

Hon. C. G. Latham: I did not see any references to those matters in the Speech.

Mr. CROSS: At Tagilst are huge loco, food processing, textile and chemical works. Tagilst is the centre of the cotton district; Russia produces all her cotton requirements. Another thousand miles east is Emla, which is a most important place because, if Russia lost the Caucasus, it would still have the largest oilfields in the world at Emla. This district is well protected from attack and, before the war, was producing 21 per cent. of Russia's oil requirements, while preparations were being made to produce 42,000,000 tons of oil this year. There is little doubt that Russia is well on the way to realising that increase.

Eastern Russia is divided into five provinces. Kazakstan is one of the largest. To give some idea of its size, I point out that it is larger than the 14 countries of Europe. Kazakstan produces everything. Millions of acres of country are under wheat and tens of thousands of acres under cotton; it has huge coalfields, extensive copper mines and, in fact, produces every known mineral. The mines at Krasnoyarsk and Kirovgrad produce 500,000 tons of copper annually. East of the Urals are the world's largest nickel mines, and the deposits extend for hundreds of miles into the Arctic Circle. What an Aladdin's Cave this part of Russia is! Rubber is produced there; Russia is the only one of the Allies that has its own rubber supplies, and is the only one that can produce all the raw materials it requires for carrying on the war. I feel certain that Japan has its eyes on that rich area, which would be easier to invade than would an oversea country like Australia.

Mr. Patrick: Do you think that Japan will attack Russia?

Mr. CROSS: Yes, and before very long. I do not believe that Russia will crack up. I feel certain that it will be able to carry on against the very powerful combination opposed to it. We, however, have certain things to do. It is time that we in Australia had a stocktaking in common with the rest of the Empire. We were not prepared for war and a period of at least three years is required to place a country on a strong and effective war footing. It seems to me that there has been far too much blundering and muddling in Australia. Sorry tales are coming through from the front lines, and we ought to be informed whether some of the ugly rumours in circulation are true.

Recently a captain who had served in Greece and Malaya came to me and said, "You Parliamentarians have something to do." I asked, "What?" He replied, "Take hold of the administration of the Army and let the Army do the fighting." I asked, "Why do you say that?" He answered, "You would say it if you had been through what I have been through. Do you know what was done in Malaya? The general staff was 30 or 40 miles behind the front line. The Germans and the Japanese have their administrative staffs right in the front line. It is no use for the general staff to be behind the lines in fluid warfare, because before the staff can

get news of the front line the position is changing." He then asked me if I knew what had been done at the retreat from Kuala Lumpur. I told him I did not and he then said, "The headquarters staff was well behind the lines. There are some 30 rivers in a space of ten miles and ten of them were covered by sound bridges. An order was sent by a soldier on a motor-bicycle to retreat, while another soldier was sent to direct sappers to blow up the bridges. The bridges were blown up, but subsequently engineers were sent from Singapore, 300 miles away, to build pontoon bridges again." I do not know whether that is true, but we ought to know. He then said that there were only seven battalions of soldiers in Singapore. He said we were short of planes, but had plenty of pilots and mechanics. He went on—and he was in a rage—"The last job I had to do in Singapore was to blow up and push some planes into the sea. Six or seven weeks before 54 planes had been landed in crates on the wharf, but it was nobody's job to take delivery of them." Is that true? We ought to know!

Mr. Thorn: If there were only seven battalions, how did the Japanese get all the prisoners they captured?

Mr. CROSS: They were cut off in the retreat by the infiltration methods of the Japs. There is a reason for our ignominious defeat in Malaya, and we ought to know it. Coming closer home, there is an ugly rumour circulating through Perth. We are told there is a potato shortage. Who is responsible? Is it a fact that the Military authorities over-bought thousands of tons of potatoes and stacked them wet and dirty, and then, when attempting to remove them, found that hundreds of tons were rotten? Did the Military authorities then have to go on the market and buy further supplies, leaving the civilians with none? Is that true? We ought to know!

This is true. I asked a question in this Chamber about rubber. When Malaya was being invaded, I realised that there would be a shortage of rubber. The matter is of the utmost importance, and I am not satisfied with what is being done today. Some hundreds of tyres were despatched from Kalgoorlie to Perth and I inspected them, in company with an expert. It is intended to send these tyres to the Eastern States to be chopped up for scrap rubber. Many tyres could, however, be repaired with

half a pound of rubber at very small cost, and they would then be fit for thousands of miles in the metropolitan area. Why is not that being done? It ought to be.

We have but little chance of securing rubber supplies until Malaya is reconquered. Stocks of rubber are very low here and are being distributed very carefully. One firm has about eight tons, sufficient to retread 8,000 tyres. One or two other firms have a ton or two, while other rubber is being made available—a few handfuls a month. I understand there has been lying on the wharf in Melbourne since last March a capping mould machine for retreading certain tyres, but shipping space has not been available to transport it to Western Australia. Why waste shipping space in exporting the rubber to the Eastern States when this saving could be effected here? I remember that some time ago the S.S. Anshung was at Fremantle with a cargo of 5,000 tons of sugar, at a time when sugar could not be bought in Perth. It was lying there for six or seven weeks, but no action was taken until the member for North-East Fremantle and I took the matter up. Nobody seemed to bother about the sugar. At one stage it was proposed to dump it into the sea; and then someone suggested that it should be sent to Queensland—of all places.

In my opinion, the position is critical enough to warrant the holding of a special session to discuss it with a view to securing a more effective war effort. That is the greatest problem facing us. Do not run away with the idea that because I said we were in no immediate danger of invasion, we are in no real danger! We have secured a breathing space, no more. In twelve months I think the danger of invasion will be acute. We have not a minute to spare, because some things that ought to have been done months and even years ago should be taken in hand forthwith. Much has been said about a second front in Europe. I shall not comment on that, but the second front should not be opened until everything is ready.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. CROSS: We have had enough of half-baked expeditions in which we have lost all too many men. I received a letter this morning from a man whose son was missing after the attack on Ruin Ridge in Egypt. He made some pertinent remarks. The Press also gave prominence to the fact that a West-

ern Australian battalion had been wiped out there. It is pretty rotten that these mistakes should be made. I hope that if it is decided to invade Europe, the attempt will not be half-baked, because Hitler, in another nine or ten weeks, when Russia freezes, will not be bothering about Moscow, he will be driving south into the warmer territory of Persia, and then Britain will have to do something. I think we are on the eve of a big move there; I am almost certain of it. As I said, we have had enough of blundering expeditions, insufficiently equipped. It is no more possible for a poorly equipped army to defeat an opposing force well supplied with weapons than it would be to attempt to save Parliament House afire with a garden hose.

The only other matter to which I desire to refer is the vice squad; I thought about it when the member for Subiaco was speaking. I think it is disgraceful that the names of unfortunate girls should be published. It is rotten! Nothing can be done under the Health Act, but I think it can be done under the Criminal Code. I thought the newspapers of this State were decent enough not to try to degrade these unfortunate girls. They have not got into their present position of their own accord. Nearly all this trouble is war-caused and this effect of war is being felt in every country. I would repeat what Christ said, "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." I would do everything possible to give the girls who have been interrogated by the police a chance to keep their names from the public in the same way as is done under the Health Act. I would give them a chance to get well again and take their places amongst the people as respectable citizens. If within a week or two the Government does not introduce a Bill to prevent the publication of the names of these girls, it is my intention to do so.

MR. BERRY (Irwin-Moore): I desire to associate myself with the expressions of sympathy concerning the illness of the Premier and hope for his speedy return. I understand he has recovered and will be back with us shortly. I am glad also to see the Minister for Works amongst us again. This is the fourth occasion since the outbreak of war when we have addressed ourselves to the motion in reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. That does not mean

that the war is four years old, but it does mean that the war is about to enter upon its fourth year. I listened to all that was said by the member for Canning, but with particular interest to certain parts of his speech. He remarked that we needed three years to organise ourselves for war. With that I think most of us agree, if we believe the text books. In those text books we are told that it takes three years to make a soldier. We are also informed that when war broke out we had no soldiers. Consequently three years would be required to place us in a position to emerge from the shadow that has come upon the world. Those three years have gone and I regret to say that the tally of our successes so far is a very sorry one indeed.

Mr. Needham: We have not had any.

Mr. BERRY: It is unfair for the hon. member to say that. We have had one or two. We drove the Italians back in Libya and took Abyssinia. We have besides a fine body of men in the British Navy.

Mr. Patrick: The mercantile marine, too.

Mr. BERRY: Yes, I thank the hon. member for the interjection. In the last war the mercantile marine put up a wonderful show and they are doing the same in this war. However, all that takes me down a side track. What I want to get at is why, after three years, we are still ill-organised.

The Minister for Mines: Because for 25 years there had been a policy of pacifism.

Mr. BERRY: I cannot help that. We have had three years to get over the effects of pacifism. The reason for our present position is that we are such a stupid lot of fools, hanging on to a stupid lot of democratic nonsense such as we talk for seven to ten hours at a stretch in this Chamber, discussing such things as Bills to increase people's capital when we should be tackling the problem of organisation in a military and civil sense. We have not done that and it is not being done today. I happen to have been appointed to a committee in this State known as the State Shearing Committee. The committee had one meeting prior to my joining it. On the 2nd July the committee inaugurated a plan to do shearing in Western Australia which was well and truly on the way to completion before the committee began operations. We were called together exactly six months too late, and we have been six months too late in every piece of organisation we have at-

tempted in connection with this war both in the military and the civil sphere. We are all too slow.

Criticism was levelled at the committee and also at Mr. Stiffold. If I recollect rightly, the criticism of Mr. Stiffold was that he had no right to be in that position because he had not the necessary knowledge of farming conditions. That may or may not be so, but Mr. Stiffold's job is not entirely one of manpowering for the farming community. He has a very big and serious job. From my experience and the association I have had with him I consider he is doing his work excellently. Were I in the position he holds and able to do it as well as he is doing it my conscience would be absolutely free and contented. I want that to be clearly understood. The duties of the manpower officer at present are being very efficiently handled by the admirable man handling them.

The problem of shearing is one which is of as much importance from a military as from a civil point of view by virtue of the fact that wool is as essential to the soldier as is his rifle. That may be thought to be an exaggeration but it is a fact. Food, equipment and rifle are all equally necessary to the soldier. It behoves us to decide when we want this shearing completed and how much wool is required for the military and civil needs of the State. We should do our utmost to organise the Army in such a way that we have a fighting force and at the same time a civil population to carry out the work necessary to provide for the needs of that force. Much has been said about the difficulty of getting men released from the Army. That is a problem. We have applied for the release of 300 shearers, though that does not mean that we want them all at the same time. The flock owners have asked for their release. I believe that 92 have been secured for shearing and that shearing is at present up to date. The organisation to that end took a good deal of working out and arranging. While the military authorities at the Swan Barracks were in agreement with us and did their utmost to assist us, it does seem that the man with the last say is the officer commanding the unit concerned, and those members of the House who were in the last war know that an officer commanding a unit will not let a single man go if he can possibly prevent it. That has been

the most serious drawback and has occasioned the greatest delay.

We decided that we would zone the State. We found, however, that we were commencing to zone areas to do the job in July when in actual fact shearing was already being done in July. Consequently it was decided to drop the plan for this year, but next year we shall attempt to organise the system fully and more effectively. No finger of scorn can be pointed at any man on the shearing committee, or at Mr. Stiffold. We realise that if wool is to be taken from the sheep's back we must have shearers. We have endeavoured, at the twelfth hour, to induce the military people to recognise that need and give us the necessary men. We were exactly seven months too late in establishing this committee for the organisation of that one branch, and the time is now fast passing for similar action to be taken in regard to the harvesting of crops already well advanced. If we are going to leave that matter in abeyance until about December and then ask responsible people to act on a committee to arrange for the harvesting I, for one, would not take the job. That spirit has been the fault of the whole war effort of the English speaking people. We do everything months and months too late. We are not today organised in any one direction.

The whole thing is muddle, muddle, muddle! Like the rest of the people, I am getting sick to death of it. It is exactly 12 months since I stood here and asked that ships be built in Western Australia, and where are they? Last night I read in "Hansard" where, in my blissful ignorance and belief, I said 12 months ago that they would be starting a month from that time. I believed that, because Mr. Curtin the then Leader of the Opposition, assured me that something would happen because he was going to take the matter up. He said that the War Industries Commission's report was going to revolutionise Western Australia and that it contained reference to the building of ships here. We were told that Mr. Menzies was the bottleneck of the ship-building industry. I am today tempted to ask the Prime Minister: Is Mr. Menzies still the bottleneck of the ship-building industry in Western Australia or Australia?

I understand that a perfectly good old dugout admiral was sent here not long ago, apparently in the greatest secrecy. In a

matter of a few minutes he decided that we could not build ships. I do not think the fool had ever been to sea.

Mr. Patrick: We are the only State that cannot.

Mr. BERRY: This State has got to do things. If our Federal members will not do them, boot them out! At this precise juncture the whole of this State is talking in terms of getting rid of the State Assembly, and no member can deny it. It is no use denying it. The people are fed up with us because they say that we are effete, inefficient and incapable. What is the answer? We have been! That may not be the fault of any one Government; it may be the fault of the party system. It may be that we elect men to go to the Federal House and say to them, "We are electing you to a party and you must kick the ball of that party in accordance with the demands of the greatest number of the team." The greatest number in any party team in the Federal House must come from the Eastern States, and that is where we slip. We should tell our members that they can support any party to which they belong, but that Western Australia is the party to which they must give the greatest consideration.

We have had the anomaly of uniform taxation. This House was called together and said that it did not wish to have uniform taxation. Our Federal representatives said that they did. What is the good of us, or what is the good of them? Unless we wake up to a proper realisation, this House will be wiped out. It is long overdue for reform. Unless we take the matter in hand and reform the House, and bring it to a stage approximating practical sense, we shall make no headway, and I am one of the men who will vote for it to be abolished. We have to wake up. It is no use telling me that we cannot discuss Federal matters here, as I have been told in this House. What are we here for? If I pay Federal income tax and a Federal problem presents itself here, then I have the right to discuss it. But we are told we must not bring these things up. That is in "Hansard." Because I mentioned the name of the Price-Fixing Commissioner the Chairman, at the time, ruled me out of order. If that sort of thing is to go on we would all be better employed in bed. Let us wake up and stop the rumour float-

ing round the State from growing bigger and bigger like a stone-circle in a pool. Members may laugh and snigger, but they will go because the people think we are useless.

Mr. North: What about Canada and U.S.A.? They still retain their State Parliaments. It is curious, is it not?

Mr. BERRY: They may have done something as we have to do something. Today everything is based on organisation. If we were properly organised we would get somewhere, but if we continue to be ragtime in our efforts we will get nowhere. Our farmers are split into two distinct divisions; two opposing divisions. One is an association and one a union. Between them they get nowhere. When it is suggested that a new organisation should come along and seek compulsory organisation and the amalgamation of these two interests by the simple expedient of dropping out of each and going to the new one with nothing on the table, and with a clean sheet, all sorts of objections arise and we are back to where we were—disorganised and ragtime. One of the stumbling-blocks to any post-war reconstruction is the disorganisation of the primary producers.

The whole war effort will suffer if we continue to be so disorganised. Why cannot we find out exactly how many potatoes are needed, how many cabbages, how much wheat and wool, and then organise the whole of the State to produce our requirements? I introduced a scheme two years ago. I took it to Swan Barracks, and it met with approval. I took it to the city and the interests there said, "Oh, the Bank of New South Wales would not like it." That was because it was a collective system. It savoured of Russia, the great bogey, which has been brought before the people ever since it started its Soviet system. The thing we must not imitate in any way, we were told, was Russia—until she became our ally, and then we yelled ourselves hoarse with—"Three cheers for Russia!" The same problem arises today over the second front. It is not only a question of whether we are ready, but are these people, as Lady Astor might suggest, clean enough for our association? They are our allies, and anyone who is an ally is a friend. The nonsense going on throughout the State of making a partisan matter of whether we should or should not agree with what Russia does is just so

much blah. It means nothing at all. Russia is entitled to its own opinions, its own way of government, and to do whatsoever it wishes as a nation, just as we hold that we have the right to do those things. That is what we maintain we are fighting for today.

Another thing hindering the war effort of Australia is the unfortunate greed of the people. We are still chasing every penny we can get irrespective of the war, and this is a difficult and big problem to handle. It is with us and is a danger because the enemy—and I am thinking of Japan when I say enemy—is not doing quite the same thing. We still have interest to meet, and still think in terms of evictions for failure to pay such interest. We are evicting people from businesses today. I know a man who had been for 30 years on his block and was a member of a road board, in fact its chairman for several years. He is today in the V.D.C. Because he cannot pay some lousy little interest bill he is to be thrown out. When he is evicted we are going to ask him to join the Army and fight for democracy. It will be a funny army if such men are drafted into it. There are many men in the Army today who think they do not owe this country very much, because economic circumstances compel them to join the Forces. We have to tackle the interest problem and the debt problem, and the resultant mental influence on our fighting men.

We must build ships. I am sorry to revert to this subject, but I have just remembered that a little while ago in spite of shortages in this State—and at the time we could not get tobacco, potatoes, tea or sugar—we were told that we could not have these goods because of lack of shipping space. Then we find that 600 tons of salt have arrived here. We learn that a ship arrives with flour, and when we make inquiries we are told that it is a specially hard type of flour which we cannot produce in this State although it is noted for its hard wheats, and that the flour is wanted by a firm for making biscuits. Gas-producers are being imported too, although Western Australia was the first State to make them. It maddens people to think that such stupidity is permitted. It warrants our insistent demand for the building of more ships, and more ships yet, and still more ships in every portion of the British Empire that can possibly build a ship. If anyone thinks the necessity does

not exist, if anyone does not believe the stories of the sinkings, let him at least hearken to the call that comes over the air, that comes through the Press, comes from the mouths of individuals, "For God's sake, give us ships!"

The second front cannot be created without ships. It should be created. No sane man would deny that it should have been created long ago. History teaches us that the main fear of Germany, from the days of Bismarck, has been a war on two fronts—on the East and on the West. Hitler, in his wisdom, decided to knock the East out first and then go for the West. Today is the day when the second front offensive should take place, and it would have been possible today had the necessary shipping organisation been made complete and effective as it should have been long ago. In this House 12 months ago I was told that Welshpool would be functioning in August of this year. Here is August, and Welshpool is functioning. But what is it doing? Its war effort is so small that we could hand it to the Japanese and it would make no difference. We have to recognise that Japan is the biggest menace Australia has to guard against, a crowd of hooligan fanatics armed with more modern weapons than we have.

If we cannot build and organise equal to the Japanese, they will beat us exactly as Britain was defeated at Singapore. The member for Canning expressed surprise that Britain was defeated so quickly there. Britain was defeated because of not being organised. We had spent too much time in Parliaments talking a lot of hokey. Organisation will win this war, and nothing else will win it. Therefore let us organise, and organise quickly. Let us not dilly-dally till we are pushed off the map by little yellow men about half the size of Britons. Two Japanese would not, under the ordinary laws of the jungle, be my physical equals; and yet one Japanese would, under present conditions, be my physical equal, and yours, Mr. Speaker, or anybody else's, because we have not been built up to match the Japanese fertile brain with equal fertility and because we have not been able to match his physical skill. We sit and jabber. We are a nation of cackling idiots!

A problem that has troubled this House for some time is the problem of our fisheries and the price of fish. The price factor is constantly being referred to here, but

lately it has risen to greater heights than ever before. Schnapper, which formerly sold at 10½d. per pound, a few days ago was bringing, and probably is bringing today, 2s. 6d. and even 2s. 10d. per pound. The same remarks apply to dhu fish. Today a 15-lb. schnapper is worth £2—equal to about 1s. per mouthful. That disgraceful state of affairs has come about again through lack of organisation. Some time ago we were told that fish was a necessary article of diet. Since then we have been told that it is not so very important. In my opinion it is important, at least as a diet food. However, by regulation the fishing industry of Western Australia was completely wiped out. It was decided, very properly, that Italian fishermen should not go upon the waters, because stories were getting abroad to those agile little monkeys, the Japanese. It was thought that the stories might have been transmitted by Italian fishermen. They were stopped, but the Commonwealth Government made a serious mistake in one respect. It left these people too long on the beach without employment.

Men not Bolshevik-minded nor fifth columnist might easily, through hunger, become pernicious. The Italian fishermen were later put to work and paid. Then each and all of us who wanted to go fishing had to obtain a permit—I have one in my pocket now. It was found even with control over Australian fishermen that the leakage was continuing. In the meantime the people had no fish. Here is the point: When we took the Italian fishing boats away and interned them at Coffee Point, where they are likely to sink in 12 months or less through worm ravage, opportunity was taken away for other people to come in and fish. Why cannot those vessels as well as the pearling luggers—all those little vessels interned in the river and at its mouth—be used by any man who is exempt from military service, is fit to go fishing and wishes to do so? Are those little vessels to lie there and rot because of some equally rotten Admiralty or Army regulations? Cannot something be done to allow those ships to be used? Let our men go out and get the fish.

One aspect that delights me is that fish on the coast are already increasing in a most amazing manner. Places where a skipjack could not be caught are today full of skipjack. I have no doubt that the schnapper will come back too. A few days ago two



old-men-schnapper were caught just off the Rockingham jetty. According to the Fisheries Department those were the first old-men-schnapper taken at Rockingham for years. Personally the price of fish does not worry me because I can catch my own supply. Still, it is pleasing to know that war is not wholly a matter of horrors, disabilities and inconveniences; there are some redeeming features and one of these will probably be the return in number of the schnapper and other fish to Western Australian waters. I hope that the Fisheries Research vessel, which we almost got, will soon be obtained. The Commonwealth was only about half an inch from granting it but then took it away. War or nor war, we need that vessel. We must learn as much as possible about our coastal fishing in order that we may protect the industry, even as the war is protecting it at present, and be able to supply fish at a price fair to the people.

Every member of Parliament and I dare say every road board member talks of post-war planning, but we do not hear much of what it is or is likely to be. We talk in a grandiloquent way to the effect that we must have post-war planning, but no-one seems to know what it is to be. Can any member tell me of any post-war programme at the moment? I am afraid there is a lot of eye-wash and lip-service about the matter. We have an Atlantic Charter; we celebrated its birthday a day or two ago. But just what is post-war planning? What are we trying to do? Is it going to be the same as it was after the 1914-18 war? Are the boys to throw their rifles down and cast their uniforms off, only too happy to be released from the bondage of the uniform, and go back to the bondage of debt? Is this lip service? Or are we being honest and fair? If so let us tackle the greatest problem of all.

One of the things that can prevent the adoption of any effective post-war plan is a rotten financial system which, in my opinion, has led us into war time after time. Let us tackle this, the biggest problem the world has to face. We want to give the man who works a fair deal. If we possess a business, we should bear in mind that labour makes it for us. In Malaya the tin mines and the rubber estates were built up on the labour of the people and not by the people who supplied the money in order to pay labour as little as possible.

Those industries were built up by men with their own hands, which made that country great. But what do we give labour in return? As little as possible. It is the same old story—grind the other fellow down, grind him down from 2s. 6d. to 2s. if you can. But what is wrong with giving him the other sixpence?

In post-war planning everyone must be given an opportunity. If wealth is going to stay in the hands of a few so that those few can control the industrial existence of the rest of the people, then we shall be as badly off as ever. If, when our soldiers return, they say they want to go on the land—there is talk to this effect—are they going to be given, say, my farm while I am paid off by a generous bank that has crippled me for years so that I might get out of the picture, a contented man, while the boys come in and take over the deadly burden of debt? There should be no recurrence of that sort of thing. We may adopt grand schemes for roads in the North-West, hydro-electric plants and such-like works, but they will be of no use if money is to be the master of the poor devil who provides them.

There is one charter referred to in the Press the other day as the Children's Charter. It was an amazing document but a great one nevertheless, because, as the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe has been accused of saying, evolution must take its course. Under this Children's Charter the child must have a proper place in any social legislation of the future. The child must have proper education; its health must be cared for; it must be properly fed and nourished and its personality must be developed. These, in the year 1942, are decisions that should have been in operation two thousand years ago.

Mr. Marshall: What about the child's mother? It is all very well to talk about the child, but how is the mother to get on? Is she to go ill-housed, ill-clothed and ill-fed?

Mr. BERRY: Then let us have a mother's charter. I am taking the Children's Charter to illustrate the type of charter I want to see adopted. The member for Murchison is quite correct in his view. I have already pointed out that labour should be paid justly and adequately so that a fair standard of comfort may be available.

I believe that the crime upon which the member for Subiaco dilated is coming up through the neck of a bottle. Our home life has gone and the young people of this generation have learned to get their fun through the neck of a bottle. There is no real fun in that; there is danger, degradation and despair. I may be called a wowser; I am not. I come from a country that drinks as hard as does any other. But I have not seen elsewhere the drunkenness and licentiousness that I have observed here. I am inclined to think that we shall be wasting our time by attempts to introduce legislation regulating the strength of liquor, hours of sale and things of that kind. Turning back to the days of my boyhood—and I am a contemporary of most members of this Chamber—we realised then that to get drunk was so serious an offence that a policeman would lay his hand on one's shoulder and take one to gaol. There was very little drunkenness then. If today drunkenness were regarded in the same way, if people knew that they would be put in gaol for, say, 24 hours, if they over-indulged, much of our present troubles would disappear.

The threat of gaol is indeed a serious one. We have the history of the drink problem in the United States of America, where for 16 miserable sordid years prohibition was in force. During that time drunkenness and licentiousness increased. I remember meeting an American on a steamer some years ago. He looked down the deck and then said, "We will have a pull at this," producing a bottle of whisky from his hip pocket. Drinking in secret will not effect any good purpose at all. With our regulations, we could say to people, "We object to drunkenness, particularly in wartime. If you are drunk we shall lock you up." That would deter many people from getting drunk. It would also deter vice. I am convinced that the vice squad is necessary because of the stupid over-indulgence in alcohol. Friends of mine have told me that they had a wonderful day in Perth; they were drunk all day! Members have also heard that. We have become silly, just as we were towards the end of the last world war and immediately after. We idolise beer. My wonder is that it is not on the Table of the House for us to look at. Have we not heard people say, "I had a wonderful day at the races; I could not see a horse,

I was too drunk"? Do not let us tinker with this matter; it is far too dangerous for that. As I said, if we could induce our young folk to stay at home more, as we did,—I can see the member for Swan smiling—

Mr. Sampson: We were good lads.

Mr. BERRY: Yes.

Mr. Sampson: On occasions.

Mr. BERRY: —we would soon overcome the drink difficulty and would do away with vice and venereal disease. If something is not done along the lines I suggest, the matter will get out of hand altogether, and I shall be coming to this Chamber tight myself. I presume I shall be allowed to touch on the black-out regulations.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I ruled on the 5th of August that that matter should not be discussed on this debate.

Mr. BERRY: Would I be in order in talking about the Rottneft lights?

Mr. SPEAKER: They are not affected by the black-out regulations. The hon. member will have ample opportunity to discuss that matter later.

Mr. BERRY: That is so. I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government has at long last decided on some definite wheat policy. For a long time past members have been asking questions in this House, such as "What is the policy?" "Is there a policy?" "Are we to have a policy?" Mr. Scully has brought forward what we now know as the 3,000-bushel scheme. I trust it will not be one of those dilly-dallying schemes we have had placed before us on other occasions. Mr. Scully is to be congratulated, because the majority of our wheatgrowers will be receiving £600 for 3,000 bushels of wheat. That will mean a great deal to the farmers. Undoubtedly, £600 is a large sum of money; I discovered that when people talked about the salary that politicians receive. The scheme is to be commended.

Mr. J. Hegney: How much will be taken out of the £600 for interest and other charges?

Mr. BERRY: I understand that farmers are to receive 4s. per bushel at the siding. I trust that the present Commonwealth Government will not do what Commonwealth National and Country Party Governments have done in the past, that is, talk about the scheme for two years and then lose it. If that is to be the case the position of the farmer will be hopeless. The scheme meets with much approval throughout the coun-

try. The big farmer will be protected, as he will receive an advance of 2s. per bushel. I cannot see anything wrong with the scheme and I take this opportunity to inform the Government that it meets with my approval.

Mr. Doney: Will the farmer get 2s. per bushel at the siding?

Mr. BERRY: That, I understand, is the proposal.

Mr. Doney: That statement has not yet been made.

Mr. BERRY: I heard it privately. If the wheatgrowers are going to quarrel with the scheme, then I suggest we should leave them to their own devices. Scheme after scheme has been brought forward on various occasions, but those schemes have not matured because of the opposition to them. I shall conclude by saying that the slogan of the British Empire ought to be "Organise and win the war." Muddle, and we shall lose it!

On motion by Mr. Kelly, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 4.35 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Wednesday, 19th August, 1942.*

|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| Questions: "Hansard," bound volumes for members |      |
| Civil defence, requisitioned premises           | 228  |
| Agriculture, farm labour                        | 228  |
| Water supply, Pingelly                          | 228  |
| Address-in-reply, eighth day                    | 229  |

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

### QUESTIONS (4).

#### "HANSARD."

##### *Bound Volumes for Members.*

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Premier: In view of the decision of the Printing Committee that the practice of issuing bound copies of "Hansard" to members of both Houses be discontinued until the end of the war, will he advise: 1, Whether it is proposed to print the index to speeches and subjects as usual? 2, If so, what cost would be involved in the printing and binding of the eighty additional sets of volumes re-

quired to provide each member with a copy as usual? 3, Would it be possible to supply bound volumes to those members requiring them, and if so, what is the proposed charge?

The DEPUTY PREMIER (for the Premier) replied: 1, 2 and 3, This is a matter for the Joint Printing Committee.

### CIVIL DEFENCE.

#### *Requisitioned Premises.*

Mr. McDONALD asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is he aware that a considerable number of premises have been requisitioned and wholly or partially occupied for Civil Defence purposes by municipal councils and road boards, under the Public Authorities and Corporations Powers Order made by the Premier and that the owners are receiving no rent or compensation? 2, As the Order provides that these owners have no claim against these local authorities, will the Government take steps as soon as possible to ensure that Civil Defence funds are provided to pay fair compensation during the period of occupation, as is done from Defence expenditure in the case of the acquisition of premises for military purposes?

The MINISTER replied: 1, I am aware of two instances in which premises have been so requisitioned. As far as I know the owners are not receiving rent or compensation. 2, This matter has been fully considered by the Civil Defence Council, which is of the opinion that Civil Defence funds should not be used for the purpose of compensating such owners. Where the Council requisitions premises for its own use it pays reasonable rental in every case.

### AGRICULTURE, FARM LABOUR

Mr. BERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture: Is it the intention of the Government to take necessary and immediate steps to appoint a committee for the proper and timely organisation of the manpower essential for the coming wheat harvest?

The MINISTER replied: Consideration is being given to matters relating to essential manpower for all industries.

### WATER SUPPLY, PINGELLY.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Water Supplies: 1, Is it a fact that instructions have been, or are about to be issued to increase the water rate at Pingelly from