

MR. HEARMAN (Blackwood—in reply) [8.56]: I do not intend to take up much of the time of the House. Again, the Minister has not mentioned whether it is a good or a bad principle to adopt for this type of regulation to be proclaimed without Parliament first being consulted. He has merely said that the existing regulation makes the position quite clear.

At the outset I say that the Betting Control Board, with this particular regulation, has not been very secretive. I cannot see any great difficulty in printing the hours of business or other conditions on the back of the licence under the terms of regulation No. 31 because they are not so voluminous. However, difficulty might have been experienced in that the board did make some amendment to the specified hours of business which, of course, would have meant an alteration in the printed conditions specified on the licence.

However, in view of the fact that the board has made it quite clear to me what the terms and conditions are, I am not particularly concerned about the fate of this motion. The effect of this debate has been to make it quite clear that it is possible for the House to obtain the information it requires and to that extent I think the motion has succeeded.

I reiterate that I knew perfectly well that the regulation would not be disallowed, but the effect of the motion has been that this matter has been well ventilated. I do not think there is any point in calling for a division on the question, but I am sorry that the Minister again evaded the point as to whether he considered it was a good or a bad thing to stipulate terms and conditions relating to a licence before making the position clear to the House.

Question put and negatived.

House adjourned at 8.59 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 29th September, 1955.

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

QUESTIONS.

MEDICAL SCHOOL APPEAL.

Subscriptions by Insurance Companies.

Mr. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health:

Will he advise which insurance companies, concerned with workers' compensation insurance and motor accident insurance, have subscribed to the medical school appeal, and the amounts of each donation?

The **MINISTER** replied:

This information is not available to the Government but it is understood contributions to the appeal are published in the Press from time to time.

BREAD.

Price per 2lb. Loaf, Donnybrook.

Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Can he say what the price of a 2lb. loaf of bread was in Donnybrook at the termination of price control in 1953?

(2) What is the present legal price of a 2lb. loaf of bread in Donnybrook?

(3) What increase in baking costs in Donnybrook, expressed in terms of a 2lb. loaf of bread, have accrued since the lifting of price control, due to such items as rail freights, wages, yeast, etc.?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The retail price was 1s. 1d. cash and 1s. 1½d. booked.

(2) The retail price is 1s. 2d. cash and 1s. 2½d. booked.

(3) The calculated average increased costs since the 31st December, 1953, for towns in the South-West Land Division where there is no delivery is .727 pence including the last basic wage increase. Donnybrook comes into this category.

BETTING.

Opening of S.P. Shops Throughout the Week.

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Police:

Can he inform the House if the Betting Control Board has—

(1) Given consideration to permitting s.p. betting shops in all major towns to remain open throughout the week for the transaction of business?

(2) Considered the installation of seating accommodation for the convenience of patrons?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, at the commencement of betting operations, but decided that circumstances did not appear to justify such registered betting premises being kept open from Mondays to Saturdays inclusive. Further inquiries are being made with a view to considering whether or not that decision should be varied.

(2) Yes, at the commencement of betting operations, but decided against the provision of such accommodation. Inquiries are being made thereto, and the board will give further consideration to the matter.

TOWN PLANNING.

Erection of Service Station, Waratah Avenue.

Hon. C. F. J. NORTH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) Has an application been referred to him or the Town Planning Commission for permission to erect a service station on the south side of Waratah Avenue in the vicinity of Roberts-rd.?

(2) Has he received objections from nearby residents?

(3) If so, will they be heard before a decision is reached regarding the permit for the service station?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING replied:

(1) No, but on the 26th September, 1955, the Town Planning Board received advice from the Nedlands Road Board that an application had been made to the road board for permission to erect a service station on lot 236, corner Roberts-rd. and Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith. Under the road board's town planning scheme this is a gazetted residential lot and a service station could not be erected on it unless the road board secured an amendment to its scheme to enable the lot to be transferred to the business area. The road board has requested the Town Planning Board's opinion in this connection.

(2) No.

(3) If the road board decides to recommend the amendment of its scheme it will have to obtain the preliminary approval of the Minister for Town Planning. The amendment will then be advertised at least once in each of three successive weeks in a newspaper circulating in the district. Any person who wishes can then submit objections to the proposal to the road board. The road board is required to forward all objections to the Minister for Local Government for his approval or otherwise of the amendment.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER SCHEME.

Expenditure by State Government.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Treasurer:

In view of his published statement in the "Sunday Times" of the 25th September, 1955, that the State Government was prepared to spend more than £682,000 on the comprehensive water scheme this year provided the Commonwealth Government spent more than £682,000—

(a) What amount had the State Government intended to spend if additional funds had been made available?

(b) Can it be assumed that a total amount of £1,364,000 made up of £682,000 from the State Government and £682,000 from the Commonwealth Government will be spent this year?

(c) If so, how does he reconcile it with his statement that work on the scheme might be slowed down this year?

(d) Will sufficient labour and materials be available to meet a total expenditure this year of £1,364,000 on the scheme?

The TREASURER replied:

(a) An amount to ensure, if found practicable, that use would be made of the full funds available from the Commonwealth Government.

(b) It is the Government's intention to carry out works that will result in Commonwealth assistance to the extent of £682,000.

(c) The total finance available for any work in any one year naturally influences the rate of progress.

(d) Yes.

RAILWAYS.

Provision of Transport for Greenmount.

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

As most of the residents at Koongamia (Greenmount) require transport to Midland Junction and south thereof, could the Railway Department arrange—

(1) For a railcar service to Greenmount?

(2) For a railway road bus service?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Not at present, but consequent on a previous request this matter has been listed for further consideration when additional railcars are available.

(2) Greenmount is already served by road bus and there would be insufficient patronage to warrant another service by railway buses.

ENTERTAINMENTS TAX.

Method and Cost of Collection.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Treasurer:

(1) How is State entertainments tax collected? Is it through the Taxation Department, or otherwise?

(2) If not through the Taxation Department, did that department decline to collect, and if so, why?

(3) If through the Taxation Department, what is the cost of collection and what percentage of the total does it represent?

The TREASURER replied:

(1) Entertainments tax is collected by the State Treasury.

(2) Yes, because the Commonwealth Government had vacated the field of entertainments tax and did not desire to collect a similar tax on behalf of State Governments.

(3) Not applicable.

LAND AND VERMIN TAXES.

Method and Cost of Collection.

Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Treasurer:

(1) Who collects the State land tax and the vermin tax?

(2) What is the cost of collection and what percentage of the total does it represent?

The TREASURER replied:

(1) The Taxation Department.

(2) The present charge to the State is £12,000 per annum, which is stated by the Taxation Department to be well below the cost of collection. Negotiations are proceeding between the State Treasury and the Taxation Department to determine the actual cost of collection of State taxes and an equitable charge to the State for work performed on its behalf.

At this stage, it is not possible to express the cost of collection as a percentage of the total.

TRANSPORT BOARD.

Number of Inspectors Engaged, etc.

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) How many inspectors are engaged by the Transport Board?

(2) What amount of wages, or salaries, is paid?

(3) How many prosecutions have been made against road hauliers—

(a) licensed carriers for the past three years;

(b) farmers for the past three years?

(4) What was the total amount paid in fines?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The board's present staff includes three inspectors and three road patrol officers.

(2) The total amount of salaries paid to inspectors and patrol officers for the three years ended the 30th June, 1955, was £13,357.

(3) and (4) This information is not readily available and would involve considerable time and expense to segregate.

LOAN FUNDS.

Amount Approved for State Electricity Commission.

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What amount of money was approved by the Loan Council for State Electricity Commission borrowings in the financial years 1953-54 and 1954-55?

(2) What amount was requested for the ensuing financial year, and what allocation was made?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) 1953-54, £2,000,000; 1954-55, £2,960,000.

(2) £4,000,000; £2,100,000.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES.**High Tension Line, Pickering Brook-Karragullen.**

Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Works:

(1) On what date was the decision made to construct the high tension main from Pickering Brook to Karragullen?

(2) In connection with the questions on the 27th and the 28th September, regarding work undertaken on the project, will he indicate which answer is correct—

(a) that a survey has been made or

(b) that clearing has taken place on the proposed route?

(3) If the answer is that clearing has taken place, what amount of money was expended on the work and what distance has been cleared?

(4) On what date was the survey made of prospective consumers on the route?

(5) Will the residents of Karragullen receive the supply of electricity if the forthcoming State Electricity Commission loan is successful? If not, why not?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) June, 1955.

(2) Both.

(3) £244; approximately three miles.

(4) May, 1955.

(5) No, because of the contraction by the Loan Council of the amount the commission is allowed to borrow.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Owen, leave of absence for one week granted to Mr. Perkins (Roe) on the ground of urgent private business.

BILL—SOIL CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT

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

BILL—POLICE BENEFIT FUND ABOLITION ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILL—RENTS AND TENANCIES EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT AMENDMENT.**Council's Amendments.**

Schedule of 11 amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee.

Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair; the Minister for Housing in charge of the Bill.

No. 1. Clause 1, page 2—After the word "Tenancies" in line 9 insert the words "Emergency Provisions":

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: With regard to this amendment, it will be recalled that the Government desired that

this legislation, the subject of the Bill, should be a permanent measure to be regarded as a social service and a safeguard for the people against the small section of the community that from time to time might take advantage of any situation to exploit people who are seeking accommodation, whether for residential or business purposes. The Government appreciates that it is more or less useless to argue against the Legislative Council after it has taken a firm stand, and therefore the amendment sought by the Legislative Council to insert the words "Emergency Provisions," which will have the effect of placing this measure on a temporary basis, to be renewed from time to time, must prevail. I do not intend to fight a hopeless battle and accordingly move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 2. Clause 2—Delete.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Bill sought to define more clearly and specifically the terms "lodgers" and "lodgings." The Act contains a definition that appears to meet the position, although the Crown Law Department is doubtful about it. In the Council no great difference of opinion existed as to the necessity for apartment-houses to be subject to supervision, but it was found to be practically impossible to frame a definition that would be adequate and yet would not go too far. Because of that, the Chief Secretary, the Minister controlling this legislation, has decided to allow the present definition to remain and not persevere with the amendment that we sought. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 3. Clause 3—Delete.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: The Government desires that the provision in the Bill should be retained. I have been informed by the Chief Secretary that, perhaps because of his fault, there was not a proper understanding of the proposal and he desires another opportunity to discuss the matter with members of that Chamber.

At present, if a lease of three years or longer is entered into, the Act does not apply. Parliament agreed that in respect of three-year tenancies, there should be some form of control. The Act lays down certain principles providing that where a lessee believes he is being charged too much, he may appeal to the court or the inspector as the case may be, and machinery and protection are provided in certain circumstances. Experience has shown that some landlords, in order to

defeat the expressed wish of Parliament, have been compelling tenants to sign a lease of three years, usually no longer.

When the Bill was before the Chamber, I discussed this matter at some length. We shall not be introducing any new principle because, even though the amendment be incorporated in the Act, an owner will be at liberty to enter into a lease of three years or more and so remove it from the operation of the Act. All we desire is that where the rent of premises has been determined by the court, it shall not be possible for an owner to thumb his nose at the legislation by requiring a lessee to enter into a lease of three years or longer. The fight is one that will be resolved in the Council, and as the Minister who administers the Act is in that Chamber and has sought a further opportunity to confer with members there, I think we should agree with him. I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

Mr. WILD: Obviously the Minister has made up his mind that another place must determine whether this provision shall remain or shall be deleted and, as the numbers here are against us, anything we might say would be a waste of time.

The Premier: The numbers here are equal.

Mr. WILD: The Minister himself introduced the amendment in 1950 or 1951. Possibly, in the light of experience, he feels that he was wrong, but I think he has been misinformed. I appreciate that he is representing the responsible Minister in another place. Since the amendment has been on the statute book, people, for the first time for many years, have been able to take advantage of a short-term lease of three years or longer, and while there might have been an isolated case of a tenant's having had the gun put to his head, we realise that it is impossible to close every loophole.

If the Minister has his way, the position will be the same as it has been for the last eight or nine years. Small suburban businesses change hands frequently. There is one not far from this Chamber, well-known to the member for West Perth, and the people concerned have not a lease, though that is the very thing they do want. Possibly they paid more for the business than it was worth. They want to get a lease, but their landlord is probably hedging, knowing that this Act is up for review by Parliament. That case is typical of many of the businesses that are changing hands today. I do not care who it is, if a person pays £1,000 or £3,000 for the goodwill of a business he must have some security of tenure. People over the years have known that they could not be thrown out, but today that can happen.

Would any of us in our sane senses pay money to go into any of these businesses without security? We owe it to the isolated cases to do something. Since the Act has been on the statute book it has been impossible to cover all the loopholes that must be there. I ask the Minister to have another look at this. I know he will use the weight of numbers to get this through, but I would like him to request his opposite number in another place to have a further look at the provision. The ultimate result can only be for the matter to be once more referred to a conference of managers, and we do not want that. I cannot agree with the contention of the Minister.

The Premier: What is this weight of numbers?

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I do not intend to debate this matter at length. Incidentally, this may well be the only Legislative Council amendment that requires any debate. The Committee should thoroughly understand the import of it. The Government fully agrees that it is an advantage to the lessor and the lessee for there to be a lease extending over some period, and for that reason we have left in the Act the provision which states that the provisions of this Act shall apply to all premises except those that have been leased for a fixed term of not less than three years. That will remain in the Act, even with the amendment.

The only condition we are applying is that where premises are subject to the Act at the present moment, and, following the processes as laid down by the law, a determination of a fair rent is made, then it shall not be possible for the lessor to defeat the law by the device of requiring a three-year lease for no other reason than to defeat the purposes of the Act. I will agree with the member for Dale that there will probably be not many places affected. The average person is quite straight and honest, and if he were an owner and desired to let premises, he would approach the tenant and submit a proposition to him; or if the tenant required a lease, he would negotiate with the owner and some arrangement, whether it be for three years or longer, could be entered into.

But that has to deal with the owner who has not sought a lease but has, perhaps, gone to excess and charged a little bit too much. The tenant has done the natural thing by approaching the court for a fair determination, but this shrewd, hungry fellow who is the owner of the premises—he represents only a small percentage—desires to defeat that. So he enters into a three-year lease for that purpose only. Some of these people have been doing that and allowing an escape clause for the tenant, showing that they are by no means sincere and that they do not want a three years' lease so that

they do not have to worry about tenants coming and going, but simply to exclude themselves from the Act for the purpose of charging more than what is considered to be a fair rent. With regard to the weight of numbers, and the other place and so on, I am inclined to agree with the member for Dale. I leave the matter at that.

Mr. COURT: I think that when we debated this previously a query was raised regarding the words "has been determined" in line 20. I was wondering whether the Minister had been able to satisfy himself as to the exact meaning of those words. Doubtless he will say that they mean "has been determined by the court" but there is a grave doubt as to whether, in fact, that is the legal significance of them. We could have an anomaly creep in here, which I am sure the Minister does not want, that the rent has been determined by mutual agreement between the parties on or after the 1st May, 1954. If the landlord wants to negotiate an amicable arrangement with his tenant, in all good faith, he will because of the provisions of this proposed amendment be precluded from so doing at a rent higher than that which had been paid by agreement prior to these negotiations.

Since the measure was last before us I have tried to establish whether the significance of those words is, in fact, "has been determined by the court." There still seems to be some legal doubt. If the Minister could give us further information on the point, it would assist in considering the proposition from the Legislative Council. Further to these remarks, I express my own view that we would be very foolish to interfere with this three-year provision, which, in a lease, is a very satisfactory item having regard to the state of the economy and the general expectancy of conditions at the present time. A lesser or greater term is not, in my view desirable. A person can settle down to conduct a business on a fairly stable basis if he has an assured three years' tenancy; and we should do all in our power to encourage that.

I would not like the Minister to adopt as completely factual the thought that everyone has rushed to a three-year term just because the Act mentions it. I think he will find that most reputable agencies have always regarded a three-year term as being satisfactory for a lease. The trustee companies, who are fairly impartial landlords and, in the main, are extremely good landlords because they are not so directly interested in the return from a property—especially when acting as trustees and not as agents—have for many years adopted the principle that a three-year term is a desirable one. We should do everything in our power to encourage the landlord and tenant to enter into stable arrangements for a period of three years or more.

The Minister for Housing: There is nothing to prevent them from doing that.

Mr. COURT: We will discourage them if we tinker with this provision, which is working well at the moment. Many people have leases, and they could not get them before. Many are relying on the provisions of the Act to protect them, unfairly, against the landlord. They gambled on these restrictions being retained and the rent of businesses being kept down, when they themselves were having a very successful time. All we were seeking to do, by amendments to the legislation, was to create a state of affairs where a degree of equity could be restored, and the tenant and landlord would be encouraged to get together. I think we have done a lot towards achieving that.

The Minister for Housing: They will still be able to do that.

Mr. Johnson: Do you suggest that landlords are better than courts?

Mr. COURT: It may be that a rent agreed upon between landlord and tenant on a weekly or monthly tenancy basis is below that which would be granted by the court. It has been acknowledged for years that a rental under a lease, especially in respect of business premises, can be higher, and the courts used to make that one of the conditions for rent increases. If these words "as determined between the parties" remain, no one will be foolish enough to enter into a lease. I think we should agree to the amendment and, failing that, I would like the Minister to comment on the meaning of the words "has been determined".

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: I do not think the member for Nedlands need be perturbed. All through the Act, the words "determination" and "determined" are used in respect of the court or rent inspector, and in respect of negotiations between the parties, the term used is "agreed" or "agreement", so I do not think there is any doubt about it.

Mr. Court: The legal people say there is.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: If the Crown Law Department, which drafted the measure, is of the opinion that a wrong step has been taken—because it was certainly not the intention of the Government that that should be so—action will be taken to clarify the position and make the word "determination" beyond doubt have application to the decision of the court or rent inspector as the case may be.

Question put and a division taken with the following result:

| | | |
|--------------|-------|----|
| Ayes | ..... | 21 |
| Noes | ..... | 18 |
| Majority for | ..... | 3 |

Ayes.

Mr. Andrew
Mr. Brady
Mr. Graham
Mr. Hawke
Mr. Heal
Mr. W. Hegney
Mr. Hoar
Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Lapham
Mr. Lawrence

Mr. McCulloch
Mr. Nulsen
Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Rodoreda
Mr. Sewell
Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Styanta
Mr. Tonkin
Mr. May

(Teller.)

Noes.

Mr. Abbott
Dame F. Cardell-Oliver
Mr. Court
Mr. Doney
Mr. Hearman
Mr. Mann
Mr. Manning
Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Nalder

Mr. Nimmo
Mr. North
Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Owen
Mr. Thorn
Mr. Watts
Mr. Wild
Mr. Yates
Mr. Hutchinson

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.

Mr. Kelly
Mr. Norton
Mr. Moir

Noes.

Mr. Bovell
Mr. Cornell
Mr. Brand

Question thus passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

No. 4. Clause 4, page 3—Delete the words "or the amount of rent which was in fact charged" in lines 5 and 6.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: On this question, I agreed with the member for Dale and accepted his amendment, but apparently I went too far, as the Legislative Council has decided to be more cautious in this regard. This amendment seeks to delete certain of the words proposed by the member for Dale, which I accepted. Until recently it was necessary to prove what the standard rent was, and that related to the year 1939. Now it is proposed that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the amount of rent shall be that which was lawfully chargeable on the first day of the month before notice was given. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 5. Clause 5, page 3—Insert a paragraph to stand as paragraph (b) as follows:—

(b) by inserting after the word "premises" in line four of Subsection (2) the words "or a lessee the period of whose tenancy is three-monthly or more than three-monthly."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Under the legislation where certain action is taken by the lessor, there is protection for the lessee for a period of three months, in that before the expiration of three months notice cannot be given. Certain members in another place realised that that provision alone could do an injustice because, in a three-monthly tenancy, there could be this period of three months' protection, during which no notice could be given, and then three months' notice in addition, in

accordance with the terms of the tenancy, making a total of six months. As I see nothing objectionable to this amendment, which seeks to correct the anomaly, I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 6. Clause 5, page 3—After the word "has" in line 26 insert the words "before or."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment deals with the removal of protection to a tenant where he has been what might be described as a bad tenant. This protection, of which I spoke earlier, applies irrespective of the circumstances and during the three months' period of protection the tenant could do all sorts of damage and generally make himself objectionable; but he was entitled to remain for that period. It was proposed that if he became a bad tenant during that period, he should not have protection and the Legislative Council wants to go a little further and if he has been a bad tenant in a period before this action was taken, similarly he would have forfeited the right to be protected by legislation.

I think, in recent years, that has been the opinion of both sides of the House. Where a tenant has proved himself unworthy he does not merit our consideration, and we should not foist him upon the owner of premises. In other words, if, under those circumstances, he incurs the displeasure of the landlord, it is his own fault. For that reason I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 7. Clause 5, page 4—Delete the words "repealing Subsection (4)" in line 29 and substitute the words:—"substituting for the word 'fifty-five' in Subsection (4) the word 'fifty-six'."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This is merely to reduce from a permanent measure to a limited period expiring on the 31st December of next year, a certain section of the Act—that is to say, where protection is given for a period where there is overcharging. In view of the decision of the Council to make this measure of limited duration, this amendment automatically follows and I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 8. Clause 5, page 4—Delete paragraph (e) in lines 30 to 42 inclusive.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This was to clear up a situation which the Crown Law Department felt required attention. It is apparently accepted that

where notice to quit is given, the relationship of landlord and tenant is interrupted and they exist on a different basis. The amendment in the Bill sought to continue the relationship until such time as the case had appeared before the court and a decision had been given. I felt, and I still feel, that it is desirable that it should be retained. However, being in an exceptionally generous mood this afternoon, I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 9. Clause 7—Delete all words in the clause and substitute the following:—

Section thirty-three of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "fifty-five" in line three, the word "fifty-six."

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This is to extend the provisions of Section 33 of the Act until December of next year instead of retaining it as a permanent measure. It merely conforms to earlier decisions and accordingly I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 10. New clause—Insert a clause after Clause 3 to stand as Clause 4 as follows:—

4. The principal Act is amended by repealing Sections ten, eleven, twelve and twelve A.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment, which is a new clause, is merely to delete sections of the Act which have become defunct and ceased to operate. It will be noted that there is a new print of the Act notwithstanding that it was printed on the 11th August, 1955. Quite a number of provisions went out of existence more than 12 months ago and therefore they have no part in the statute. This is merely to obliterate them so that in any reprint they will not have to appear again. I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

No. 11. New Clause—Insert a new clause after Clause 4 to stand as Clause 5 as follows:—

5. The principal Act is amended by repealing Sections seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty and twenty A.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: This amendment is for the same purpose and falls in the same category as the previous one. Accordingly I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr. Wild, Mr. O'Brien and the Minister for Housing drew up reasons for not agreeing to one of the Council's amendments.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1955-56.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1955-56, and recommending appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1955-56.

In Committee of Supply.

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1956; Mr. J. Hegney in the Chair.

THE TREASURER (Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam) [3.13]: Before proceeding to discuss the economic and financial position of Western Australia, I would like to express an opinion on the economic situation of Australia as a whole as it exists at present. We have read in recent days of rather regrettable developments in the economic set-up of the Commonwealth. These developments have certainly not occurred overnight. For many months there have been unmistakable signs that the economic situation in Australia was being allowed to get out of balance, at least to some serious extent. What we see today is history repeating itself, and within a very short time. It has been said that anyone could be excused for making a mistake, but no one could be excused for making the same mistake twice.

Australia's Economic Position.

The economic situation existing in Australia today is practically the same as that which we saw in Australia only as far back as 1951. In that year particularly we saw the trade balance of Australia being allowed, month after month, to become more and more out of balance. So serious did the position become that almost panic measures had to be taken in an attempt to put matters right. It would have been natural to think that once the situation was put right, very special care would have been taken to keep it right from then onwards.

Unbalanced Overseas Trade Situation.

However, we have found that during the last year or so, almost the self-same causes which brought about the unbalance of overseas trade were allowed to operate again, with the result that today the overseas trade balance of our country, together with that of other countries, is very much out of gear, necessitating drastic action on the part of the Government by the restriction of imports to Australia from overseas countries.

The imports into Australia are manageable and can be managed regularly, just as they can be managed in a very drastic and sometimes in a panic-stricken way when a crisis or a near-crisis develops as a result of neglect to manage the external trade balances sensibly all the time. I think we will all regret the fact that the overseas country that will be hardest hit as a result of this situation being allowed to get out of hand will be Great Britain. That country, of course, was the one which was hardest hit in 1952 when Australia placed embargoes, quotas and restrictions of various kinds on the importation of goods from other countries into Australia. So it seems to me that in regard to the economic situation of Australia as a whole, there ought to be a much closer supervision in the future all the time of the trade balance which Australia has with the other countries of the world. I suggested earlier that this trade balance is manageable and could be managed effectively all the time.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: By direct control?

Direct and Voluntary Import Control.

The TREASURER: Yes, by a reasonable measure of direct control. Much of it could probably be voluntary, and some of it might have to be compulsory. As long as there was close, skilful and constant supervision, I am sure the economic situation which developed in 1951, and a similar situation which has developed during the last 12 months would not develop, and if it did develop at all, would not do so to any serious extent. I know it will be said on this occasion that our export of wheat abroad was cut down because of the lack of overseas markets, and that the value of our export trade with other countries, has fallen recently because of a reduction in the price of wool.

Mr. Ackland: Wheat was cut down because we could not compete with other countries; our costs were too high.

The TREASURER: I do not want at this stage to go into an explanation of the particular reasons why the overseas demand for our wheat has fallen away. I am simply pointing out that there has been a reduction in the volume of our wheat exports and that some people might think that is a factor which no one could

control and therefore, to that extent, nobody could have managed, effectively, to balance all our exports against our imports during the last year or so.

Commonwealth Powers.

The answer to that is that the Commonwealth authority has direct powers of control over imports from other countries into Australia, and it could have effectively controlled the situation on that basis. I feel sure that we would all agree that imports into Australia during the last two or three years have undoubtedly grown in volume and value, and there could have been, without injury or harm to anybody, a more reasonable and a more effective control of the volume of imports coming in, particularly as regards the nature of quite a number of the different items of import.

I am sure we would all hope and express the wish that the present steadying down, as it were, of economic activity in Australia will be of only short duration, and that the measures now being taken, both compulsorily and on a basis of voluntary negotiations, will right the situation in a year or so.

Effect on British Industries.

The Leader of the Opposition will, I am sure, join with me in feeling a measure of sympathy towards the industries in Great Britain which will undoubtedly be hard hit as a result of the measures now being taken to cut down severely some of Britain's main exports to Australia.

Just how British industry, or that part of British industry, which is most affected, will face up to this situation is not within our province to say, or within our knowledge to know. We do have the consolation, however, that the British people, as a nation, have faced up to problems ever so much tougher than the one to which I refer, and they have overcome those problems in the past. I have no doubt, therefore, that they will find a way to overcome this problem with reasonable satisfaction in a fairly short period of time.

Wool Production.

I would like to turn now to the productive system in our own State, and would point out that there was unfortunately a decrease in the total wool production in Western Australia last year of 10,038 bales as compared with the previous year. This reduction in wool production brought the value of our income from wool down by £6,372,938 to a total figure for the year of £29,500,000. The main reason for the fall in wool production was the poor season on some northern pastoral stations and in those Great Southern districts that suffered from water and feed shortages.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding concerning what I have just said, I would point out that the districts to which I have referred, and particularly the Great Southern districts, are areas which normally enjoy good seasons. The unfortunate season which occurred last year was one of the very few bad seasons which that particular part of the State has suffered. Accordingly, there is no desire on my part, nor I am sure would there be on the part of any hon. member, to give the Great Southern districts, or even the northern pastoral areas, an unfortunate advertisement by referring to the fact that the seasons they suffered last year were responsible for a substantial fall in the total volume of wool production in Australia.

Increased Shipping Freights.

As members are aware, there has been a decline in wool values at the sales recently held in Perth. It has been claimed that some of the decline was brought about by the action of overseas shipping companies in increasing shipping freights on wool by 10 per cent. Expert Commonwealth Government authorities have declared after close investigation, that no increase in those freights greater than 4.4 per cent. was justified.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the companies running these shipping lines have seen fit to impose very severe burdens upon the wool growers of Australia by raising shipping freights on wool to a level for which there would appear to be no justification at all. Not only does this action, to the extent to which it was not justified, deprive the wool growers of income to which they were entitled, but, by reducing the total income to the State, it reacts unfavourably through every channel of trade, commerce and industry, and affects detrimentally the general prosperity of the community as a whole.

Fall in Wool Prices.

The fall in wool prices should be offset to some extent by the increase in the yield of wool, due to a rise in the total number of sheep in the State, and to a very much better season in the Great Southern districts and in many pastoral areas. I suppose it would be commonplace to say that we, as the community in Western Australia, much the same as the community in each of the other States, are metaphorically at any rate, riding on the sheep's back in regard to the general favourable economic conditions which exist, and to the comparative measure of prosperity which the people of our State are enjoying at the present time. It is a good thing indeed that we have at least one primary product for which there is a very great demand overseas and for which, in

addition, the price being realised today pays growers to produce, and is therefore profitable to the community.

Wheat Production.

The wheat harvest last season of 34,300,000 bushels is causing some concern because of the slowness of sales. We might say that it is causing considerable concern, particularly to the growers of wheat and to those associated with the distribution of wheat in the field of transport. A large portion of last season's wheat is still held in storage in various districts. The preliminary estimated yield for the coming season, made by the Australian Wheat Board, is 38,000,000 bushels. I should say that estimate will have to be increased fairly considerably as a result of the very favourable seasonal conditions which are continuing in all the wheat-growing districts of the State.

It is understood that additional storage has been provided for approximately 10,000,000 bushels of wheat. Therefore it might be possible to receive this season's total wheat harvest at depots without having recourse to storage on the farm. There is indeed no certainty that that will finally prove to be the case. The demand for our wheat overseas is, in these days, a very weak one.

World Surpluses of Wheat.

I understand there are substantial wheat surpluses in most of the great wheat exporting countries in the world, and as a result it is not possible for any of those countries to sell all the wheat they produced last season and there is no possibility that they will sell all the wheat they will produce during the current season. No one appears to be able to see daylight through the problem of the great world supplies of wheat.

Many suggestions have been made with regard to that problem from time to time. It has been urged by some that wheat should be sold by wheat-exporting countries on a credit basis; it has been urged that reductions in the price of wheat should be made to benefit those engaged in home wheat-consuming industries; and it has been urged that the wheat acreage in various States and wheat-growing countries should be cut down substantially. All these suggestions have been put forward periodically but nothing very much seems to happen except that wheat growers keep on growing wheat without much diminution in point of quantity, and the surpluses in the large exporting countries continue to grow.

It seems to me that sooner or later, and perhaps sooner, some drastic action will have to be taken either by the individual wheat producers to reduce their acreages greatly or by the great wheat-exporting

countries to try to reach some understanding or agreement under the terms of which the present-day unmanageable wheat surpluses in the world will be overcome. Coarse-grain production of oats and barley for last season was satisfactorily cleared through the Oats and Barley Boards, at prices satisfactory to the growers, so I am informed.

Seasonal Prospects.

Bountiful August rains, after a dry July, have made this season's prospects very bright indeed. Even with lower values for wool there should be a much heavier clip as some compensation. Not only did we have bountiful rains in August but we have had plenty of follow-up rains during the present month. I do not remember a season which has been so favourable as this one. It is true there are odd spots in the State which have had too much rain just as there are other odd spots where there has not been sufficient rain. However, when we consider that the area of this State is approximately 1,000,000 square miles and that practically every part of the State is enjoying what could be a record season, we have every reason to be satisfied, and probably a considerable amount of reason to be extremely grateful.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: As long as you do not burn the grass off.

The TREASURER: The interjection from the Leader of the Opposition reminds me of the Irish widow who was a wheat grower many years ago when there was no bulkhandling in Western Australia, and who complained to the Governor of the State, when he complimented her upon having a good crop, that unfortunately she would have to lay out a considerable amount of money for the purchase of cornsacks.

Other Primary Products.

Other primary products, such as fat lambs, meat, honey, eggs and fruit, have all been readily saleable, though not all at profitable prices. Our lamb export trade is only about one-third of the pre-war figure due to many lamb producers still being attracted to wool production. Members will recall that prior to the commencement of the 1939-45 war, lamb production expanded very rapidly in Western Australia. We built up in the export markets overseas a wonderful name for the lambs raised here, and we were able to do a great trade with those countries by selling our lambs to them. However, it is understandable that farmers today are not bothered very much about growing fat lambs for export in the carcass, but much prefer to take the wool off the lambs and keep on doing that as long as the lambs remain on their properties.

Whaling Operations.

The three whaling companies operating in this State captured their full quotas of whales in the season just concluded. All production was disposed of at satisfactory prices. The two major operators on the North-West coast have each had their maximum quotas reduced this year by 100 whales, that action having been taken under the international agreement to preserve the whaling industry on a reasonable basis. I think we must all agree that the step taken was, under the circumstances, a very wise one.

Crayfishing and Pearling.

Crayfishing and pearling also had good production and those concerned were able to dispose of their catches without any selling difficulties. Crayfish production last season was a record, and in Australian currency brought into the State approximately £1,000,000. Most of the crayfish is sold in the United States of America, and is therefore a good dollar-earner for Australia. The total value of pearlshell recovered during the year was £350,000.

Role of Agricultural Advisers.

Considerable encouragement is being given by the Government to primary production. Assistance and guidance are being offered to producers by the Department of Agriculture in greater measure than ever before. Departmental advisers are now resident in country centres to enable them to control effectively their respective areas. They now spend most of their time in the areas under their guidance.

There was a time when some farmers looked upon departmental advisers with a considerable measure of doubt, if not suspicion. However, the passing of time and the activities of departmental advisers and experts have had the effect of creating a most friendly and co-operative feeling between farmers generally and the advisers and experts of the department.

I saw this exemplified in rather a wonderful way at a field day held at Irish town in the Northam district only a few weeks ago. I thought that the Leader of the Opposition would not have known where Irish town was but for the fact that I mentioned it was in the Northam district.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: I was thinking it must be where the widow lived!

The TREASURER: That could be, too. There were two or three experts, in sheep diseases particularly, from the Department of Agriculture. I spoke to individual farmers, and each of them was very loud in his praise and commendation of the departmental advisers and experts. There is no doubt that those men are now very

welcome wherever they go in country districts, and that there is a good deal of faith between the farmers and those officers.

As a result of the work of the advisers and experts, and the knowledge that comes to farmers on account of the field days held in various parts of the State, I think it is true to say that the farmers themselves are very well informed regarding the many problems that arise on individual farms from year to year.

Work of Research Stations.

A poultry research station is now in operation at Herdsman's Lake. Research work, which will be of great benefit to poultry and egg producers, is being undertaken there.

A research station is also in operation south-east of Newdegate, where a large tract of land is available for settlement. Another station has been in operation at Esperance, where there are several million acres of land capable of being developed. Results from both research stations have been highly satisfactory, and disclose that these areas could be satisfactorily developed for primary production. Indeed, a considerable amount of land in each area has already been satisfactorily developed.

Esperance Plains Development.

As members would know, the Minister for Health has never tired of expounding the primary production possibilities of the Esperance Plains area, and time and development are proving the worth of his faith and foresight. For some years I think his voice was as a voice crying in the wilderness, because not many other people in the State—if any—thought that the Esperance Plains could be successfully developed on an agricultural basis.

Mr. McCulloch: A lot would not know where it is.

The TREASURER: I think it was known as the treeless plain; and the old theory was that if soil would not grow trees, it would not successfully grow anything.

Adverse Trade Balance.

The State's imports and exports show a very serious position which cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely without dangerous repercussions to the State. This problem is much more serious than anyone would realise by taking a superficial look at the situation. Unfortunately, the State is in an altogether different position from the Commonwealth in relation to exports and imports. The Commonwealth does possess powers—very drastic powers—to control imports into Australia from other countries; but no single State authority possesses any power at all to control imports coming from other countries, or even from other States, into its particular territory.

There is no doubt at all, as the figures which I shall quote in a moment will reveal, that we have, particularly in recent years, been exporting much of our prosperity to manufacturers in the Eastern States of Australia. Here are figures concerning Western Australia's trade with the Eastern States—

| | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Exports by W.A. | 25,281,263 | 20,003,918 | 24,054,072 |
| Imports by W.A. | 68,626,336 | 82,687,077 | 91,043,953 |
| Deficit by W.A. | 43,345,073 | 62,683,159 | 66,989,881 |

Sitting suspended from 3.47 to 4.8 p.m.

The TREASURER: The figures of the exports to overseas countries, and imports into this State from overseas countries are as follows:—

| | 1952-53 | 1953-54 | 1954-55 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Exports by W.A. | 87,851,541 | 71,647,990 | 72,039,222 |
| Imports by W.A. | 29,874,195 | 42,525,263 | 50,406,274 |
| Credit by W.A. | 57,977,346 | 29,122,727 | 21,632,948 |

The overall situation, which covers total exports from Western Australia to other States and countries, and total imports into this State from other States and countries is that for 1952-53 there was a credit in favour of this State of £14,632,273. In 1953-54 there was a deficit of £33,560,432 and in 1954-55 a deficit against the State of £45,356,933.

Mr. Yates: The drop in the price of wool would have a lot to do with that, would it not?

Fall in Wool Price.

The TREASURER: I am afraid the drop in the price of wool did not really hit us in the years I have quoted to the extent to which it will hit us during the current financial year. I think the main point to be emphasised in relation to this unfortunate trade position which we have with other States and countries—and particularly the other States of Australia—is that we buy tremendous quantities of manufactured goods from the Eastern States of Australia and they, in turn, buy very little from Western Australia.

Need for Industrial Development.

It is true that, industrially, we are as yet very much under-developed. I think it is true that up to perhaps 1939 or 1940 we, in this State, did not bother much about manufacturing industries. Our financial and employment needs were fairly fully met by the wealth produced by our primary industries and our mining industries. It was, in the period prior to the beginning of the last war, generally considered that Western Australia did not have much

need to bother about manufacturing industries as long as it continued to concentrate on the greatest possible development of its primary industries, including our mining industries.

I think the figures I have quoted show clearly, if not strikingly, the need to increase our manufacturing industries and to have more factories and workshops in this State if we are not to continue as we have been and export a great proportion of our income and prosperity to the Eastern States.

Decline in Clothing and Footwear Manufacture.

I had an inquiry made into the clothing and footwear industries in this State, and to some extent in the other States because it had come to my knowledge that employment in those types of manufacture in this State had fallen off. I was interested in discovering whether the same conditions had arisen in the Eastern States and, if so, to what extent. The inquiry, when completed, showed that there had been a falling off in the production of clothing and footwear all over Australia, but that the falling off in manufacture had been greater, proportionately, in Western Australia than in the Eastern States.

Without going into all the detail which I have in the report on this question, I will quote the top employment figure in our clothing factories in Western Australia and the corresponding figure for August of this year. The top figure was in April, 1954, when the number employed in clothing factories in this State was 1,817, which is, of course, a very small figure. In August of this year that number had fallen to 1,504, despite the fact that our population increased considerably during that period. The top figure for employment in our footwear factories in recent years was 696 in March, 1954, and that had fallen to 456 in August of this year.

Factors Governing Decreased Production.

It will be seen that in Western Australia in a period of reasonable prosperity and much greater population, employment and production fell off considerably in those two industries. I have already said that a somewhat similar position has developed in the corresponding factories in the Eastern States. When we try to work out why there should be that falling off in the footwear and clothing trades during a period of prosperity and increasing population, I do not think that increased imports from overseas countries provide anything but a partial and very small part of the total answer.

I believe most of the answer can be found in the fact that clothing and footwear prices to the consumers went up considerably and probably reached a level 12

or 18 months ago where it became necessary for many people to economise in the use of these articles. I think that would certainly have been the position during the period when the cost-of-living adjustments were not granted by various industrial tribunals—the period from August, 1953, until recently. In fact, I think that in most of the other States the cost-of-living adjustments are still not being granted—

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Would not the footwear wear out just the same, no matter what the economic conditions?

The TREASURER: No, I think if the Leader of the Opposition were to go fully into this matter he would find that when the income of a family—especially if there are children—is not sufficient fully and reasonably to meet all needs, there has to be economy in regard to something and I think the economy has been practised, in many families, in regard to footwear and clothing.

Extending Life of Footwear.

I know some men—I am not yet one of them—who have gone in for the placing of rubber heels and crepe soles on their shoes, whereas previously, when new shoes were not as expensive as they have become in the last year or two, they never thought of doing that. I suppose, too, that quite a number of people have gone in for the home repair of shoes and that by various methods a pair of shoes is now being made to last longer than was previously the case.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Of course, that would not account for the discrepancy between Western Australia and the Eastern States.

The TREASURER: Yes, it would.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: The falling off should not be greater here than in the Eastern States.

The TREASURER: Per head of population it should not be; but I think it must be remembered that our footwear manufacturing industry is on a small scale and therefore any loss of trade to our small manufacturing footwear industry is a severe one and probably makes it less profitable for the manufacturing companies to keep going, particularly in regard to certain lines of production. I think it might be found, upon a closer investigation, that some of our footwear manufacturing industries have completely gone out of the production of certain lines of footwear which were profitable when the demand for those particular lines was much higher than it is at present.

Mr. Heal: Eastern States manufacturers have flooded the market here, too.

The TREASURER: It might be, as the member for West Perth has suggested, that Eastern States manufacturers, finding the demand in the Eastern States

falling off to some extent, have pushed the surplus of their production, which has accumulated in their States, more and more into Western Australia; although I have yet to find that prices of footwear in this State have fallen to any worth-while extent as a result of that action, if indeed it has taken place.

Clothing and Footwear Importations from the Eastern States.

I would like to give some figures in regard to the importation from the Eastern States of certain items of clothing and footwear. The total value of the importation of a number of items of clothing from the Eastern States into Western Australia in the year 1952-53 was £6,067,000; in the following year it was £7,822,000 and in 1954-55 it was £8,320,000. In respect to footwear, in 1952-53 the figure was £1,543,000; in 1953-54 it was £2,036,000 and in 1954-55, £1,859,000. The total value of imports of both clothing and footwear from the Eastern States in those years was £7,610,000 for 1952-53; in 1953-54 it was £9,858,000 and in 1954-55, £10,178,000.

Mr. Court: Is not that the answer to the problem that you posed earlier?

The TREASURER: It is to some extent, but when I posed the situation earlier, I mentioned that production had fallen off, or manufacturing had fallen off in all States.

Mr. Court: That started in 1950, did it not?

The TREASURER: No, it did not.

Mr. Court: In the textile trade it did.

The TREASURER: It might have started in what we call the production of woollen goods. But all in all, I should say that it did not start until about the middle of 1952 or 1953. Although our importations of clothing and footwear from the Eastern States have increased, the local consumption of footwear and clothing in the Eastern States has gone down. So if one looks at the total Australian scene one will find that there has been an overall reduction in the volume of manufacture in relation to clothing and footwear. Basically I think that has been brought about by the fact that people have not had the financial means to meet the higher prices which developed for these classes of goods back in 1952 and for a year or so afterwards.

Vital Concern to State.

I have given this information to the Chamber because it is of such vital concern. If we as a community are content to go on buying huge quantities of goods from the Eastern States, then it seems to me that we will find it more and more difficult to provide the volume of employment, if economic conditions become a bit tougher, which it would be necessary

to provide to keep our people in employment and also to provide the opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled employment which we would all desire to provide for our young people as they leave the secondary schools.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: It is a case of meeting their competition, is it not?

The TREASURER: It is indeed. However, I think we all know, as a result of our observations if from no other cause, that this is a manufacturing age—it is a machine age—and consequently if we are to go on building up our population and, more importantly, building it up on a safe economic basis, it seems to me that we have continually to expand our manufacturing industries in order that the volume of employment which we would have to provide would be made available in our factories and workshops.

Employment in Primary Industries.

In saying all this, I am not in any way depreciating the tremendous value of our primary or mining industries. But I think even members of the Country Party would know, and would admit, that there is not, in these machine-age days, much direct employment provided upon farms as such. Most of the employment provided by our primary industries is in an indirect way. I suppose for every one person provided with employment on the farms, as many as four or five, or perhaps 10—I think the last figure might be the nearest one—secure employment off the farms. Some of them are provided with employment in the transport industry, but I suggest that most of them would be employed in the factories and workshops which manufacture the machines and suchlike that are used on farms these days.

So it would appear that there is an obligation upon the Government in the first place, and upon Parliament, to the extent that Parliament is capable of shouldering an obligation of this kind, and upon the community generally, to do everything possible to see that manufacturing industries are built up in Western Australia.

Supporting Local Manufactures.

The most important and the most practical effort that everyone of us could take in that direction is to be as conscientious as possible with regard to buying goods that are manufactured in this State. I know we are not as loyal as we should be to our own manufacturing industries. I know that we all, more or less, become slaves of habit and custom. I know that most men, for instance, enter a draper's shop and say, "I want a fashion shirt, size 16½; I want this or something else." We do not worry about brands. If any of us were asked what were the Western

Australian brands of clothing or footwear, probably all of us would become red in the face and would put up a poor show.

However, there is an obligation upon public men particularly—and I do not exclude myself when I say this—and upon the citizens of our State generally, to realise the seriousness of this situation and to be reasonably loyal at least in the purchase of those products which come out of factories already established in the State and which, of course, provide very valuable employment of a skilled and semi-skilled nature for our people, and especially for many of our young people.

Hon. L. Thorn: That is also a good argument for the restriction of imports.

The TREASURER: Unfortunately, the State Parliament, and consequently the State Government, has no power to restrict imports into Western Australia from the Eastern States, or even from overseas countries.

Hon. L. Thorn: I meant from overseas. We import a lot of rubbish.

The TREASURER: I think the member for Toodyay and I are in complete agreement on the point he has made.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Valuable work could be done with trade exhibitions which they used to hold in various parts of the State.

The TREASURER: I quite agree with the Leader of the Opposition that those exhibitions were of some value and are still of some value where they are operating at present.

Hon. Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver: Would not your contention lead to other States and other countries doing the same thing?

The TREASURER: Other States are already doing it—

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: To some effect.

The TREASURER:—and we are not doing it.

Mr. O'Brien: "Buy W.A.-made goods."

Mr. Brady: New South Wales is making its own loco engines and also its own rollingstock.

Goldmining Industry.

The TREASURER: Last year the mining industry produced 850,540 oz. of gold for an approximate value of £A13,314,000, as against 823,512 oz. the year before, for a return of £A13,299,000. The Big Bell mine, which was situated in the Murchison district, was a low-grade proposition and therefore huge quantities of ore had to be treated. Unfortunately, with the fall in the grade of ore and increase in costs, the mine became an uneconomic proposition. The Government assisted the company to the

extent of £100,000 in an endeavour to have better-grade ore discovered, but the final result was not successful. The company subsequently closed the mine. If I remember rightly, the Leader of the Opposition, when he was Premier, also assisted this company at one stage.

Diamond Drilling Programme.

The Mines Department's diamond drilling programme for 1954-55 comprised 34 drill holes, totalling 17,313 feet and costing £65,000. Drills operated at Koolyanobbing on the iron and pyrites lodes, in the Yilgarn and Day Dawn fields on gold prospects, and also at Collie. This year the scheme has been extended and two drills are working at Yilgarn, one at Pilbara, one at Day Dawn and one at Cue. The Coolgardie field will also be drilled during the year. The amount provided from loan funds for this year is £118,000.

We all know that prospectors over the years in the goldmining districts of the State have given the surface a fairly solid "do over". I am not suggesting that all the gold on the surface or near the surface has already been found, but it seems to the Government that the greatest possibility of finding large new deposits of gold lies in this deep-drilling programme and the Government will, from time to time, purchase additional deep-drilling equipment in order that an increasing number of deep-drilling units can be put into operation in the various mining areas.

When I was at Norseman recently, I was told on very good authority that private goldmining companies in that district had been operating their own deep-drilling programmes for some considerable time and had achieved very encouraging results, so much so that the future of Norseman, as an important goldmining centre, seems to be assured for many years to come. I understand, too, that a goldmining company is practising a similar system in the Southern Cross area with extremely good results, and consequently the town of Southern Cross and the Yilgarn goldmining district generally are likely to enjoy considerable progress in the not distant future.

Oil Exploration Activities.

Oil exploration is being actively pursued by various prospecting companies. Much effort and money are being expended. One company is boring in several different centres and is as far south as Gingin and it anticipates spending £4,000,000 and employing 550 men in its efforts this year. The fact that there is a company with sufficient faith in the possibility of discovering oil in Western Australia by being prepared to spend £4,000,000 on exploration activities in our State in one year is something for which we should be thankful and we will all hope, I am sure, that this company will achieve successful results.

In my opinion, the exploration activities will either discover oil in Western Australia or prove it does not exist in payable quantities. We would all hope success will reward the activities. I was given the opportunity a few weeks ago to have a look at the prospecting activities being carried out by this company in the Gingin district. I am only a layman, and a very poor one at that, in a matter of this kind, but the poorest layman could not but be impressed in a favourable way with the thorough and highly-scientific methods which are being used by this company in its intensive endeavour to discover oil in payable quantities within the boundaries of our State. That is why I feel confident that if payable oil exists in Western Australia, this company, perhaps more than any other, will be the one to prove its existence or otherwise.

Kwinana Refinery Operations.

The oil refinery at Kwinana commenced receiving crude oil on the 11th January, and is gradually progressing towards its maximum capacity of 3,000,000 tons per annum. This year it is expected to refine about two-thirds of its capacity, which means it will refine about 2,000,000 tons. Several oil tankers bringing in crude oil from the Middle East, arrive each week at Kwinana, and other tankers take the refined product to the Eastern States and New Zealand. A useful aid to the State will be the bitumen by-product which will be taken from the refinery in quantity by the Main Roads Department for its road construction work in country areas.

Private Industries and State Assistance.

Other major private industries to commence operations during the last financial year were the superphosphate works at Albany, and the Cockburn Cement Co. at Spearwood. Both these companies have been assisted by the State. They have both been assisted by the present Government and also under the administration of the previous Government. The superphosphate works at Albany will save the long costly rail haulage from the metropolitan area to farmers in the Great Southern district.

I understand from the member for Albany that the demand for the factory's product is already at a level which will make it essential for the industry to be expanded in the reasonably near future, if all demands are to be met. We all rejoice I am sure, in the fact that the industry is already proving a success, and that it is proving its value to the farmers in the area concerned. This industry has been established on a basis which will permit of easy and comparatively inexpensive expansion. In other words, the company concerned planned the construction of

the industry, as it now exists, in such a way as to enable additions to increase production to be made easily, inexpensively, and to help them fit efficiently into the total production plan and equipment.

In connection with Cockburn Cement Pty. Ltd., the State has had to face up to some heavy financial obligations. Under the agreement made between the State and the company, the State's financial obligations ranged between a minimum of £1,100,000 and a maximum of £1,250,000. Last year we had to find, out of loan funds, £500,000 and make it available to this company to help it in financing the construction of the industry. More recently, the company asked the Government to make available a further £500,000 from loan funds. We were not able to accommodate the company in that regard under the terms of the agreement, mainly because our loan funds had been cut severely and because of that we needed every penny we could lay our hands on to provide urgently required classrooms, hospital accommodation, water supplies and so on.

It is true that the money that is advanced by the Government to the industry from time to time is repayable by the industry to the State in future years. However, the periods of repayment are well into the future. It is unfortunate that the State has had to become seriously embarrassed financially in order to meet the obligations under the terms of the agreement, and I daresay that next financial year, unless the company can make other suitable arrangements, the Government will be called upon to make available out of loan funds, a further £500,000.

State Electricity Commission.

The State Electricity Commission's operations have made steady progress during the year. This utility is on a sound foundation. Its activities for the year were such that it was able to show, in the aggregate, a surplus on its operations. Of necessity, capital expenditure by the commission has been heavy and will continue to be so for some years to come. For instance, the new power house at Bunbury is estimated to cost £7,000,000, and this is a very big drain upon the financial resources of the State Electricity Commission.

Nevertheless, the public of Western Australia has responded remarkably well to loans that have been floated by the commission. There is no doubt that the public generally has great faith in the administrative capacity of the commission, and that it realises the tremendous value of electric current, not only to the metropolitan area, but to the many country districts which are being increasingly supplied from the commission's generating plant.

State Shipping Service.

Due to the additional activities in the north-west portion of the State, the State Shipping Service has had difficulty in meeting the needs of the North. Two of the vessels, the "Kybra" and the "Koolinda", are nearing the retiring age, and two additional vessels are at present under construction; one in the shipyards in New South Wales and the other at Denny Brothers shipyards at Glasgow in Scotland.

Mr. McCulloch: That will be a good one; it will really be a ship!

The TREASURER: As the member for Hannans, Mr. McCulloch, if I may be permitted to use his name, has just said, the one being built at Glasgow will really be a ship. The addition of two modern vessels on our north-west coast will enable the service to carry more refrigerated cargo, which is an essential need to service that portion of the State.

The fact that Western Australia runs a State shipping service places us at a great disadvantage with other State Governments of Australia in relation to the loan funds we receive. As far as I am aware, no other State Government runs a State shipping service and, consequently, there is no drain upon the loan funds of any other State in regard to the building of ships. As everybody knows, the loan funds that this State receives each year are not great by any stretch of imagination, and the fact that we have this special shipping service to finance from our loan funds, makes the position of any Government in Western Australia much harder by comparison than the positions of Governments in other States of the Commonwealth.

Because of that, one of the representations made by the all-party committee of this Parliament to the Commonwealth Government at Canberra in June of this year, was that the Commonwealth Government should assist Western Australia in the financing of the construction of new ships required from time to time for the North-West shipping service. In addition to the normal arguments that could be put forward in favour of such a request, the members of the deputation were able to point out to the Prime Minister and the Federal Treasurer that in servicing the north-west part of our State, the State ships also serviced Darwin, a port operating under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. On that particular point, we considered that Western Australia had a special claim on the Commonwealth for financial assistance to purchase ships for the State Shipping Service.

Migrants and Need for Homes.

Western Australia has received proportionate to population more migrants than any other State. This influx of people

has caused an urgent need for homes, and it is gratifying to report that a record number of homes have been built within the State. Homes have been financed under several methods—rental homes under the Commonwealth-State housing agreement, and homes for sale under the War Service Homes Act and the State Housing Act.

Kwinana Housing Agreement.

The Kwinana oil refinery agreement required the State to erect 999 homes in the Kwinana area in a period of three years, but at the request of the refinery company, the number was reduced for the time being to 650. The question of constructing the balance of the homes has been a matter for negotiation between the Government and the company. Under the new arrangement, the legal liability of the Government to construct the 349 homes, which is the balance, will not remain a legal liability for all time, as it would have been under the original agreement. In other words, the liability of the Government will not be a Kathleen Mavourneen affair.

At the request of the Government, the company has agreed to limit the Government's liability regarding the construction of these homes to a period of 14 years. The arrangement is that the balance of the homes will be constructed during the next seven years at the request of the company, or, if the company desires, at the end of seven years the period can be extended for another seven years. Although the period of 14 years during which the obligation on the Government will continue seems to be long, it is not very long when compared with the "for ever and ever" basis, which could be the situation under the agreement as it now stands.

There is another point: The company will be able to call upon the Government to construct a number of additional homes only if it carries out some major expansion of the existing industry. It will be seen that under the new arrangement the Government could not be called upon by the company to construct additional homes unless the company first embarks upon some major expansion. In the circumstances, it seems to me that the arrangement, which is now in course of being executed in legal form, is ever so much better than the present arrangement.

Assistance to Dairy Farmers.

To help dairy farmers in the heavier rainfall areas, the Government made available, through the Rural & Industries Bank, by long-term loans, a sum of £100,000 to enable farmers to erect rabbit fences around their holdings and thus save feed for their stock. Most of this heavy rainfall area is in the South-West of the State. I remember when I first

went through the South-West in 1929, remarking upon the complete absence of rabbits. It seemed to me that the South-West country was ideal for them, but there was not one to be found anywhere in those days. When I questioned farmers about this strange phenomenon, I was told that rabbits could not possibly live in the South-West because it was too wet and too cold. The passing of time has shown that the South-West is not too cold and not too wet for rabbits. They have discovered the South-West since 1929.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: I think they followed you over.

The TREASURER: They found this area to be a very acceptable paradise. I might mention as a matter of great interest that it was in the year 1929, while in the South-West, that I first met my colleague, the Minister for Works. He was then a teacher in the Education Department, stationed at a place called Hamel, three or four miles from the South-West town of Waroona. He and the present Leader of the Opposition met not long after in friendly political combat in a by-election which took place at that time for an electorate then known as Murray-Wellington. There were five or six candidates in that playful political contest.

Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: I regarded you as being more dangerous than the rabbits in those days.

The TREASURER: And the Leader of the Opposition won the raffle. I am not even going to be ungenerous enough to say that unfortunately he won the raffle. He has held the confidence of those people ever since. The present Minister for Works was not discouraged by his failure on that occasion, and soon afterwards he came to the metropolitan area and won a seat at Fremantle, which he has held ever since. All the indications are that he will be with us for many years to come and will still occupy the position on the ministerial bench, which he now occupies.

After that bit of sideplay, members may have forgotten that I was talking about the position of rabbit fencing and fencing wire. In making this netting and wire available, the Rural & Industries Bank used overseas stocks at no greater cost than the local articles, leaving the locally-manufactured products, which were in short supply, for farmers and other users who did not require financial help from the bank.

Population Increase, North-West.

In the North-West, the Government has, through the Mines Department, encouraged and assisted prospecting and mining development. We hear and read much about our North-West, and different people seem to have different ideas. Perhaps that is

a good thing. My own personal opinion is that the main hope for any great increase in population in the North-West lies in the discovery of mineral or oil, or both, in considerable quantities. In other words, it seems to me that, just as individual farms do not provide very much direct employment on farms, neither do pastoral or cattle stations provide much direct employment on the stations. If the population of the North-West is to be built up considerably in future, the greatest hope in that direction appears to me to lie in the discovery of large mineral deposits and oil in payable quantities.

Pastoral Industry.

On the pastoral side, several agricultural advisers and scientists have been working with the pastoralists in establishing and improving pastures. The results achieved are most encouraging. Research has also been in progress with good results on the Gascoyne research station, Woodstock and Abydos stations, and the Ord River research station. The work at the Ord River is being conducted in conjunction with the C.S.I.R.O. of the Commonwealth Government.

North-West Development.

I mentioned earlier that the all-party committee from this State visited Canberra in June and waited, by way of deputation, upon the Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer and also the Commonwealth Minister for National Development. The main requests made by the committee to the Commonwealth Government related to financial assistance regarding the State Shipping Service, Ord River development, the construction of a suggested new jetty at Black Rocks, not far from Derby, the construction in a modern form of the roadway between Ajana, some distance north of Geraldton, and Carnarvon; the blue asbestos industry at Wittenoom; and also in relation to taxation concessions and easement for people in the North-West. We have received replies so far in connection with only two items, as far as I can remember—the blue asbestos industry and the taxation question. Unfortunately for the North-West people and for the community of Western Australia generally both replies were unfavourable. All we can do is to keep our fingers crossed and hope hard that the Commonwealth replies in regard to the other subject matters will be favourable.

Medical School.

The Government recently gave approval to the establishment of a medical school in Western Australia as part of our university. Medical school proposals have been under consideration for many years.

Various propositions were put forward periodically, most of which were very costly. The need for a medical school was recognised, as also were the benefits it would confer on students in being able to carry out their complete training in this State, and the facilities for research which it would also give to the medical profession.

Early this year the Government appointed a committee to make investigations and recommendations to the Administration. The committee did this work in remarkably quick time, and did it efficiently. The scheme put forward by the committee was found to be practicable and the Government approved of action being taken to implement the proposals. Considerable credit is due to the Senate of the university, the Medical Association, and Rotary for the fact that we have progressed as far as we have.

Work of Organising Committee.

A very active committee is now in operation raising funds to help meet the cost of the school. The sum of £150,000 is being provided by the Government. The estimated total cost is £300,000. A Bill will be introduced in this House in the reasonably near future to authorise the Government to make the contribution I have mentioned.

The appeal to the public is for £400,000. This will include the other £150,000 needed for the capital cost of the school, plus an amount of £250,000 which is considered necessary to be raised to ensure that the research, which it will be possible to carry out in the medical school when it is established, will be such as to give the people of Western Australia the greatest possible modern benefits, not only in regard to curing sickness and disease, but also to a great extent, we hope, in preventing the development of many sicknesses and diseases that come into existence from time to time.

Public Response to Appeal.

Already the committee has raised more than £260,000 of the £400,000; and when we consider that the committee has been operating for only a short period, I think it will be agreed that the success which has so far attended the appeal is remarkable. The support given by the business community and public to the appeal is magnificent, and I express the Government's appreciation of the very gratifying response. I feel that this great community effort by the people of the State will add considerably to Western Australia's standing and reputation in the other States and in other countries of the world; and that when the school is functioning, the beneficial results will be helpful not only to the students, but also to the public generally.

Value of Institution.

One of the few points of criticism voiced in regard to the establishment of a medical school is that the operations of such a school would benefit only the comparatively few young people who would attend it as students. That is a short-sighted argument. It would be just as sensible or nonsensical to claim that the Teachers' Training College benefited only the young people who went through it as students, when the fact is that its greatest benefit is in the training, education and care of the hundreds of thousands of children who are educated in our schools year in and year out.

So it will be with those students who go into the medical school. When they become fully trained, they will confer tremendous benefits upon the people of this State and will, I hope, make a very great contribution to the health standards of Western Australia. If I had thought that the medical school would merely train young people to become doctors, and that the doctors, when trained, would concern themselves only with curing sickness and disease, I think I would not have been much interested in the proposition. But the great hope and faith I have is that the preventive side of medicine will be concentrated upon.

Prevalence of Sickness and Disease.

For a long time it has been my feeling that there is far too much sickness and disease in Western Australia. Our climate, as we all know, is a wonderfully healthy one. We live under conditions favourable to good health, and our standards of hygiene and health supervision and so on have been improved remarkably over the years. In the face of all that, there seems to be no justification for the sickness and disease that unfortunately exist in the community.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Unfortunately the shortage of accommodation in hospitals precludes the operation of preventive medicine.

The TREASURER: That is true up to a point. But I want to see a situation developed where fewer people, proportionately, of the total population, will have to go into hospitals.

Mr. O'Brien: Prevention is better than cure.

Preventive Side of Medicine.

The TREASURER: I will use all the effort of which I am capable, as will other members of the Government, to see that the preventive side of medicine is considerably concentrated upon in the medical school. I know that some of the leading members of the medical profession are also tremendously keen on this side of

the school's activities, and I think we can look forward with great hope to the development of that side of medical science.

If it is developed in the way I think it should be, many people in this State in the years to come will be saved from contracting sickness and disease. To the extent that people are saved from that unfortunate experience, to that extent will they be much better off, even though they will not know it; and to the same extent will the community benefit economically and in other ways. The economic loss due to sickness and disease is considerable, as everybody knows who has studied that angle.

Last Year's Financial Transactions.

Now I come to the dry part of the Budget, though some members might unkindly describe it as the drier part. Last year's financial transactions resulted in a deficit of £484,000, the revenue having been £45,720,000 and the expenditure £46,204,000. The actual revenue was £813,000 higher than the amount estimated, but actual expenditure exceeded the estimate by £1,156,000. I am using round figures which it is better to do from the point of view of most of us, even though the Treasury officers in the gallery might be looking at me cross-eyed. The estimated deficit was £141,000.

Marginal increases payable to the Civil Service and other employees of the Government cost about £840,000, and there are still some amounts due to those who are paid under Acts of Parliament. In addition, the teaching staff of the Education Department was reclassified during the year and the reclassification cost about £157,000.

Revenue, 1954-55.

The main sources of the State's revenue for last financial year and the percentage each source bears to the total are as follows:—

| Revenue. | Amount. £. | Percentage of Total. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Taxation—ex Commonwealth | 11,806,004 | 25.82 |
| Taxation—other Commonwealth Grant | 3,629,084 | 7.94 |
| Railways | 7,100,000 | 15.53 |
| Water supplies | 12,469,693 | 27.27 |
| Other departments | 2,436,154 | 5.33 |
| | 8,278,911 | 18.11 |
| | <hr/> £45,719,846 | <hr/> 100 |

It will be seen that over 40 per cent. of the State's revenue comes from Commonwealth sources, and when we add 28 per cent. for railways, there is not much the State can do to increase its revenue unless

it makes a greater call on its people than is imposed by other States on their taxpayers. Nevertheless, every avenue for obtaining revenue for the State is closely watched by the Treasury and other departments.

Commonwealth Collections in Western Australia.

When mention is made of 40 per cent. of our total revenue coming from Commonwealth sources, it might be thought that the Commonwealth Government is a real Father Christmas to this State. To obviate the possibility of members or the public forming a wrong idea, it is desirable to point out that the Commonwealth collects considerable revenue in Western Australia. For instance, in the financial year 1952-53—the latest year for which official figures are available—the Commonwealth collected in Western Australia at least £57,000,000 in taxation of various kinds.

Consequently, this business of the Commonwealth's making grants to Western Australia is not one-way traffic by any means. The taxpayers of Western Australia make their contributions to the Commonwealth, even though most of them are on a compulsory basis. In the year under review, we paid to the Commonwealth in customs duties £4,500,000, excise £1,250,000, sales tax £5,330,000, income tax £35,000,000, payroll tax £2,500,000, estate duty £430,000 and gifts duty £90,000.

If anyone cared to investigate thoroughly the other contributions that we make to Commonwealth revenue, he would find that a substantial portion of the goods imported from Eastern Australia, about which I spoke a moment ago, and sold to people here had paid substantial customs duty to the Commonwealth, because quite a volume of the total imports from the Eastern States are first imported into the Eastern States from other countries of the world. Thus the £57,000,000 contributed by the taxpayers of Western Australia to the Commonwealth Treasury in the financial year 1952-53 was a minimum figure and not by any means the complete contribution by our people to Commonwealth revenue.

State Taxation.

State taxation exceeded the estimate by £204,000 due mainly to increased revenue from probate duty and land tax, offset by reduced revenue of £64,000 from stamp duty. The increase of £81,000 of territorial revenue over the estimate was practically all due to increased revenue from the sale of land by the Lands Department.

Departmental Revenue.

Departmental revenue exceeded the estimate by £280,000, due to higher receipts of interest on account of increased loan

capital from the State Housing Commission, Rural & Industries Bank and Cockburn Cement Co., increased sinking fund payments from the railways and charcoal iron and steel industry. There was also an additional recoup from the Commonwealth of expenditure on tuberculosis control measures. The revenue from public utilities proved to be higher than the amount anticipated by £230,000. In the main this was due to higher revenue from the railways, the metropolitan water supply and other hydraulic undertakings, and the operations of the Medina Hotel during the year.

However, two concerns failed to realise the revenue anticipated. These were the Fremantle Harbour Trust and the Tramway Department. Members probably know that the agreement between the oil company and the State permits of all crude oils being brought in and the refined products taken away by the company to be free of wharfage charges, and the tankers are exempt from pilotage fees and tonnage dues. This loss of revenue will cost the Fremantle Harbour Trust approximately £150,000 per annum.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Does the company pay for the refined cargoes it brings in?

The TREASURER: I understand that it has not been paying for the refined cargoes brought in. That question is under negotiation at present between representatives of the Government and of the oil company.

Expenditure 1954-55.

Turning now to last year's expenditure (£46,204,000), as I mentioned previously, the total expenditure exceeded the estimate by £1,156,000. The principal items of expenditure and the percentages they bear to the total were:—

| Expenditure | Amount £ | Percentage of Total. |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| Interest and sinking fund on public debt | 6,928,473 | 14.99 |
| Education | 5,608,684 | 12.14 |
| Police | 1,290,908 | 2.79 |
| Medical and health | 4,266,822 | 9.24 |
| Water supplies, excluding interest and sinking fund | 2,022,728 | 4.38 |
| Railways | 14,496,986 | 31.38 |
| Other departments | 11,589,288 | 25.08 |
| Total | £46,203,889 | 100% |

Interest and sinking fund each year requires an increased allocation from revenue on account of loan fund borrowings.

Departmental Excess Expenditure.

The Education Department exceeded the estimate by £528,000. Medical and mental hospitals also proved to be higher

than expected by £118,000, while sundry departments of the Premier and Treasurer accounted for £58,000.

The expenditure of the North-West Department was £159,000 higher than the amount provided, due to a higher loss on the State Shipping Service and necessary repairs and maintenance of North-West harbours. The allocation to hospitals in the North-West also required an additional £25,000.

Police Department expenditure proved to be £47,000 more than expected, and the Public Works Department exceeded its vote by a like amount.

During the year, the Medina Hotel commenced business, and expenditure of £26,000, which had not been expected, had to be met. However, revenue received from the hotel ensured that it operated at a profit.

Anticipated Deficit, 1955-1956.

In presenting the Budget this year, I am anticipating a deficit of £454,000. Expected revenue amounts to £49,292,000, while expenditure is expected to be £49,746,000. Compared with the actual figures of last year, the estimated revenue shows an increase of £3,572,000, and expenditure shows an increase of £3,542,000.

Special Grant.

The main items of revenue which have caused this variation will be of interest to members. The item showing the greatest variation is the special grant from the Commonwealth. Last year the special grant was £7,100,000, whereas this year it will be £8,875,000. The total grant to be paid to us under Section 96 of the Federal Constitution amounts to £8,900,000.

Commonwealth Grants Commission.

Of this amount, in accordance with the methods of the Grants Commission, £25,000 is applicable to the deficit for the year 1953-54. In that year, we had a deficit of £103,000 and the difference between that amount and the £25,000 we will now receive from the Commonwealth Grants Commission for that year, that is £78,000 will have to be funded from the General Loan Fund.

Members know that when deciding on the grant payable to a claimant State, the Commonwealth Grants Commission makes an examination of the rates of taxes and charges imposed by a claimant State and also the level of social service expenditure. A comparison is then made between that level of expenditure and the average level of expenditure of what are known as the standard States, those States being New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

As a result of this examination, the Grants Commission has decided on an unfavourable adjustment for Western Australia, amounting to £78,000, and this

is the amount which we are required to fund from the General Loan Fund. In spite of our having to fund part of the deficit for 1953-54, I feel that the Grants Commission has treated us fairly and endeavoured to assist us in our difficulties. Copies of the latest report of the commission are not available as yet, but when they do come to hand, they will be made available to members.

Income Tax Reimbursement.

The other large item of revenue received from the Commonwealth, that is income tax reimbursements, also shows an increase. The Commonwealth, at the recent Premiers' Conference, agreed to distribute £157,000,000 to the States for income tax reimbursement this year. That figure is a large one, but at this stage I wish to quote the new Victorian Premier, Mr. Bolte. When the Prime Minister announced the total figure of taxation reimbursement and supplementary grants to be made by the Commonwealth, the new Victorian Premier, when he realised what the total amount was and what Victoria's share was to be, became very upset mentally, and had this to say—

All I can say at this stage is that the offer is hopelessly and totally inadequate for the next financial year.

I cannot see any real justice in the proposal. It is wrong to think that all the States require in toto is an additional £7,000,000—

That is, in fact, the increase in the total amount made available this year by the Commonwealth to the States, as against the total amount made available in the last financial year—

—which includes the special grant of £2,000,000 to New South Wales.

That was a special amount allowed by the Commonwealth to New South Wales because of the tremendous flood damage which New South Wales suffered earlier this year. Mr. Bolte continued—

It would be impossible, on that basis, for the States to carry the increased margins, to carry interest charges, which is a very important item, to assimilate migrants, and to provide the services that the States are expected to, and must, provide. It would be easy enough to go along in our own sweet way as we are going now, but we must ultimately finish with a deficit of some millions of pounds.

It will be seen from what I have read that the new Victorian Premier was very outspoken in his criticism of the increase in the total tax reimbursement and supplementary grant made by the Commonwealth Government to the State Governments for this financial year.

Mr. Court: He would prefer to get his taxing powers back.

Commonwealth Distribution Insufficient.

The TREASURER: Yes. Compared with last year, this figure shows an increase of only £7,000,000 to be divided between all the States. All Premiers were agreed that the Commonwealth distribution was insufficient, but the Federal Treasurer and the Prime Minister would not agree to any increase.

Of this total distribution, Western Australia is to receive £12,335,000—an increase of £529,000 on the amount received last year. As an indication of the inadequacy of this grant, I mention that marginal allowances granted last year will cost us about £1,000,000 more in the current year than last year, and the basic wage increases granted in August will impose an additional burden on the Budget this year of £450,000.

The total expenditure from Consolidated Revenue this financial year will be £3,500,000 more than it was during the last financial year. This highlights the inadequacy of the increase which was granted to us, as a State, by the Commonwealth at the Premiers' Conference held in June last.

Revenue from Bookmakers and Betting.

The licensing of bookmakers will realise higher revenue this year. During 1954-55, the Government's share of the winning bets tax, which has now ceased, realised £150,000.

In the current year, stamp duty on betting tickets and normal increase of stamp duty should more than make up this figure. In addition, the tax on bookmakers' turnovers and bookmakers' licence fees should raise £350,000. There has been some suggestion that the racing and trotting clubs, which provide the sports from which this revenue is derived, should receive a greater share of it than they do at present, and this suggestion will shortly receive consideration by the Government.

Territorial.

Territorial revenue is expected to return £270,000 more in 1955-56 than in the previous year. In the main, this is due to higher royalty rates on timber, which operated from May this year.

Public Utilities.

Public utilities revenue should be higher by £390,000 than last year. The main reason for this increase is that railways revenue of £12,750,000 is estimated at £280,000 higher than the amount realised last year.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Is it the intention of the Government to raise the betting tax, in the light of the figures to date?

The **TREASURER**: There is no present intention to do that. It is unfortunate, in a way, that revenue, to the railways from the transport of wheat has been so low over the last year or two, because of the very slow movement of wheat from country centres to the ports for shipment, but that position looks likely to continue for some time to come.

State Trading Concerns

Trading concerns are expected to provide revenue of £87,000 greater than last year. This is due to interest payments expected from the Wyndham Meat Works and the State Shipping Service. In addition, the Wyndham Meat Works will be paying part arrears of interest of £50,000.

Expenditure 1955-1956.

The total expenditure expected for 1955-56 is £49,746,000—an increase of £3,500,000 on last year's expenditure.

Special Acts.

In Special Acts, there are two variations which make up practically the whole variation of £1,228,000. Interest and sinking fund on the public debt this year is likely to cost £7,769,000—an increase of £841,000. This increase is due to the borrowing of more loan money. Also in Special Acts is the transfer of some net revenue of the Forests Department to the Reforestation Fund.

Reforestation Fund.

The substantial increase of £361,000 in the amount of this transfer is due to two reasons. In the first place, during last session, Parliament increased the proportion of revenue going to the Reforestation Fund from 60 per cent. to 90 per cent. In addition, the higher royalty rates now operating increase the amount of this transfer. The total transfer in 1955-56 is estimated at £689,000.

Miscellaneous Services.

The expenditure of Treasury Miscellaneous Services is estimated at £2,159,000—an increase of £330,000 when compared with the actual expenditure last year. The increase is brought about mainly because of the provision of £450,000 for basic wage adjustments and non-recurrence of the subsidy to the Reforestation Fund of £159,000 paid last year.

Departmental Expenditure.

Provision has been made for expenditure by the Public Works Department of £1,159,000—a decrease of £37,000.

Child Welfare Department expenditure is expected to increase. The provision is £329,000 compared with actual expenditure last year of £289,000.

Education Department expenditure is estimated at £5,988,000—an increase of £380,000 on last year's expenditure.

Medical Department expenditure is to increase by £330,000 to £2,865,000, and the other sections of the Health Department by £156,000.

Forests Department expenditure is expected to rise by £92,000, and the Department of the North-West provision has risen by a similar amount to £1,525,000.

In the case of the Lands and Agriculture Departments, lands expenditure is estimated at £594,000 and agriculture at £599,000—a combined increase of £96,000.

Public Utilities.

Higher expenditure is also anticipated for Public Utilities. The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department expenditure is expected to increase by £82,000 to £950,000. The Medina Hotel will be operated for the full year during 1955-56, and estimated expenditure of £45,000 is £18,000 greater than last year.

Railways Commission.

The Railways Commission has an estimated expenditure of £14,750,000—an increase of £253,000 over last year. This huge expenditure is estimated to earn only £12,750,000, thus leaving a deficit—without any charge for interest—of £2,000,000 on railway operating.

Country Water Supplies.

Bountiful rains this winter have replenished nearly all country water supplies, and this summer should be free from the costly business of having to cart water to country centres by means of special water trains.

Conclusion.

Our State faces financial problems, but they are not over-serious or unduly oppressive. I think a sober assessment of the situation in Western Australia, both from the governmental financial point of view and a general community point of view is such as to lead us to believe that we are fortunate to be living in this State, where it is not only good to live but which is also a State with wonderful prospects ahead in many and varied directions. I wish to express the appreciation of members of the Government, including myself, and, I hope, of all members of Parliament and the general public, of the work of officers of the Treasury Department who do their job very conscientiously and efficiently throughout the year. I have pleasure in moving the first division of the Estimates, namely—

Vote—Legislative Council, £7,453.

Progress reported.

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CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.
ESTIMATE FOR 1955-56.

| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
|--|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Deficit for year 1954-55 | | | | 484,043 |
| Financial Deterioration. | | | | |
| Add Decreases in Estimated Revenue. | | | | |
| Territorial—Mining | | | 477 | |
| Law Courts | | | 24,323 | |
| Departmental— | | | | |
| Agriculture | | 11,690 | | |
| Native Affairs | | 30,159 | | |
| Public Works | | 49,659 | | |
| Tuberculosis | | 84,508 | | |
| Minor Variations | | 25,452 | | |
| Treasury Miscellaneous Revenue : | | | | |
| Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry Sinking Fund | 16,944 | | | |
| Government Worker's Compensation Surplus | 22,726 | | | |
| Purchase of Stock and Plant | 25,000 | | | |
| Minor Variations | 35,000 | | | |
| | | 100,570 | | |
| Royal Mint | | | 282,036 | |
| Public Utilities— | | | 3,721 | |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust | | 67,440 | | |
| Tramways | | 6,332 | | |
| | | | 73,772 | |
| Trading Concerns | | | 6,268 | |
| | | | | 390,597 |
| Add Increases in Estimated Expenditure. | | | | |
| Special Acts— | | | | |
| Interest and Sinking Fund | | 834,527 | | |
| Reforestation Fund | | 360,162 | | |
| Pension Supplementation Act | | 21,124 | | |
| Superannuation Act | | 18,222 | | |
| Minor Variations | | 9,655 | | |
| | | | 1,243,690 | |
| Departmental— | | | | |
| Printing | | 33,787 | | |
| Child Welfare | | 40,542 | | |
| Education | | 371,390 | | |
| Native Welfare | | 23,081 | | |
| Lands and Surveys | | 48,743 | | |
| Agriculture | | 47,385 | | |
| Police | | 129,574 | | |
| Medical | | 325,176 | | |
| Homes | | 22,516 | | |
| Public Health | | 23,475 | | |
| Tuberculosis | | 40,899 | | |
| Mental Hospitals | | 68,559 | | |
| Crown Law | | 46,833 | | |
| Forests | | 92,458 | | |
| Mines | | 34,825 | | |
| North-West | | 90,856 | | |
| Harbour and Light and Jetties | | 13,216 | | |
| Minor Variations | | 105,401 | | |
| Treasury Miscellaneous Services : | | | | |
| Basic Wage Variations | 450,000 | | | |
| University | 64,040 | | | |
| War Service Land Settlement Losses | 18,437 | | | |
| Assistance for Swimming Pools | 15,000 | | | |
| Minor Variations | 70,562 | | | |
| | | 618,029 | | |
| | | | 2,176,745 | |
| Public Utilities— | | | | |
| Country Areas Water Supply | | 46,457 | | |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings | | 33,280 | | |
| Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage | | 82,307 | | |
| Railways | | 253,014 | | |
| Tramways | | 13,144 | | |
| Medina Hotel | | 18,590 | | |
| Minor Variations | | 29,663 | | |
| | | | 476,435 | |
| | | | | 3,896,870 |
| Carried forward | | | | 4,771,510 |

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—continued.

| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
|--|------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Brought forward | .... | .... | .... | 4,771,510 |
| Financial Improvement. | | | | |
| Less Increases in Estimated Revenue. | | | | |
| Taxation— | | | | |
| Land Tax | .... | 59,534 | | |
| Income Tax Reimbursement | .... | 528,996 | | |
| Entertainment Tax | .... | 13,315 | | |
| Stamp Duty | .... | 13,343 | | |
| Probate Duty | .... | 12,918 | | |
| Licences | .... | 12,614 | | |
| Turnover Tax and Bookmakers Licences | .... | 347,040 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 152 | | |
| | | | 987,912 | |
| Territorial— | | | | |
| Land | .... | 22,189 | | |
| Timber | .... | 248,498 | | |
| | | | 270,637 | |
| Departmental— | | | | |
| Forests | .... | 67,147 | | |
| Homes | .... | 13,460 | | |
| Police | .... | 14,430 | | |
| Printing | .... | 11,672 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 35,097 | | |
| Treasury Miscellaneous Revenue : | | | | |
| Hospital Fund Interest | .... | 15,967 | | |
| State Housing Commission Interest | .... | 47,357 | | |
| Rural and Industries Bank Interest | .... | 24,958 | | |
| State Electricity Commission Interest | .... | 34,843 | | |
| Cockburn Cement Interest | .... | 10,949 | | |
| Railways Sinking Fund | .... | 21,379 | | |
| State Insurance Assessed Tax | .... | 16,690 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 50,075 | | |
| | | 222,118 | | |
| Commonwealth Special Grant | .... |  | 371,924 | |
| | | | 1,775,000 | |
| Public Utilities— | | | | |
| Country Areas Water Supply | .... | 35,041 | | |
| Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage | .... | 89,073 | | |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings | .... | 22,832 | | |
| Railways | .... | 280,307 | | |
| Medias | .... | 21,721 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 15,942 | | |
| | | | 463,916 | |
| Trading Concerns | .... |  | 93,414 | |
| Less Decreases in Estimated Expenditure. | | | | |
| Special Acts | | | | |
| | | | 15,752 | |
| Departmental— | | | | |
| Premier's Department | .... | 12,705 | | |
| Public Works | .... | 37,451 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 581 | | |
| Treasury Miscellaneous Expenditure : | | | | |
| N.S.W. Flood Relief | .... | 10,000 | | |
| Reforestation Fund | .... | 159,000 | | |
| Exchange on Interest Payments | .... | 28,138 | | |
| Rural Bank Agency Department Administration | .... | 10,167 | | |
| S.E.C. Cost of Administering Regulations | .... | 12,000 | | |
| Charcoal Iron and Steel Loss | .... | 10,807 | | |
| Minor Variations | .... | 58,733 | | |
| | | 288,345 | | |
| | | | 339,082 | |
| | | | 4,317,037 | |
| ESTIMATED DEFICIT FOR YEAR, 1955-56 | | | | 453,873 |

[Return No. 1.]

**I.—BALANCE SHEET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
AT 30th JUNE, 1954, AND 30th JUNE, 1955.**

| Liabilities. | 30th June, 1954. | 30th June, 1955. | Assets. | 30th June, 1954. | 30th June, 1955. |
|--|------------------|------------------|---|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| Public Debt | 165,782,545 | 177,881,349 | Invested in Works and Services, etc. | 164,058,746 | 177,368,698 |
| | | | Balance—General Loan Fund o/d. | 1,723,799 | 512,651 |
| | 165,782,545 | 177,881,349 | | 165,782,545 | 177,881,349 |
| Balance General Loan Fund | 1,723,799 | 512,651 | Consolidated Revenue Fund | 610,563 | 744,607 |
| State Taxes, Arrears | 609,206 | 610,499 | Commonwealth Government—Tax Arrears | 677,025 | 678,423 |
| Hospital Fund Contributions, Arrears | 67,819 | 67,924 | Advances (under Appropriation "Advance to Treasurer") | 532,043 | 1,091,263 |
| Reserve Accounts | 9,963 | | Stores Accounts | 660,082 | 396,358 |
| Suspense Accounts | 1,407,532 | 2,075,168 | Trust Fund Investments— | | |
| Trading Concerns | 275,244 | 164,194 | Governmental | 2,400,844 | 2,258,956 |
| Trust Funds— | | | Private | 4,532,060 | 4,763,798 |
| Governmental | 7,631,240 | 4,864,084 | Cash in hand, etc.— | | |
| Private | 5,736,484 | 6,023,734 | Banks Current Account | 3,030,908 | 366,162 |
| | | | Banks in Eastern States | 92,491 | 71,707 |
| | | | Debenture Deposit | 4,807,766 | 3,627,665 |
| | | | In London | 37,310 | 158,137 |
| | | | In Transit | 20,432 | 36,598 |
| | | | In Hand | 59,763 | 124,580 |
| | 17,461,287 | 14,318,254 | | 17,461,287 | 14,318,254 |

(Return No. 2.)

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1954-55, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

SUMMARY.

| | Estimate. | Actual. | Comparison with Estimate. | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Revenue | 44,907,312 | 45,719,846 | 812,534 | .... |
| Expenditure | 45,048,383 | 46,203,889 | 1,155,506 | .... |
| Deficit | 141,071 | 484,043 | 342,972 | .... |
| Surplus ..... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Net Retrogression | | | £342,972 | |

DETAILS.

| Revenue. | Estimate. | Actual. | Comparison with Estimate. | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Taxation | 15,297,740 | 15,435,088 | 137,348 | .... |
| Territorial | 926,500 | 1,007,040 | 80,540 | .... |
| Law Courts | 232,000 | 275,323 | 43,323 | .... |
| Departmental | 4,434,090 | 4,716,682 | 282,592 | .... |
| Royal Mint | 95,000 | 93,721 | .... | 1,279 |
| Commonwealth | 7,573,432 | 7,573,432 | .... | .... |
| Trading Concerns | 256,250 | 298,254 | 40,004 | .... |
| Public Utilities | 16,092,300 | 16,322,306 | 230,006 | .... |
| Total Revenue | 44,907,312 | 45,719,846 | 813,813 | 1,279 |
| Net Increase ..... | .... | .... | £812,534 | |

| Expenditure. | Estimate. | Actual. | Comparison with Estimate. | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| SPECIAL ACTS— | | | | |
| Constitution Act | 17,310 | 17,310 | .... | .... |
| Interest—Overseas | 1,159,653 | 1,164,051 | 4,398 | .... |
| Interest—Australia | 4,360,287 | 4,461,148 | 100,861 | .... |
| Sinking Fund | 1,293,000 | 1,303,274 | 10,274 | .... |
| Other Special Acts | 1,577,651 | 1,597,764 | 20,113 | .... |
| GOVERNMENTAL— | | | | |
| Departmental | 18,666,562 | 19,662,820 | 996,258 | .... |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES | 17,973,920 | 17,997,522 | 23,602 | .... |
| Total Expenditure | 45,048,383 | 46,203,889 | 1,155,506 | .... |
| Net Increase ..... | .... | .... | £1,155,506 | |

[Return No. 3.]

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

REVENUE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1946-47 TO 1954-55 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1955-56.

| Heads. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. | Estimate 1955-56 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| TAXATION— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land Tax | £ 112,465 | £ 111,113 | £ 132,243 | £ 160,840 | £ 180,323 | £ 209,094 | £ 269,062 | £ 298,843 | £ 390,466 | £ 450,000 |
| Income Tax Reimbursement | 3,384,000 | 3,807,000 | 4,494,632 | 5,172,433 | 7,178,426 | 9,400,000 | 10,854,544 | 11,347,415 | 11,800,004 | 12,335,000 |
| Income Tax Reimbursement—Additional Payment | | | | 661,677 | | | | | | |
| Totalsator Tax | 162,650 | 168,787 | 177,817 | 181,520 | 207,398 | 241,430 | 219,993 | 217,450 | 209,848 | 210,000 |
| Stamp Duty | 417,491 | 462,122 | 530,885 | 704,913 | 923,788 | 953,537 | 1,043,851 | 1,307,193 | 1,436,657 | 1,450,000 |
| Probate Duty | 262,326 | 300,487 | 362,168 | 412,816 | 462,848 | 665,078 | 842,955 | 876,925 | 1,062,082 | 1,075,000 |
| Entertainment Tax | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) |
| Licenses | 124,166 | 125,682 | 136,495 | 160,012 | 181,468 | 227,253 | 247,990 | 280,489 | 300,386 | 313,000 |
| Turnover Tax and Bookmakers' Licenses | | | | | | | | | 2,960 | 350,000 |
| Total | 4,453,098 | 4,984,191 | 5,836,240 | 7,454,211 | 9,132,251 | 11,716,300 | 13,478,095 | 14,581,503 | 15,435,088 | 16,423,000 |
| TERRITORIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Land | 252,181 | 322,035 | 328,104 | 320,510 | 284,846 | 257,842 | 251,047 | 351,743 | 377,861 | 400,000 |
| Mining | 37,750 | 36,608 | 42,318 | 43,512 | 43,242 | 45,258 | 51,444 | 62,498 | 65,477 | 65,000 |
| Timber | 238,442 | 242,363 | 182,654 | 248,684 | 287,141 | 340,962 | 453,287 | 560,180 | 563,702 | 812,200 |
| Royal Mint | 51,704 | 53,240 | 63,610 | 78,965 | 101,327 | 115,543 | 132,969 | 122,701 | 93,721 | 90,000 |
| Departmental Fees, etc. | 1,552,644 | 1,787,358 | 2,282,239 | 2,866,457 | 2,955,418 | 3,431,259 | 4,278,260 | 4,189,035 | 4,716,682 | 4,806,570 |
| Law Courts | 70,981 | 98,569 | 114,745 | 121,748 | 135,770 | 167,121 | 203,187 | 227,371 | 275,323 | 251,000 |
| Commonwealth Special Grant | 1,245,000 | 1,977,000 | 3,600,000 | 5,180,000 | 5,021,739 | 5,088,000 | (c) 8,200,000 | 7,350,000 | 7,100,000 | 8,875,000 |
| Commonwealth Supplementary Grant | 628,000 | 1,000,000 | | | | | | | | |
| Commonwealth Interest Contribution | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 | 473,432 |
| Total | 4,554,224 | 5,990,601 | 7,087,102 | 9,333,317 | 9,802,915 | 9,925,417 | 14,044,256 | 13,326,960 | 13,666,196 | 15,773,202 |
| PUBLIC UTILITIES— | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust | 208,544 | 263,312 | 357,478 | 461,980 | 303,648 | 283,514 | 202,137 | 256,601 | 167,440 | 100,000 |
| Country Areas Water Supply Schemes (b) | 341,798 | 363,270 | 349,574 | 552,425 | 363,675 | 362,738 | 404,207 | 424,473 | 446,959 | 482,000 |
| State Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses | 89,839 | 98,038 | 140,236 | 183,805 | 155,846 | 178,694 | 150,328 | 65,121 | 142,660 | 160,000 |
| Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage | 608,365 | 649,313 | 704,960 | 766,124 | 694,030 | 909,654 | 1,079,224 | 1,491,077 | 1,692,027 | 1,780,103 |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings | 101,787 | 108,089 | 121,628 | 131,453 | 152,050 | 181,163 | 227,027 | 256,249 | 297,168 | 320,000 |
| Railways | 3,979,404 | 4,645,378 | 5,161,218 | 6,371,770 | 6,970,696 | 9,216,051 | 7,634,282 | 11,376,870 | 12,468,693 | 12,750,000 |
| Tramways, Perth Electric | 480,522 | 509,303 | 591,466 | 509,928 | 671,716 | 917,217 | 1,046,008 | 1,027,180 | 986,332 | 980,000 |
| State Ferries | 9,878 | 10,406 | 11,879 | 12,665 | 10,294 | 11,480 | 12,384 | 10,746 | 11,442 | 11,500 |
| State Batteries | 49,002 | 56,081 | 60,257 | 57,667 | 86,562 | 74,877 | 69,252 | 47,993 | 43,874 | 51,750 |
| Caves House, etc. | 15,278 | 18,038 | 17,973 | 23,938 | 24,042 | 31,873 | 31,496 | 33,522 | 36,332 | 37,000 |
| Medina Hotel | | | | | | | | | 28,379 | 50,100 |
| Total | 5,884,447 | 6,021,226 | 7,515,799 | 8,895,755 | 9,542,559 | 12,167,401 | 11,192,345 | 14,920,772 | 16,322,306 | 16,712,450 |
| TRADING CONCERNS | 89,106 | 114,292 | 121,505 | 127,078 | 178,456 | 145,889 | 169,540 | 307,605 | 296,254 | 383,400 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 14,980,875 | 17,710,310 | 20,560,046 | 25,810,961 | 28,156,181 | 33,955,157 | 38,884,236 | 43,145,840 | 45,719,846 | 49,292,052 |

(a) Included in Income Tax Reimbursement.

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

(c) Includes £150,000 provided from surplus of 1950-51.

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

EXPENDITURE.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1946-47 TO 1954-55, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1955-56.

| Head. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. | Estimate. 1955-56. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Special Acts | 4,709,004 | 4,826,387 | 4,947,557 | 5,188,288 | 5,508,667 | 6,128,797 | 6,676,444 | 7,573,064 | 8,543,547 | 9,771,485 |
| Parliamentary | 20,037 | 25,535 | 28,830 | 31,688 | 37,161 | 45,244 | 49,287 | 52,420 | 56,113 | 59,292 |
| Premier | 21,270 | 28,248 | 26,867 | 22,211 | 27,247 | 36,875 | 36,485 | 52,801 | 42,265 | 59,565 |
| Treasury | 35,761 | 39,728 | 46,899 | 52,606 | 62,801 | 79,225 | 91,411 | 98,108 | 114,017 | 127,750 |
| Governor | 3,336 | 3,885 | 4,111 | 4,708 | 7,041 | 14,045 | 19,212 | 18,855 | 18,855 | 18,855 |
| London Agency | 15,061 | 14,450 | 16,384 | 16,750 | 22,298 | 26,056 | 30,474 | 24,349 | 24,023 | 24,968 |
| Public Service Commissioner | 2,724 | 3,238 | 4,453 | 4,842 | 6,400 | 8,557 | 9,224 | 9,350 | 11,341 | 13,840 |
| Government Motor Cars | 2,679 | 4,786 | 4,290 | 11,249 | 6,914 | 14,547 | 11,459 | 18,160 | 9,545 | 9,551 |
| Audit | 21,357 | 23,737 | 28,767 | 32,430 | 39,355 | 47,425 | 52,667 | 55,903 | 59,370 | 63,500 |
| Compassionate Allowances | 2,578 | 3,616 | 5,153 | 6,318 | 7,737 | 8,269 | 2,415 | 2,406 | 593 | 2,632 |
| Government Stores | 24,073 | 28,914 | 37,456 | 51,117 | 58,394 | 72,914 | 82,980 | 87,432 | 94,300 | 102,370 |
| Taxation | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| State Housing Commission | 10,006 | 22,995 | 24,521 | 39,007 | 62,033 | 68,076 | 23,943 | 1,128 | ... | 5 |
| Superannuation Board | 3,411 | 4,579 | 6,299 | 7,493 | 8,697 | 10,782 | 11,615 | 12,565 | 12,969 | 13,255 |
| Printing | 102,184 | 137,821 | 155,839 | 184,867 | 236,621 | 308,443 | 322,053 | 330,925 | 328,938 | 380,726 |
| Tourist and Publicity Bureau | 11,521 | 12,980 | 15,028 | 18,412 | 21,539 | 27,713 | 28,793 | 27,770 | 31,986 | 33,010 |
| Literary and Scientific | 15,989 | 21,952 | 21,947 | 27,467 | 32,968 | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) | (c) |
| Miscellaneous Services | 1,403,057 | 1,890,819 | 2,898,322 | 4,005,009 | 3,504,899 | 4,087,297 | 4,376,790 | 1,843,809 | 1,829,194 | 2,158,878 |
| Forests | 84,056 | 77,272 | 80,245 | 108,868 | 128,491 | 194,879 | 273,820 | 239,735 | 263,974 | 356,432 |
| Public Works | 276,341 | 318,488 | 536,019 | 655,576 | 866,868 | 1,150,434 | 1,282,902 | 1,051,302 | 1,198,681 | 1,169,280 |
| Local Government | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | (a) | 16,921 | 22,019 | 29,862 | 28,321 | 34,533 |
| Town Planning | 2,457 | 2,939 | 3,602 | 4,005 | 5,649 | 6,308 | 11,945 | 29,017 | 30,472 | 32,681 |
| Unemployment Relief | 2,331 | 1,871 | 1,059 | 861 | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) | (b) |
| State Labour Bureau | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lands and Surveys | 119,910 | 159,884 | 186,163 | 283,834 | 295,370 | 407,321 | 437,517 | 528,609 | 545,006 | 604,551 |
| Farmers Debts Adjustment and Rural Relief | 1,273 | 1,051 | 428 | 448 | 318 | (d) | (d) | (d) | (d) | (d) |
| Rural and Industries Bank | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Agriculture | 182,292 | 211,863 | 257,363 | 345,789 | 400,394 | 492,869 | 551,697 | 580,673 | 618,645 | 676,096 |
| College of Agriculture | 3,110 | 4,623 | 3,847 | 4,519 | 5,355 | 7,378 | 7,118 | 9,285 | 10,858 | 14,525 |
| Labour | 9,420 | 11,784 | 13,416 | 13,724 | 20,753 | 20,753 | 23,902 | 24,233 | 25,680 | 28,349 |
| Factories | 7,620 | 10,181 | 11,906 | 12,909 | 14,700 | 16,309 | 17,712 | 19,120 | 20,765 | 22,024 |
| Arbitration Court | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| State Insurance | 21,107 | 21,058 | 24,490 | 65,850 | 118,035 | 112,669 | 166,662 | 175,360 | 167,895 | 182,468 |
| Department of Industrial Development | 83,142 | 94,576 | 112,329 | 124,230 | 153,140 | 193,962 | 234,568 | 254,598 | 288,558 | 329,100 |
| Child Welfare | 162,539 | 185,657 | 193,602 | 208,362 | 246,789 | 281,905 | 349,160 | 392,321 | 357,224 | 392,049 |
| Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc. | 115,875 | 165,406 | 229,499 | 454,340 | 577,848 | 780,219 | 1,046,008 | 3,367,207 | 3,440,172 | 3,852,238 |
| Medical and Health | 176,969 | 217,893 | 255,564 | 316,759 | 363,270 | 506,219 | 535,098 | 624,129 | 703,016 | 771,575 |
| Mental Hospitals | 47,673 | 53,771 | 69,724 | 80,632 | 97,641 | 129,570 | 162,618 | 175,470 | 189,185 | 199,185 |
| Office of Chief Secretary | 53,741 | 64,652 | 74,049 | 88,082 | 101,220 | 130,910 | 147,517 | 152,224 | 163,288 | 171,313 |
| Prisons | 1,223,748 | 1,648,768 | 1,759,835 | 2,079,781 | 2,634,461 | 3,630,893 | 4,342,770 | 4,703,554 | 5,546,235 | 5,017,625 |
| Education | 387,326 | 418,425 | 518,338 | 591,877 | 750,425 | 989,761 | 1,123,309 | 1,178,058 | 1,239,767 | 1,369,331 |
| Police | 149,884 | 157,911 | 229,979 | 319,477 | 399,295 | 416,296 | 386,137 | 397,863 | 445,260 | 445,260 |
| Crown Law and Branches | 64,800 | 73,736 | 95,102 | 129,008 | 143,704 | 158,304 | 167,070 | 108,673 | 161,810 | 184,897 |
| Natives | 42,863 | 44,313 | 51,776 | 62,035 | 71,210 | 101,238 | 128,802 | 143,985 | 160,013 | 173,229 |
| Harbour and Light and Jetties | 11,029 | 13,151 | 17,556 | 28,844 | 31,580 | 39,070 | 41,691 | 39,668 | 44,846 | 50,718 |
| Fisheries | 140 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 439 | 7,096 | 1,434,205 | 1,525,081 |
| North-West | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,782 | 8,090 |
| Supply and Shipping | ... | ... | ... | 670 | 2,198 | 6,395 | 6,708 | ... | 581 | ... |
| Prices | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Total, Departmental | 4,886,668 | 6,238,115 | 8,070,190 | 10,480,439 | 11,501,345 | 14,673,001 | 16,893,573 | 18,058,651 | 19,662,820 | 21,500,483 |

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1946-47 TO 1954-55, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1955-56.—continued.

| Head. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. | Estimate 1955-56. |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| PUBLIC UTILITIES. | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Country Areas Water Supply Schemes (c) | 195,887 | 229,024 | 270,819 | 313,871 | 405,405 | 500,042 | 677,416 | 718,985 | 842,543 | 689,000 |
| State Abattoirs | 69,434 | 77,083 | 103,721 | 99,743 | 121,417 | 156,593 | 144,943 | 47,453 | 126,333 | 139,268 |
| Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage | 180,780 | 217,906 | 239,649 | 290,343 | 372,298 | 482,255 | 613,015 | 604,665 | 868,043 | 950,350 |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings | 96,412 | 118,308 | 158,826 | 211,004 | 286,543 | 340,486 | 427,792 | 430,768 | 512,142 | 545,402 |
| Railways | 4,314,899 | 5,072,312 | 6,787,862 | 8,065,610 | 8,849,200 | 11,048,347 | 12,802,675 | 14,356,056 | 14,496,996 | 14,750,000 |
| Tramways | 466,243 | 572,133 | 685,385 | 996,613 | 771,963 | 1,010,794 | 1,154,642 | 1,153,308 | 1,130,556 | 1,150,000 |
| State Ferries | 15,583 | 13,539 | 15,454 | 16,985 | 15,502 | 16,510 | 18,146 | 18,510 | 15,847 | 16,100 |
| State Batteries | 75,283 | 78,708 | 60,525 | 91,209 | 140,709 | 162,665 | 152,014 | 129,041 | 129,228 | 142,217 |
| Cave House | 15,234 | 18,895 | 17,939 | 24,092 | 23,875 | 32,268 | 31,450 | 34,149 | 43,104 | 46,690 |
| Medina Hotel .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 26,350 | 44,940 |
| Total Public Utilities | 5,432,755 | 6,997,910 | 8,360,180 | 10,118,476 | 10,986,822 | 13,744,970 | 16,022,102 | 17,570,935 | 17,997,522 | 18,473,957 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 15,028,427 | 18,062,302 | 21,377,607 | 25,787,203 | 27,996,334 | 34,548,708 | 39,392,119 | 43,248,519 | 46,203,889 | 49,745,925 |

(a) Previously included in Public Works. (b) Transferred to Supply and Shipping. (c) Operating prior to year 1951-52 as "Goldfields Water Supply."
(d) Included in Lands and Surveys. (e) Now included in "Miscellaneous Services."

[Return No. 5.]

II.—CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

STATEMENT SHOWING PUBLISHED BUDGET RESULT OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1954-55.

| Published Details. | | | | Published Budget. Result (a). | |
|--------------------|------|---|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Year. | | | | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
| | | | | £ | £ |
| 1900-01 | .... | £ | 3,078,933 | 3,185,244 | 87,211 |
| 1901-02 | .... | £ | 3,688,049 | 3,490,026 | 198,023 |
| 1902-03 | .... | £ | 3,630,238 | 3,521,763 | 108,475 |
| 1903-04 | .... | £ | 3,550,016 | 3,698,311 | 148,295 |
| 1904-05 | .... | £ | 3,615,340 | 3,745,225 | 129,885 |
| 1905-06 | .... | £ | 3,558,939 | 3,632,318 | 73,379 |
| 1906-07 | .... | £ | 3,401,354 | 3,490,183 | 88,829 |
| 1907-08 | .... | £ | 3,376,641 | 3,379,006 | 2,365 |
| 1908-09 | .... | £ | 3,267,014 | 3,368,551 | 101,537 |
| 1909-10 | .... | £ | 3,657,670 | 3,447,731 | 209,939 |
| 1910-11 | .... | £ | 3,850,439 | 3,734,448 | 115,991 |
| 1911-12 | .... | £ | 3,966,673 | 4,101,082 | 134,409 |
| 1912-13 | .... | £ | 4,596,659 | 4,787,064 | 190,405 |
| 1913-14 | .... | £ | 5,205,343 | 5,340,754 | 135,411 |
| 1914-15 | .... | £ | 5,140,725 | 5,706,541 | 565,816 |
| 1915-16 | .... | £ | 5,356,978 | 5,705,201 | 348,223 |
| 1916-17 | .... | £ | 4,577,007 | 5,276,764 | 699,757 |
| 1917-18 | .... | £ | 4,622,536 | 5,328,279 | 705,743 |
| 1918-19 | .... | £ | 4,944,851 | 5,596,866 | 652,105 |
| 1919-20 | .... | £ | 5,863,501 | 6,531,725 | 668,225 |
| 1920-21 | .... | £ | 6,789,565 | 7,476,291 | 686,725 |
| 1921-22 | .... | £ | 6,907,107 | 7,639,242 | 732,135 |
| 1922-23 | .... | £ | 7,207,492 | 7,612,856 | 405,364 |
| 1923-24 | .... | £ | 7,865,595 | 8,094,753 | 229,158 |
| 1924-25 | .... | £ | 8,381,446 | 8,439,844 | 58,398 |
| 1925-26 | .... | £ | 8,808,166 | 8,907,309 | 99,143 |
| 1926-27 | .... | £ | 9,750,833 | 9,722,588 | 28,245 |
| 1927-28 | .... | £ | 9,807,949 | 9,834,415 | 26,466 |
| 1928-29 | .... | £ | 9,947,951 | 10,223,919 | 276,968 |
| 1929-30 | .... | £ | 9,750,515 | 10,268,519 | 518,004 |
| 1930-31 | .... | £ | 8,686,756 | 10,107,295 | 1,420,539 |
| 1931-32 | .... | £ | 8,035,316 | 9,593,212 | 1,557,896 |
| 1932-33 | .... | £ | 8,332,153 | 9,196,234 | 864,081 |
| 1933-34 | .... | £ | 8,481,697 | 9,270,609 | 788,912 |
| 1934-35 | .... | £ | 9,331,430 | 9,498,525 | 167,095 |
| 1935-36 | .... | £ | 10,033,721 | 9,945,343 | 88,378 |
| 1936-37 | .... | £ | 10,185,433 | 10,556,638 | 371,205 |
| 1937-38 | .... | £ | 10,819,042 | 10,829,735 | 10,693 |
| 1938-39 | .... | £ | 10,949,660 | 11,170,102 | 220,442 |
| 1939-40 | .... | £ | 11,119,943 | 11,266,768 | 146,825 |
| 1940-41 | .... | £ | 11,432,068 | 11,420,957 | 11,111 |
| 1941-42 | .... | £ | 11,940,149 | 11,938,381 | 1,768 |
| 1942-43 | .... | £ | 13,151,678 | 13,127,242 | 24,436 |
| 1943-44 | .... | £ | 13,589,175 | 13,551,154 | 38,021 |
| 1944-45 | .... | £ | 13,953,830 | 13,949,340 | 4,490 |
| 1945-46 | .... | £ | 14,407,557 | 14,407,557 | .... |
| 1946-47 | .... | £ | 14,980,875 | 15,028,427 | 47,552 |
| 1947-48 | .... | £ | 17,710,310 | 18,062,392 | 352,082 |
| 1948-49 | .... | £ | 20,560,646 | 21,377,907 | 817,261 |
| 1949-50 | .... | £ | 25,810,961 | 25,787,203 | 23,758 |
| 1950-51 | .... | £ | 28,156,181 | 27,996,834 | 159,347 |
| 1951-52 | .... | £ | 33,955,157 | 34,546,768 | 591,611 |
| 1952-53 | .... | £ | 38,884,236 | 39,392,119 | 507,883 |
| 1953-54 | .... | £ | 43,145,840 | 43,248,519 | 102,679 |
| 1954-55 | .... | £ | 45,719,846 | 46,203,889 | 484,043 |

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

[Return No. 6.]

II. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

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

| Year. | Special Grants included as Revenue for year of receipt. (See Return No. 3). | Published Budget Results after bringing to account Special Grants as per column 2. (See Return No. 5). | | Special Grants not included as Revenue for year of receipt but applied towards extinguishment of previous years' deficits. | | Negative adjustments in respect of previous years' Special Grants. | | Adjusted Budget Results after bringing to account amounts listed in columns 6 and 7. | |
|--------------|---|--|----------|--|------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------|
| | | Surplus. | Deficit. | Amount. | Year of receipt. | Amount. | Year of deduction. | Surplus. | Deficit. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | | £ | | £ | £ |
| 1947-48 | 2,977,000 | .... | 352,082 | 438,000 | 1949-50 | .... | .... | 85,918 | .... |
| 1948-49 | 3,600,000 | .... | 817,261 | 817,261 | 1950-51 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 1949-50 | 5,180,000 | 23,758 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23,758 | .... |
| 1950-51 | 5,021,739 | 159,347 | .... | .... | .... | 159,000 | 1952-53 | 347 | .... |
| 1951-52 | 5,088,000 | .... | 591,611 | 450,000 | 1953-54 | .... | .... | .... | 141,811 |
| 1952-53 | (a) 8,200,000 | .... | 507,883 | 950,000 | 1954-55 | .... | .... | .... | 157,883 |
| 1953-54 | 7,350,000 | .... | 102,679 | (b) | .... | (b) | .... | .... | .... |
| 1954-55 | 7,100,000 | .... | 484,043 | (b) | .... | (b) | .... | .... | .... |

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

(b) Final adjustments in respect of the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 will be made in 1955-56 and 1956-57 respectively.

[Return No. 7.]

SOURCES OF REVENUE AND REVENUE PER CAPITA, 1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Details. | Year and Per Capita. | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Commonwealth (including Income Tax Reimbursement) | 12,871,597 | 14,961,432 | 19,527,976 | 19,170,847 | 19,379,436 |
| State Taxation | £22 3 9 | £25 6 2 | £31 17 5 | £30 6 3 | £29 17 5 |
| Departmental and Territorial | 1,955,825 | 2,316,890 | 2,623,551 | 3,234,088 | 3,629,084 |
| Public Utilities and Trading Concerns | £3 8 5 | £3 18 4 | £4 5 7 | £5 2 3 | £5 11 11 |
| | 8,807,744 | 4,363,985 | 5,370,824 | 5,503,528 | 6,092,766 |
| | £6 13 3 | £7 7 8 | £8 15 4 | £8 14 1 | £9 7 10 |
| | 9,721,015 | 12,313,350 | 11,361,885 | 15,237,377 | 16,818,560 |
| | £17 0 3 | £20 16 7 | £18 10 10 | £24 1 11 | £25 12 4 |
| Total | 28,156,181 | 38,955,157 | 38,834,236 | 43,145,840 | 45,719,846 |
| | £49 5 8 | £57 8 9 | £63 9 2 | £68 4 6 | £70 9 6 |

[Return No. 8.]

II. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF EXPENDITURE AND EXPENDITURE PER CAPITA,
1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Details. | Year and Per Capita. | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
| Social Services | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Education | 3,171,221 £5 11 0 | 4,278,609 £7 4 9 | 5,063,530 £8 5 3 | 5,545,294 £8 15 5 | 6,567,581 £10 2 6 |
| Health, Hospitals and Charities | 2,755,440 £4 16 6 | 3,806,039 £6 8 9 | 4,224,302 £6 17 11 | 4,749,239 £7 10 2 | 5,133,146 £7 18 3 |
| Law, Order and Public Safety | 1,155,164 £2 0 5 | 1,478,236 £2 10 0 | 1,704,562 £2 15 7 | 1,853,465 £2 18 7 | 1,975,894 £3 0 11 |
| Total, Social Services | 7,081,825 £12 7 11 | 9,562,884 £16 3 6 | 10,992,394 £17 18 9 | 12,147,998 £19 4 2 | 13,676,621 £21 1 8 |
| Development of State Resources | 1,930,477 £3 7 7 | 2,402,004 £4 1 3 | 2,682,252 £4 7 7 | 2,781,322 £4 8 0 | 2,844,912 £4 7 8 |
| Business Undertakings | 11,712,393 £20 10 0 | 14,552,725 £24 12 4 | 17,090,885 £27 17 10 | 18,717,562 £29 12 0 | 19,118,117 £29 9 5 |
| Legislative and General | 2,344,627 £4 2 0 | 2,731,680 £4 12 5 | 2,898,259 £4 14 7 | 3,113,819 £4 18 5 | 3,237,299 £4 19 9 |
| Public Debt Charges | 4,927,512 £8 12 6 | 5,297,475 £8 19 3 | 5,723,328 £9 7 0 | 6,487,818 £10 5 2 | 7,826,940 £11 5 11 |
| Total | 27,996,834 £49 0 0 | 34,546,768 £58 8 9 | 39,392,119 £64 5 9 | 43,248,519 £68 7 9 | 46,203,889 £71 4 5 |

[Return No. 9.]

DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE,
1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Item. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Interest | 3,580,583 | 3,848,395 | 4,190,698 | 4,870,385 | 5,625,199 |
| Sinking Fund | 916,466 | 1,022,207 | 1,114,795 | 1,203,268 | 1,303,274 |
| Exchange | 478,331 | 389,898 | 294,409 | 378,960 | 352,138 |
| Salaries and Wages | 12,343,948 | 15,853,260 | 18,387,484 | 19,780,213 | 21,143,936 |
| Materials | 3,271,864 | 4,128,392 | 4,859,768 | 5,397,021 | 5,223,635 |
| Grants | 2,209,322 | 3,118,299 | 3,282,486 | 3,718,176 | 3,823,635 |
| Pensions | 555,926 | 665,575 | 700,865 | 750,314 | 826,752 |
| All other | 4,640,394 | 5,520,742 | 6,561,614 | 7,152,182 | 7,905,320 |
| Total | 27,996,834 | 34,546,768 | 39,392,119 | 43,248,519 | 46,203,889 |

[Return No. 10.]

III. GENERAL LOAN FUND.

LOAN REPAYMENTS.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

| Year ended 30th June. | Receipts. | Expenditure. | Balance. |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 1928 | 154,108 | .... | 154,108 |
| 1929 | 235,404 | 33,297 | 356,215 |
| 1930 | 153,583 | 216,647 | 293,151 |
| 1931 | 84,248 | .... | 377,399 |
| 1932 | 112,361 | 171,800 | 317,960 |
| 1933 | 91,751 | 249,275 | 160,436 |
| 1934 | 100,935 | 215,740 | 45,631 |
| 1935 | 150,507 | 97,064 | 99,074 |
| 1936 | 107,906 | 74,791 | 132,189 |
| 1937 | 122,975 | 78,376 | 176,788 |
| 1938 | 134,462 | 154,825 | 156,425 |
| 1939 | 147,040 | 153,105 | 150,360 |
| 1940 | 127,470 | 101,086 | 176,744 |
| 1941 | 127,889 | 140,202 | 164,431 |
| 1942 | 171,232 | 89,867 | 245,796 |
| 1943 | 281,355 | 184,707 | 342,444 |
| 1944 | 256,153 | 198,896 | 399,701 |
| 1945 | 207,075 | 222,493 | 384,283 |
| 1946 | 287,043 | 210,595 | 460,731 |
| 1947 | 190,503 | 192,818 | 468,416 |
| 1948 | 498,087 | 282,155 | 674,348 |
| 1949 | 242,820 | 538,204 | 378,964 |
| 1950 | 252,183 | 298,639 | 332,508 |
| 1951 | 1,085,802 | 258,991 | 1,159,319 |
| 1952 | 1,006,310 | 1,088,671 | 1,076,958 |
| 1953 | 1,412,334 | 1,074,543 | 1,414,749 |
| 1954 | 1,640,343 | 1,293,140 | 1,761,952 |
| 1955 | 1,713,606 | 1,761,952 | 1,713,606 |

III. GENERAL LOAN FUND.

LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1954-55 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

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

| Undertakings. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Railways, including Land Resumptions | 72,637 | 268,379 | 286,648 | 362,344 | 2,211,693 | 2,304,360 | 8,023,918 | 7,344,170 | 6,587,864 | 5,531,849 |
| Tramways—Perth Electric | 1,388 | 3,273 | 54,418 | 97,537 | 43,279 | 325,609 | 237,587 | 299,341 | 32,401 | 68,103 |
| Electric Power Stations | 115,081 | 166,054 | 785,697 | 1,065,343 | 2,345,719 | 3,295,712 | 3,841,916 | 89,576 | 703,104 | 705,000 |
| Fremantle Harbour Works | 31,393 | 49,040 | 89,499 | 61,375 | 73,115 | 284,866 | 647,438 | 684,922 | 432,323 | 552,813 |
| Harbours and Rivers generally | 6,765 | 37,584 | 89,480 | 163,595 | 329,100 | 400,425 | 850,884 | 731,241 | 980,280 | 659,688 |
| Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle | 39,831 | 115,897 | 168,624 | 227,888 | 217,646 | 314,478 | 317,933 | 304,616 | 322,577 | 358,008 |
| Sewerage—Country Towns | | | | 7,700 | 28,638 | 27,840 | 88,724 | 54,800 | 37,988 | 36,473 |
| Water Supplies (a) | 202,925 | 623,749 | 549,268 | 600,338 | 799,395 | 1,730,436 | 2,035,697 | 2,124,904 | 1,638,014 | 2,464,238 |
| Development of Goldfields (b) | 231,722 | 255,357 | 261,635 | 328,224 | 357,689 | 460,771 | 335,962 | 385,138 | 214,567 | 230,081 |
| Development of Agriculture | 69,235 | 51,048 | 78,936 | 125,103 | 399,277 | 317,309 | 410,065 | 311,686 | 300,307 | 293,914 |
| Assistance to Settlers, Industries, etc. | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| College of Agriculture | | | 1,159 | 4,775 | 1,983 | 3,427 | | 1,285 | | |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Working Capital | | | | | 500,000 | | | 320,500 | 1,149,538 | 10,000 |
| Purchase of Plant (Suspense) | | 125,000 | 75,000 | 50,000 | 180,000 | 320,000 | 165,000 | | | |
| State Brickworks | | | | | | 135,000 | 245,000 | 385,872 | 40,000 | 34,511 |
| State Saw Mills | | 50,000 | | 37,550 | 70,000 | 197,450 | 195,950 | 333,602 | 183,133 | 75,716 |
| Steamships | | | | | | 42,500 | 109,002 | | 253,200 | 742,870 |
| State Housing Commission—Working Capital | | | | | | | 58,000 | 1,492,000 | | 1,493,000 |
| State Hotels | | | | | | | | 5,404 | 19,440 | 7,182 |
| Ferries | 3,000 | | 609 | 988 | 2,833 | 1,802 | 2,729 | | 78 | |
| State Engineering Works | | | | | 10,000 | | | | | |
| Public Buildings | 116,607 | 132,045 | 210,988 | (d) 685,902 | (d) 718,062 | (d) 1,086,492 | (d) 1,403,451 | (d) 2,789,560 | (d) 1,579,889 | 2,035,557 |
| Hospital Buildings and Equipment, including Grants | 110,000 | 255,000 | 387,131 | | | | | | | |
| Sundries | | | 10,724 | 20,841 | 2,021 | 1,960 | 243,631 | (e) 643,984 | 2,000 | (f) 500,000 |
| Bulk Handling of Wheat | 35,983 | 38,301 | 781 | 118 | 5,028 | 2,377 | 45,002 | 9,987 | 1,988 | 24,986 |
| West Australian Meat Export Works | 50,000 | | | 10,000 | 20,000 | 10,000 | | | 20,000 | |
| Welshpool Industries | | 46,328 | 64,366 | 71,100 | 29,348 | 161,880 | | | 4,990 | 8,510 |
| Native Stations, Hospitals, etc. | 5,000 | 15,000 | | | 10,000 | 20,000 | 1,700 | | | |
| Kwinana Area Development | | | | | | | | 74,847 | 218,501 | 89,723 |
| Kwinana Area Housing | | | | | | | | 600,000 | 1,123,000 | 77,000 |
| Provision for Funding Revenue Deficits | | | | | | | | | 60,068 | |
| | 1,031,549 | (c) 2,230,064 | 3,030,763 | 3,618,724 | 8,351,015 | 11,404,253 | 18,767,784 | 19,011,875 | 15,884,246 | 16,483,421 |
| Add Discounts, Expenses, etc. | 26,983 | 17,689 | 8,964 | 14,197 | 34,652 | 28,758 | 19,687 | 15,129 | 93,017 | (g) 91,334 |
| Total Expenditure | 1,108,532 | 2,248,653 | 3,039,727 | 3,632,921 | 8,385,667 | 11,433,011 | 18,777,471 | 19,027,004 | 15,917,263 | 16,574,755 |

(a) Including Goldfields Districts. (b) Excluding Water Supplies. (c) Excludes Recoup to Loan Suspense Account 1945-46. Development of Goldfields £280; Purchase of Plant (Suspense) £40,000; W.A. Meat Export Works £30,811; Total £71,161. (d) Includes Hospitals. (e) Includes assistance to Fishing Industry for loss on guaranteed Accounts £134,261; Loans for Purchase of Motor Vehicles for Departmental Officers £200,000; Government Printing Office Purchase of Stores Material and Equipment £303,016. (f) Advance to Cockburn Cement. (g) Charged to General Loan Fund.

[Return No. 12.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

| | £ | £ | £ |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Authorisations to 30th June, 1954 | .... | 211,566,864 | |
| Authorisations, 1954-55 | .... | 14,808,000 | |
| | | <u>226,374,864</u> | |
| Flotations— | | | |
| Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc., issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds :— | | | |
| | £ | | |
| For Works and Services | 188,069,711 | | |
| For Funding Deficits | 12,175,156 | | |
| | <u>200,244,867</u> | | |
| Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of Conversion Loans), net :— | | | |
| | £ | | |
| On Works Loans | 5,473,765 | | |
| On Deficit Loans | 753,278 | | |
| | <u>6,227,043</u> | | |
| | | 206,471,910 | |
| Short Term Debt current at 30th June, 1955— | | | |
| London | .... | *6,159,714 | |
| | | <u>212,631,624</u> | |
| Total Flotations | .... |  | 212,631,624 |
| Balance available for Flotation | .... |  | <u>13,743,040</u> |

* Includes £3,200,000 for redemption of matured loan.

(b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

| | £ | £ | £ |
|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1954 | .... | 198,994,794 | |
| Flotations during the year— | | | |
| Counter Sales | .... |  |  |
| Instalment Stock | .... | 1,183,000 | |
| Commonwealth Loans (Aust.) | .... | 12,453,830 | |
| | | <u>13,636,830</u> | |
| | | | 212,631,624 |
| Redemptions— | | | |
| Total to 30th June, 1954 | .... | 33,212,249 | |
| During the year— | | | |
| National Debt Commission : | | | |
| Securities repurchased | 423,421 | | |
| Securities redeemed under Option (New York) | 314,805 | | |
| Securities redeemed at Maturity (Australia) | 623,124 | | |
| Instalment Stock redeemed (Australia) | 92,971 | | |
| Special Deficit Loans redeemed | 83,705 | | |
| | <u>1,538,026</u> | | |
| | | 34,750,275 | |
| Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1955 | .... |  | 177,881,349 |
| Sinking Fund | .... |  | <u>221,058</u> |
| Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1955 | .... |  | <u>177,660,291</u> |

[Return No. 12—continued.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

(c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

| <i>Raisings.</i> | £ | <i>Disbursements.</i> | £ |
|--|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)— | | Discounts and Expenses— | |
| To 30th June, 1954 | 198,994,794 | To 30th June, 1954 (Net) | 5,345,601 |
| During Year 1954–55 | 13,636,830 | During the Year 1954–55— | |
| | | Paid from Loan Proceeds | 91,334 |
| | | Discount on New Loans | 36,830 |
| Receipts from Loan Repayments— | | Redemption of Agricultural Bank | |
| To 30th June, 1954 | 9,381,881 | Mortgage Bonds | 1,566,000 |
| During Year 1954–55 | 1,713,606 | Deficits Funded (including Discount | |
| | | and Expenses)— | |
| | | To 30th June 1954 | 12,928,434 |
| | | During Year 1954–55 | Nil |
| | | Expenditure on Works and Services | |
| | | To 30th June, 1954 | 186,812,841 |
| | | During Year, 1954–55 | 16,433,421 |
| | | Balance of General Loan Fund | 512,650 |
| | 223,727,111 | | 223,727,111 |

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

| Year. | Debt per Head. | | Debt per Head. |
|-------|----------------|------|----------------|
| | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. |
| 1922 | 137 1 0 | 1939 | 204 7 1 |
| 1923 | 142 9 6 | 1940 | 203 15 7 |
| 1924 | 146 13 6 | 1941 | 204 18 7 |
| 1925 | 146 3 11 | 1942 | 202 17 4 |
| 1926 | 155 14 8 | 1943 | 202 1 11 |
| 1927 | 157 14 4 | 1944 | 198 19 2 |
| 1928 | 165 10 7 | 1945 | 195 9 0 |
| 1929 | 162 6 9 | 1946 | 195 3 1 |
| 1930 | 163 9 9 | 1947 | 195 16 11 |
| 1931 | 174 2 6 | 1948 | 194 5 11 |
| 1932 | 180 3 8 | 1949 | 194 10 10 |
| 1933 | 187 4 8 | 1950 | 196 4 7 |
| 1934 | 193 7 6 | 1951 | 211 16 8 |
| 1935 | 197 11 11 | 1952 | 222 9 2 |
| 1936 | 199 7 10 | 1953 | 244 10 10 |
| 1937 | 201 15 2 | 1954 | †258 9 8 |
| 1938 | 202 19 8 | 1955 | 270 8 3 |

† Adjusted on corrected figures of population.

(e) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30TH JUNE, 1955.

| | Securities Issued. | Re-deemed. | In Circulation. | Funds Invested. |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Metropolitan Market Act | 58,000 | 10,811 | 47,189 | .... |
| State Housing Act | 859,000 | 60,026 | 798,974 | .... |
| State Electricity Commission Act | 7,933,600 | 92,040 | 7,841,560 | 12,808 |
| | 8,850,600 | 162,877 | 8,687,723 | 12,808 |
| Bank Guarantees in force | .... | .... | 6,159,870 | .... |
| Total, Contingent Liabilities | .... | .... | 14,847,593 | .... |

(Return No. 13.)

IV. PUBLIC DEBT.

LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

| Earliest Date of Maturity. | Latest Date of Maturity. | Interest Rate. | Repayable in— | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | London. | New York. | Australia. |
| | | % | £ | £ | £ |
| ..... | 1955 | 2½ | *2,959,714 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1955 | 3 | ..... | ..... | 7,198,000 |
| ..... | 1955 | 3·8 | *3,200,000 | ..... | ..... |
| 1953 | 1955 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 2,467,805 |
| 1950 | 1956 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 896,540 |
| ..... | 1957 | 3 | ..... | ..... | 8,117,000 |
| 1950 | 1957 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 2,397,521 |
| ..... | 1957 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 129,640 |
| ..... | 1957 | 3½ | ..... | 250,899 | ..... |
| 1950 | 1958 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 1,471,010 |
| ..... | 1958 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 150,543 |
| 1955 | 1958 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 1,140,630 |
| 1950 | 1959 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 481,700 |
| ..... | 1959 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 327,408 |
| 1956 | 1959 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 4,582,925 |
| ..... | 1960 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 403,795 |
| 1950 | 1960 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 895,600 |
| 1957 | 1960 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 1,300,810 |
| 1950 | 1961 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 5,111,660 |
| 1956 | 1961 | 3½ | 1,733,526 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1961 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 278,640 |
| ..... | 1961 | 4½ | ..... | ..... | 1,538,000 |
| ..... | 1962 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 165,686 |
| ..... | 1962 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 6,228,810 |
| ..... | 1962 | 4½ | ..... | ..... | 8,941,010 |
| ..... | 1963 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 175,274 |
| 1960 | 1963 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 11,819,010 |
| ..... | 1964 | 3·1 | ..... | ..... | 1,566,000 |
| ..... | 1964 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 142,428 |
| 1961 | 1964 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 17,463,842 |
| ..... | 1965 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 28,997 |
| 1962 | 1965 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 6,144,710 |
| ..... | 1966 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 413,808 |
| ..... | 1966 | 4½ | ..... | ..... | 5,477,000 |
| ..... | 1967 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 497,950 |
| ..... | 1967 | 3½ | ..... | 248,844 | ..... |
| | | | | | |
| ..... | 1967 | 4½ | ..... | ..... | 9,973,050 |
| ..... | 1968 | 4½ | ..... | ..... | 16,444,310 |
| ..... | 1969 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | *364,808 |
| ..... | 1969 | 3½ | ..... | 538,169 | ..... |
| 1965 | 1969 | 3½ | 7,870,550 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1970 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 367,454 |
| ..... | 1971 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 370,023 |
| 1967 | 1971 | 2½ | 3,150,661 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1972 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 372,516 |
| ..... | 1973 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 544,120 |
| ..... | 1974 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 742,316 |
| 1964 | 1974 | 3½ | 8,380,800 | ..... | ..... |
| 1972 | 1974 | 3 | 3,747,250 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1975 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 249,842 |
| 1970 | 1975 | 2½ | 4,100,003 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1976 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 3,949,731 |
| ..... | 1977 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 1,838,960 |
| 1975 | 1977 | 3 | 627,700 | ..... | ..... |
| ..... | 1978 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 2,082,554 |
| ..... | 1979 | 3½ | ..... | ..... | 1,177,837 |
| ..... | 1983 | 1 | ..... | ..... | 4,643,960 |
| Average Rate 3·449 % | | | 35,770,204 | 1,037,912 | 141,073,233 |
| | | | | £177,881,349 | |

* Floating Debt

[Return No. 14.]

IV. PUBLIC DEBT.

SINKING FUND.

A.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR, 1954-55.

| Receipts: | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|---|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1954— | | | | |
| National Debt Commission | | | 410,841 | 2 3 |
| Contributions: | | | | |
| State— | | | | |
| 5s. per cent. on loan liability | 455,059 | 0 8 | | |
| 15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan | 40,425 | 0 0 | | |
| 4 per cent. on Deficit Loans | 1,201 | 7 4 | | |
| 4½ per cent. on cancelled securities | 806,589 | 8 9 | | |
| Special contribution under clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement | 864 | 2 7 | | |
| Commonwealth— | | | | |
| 5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability | 396,749 | 8 8 | | |
| Net earnings on investments | 3,485 | 2 6 | | |
| | | | 1,704,372 | 10 5 |
| | | | 2,115,213 | 12 8 |
| Disbursements: | | | | |
| Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange) | | | 1,894,165 | 17 10 |
| Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1955 | | | 221,057 | 14 10 |
| | | | 2,115,213 | 12 8 |

B.—TRANSACTIONS FROM 1st JULY, 1927, TO 30th JUNE, 1955.

| Receipts: | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|---|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Balances brought forward | | | | |
| 1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid | 57,697 | 10 0 | | |
| 1st July, 1929—Crown Agents | 897,347 | 0 10 | | |
| | | | 955,044 | 10 10 |
| Contributions: | | | | |
| On account M.V. "Kangaroo" | 47,250 | 0 0 | | |
| On account, Crown Agents | 40,312 | 13 5 | | |
| State— | | | | |
| 5s. per cent. on loan liability | 7,157,754 | 7 9 | | |
| 15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan | 444,675 | 0 0 | | |
| 4 per cent. on Deficit Loans | 1,201 | 7 4 | | |
| 4½ per cent. on cancelled securities | 8,670,347 | 13 0 | | |
| Under Federal Aid Roads Act | 373,084 | 18 1 | | |
| Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama" | 206,905 | 8 4 | | |
| Exchange on contributions re M.V. "Koolama" | 52,602 | 5 0 | | |
| Payment under Clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement as amended | 79,058 | 19 4 | | |
| Profit arising out of Conversion of a Loan in London | 8,812 | 15 0 | | |
| Commonwealth— | | | | |
| 5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability | 5,207,966 | 10 3 | | |
| Net earnings on investments | 428,649 | 7 3 | | |
| Accretions to Endowment Policy at maturity | 35,052 | 10 0 | | |
| Exchange on remittances | 29,504 | 6 1 | | |
| | | | 22,783,077 | 15 10 |
| | | | 23,738,122 | 6 8 |
| Disbursements: | | | | |
| Redemptions and Repurchases, etc. | 22,203,959 | 6 7 | | |
| Repurchase from Special Sinking Fund | 86,936 | 17 5 | | |
| Contributions refunded to the State | 630 | 17 11 | | |
| Contributions to Crown Agents | 39,934 | 2 8 | | |
| Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo" | 47,250 | 0 0 | | |
| Repayment of 1934 Loan (Crown Agents) | 993,353 | 7 3 | | |
| Repayment of 1936 Loan (M.V. "Kangaroo") | 140,000 | 0 0 | | |
| | | | 23,517,064 | 11 10 |
| Balance, 30th June, 1955— | | | 221,057 | 14 10 |
| National Debt Commission | | | 23,738,122 | 6 8 |

(Return No. 15.)

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1954-55 (a).

| Undertaking.* | Loan Liability. (b) | Capital Charges (c). | | | Net Earnings. | Surplus. | De- ficiency. |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| | | Interest. | Sinking Fund. | Exchange. | | | |
| Fully Productive. | | | | | | | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| State Brickworks | 875,792 | 23,199 | 6,474 | 1,780 | 41,414 | 4,981 | ... |
| State Engineering Works | 143,682 | 4,626 | 1,144 | 292 | 37,553 | 31,491 | ... |
| State Saw Mills | 1,402,696 | 45,164 | 9,824 | 2,851 | 119,510 | 61,671 | ... |
| State Hotels | 81,176 | 2,614 | 801 | 165 | 9,113 | 5,733 | ... |
| West Australian Meat Export Works | 273,025 | 8,791 | 2,106 | 555 | 14,093 | 2,611 | ... |
| Metropolitan Markets | 143,257 | 4,613 | 1,114 | 291 | 8,187 | 2,169 | ... |
| Bulk Handling at Ports | 260,973 | 8,402 | 1,834 | 531 | 12,880 | 2,113 | ... |
| Abattoirs, Sales Yards, Grain Sheds and Cold Storage | 953,350 | 30,696 | 7,951 | 1,938 | 48,012 | 7,427 | ... |
| Kwinana Housing | 1,679,500 | 54,077 | 12,261 | 3,414 | 103,722 | 33,970 | ... |
| | 5,813,451 | 187,182 | 43,309 | 11,817 | 394,454 | 152,146 | ... |
| Partially Productive. | | | | | | | |
| Wyndham Meatworks | 1,071,445 | 34,499 | 8,198 | 2,178 | 30,000 | ... | 14,375 |
| Electricity Supply | 12,407,742 | 399,506 | 91,187 | 25,221 | 420,191 | ... | 95,723 |
| Harbours and Rivers (d) | 12,273,032 | 395,189 | 87,236 | 24,947 | 60,148 | ... | 447,204 |
| Soldiers Land Settlement (f) | 1,934,364 | 62,283 | 14,802 | 3,932 | 11,049 | ... | 69,968 |
| Rural and Industries Bank | 5,543,815 | 275,095 | 61,045 | 17,367 | 265,042 | ... | 88,465 |
| Plant Suspense | 1,093,058 | 35,195 | 8,134 | 2,222 | 25,478 | ... | 20,073 |
| Roads and Bridges | 3,214,443 | 103,499 | 26,200 | 6,534 | 77,396 | ... | 58,837 |
| Miscellaneous | 974,666 | 31,393 | 7,403 | 1,981 | 2,644 | ... | 38,183 |
| State Housing Commission | 3,657,245 | 117,757 | 16,665 | 7,494 | 121,437 | ... | 20,419 |
| Kwinana Area Development | 357,167 | 11,500 | 2,243 | 726 | 642 | ... | 13,827 |
| Mining Generally | 1,782,747 | 57,401 | 13,014 | 3,624 | 11,295 | ... | 62,744 |
| Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage | 31,362,600 | 1,009,817 | 220,521 | 63,750 | 352,317 | ... | 941,771 |
| Assistance to Industries | 663,873 | 21,375 | 1,587 | 1,349 | 20,949 | ... | 3,362 |
| Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry | 1,822,446 | 42,580 | 10,331 | 2,688 | 14,637 | ... | 40,982 |
| Loans to Public Bodies | 14,418 | 464 | 117 | 29 | 319 | ... | 291 |
| Pine Planting and Reforestation | 1,950,897 | 62,815 | 14,113 | 3,966 | 50,766 | ... | 30,128 |
| Welshpool Industries | 362,105 | 11,661 | 2,712 | 736 | 1,984 | ... | 13,125 |
| | 82,986,123 | 2,671,099 | 585,568 | 168,684 | 1,466,294 | ... | 1,959,957 |
| Totally Unproductive. | | | | | | | |
| Railways (g) | 43,091,497 | 1,387,466 | 293,515 | 87,592 | †1,803,672 | ... | 3,572,245 |
| Tramways | 1,295,508 | 41,713 | 10,538 | 2,933 | †143,344 | ... | 198,228 |
| Assessed Expired Capital—(h) | | | | | | | |
| Railways | 12,241,461 | 394,152 | 93,665 | 24,883 | ... | ... | 512,700 |
| Tramways | 664,844 | 21,407 | 5,091 | 1,351 | ... | ... | 27,849 |
| Electricity | 1,272,668 | 40,977 | 9,738 | 2,587 | ... | ... | 58,302 |
| Frequency Changer—Metropolitan District | 557,416 | 17,948 | 3,194 | 1,138 | ... | ... | 22,276 |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency and Delegated Agency | 553,623 | 17,826 | 8,025 | 1,126 | †766 | ... | 28,643 |
| State Shipping Service | 1,485,566 | 47,333 | 5,708 | 3,020 | †547,855 | ... | 604,416 |
| Group Settlement | 2,955,747 | 95,170 | 22,616 | 6,008 | ... | ... | 123,794 |
| Rabbit Proof Fence | 332,527 | 10,707 | 2,544 | 676 | ... | ... | 13,927 |
| Agriculture Generally | 3,300,319 | 106,264 | 24,987 | 6,708 | †41,364 | ... | 179,323 |
| State Batteries | 498,198 | 16,041 | 3,669 | 1,013 | †88,209 | ... | 108,932 |
| Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, etc. | 15,265,150 | 491,509 | 101,603 | 31,029 | †352,240 | ... | 876,381 |
| Aborigines Stations | 145,852 | 4,698 | 1,116 | 297 | †327,280 | ... | 333,389 |
| Ferries | 10,120 | 326 | 73 | 21 | †4,405 | ... | 4,825 |
| Tourists Resorts | 145,813 | 4,695 | 1,111 | 296 | †25,468 | ... | 31,568 |
| Campion Alunite Deposits | 50,000 | 1,610 | 1,684 | 102 | ... | ... | 3,396 |
| | 83,866,297 | 2,700,340 | 589,777 | 170,475 | †3,334,601 | ... | 6,795,193 |
| Summary. | | | | | | | |
| Fully Productive | 5,813,451 | 187,182 | 43,309 | 11,817 | 394,454 | 152,146 | ... |
| Partially Productive | 82,986,123 | 2,671,999 | 585,568 | 168,684 | 1,466,294 | ... | 1,959,957 |
| Totally Unproductive | 83,866,297 | 2,700,340 | 589,777 | 170,475 | †3,334,601 | ... | 6,795,193 |
| Special Deficit Loans | 4,643,660 | 47,277 | 70,230 | ... | ... | ... | 117,507 |
| Deficits Funded | 58,888 | 1,895 | 1,201 | 120 | ... | ... | 3,216 |
| Balance of General Loan Fund | 512,650 | 16,506 | 13,189 | 1,042 | ... | ... | 30,737 |
| | 177,881,349 | 5,625,199 | 1,303,274 | 352,188 | †1,473,853 | 152,146 | 8,906,610 |

Public Debt, 30th June, 1955

£177,881,349

Net Deficiency £3,754,464

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

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

[Return No. 16.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1954-55.*

| Undertaking. | Loan Liability. | Capital Charges (a). | | | Net Earnings. | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| | | Interest. | Sinking Fund. | Ex-change. | | | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Railways (b) | 43,091,497 | 1,387,466 | 293,515 | 87,592 | †1,803,672 | ..... | 3,572,245 |
| Railways—Assessed Expired Capital (c) | 12,241,451 | 394,152 | 93,065 | 24,833 | ..... | ..... | 512,700 |
| Tramways | 1,295,508 | 41,713 | 10,538 | 2,633 | †143,344 | ..... | 198,223 |
| Tramways—Assessed Expired Capital (c) | 684,844 | 21,407 | 5,091 | 1,351 | ..... | ..... | 27,849 |
| Electricity Supply | 12,407,742 | 399,506 | 91,187 | 25,221 | 420,191 | ..... | 95,723 |
| Electricity Supply—Assessed Expired Capital (c) | 1,272,666 | 40,977 | 9,738 | 2,587 | ..... | ..... | 53,302 |
| Frequency Changer—Met. District | 557,416 | 17,948 | 3,194 | 1,133 | ..... | ..... | 22,275 |
| | 71,531,124 | 2,303,169 | 506,928 | 145,400 | †1,526,825 | ..... | 4,482,322 |
| <i>Harbours and Rivers.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Freemantle Harbour Trust | 4,357,010 | 140,288 | 31,788 | 8,856 | 162,023 | ..... | 18,909 |
| Freemantle Other | 710,132 | 22,865 | 5,112 | 1,444 | 43,224 | 13,803 | ..... |
| Bunbury Harbour Board | 1,405,344 | 45,249 | 8,919 | 2,857 | †35,976 | ..... | 93,001 |
| Bunbury Other | 76,358 | 2,459 | 2,186 | 155 | †3,795 | ..... | 8,595 |
| Geraldton (c) | 710,536 | 22,878 | 5,428 | 1,444 | 696 | ..... | 29,054 |
| Albany Board | 1,436,034 | 46,238 | 10,423 | 2,919 | 5,726 | ..... | 53,854 |
| Albany—Other | 219,586 | 7,070 | 1,680 | 446 | ..... | ..... | 9,196 |
| Esperance (c) | 15,851 | 510 | 121 | 32 | †20 | ..... | 683 |
| Busselton (c) | 34,382 | 1,107 | 252 | 70 | †9 | ..... | 1,438 |
| North-West Ports | 646,610 | 20,820 | 4,896 | 1,314 | †96,812 | ..... | 123,842 |
| Swan River | 615,330 | 19,812 | 4,563 | 1,251 | †4,006 | ..... | 30,232 |
| Dredges, Steamers and Plant | 708,006 | 22,796 | 4,772 | 1,439 | ..... | ..... | 29,007 |
| Other Jetties and Works | 165,192 | 5,319 | 1,189 | 336 | †15,720 | ..... | 22,564 |
| Cockburn Sound | 1,172,661 | 37,758 | 5,907 | 2,384 | 5,417 | ..... | 40,632 |
| (c) | 12,273,032 | 395,169 | 87,236 | 24,947 | 60,148 | ..... | 447,204 |
| <i>Water Supplies.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Metropolitan | 15,273,248 | 491,770 | 106,338 | 31,045 | 823,984 | 194,831 | ..... |
| Comprehensive Water Supply—Northern | 5,990,511 | 193,173 | 42,835 | 12,195 | †241,627 | ..... | 489,830 |
| Comprehensive Water Supply—Southern | 975,335 | 31,404 | 5,614 | 1,982 | †3,836 | ..... | 42,636 |
| Country Towns | 2,312,618 | 74,462 | 14,928 | 4,701 | †67,752 | ..... | 161,843 |
| Other Water Supplies | 2,451,785 | 78,943 | 18,633 | 4,984 | †61,022 | ..... | 183,582 |
| Irrigation and Drainage | 4,048,182 | 130,344 | 30,137 | 8,229 | †101,145 | ..... | 269,855 |
| Sewerage for Country Towns | 301,921 | 9,721 | 2,036 | 614 | 3,716 | ..... | 8,656 |
| | 31,362,600 | 1,009,817 | 220,521 | 63,750 | 352,317 | ..... | 941,771 |
| <i>Trading Concerns.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Wyndham Meatworks | 1,071,445 | 34,499 | 8,198 | 2,178 | 30,000 | ..... | 14,875 |
| Brickworks | 875,792 | 28,199 | 6,474 | 1,780 | 41,414 | 4,961 | ..... |
| Engineering Works | 143,682 | 4,626 | 1,144 | 292 | 37,553 | 31,491 | ..... |
| Saw Mills | 1,402,696 | 45,164 | 9,824 | 2,651 | 119,510 | 61,671 | ..... |
| Shipping Service | 1,485,566 | 47,833 | 5,708 | 3,020 | †547,855 | ..... | 604,416 |
| Hotels | 81,176 | 2,614 | 601 | 165 | 9,113 | 5,733 | ..... |
| West Australian Meat Export Works | 273,025 | 8,791 | 2,106 | 555 | 14,083 | 2,611 | ..... |
| | 5,233,382 | 171,726 | 34,055 | 10,841 | †296,202 | ..... | 512,824 |
| <i>Development of Agriculture.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Soldiers' Land Settlement (d) | 1,934,364 | 62,283 | 14,802 | 3,932 | 11,049 | ..... | 69,968 |
| Rural and Industries Bank | 8,543,815 | 275,095 | 61,045 | 17,367 | 265,042 | ..... | 83,465 |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency and Delegated Agency | 553,623 | 17,826 | 8,925 | 1,126 | †766 | ..... | 28,643 |
| Group Settlement | 2,955,747 | 95,170 | 22,616 | 6,008 | ..... | ..... | 123,794 |
| Rabbit-proof Fence | 332,527 | 10,707 | 2,544 | 676 | ..... | ..... | 13,927 |
| Generally | 3,800,319 | 106,264 | 24,987 | 6,708 | †41,364 | ..... | 179,323 |
| | 17,620,395 | 567,345 | 134,919 | 35,817 | 233,961 | ..... | 504,120 |

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

† Debit.

[Return No. 16—continued.]

IV.—PUBLIC DEBT.

DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1954-55—continued.

| Undertaking. | Loan Liability. | Capital Charges. (a) | | | Net Earnings. | Surplus. | Deficiency. |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| | | Interest. | Sinking Fund. | Exchange. | | | |
| <i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i> | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Midland Junction | 779,332 | 25,098 | 6,820 | 1,584 | 31,686 | .... | 1,611 |
| Kalgoorlie Abattoirs | 84,152 | 2,710 | 643 | 171 | 4,187 | 643 | .... |
| Generally | 89,866 | 2,898 | 688 | 183 | 12,159 | 8,395 | .... |
| | 953,350 | 30,696 | 7,951 | 1,938 | 48,012 | 7,427 | .... |
| <i>Development of Mining.</i> | | | | | | | |
| State Batteries | 498,198 | 16,041 | 3,669 | 1,013 | †88,209 | .... | 108,932 |
| Generally | 1,782,747 | 57,401 | 13,014 | 3,824 | 11,295 | .... | 62,744 |
| | 2,280,945 | 73,442 | 16,683 | 4,837 | †76,914 | .... | 171,676 |
| <i>Public Buildings.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Education (Including Narrogin School of Agriculture and Muresk College of Agriculture) | 7,759,686 | 249,248 | 49,879 | 15,773 | †228,955 | .... | 544,455 |
| Police Stations, Quarters, etc. | 307,711 | 9,908 | 1,968 | 625 | †48,380 | .... | 60,881 |
| Court House, Quarters, etc. | 53,765 | 1,731 | 361 | 109 | † 8,680 | .... | 10,881 |
| Gasls | 103,343 | 3,327 | 718 | 210 | †49,484 | .... | 53,739 |
| Hospitals | 4,773,752 | 153,706 | 32,898 | 9,704 | 88,912 | .... | 107,136 |
| Institutions | 988,728 | 31,835 | 6,957 | 2,010 | †28,118 | .... | 63,920 |
| Buildings generally | 1,278,165 | 4,154 | 9,082 | 2,598 | †77,536 | .... | 130,369 |
| | 15,285,150 | 491,500 | 101,603 | 31,029 | †352,240 | .... | 976,381 |
| <i>All Other.</i> | | | | | | | |
| Aborigines Stations | 145,852 | 4,696 | 1,116 | 297 | †327,280 | .... | 333,389 |
| Assistance to Industries | 663,873 | 21,375 | 1,587 | 1,349 | 20,949 | .... | 3,362 |
| Bulk Handling at Ports | 260,973 | 8,402 | 1,834 | 531 | 12,860 | 2,113 | .... |
| Ferries | 10,120 | 326 | 73 | 21 | †4,405 | .... | 4,825 |
| Loans to Public Bodies | 14,418 | 464 | 117 | 29 | 319 | .... | 291 |
| Metropolitan Markets | 143,257 | 4,613 | 1,114 | 291 | 3,187 | 2,169 | .... |
| Miscellaneous | 974,666 | 31,883 | 7,483 | 1,981 | 2,644 | .... | 38,183 |
| Fire Planting and Re-forestation | 1,950,897 | 62,815 | 14,113 | 3,966 | 50,766 | .... | 30,128 |
| Plant Suspense | 1,095,058 | 35,195 | 8,134 | 2,222 | 25,478 | .... | 20,073 |
| Roads and Bridges | 3,214,443 | 103,499 | 26,200 | 6,534 | 77,396 | .... | 58,337 |
| Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry | 1,322,446 | 42,580 | 10,331 | 2,688 | 14,687 | .... | 40,962 |
| Tourist Resorts | 145,813 | 4,695 | 1,111 | 296 | †25,466 | .... | 31,568 |
| State Housing Commission | 3,657,245 | 117,757 | 16,665 | 7,434 | 121,437 | .... | 20,419 |
| Campion Alluvial Deposits | 50,000 | 1,610 | 1,684 | 102 | .... | .... | 3,396 |
| Welshpool Industries | 362,165 | 11,661 | 2,712 | 736 | 1,984 | .... | 13,125 |
| Kwinana Area Development | 357,167 | 11,500 | 2,243 | 726 | 642 | .... | 13,827 |
| Kwinana Area Housing | 1,679,500 | 54,077 | 12,261 | 3,414 | 103,722 | 33,970 | .... |
| Special Deficit Loans | 4,643,960 | 47,277 | 70,230 | .... | .... | .... | 117,507 |
| Deficits Funded | 58,868 | 1,895 | 1,201 | 120 | .... | .... | 3,216 |
| Balance of General Loan Fund | 512,650 | 16,506 | 13,189 | 1,042 | .... | .... | 30,737 |
| | 21,261,371 | 582,326 | 103,378 | 33,779 | 53,890 | .... | 725,593 |
| TOTAL | 177,881,349 | 5,625,199 | 1,308,274 | 352,138 | †1,473,853 | .... | 8,754,464 |
| Public Debt, 30th June, 1955 | 177,881,349 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |

† Debit.

(a) Actual Expenditure averaged over all assets.

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

(c) To this should be added £385,524 included in Railway Capital in respect of the following Harbours and Jetties—Busselton, £37,997; Geraldton, £282,488; Esperance, £65,039.

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

(e) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

[Return No. 17.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

(a) Public Utilities.

| Public Utility. | Return No. | Trading Results 1954-55 | |
|--|------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | Profit. | Loss. |
| Fremantle Harbour Trust | 18 | £ | £ |
| Country Areas Water Supply | 19 | .... | 9,350 |
| Other Hydraulic Undertakings ..... | .... | (a) | 555,106 |
| Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage | 20 | 86,649 | (a) |
| Railways Commission | 21 | .... | 3,809,522 |
| Tramways | 22 | .... | 188,615 |
| Ferries | 23 | .... | 5,766 |
| State Batteries | 24 | .... | 114,138 |
| Caves House | 25 | .... | 5,688 |
| Total—Net Loss ..... | .... | .... | 4,601,536 |

(a) No composite commercial accounts are prepared.

In Return 16 the average cost of Servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Return 17-25 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.

[Return No. 18.]

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 3,119,590 | 3,570,368 | 4,035,606 | 4,128,141 | 4,357,010 |
| Revenue Capital | 394,492 | 310,170 | 259,199 | 247,270 | 229,437 |
| Total | 3,514,082 | 3,880,538 | 4,294,805 | 4,375,411 | 4,586,447 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 1,497,436 | 1,923,402 | 1,815,520 | 2,029,053 | 2,214,454 |
| Working Expenses | 983,358 | 1,354,466 | 1,430,592 | 1,579,741 | 1,772,385 |
| Interest | 119,067 | 124,593 | 142,006 | 159,642 | 164,544 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 146,217 | 186,405 | 242,397 | 281,834 | 284,875 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total Annual Cost | 1,250,642 | 1,667,464 | 1,816,995 | 2,023,017 | 2,223,804 |
| Profit | 246,794 | 255,938 | .... | 6,036 | .... |
| Loss ..... | .... | .... | 1,475 | .... | 9,350 |

[Return No. 19.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 6,622,977 | £ 7,000,665 | £ 7,305,150 | £ 7,532,087 | £ 7,928,616 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 359,468 | 366,755 | 398,057 | 432,502 | 443,096 |
| Working Expenses | 415,152 | 510,211 | 692,473 | 728,562 | 643,612 |
| Interest | 161,710 | 184,214 | 197,395 | 211,299 | 216,174 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 94,370 | 107,489 | 118,677 | 129,097 | 136,898 |
| Provisions and Other Charges.... | 2,086 | 4,484 | 1,491 | 2,639 | 1,518 |
| Total Annual Cost | 673,318 | 806,398 | 1,010,036 | 1,071,597 | 998,202 |
| Loss | 313,850 | 439,643 | 611,979 | 639,095 | 555,106 |

[Return No. 20.]

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 10,199,805 | £ 11,273,319 | £ 12,637,095 | £ 13,897,638 | £ 15,273,248 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 776,994 | 883,789 | 1,021,410 | 1,353,975 | 1,548,725 |
| Working Expenses | 347,567 | 445,032 | 546,820 | 644,540 | 752,316 |
| Interest | 394,523 | 434,971 | 478,478 | 536,613 | 587,432 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 55,985 | 88,448 | 97,886 | 107,831 | 122,328 |
| Total Annual Cost | 798,075 | 968,451 | 1,123,184 | 1,288,984 | 1,482,076 |
| Profit ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 64,991 | 86,649 |
| Loss | 21,081 | 84,662 | 101,774 | ..... | ..... |

[Return No. 21.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

RAILWAYS COMMISSION.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 19,256,385 | 26,373,297 | 32,827,629 | 38,360,642 | 43,091,496 |
| Loan Capital—non-interest bearing | 12,326,349 | 12,326,349 | 12,326,349 | 12,326,349 | 12,326,349 |
| Total | 31,582,734 | 38,699,646 | 45,153,978 | 50,686,991 | 55,417,845 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 7,196,214 | 9,163,532 | 7,972,259 | 11,374,307 | 12,530,410 |
| Working Expenses | 8,618,863 | 10,601,918 | 12,023,188 | 13,653,573 | 13,820,881 |
| Interest | 741,592 | 744,903 | 869,919 | 1,175,667 | 1,447,458 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 520,583 | 660,394 | 777,043 | 908,365 | 1,071,593 |
| Rehabilitation of fully depreciated assets ..... | ..... | ..... | (a) 184,865 | (a) 161,306 | ..... |
| Total Annual Cost | 9,881,038 | 12,007,215 | 13,855,015 | 15,888,911 | 16,339,932 |
| Loss | 2,684,824 | 2,843,683 | 5,882,756 | 4,514,604 | 3,809,522 |

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

[Return No. 22.]

TRAMWAYS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 1,796,685 | 1,341,121 | 1,528,704 | 1,377,268 | 1,295,508 |
| Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing ..... | ..... | 593,426 | 591,932 | 665,375 | 664,844 |
| Total | 1,796,685 | 1,934,547 | 2,120,636 | 2,042,643 | 1,960,352 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 744,890 | 982,375 | 1,114,678 | 1,065,659 | 1,027,100 |
| Working Expenses | 733,555 | 955,861 | 1,055,036 | 1,062,085 | 1,060,070 |
| Interest | 37,056 | 51,140 | 54,072 | 57,696 | 52,325 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 56,481 | 86,719 | 102,571 | 102,790 | 103,320 |
| Provisions and Other Charges ..... | ..... | ..... | 19,400 | ..... | ..... |
| Total Annual Cost | 827,092 | 1,093,720 | 1,231,079 | 1,222,571 | 1,215,715 |
| Loss | 82,202 | 111,345 | 116,401 | 156,912 | 188,615 |

[Return No. 23.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

FERRIES.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 12,486 | £ 11,070 | £ 10,303 | £ 9,612 | £ 10,120 |
| Revenue Capital | 1,638 | 1,521 | 1,404 | 1,287 | 1,170 |
| Total | 14,124 | 12,591 | 11,707 | 10,899 | 11,290 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 10,311 | 11,472 | 12,384 | 10,754 | 11,480 |
| Working Expenses | 15,032 | 16,348 | 18,179 | 18,272 | 15,962 |
| Interest | 517 | 458 | 428 | 399 | 397 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 1,016 | 883 | 882 | 886 | 887 |
| Total Annual Cost | 16,565 | 17,689 | 19,489 | 19,557 | 17,246 |
| Loss | 6,254 | 6,217 | 7,105 | 8,803 | 5,766 |

[Return No. 24.]

STATE BATTERIES.

| Details. | 1950. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1954. |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 422,137 | £ 424,660 | £ 427,609 | £ 443,252 | £ 475,465 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 82,163 | 77,151 | 76,580 | 47,644 | 47,878 |
| Working Expenses | 106,871 | 138,171 | 148,447 | 130,963 | 128,588 |
| Interest | 16,737 | 16,986 | 17,105 | 17,730 | 19,018 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 10,144 | 13,713 | 11,888 | 15,982 | 12,443 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 1,481 | 1,363 | 1,772 | 1,795 | 1,967 |
| Total Annual Cost | 135,233 | 170,233 | 179,212 | 166,470 | 162,016 |
| Loss | 53,070 | 93,082 | 102,632 | 118,826 | 114,138 |

[Return No. 25.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

CAVES HOUSE.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 33,016 | 34,127 | 34,127 | 34,206 | 34,829 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 24,063 | 31,353 | 31,544 | 34,106 | 35,094 |
| Working Expenses | 23,867 | 30,127 | 31,518 | 35,351 | 38,923 |
| Interest | 1,302 | 1,365 | 1,365 | 1,368 | 1,393 |
| Depreciation | 258 | 330 | 308 | 342 | 466 |
| Total Annual Cost | 25,427 | 31,822 | 33,191 | 37,061 | 40,782 |
| Loss | 1,364 | 469 | 1,647 | 2,955 | 5,688 |

[Return No. 26.]

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

(b) State Trading Concerns.

| Trading Concern. | Return No. | Trading Results, 1953-54. | |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------|
| | | Profit. | Loss. |
| | | £ | £ |
| State Engineering Works | 27 | 33,565 | .... |
| State Brickworks | 28 | .... | 2,603 |
| State Sawmills | 29 | 58,554 | .... |
| State Shipping Service (a) | 30 | .... | .... |
| Wyndham Meat Works | 31 | 22,285 | .... |
| State Hotels | 32 | 4,905 | .... |
| W.A. Meat Export Works | 33 | 476 | .... |
| Total—Net Profit .... | .... | 117,182 | .... |

(a) After receipt of Treasury Grant of £535,064

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

[Return No. 27.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
STATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 152,255 | £ 152,632 | £ 151,286 | £ 149,522 | £ |
| Earnings | 402,613 | 488,467 | 500,790 | 493,942 | |
| Increase in Stocks | 6,487 | | | 10,019 | |
| Decrease in Stocks | | 18,082 | 3,339 | | |
| Total Annual Revenue | 409,100 | 470,385 | 497,451 | 503,961 | Details not Available. |
| Working Expenses | 350,060 | 401,126 | 420,642 | 422,897 | |
| Interest | 6,124 | 6,550 | 8,971 | 6,774 | |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | (a) 18,436 | (a) 18,774 | (a) 18,906 | (a) 24,753 | |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 11,460 | 14,609 | 15,380 | 16,172 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 386,080 | 441,059 | 461,899 | 470,396 | |
| Profit | 23,020 | 29,326 | 35,552 | 33,565 | |

(a) Includes Sinking Fund charged, in the accounts of the Concern as follows:—
£1,076 £1,122 £1,180. £1,232

[Return No. 28.]

STATE BRICKWORKS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| Loan Capital | £ 187,197 | £ 432,197 | £ 817,868 | £ 846,118 | £ |
| Earnings | 92,273 | 139,799 | 234,250 | 374,862 | |
| Increase in Stocks | 305 | 5,419 | 2,934 | 556 | |
| Decrease in Stocks | | | | | |
| Total Annual Revenue | 92,578 | 145,218 | 237,184 | 375,418 | Details not Available. |
| Working Expenses | 84,163 | 139,797 | 215,055 | 308,594 | |
| Interest | 2,946 | 3,002 | 7,805 | 28,006 | |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 4,652 | 7,585 | 15,412 | 40,472 | |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 1,350 | 2,628 | 3,666 | 950 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 93,111 | 153,012 | 241,938 | 378,021 | |
| Profit | | | | | |
| Loss | 533 | 7,794 | 4,754 | 2,603 | |

[Return No. 29.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

STATE SAW MILLS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 537,390 | 672,394 | 980,273 | 1,125,959 | |
| Earnings | 1,206,682 | 1,534,650 | 2,054,587 | 2,293,301 | Details not Available. |
| Increase in Stocks | 64,183 | 131,576 | | 28,608 | |
| Decrease in Stocks | | | 5,271 | | |
| Total Annual Revenue | 1,270,865 | 1,666,226 | 2,049,316 | 2,321,909 | |
| Working Expenses | 1,178,111 | 1,586,231 | 1,856,353 | 2,149,939 | |
| Interest | 17,889 | 31,157 | 39,582 | 39,332 | |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund (a) | 22,215 | 32,521 | 53,303 | 60,009 | |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 23,549 | 9,497 | 22,401 | 14,075 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 1,241,764 | 1,659,406 | 1,971,639 | 2,263,355 | |
| Profit | 29,101 | 6,820 | 77,677 | 58,554 | |

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

[Return No. 80.]

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

| Details. | 1950. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1954. |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital (a) | 386,396 | 388,896 | 497,898 | 495,519 | 1,071,073 |
| Earnings | 421,736 | 498,579 | 587,491 | 645,797 | 730,685 |
| Treasury Grant | 259,316 | 360,818 | 495,568 | 588,274 | 535,064 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 681,052 | 859,397 | 1,083,059 | 1,234,071 | 1,265,749 |
| Working Expenses | 669,667 | 851,408 | 1,029,887 | 1,185,141 | 1,175,921 |
| Interest | 14,953 | 16,229 | 19,091 | 20,512 | 27,983 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | (b) 11,193 | (b) 9,399 | 21,833 | 21,119 | 35,809 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 11,676 | 9,989 | 12,248 | 7,299 | 26,036 |
| Total Annual Cost | 707,489 | 887,025 | 1,083,059 | 1,234,071 | 1,265,749 |
| Loss | 26,437 | 27,628 | .... | .... | .... |

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

(b) Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern but included for comparison as follows :—
£1,832. £1,945

[Return No. 31.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

| Details. | 1-2-50 to 31-1-51. | 1-2-51 to 31-1-52. | 1-2-52 to 31-1-53. | 1-2-53 to 31-1-54. | 1-2-54 to 31-1-55. |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 1,072,271 | 1,071,545 | 1,071,545 | 1,071,495 | 1,071,445 |
| Revenue Capital | 11,273 | 11,273 | 11,273 | 11,273 | 11,273 |
| Total | 1,083,544 | 1,082,818 | 1,082,818 | 1,082,768 | 1,082,718 |
| Earnings | 786,394 | 886,685 | 770,881 | 978,289 | 1,026,696 |
| Increase in Stocks .... | ..... | 520 | ..... | 4,484 | ..... |
| Decrease in Stocks | 43 | ..... | 509 | ..... | 3,871 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 786,351 | 887,205 | 770,372 | 982,773 | 1,022,825 |
| Working Expenses | 713,409 | 818,648 | 714,489 | 902,268 | 938,410 |
| Interest | 42,891 | 42,868 | 42,862 | 42,862 | 42,860 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund (a) | 5,362 | 5,358 | 5,358 | 5,358 | 5,357 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 10,000 | 10,000 | 6,985 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Total Annual Cost | 771,662 | 876,874 | 769,694 | 960,488 | 996,627 |
| Profit | 14,689 | 10,331 | 678 | 22,285 | 26,198 |
| Loss .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

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

| | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| £5,362 | £5,358 | £5,358 | £5,358 | £5,357 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

[Return No. 32.]

STATE HOTELS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 65,589 | 65,095 | 69,649 | 78,516 | 81,176 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 159,822 | 190,281 | 211,971 | 221,285 | 216,893 |
| Working Expenses | 145,736 | 174,806 | 200,856 | 207,525 | 203,935 |
| Interest | 2,673 | 2,623 | 2,685 | 3,005 | 3,210 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 2,469 | 2,557 | 2,854 | 3,850 | 4,769 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 2,000 | 2,000 | ..... | 2,000 | ..... |
| Total Annual Cost | 152,878 | 181,986 | 206,395 | 216,380 | 211,914 |
| Profit | 6,944 | 8,295 | 5,576 | 4,905 | 4,979 |

[Return No. 33.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

WEST AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORT WORKS.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 262,579 | 260,723 | 258,783 | 275,236 | 273,025 |
| Revenue Capital | 7,380 | 7,380 | .... | .... | .... |
| Total | 269,959 | 268,103 | 258,783 | 275,236 | 237,025 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 263,765 | 342,514 | 436,331 | 343,038 | 462,156 |
| Working Expenses | 224,138 | 292,007 | 376,626 | 318,249 | 405,689 |
| Interest | 10,504 | 10,835 | 10,663 | 10,343 | 9,159 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 15,712 | 23,627 | 23,629 | 12,164 | 31,558 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 4,254 | 6,518 | 9,596 | 1,806 | 4,616 |
| Total Annual Cost | 254,608 | 332,887 | 420,414 | 342,562 | 451,022 |
| Profit | 9,157 | 9,627 | 15,917 | 476 | 11,134 |
| Loss .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |

[Return No. 34.]

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.

C. Other Business Undertakings.

| Undertaking. | Return No. | Trading Results 1953-54. | |
|---|------------|--------------------------|--------|
| | | Profit. | Loss. |
| | | £ | £ |
| State Electricity Commission | 35 | 120,791 | .... |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Rural Department | 36 | 23,837 | .... |
| Rural and Industries Bank—Government Agency Department | 37 | .... | 12,601 |
| State Government Insurance Office | 38 | 125,540 | .... |
| Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry | 39 | .... | 66,275 |
| Albany Harbour Board | 40 | 4,071 | .... |
| Bunbury Harbour Board | 41 | .... | 92,971 |
| Metropolitan Market Trust | 42 | 56 | .... |
| Total—Net Profit .... | .... | 102,448 | .... |

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

Return No. 35.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 8,255,022 | 11,502,021 | 11,433,525 | 11,917,577 | 12,407,742 |
| Loan Capital—Non-interest bearing | 1,272,666 | 1,272,666 | 1,272,666 | 1,272,666 | 1,272,666 |
| Total | 9,527,688 | 12,774,687 | 12,706,191 | 13,190,243 | 13,680,409 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 2,694,610 | 3,848,664 | 5,030,459 | 5,726,390 | 6,396,346 |
| Working Expenses | 2,617,899 | 3,685,525 | 4,471,334 | 4,998,736 | 5,411,951 |
| Interest | 146,903 | 282,872 | 512,507 | 606,863 | 761,912 |
| Total Annual Cost | 2,764,802 | 3,968,397 | 4,983,841 | 5,605,599 | 6,173,863 |
| Profit ..... | ..... | ..... | 46,618 | 120,791 | 222,483 |
| Loss | 70,192 | 119,733 | ..... | ..... | ..... |

[Return No. 36.]

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

Financial Years ending 30th September.

| Details. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1954. | 1955. |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 6,729,885 | 6,921,351 | 7,447,141 | 8,553,725 | ..... |
| Total Annual Revenue | 416,341 | 511,548 | 550,239 | 680,814 | Details not Available. |
| Working Expenses | 157,472 | 224,002 | 246,895 | 273,450 | |
| Interest | 193,728 | 215,070 | 225,313 | 252,716 | |
| Depreciation | 10,637 | 16,692 | 20,468 | 44,356 | |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 37,668 | 38,335 | 36,289 | 86,455 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 399,505 | 494,099 | 528,965 | 656,977 | |
| Profit | 16,836 | 17,449 | 21,274 | 23,837 | |
| General Reserve | 105,973 | 123,422 | 144,696 | 168,533 | |

[Return No. 37.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK OF W.A.

(Government Agency Department.)

Financial Years ending 30th September.

| Details. | 1951. | 1952. | 1953. | 1954. | 1955. |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 1,083,070 | 828,993 | 653,505 | 443,656 | Details not Available. |
| Total Annual Revenue | 63,016 | 42,492 | 28,487 | 20,603 | |
| Working Expenses | 57,835 | 36,145 | 22,245 | 15,794 | |
| Interest | 61,208 | 38,923 | 30,703 | 19,683 | |
| Bad Debts | 31,310 | 4,934 | 848 | (a) 2,273Cr. | |
| Total Annual Cost | 150,353 | 80,002 | 53,796 | 33,204 | Details not Available. |
| Loss | 87,337 | 37,510 | 25,309 | 12,601 | |

(a) Recoveries from Previous Years.

[Return No. 38.]

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Total Assets | 1,475,757 | 1,770,839 | 2,025,898 | 2,215,657 | Details not Available. |
| Earned Premiums | 430,145 | 504,796 | 552,781 | 453,829 | |
| Other Revenue (Interest and Rents) | 34,793 | 41,682 | 50,403 | 59,529 | |
| Total Annual Revenue | 464,938 | 546,478 | 603,184 | 513,358 | |
| Claims Paid and Outstanding | 221,137 | 196,004 | 336,977 | 339,723 | |
| Working Expenses (including Taxes, Rebates, etc.) | 35,365 | 50,230 | 68,588 | 48,095 | Details not Available. |
| Total Annual Cost | 259,502 | 246,234 | 405,565 | 387,818 | |
| Taken to Reserves— | | | | | |
| Surplus | 205,436 | 300,246 | 197,619 | 125,540 | Details not Available. |
| Deficiency | | | | | |
| Total Reserves | 1,182,949 | 1,483,195 | 1,680,814 | 1,806,354 | |

[Return No. 39.]

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

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 1,131,518 | 1,182,792 | 1,271,031 | 1,350,168 | 1,322,445 |
| Earnings | 217,191 | 336,210 | 323,718 | 381,840 | 596,693 |
| Increase in Stocks | 48,334 | 47,674 | 93,325 | 42,611 | .... |
| Decrease in Stocks .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 92,171 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 265,525 | 383,884 | 417,043 | 424,451 | 504,522 |
| Working Expenses | 292,772 | 382,246 | 375,222 | 399,400 | 459,684 |
| Interest | 36,316 | 45,217 | 47,936 | 53,545 | 54,685 |
| Depreciation | 37,527 | 34,721 | 37,620 | 37,781 | 41,670 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 95 | .... | 669 | .... | 59 |
| Total Annual Cost | 366,710 | 462,184 | 461,447 | 490,726 | 556,098 |
| Loss | 101,185 | 78,300 | 44,404 | 66,275 | 51,576 |

[Return No. 40.]

ALBANY HARBOUR BOARD.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 289,208 | 828,976 | 1,203,635 | 1,362,166 | Details not Available. |
| Total Annual Revenue | 27,691 | 31,620 | 35,520 | 32,281 | |
| Working Expenses | 16,479 | 27,939 | 30,304 | 22,892 | |
| Interest | 4,466 | 5,029 | 5,318 | 5,318 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 20,945 | 32,968 | 35,622 | 28,210 | |
| Profit | 6,746 | | | 4,071 | |
| Loss .... | .... | 1,348 | 102 | .... |  |

[Return No. 41.]

BUNBURY HARBOUR BOARD.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 1,002,244 | 1,259,942 | 1,332,846 | 1,371,970 | Details not Available. |
| Total Annual Revenue | 20,600 | 21,159 | 29,468 | 34,147 | |
| Working Expenses | 42,747 | 49,180 | 60,296 | 73,513 | |
| Interest | 32,640 | 40,090 | 50,398 | 53,314 | |
| Depreciation | 426 | 399 | 260 | 291 | |
| Total Annual Cost | 75,813 | 89,669 | 110,954 | 127,118 | |
| Loss | 55,213 | 68,510 | 81,486 | 92,971 | |

[Return No. 42.]

V.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.
METROPOLITAN MARKET TRUST.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Loan Capital | 166,556 | 173,899 | 180,949 | 195,351 | 191,444 |
| Total Annual Revenue | 26,469 | 28,008 | 32,803 | 41,929 | 43,128 |
| Working Expenses | 12,516 | 15,840 | 19,166 | 21,979 | 22,745 |
| Interest | 6,828 | 6,881 | 6,993 | 7,470 | 7,928 |
| Depreciation including Sinking Fund | 2,380 | 2,657 | 2,950 | 4,599 | 4,906 |
| Provisions and Other Charges | 4,165 | 3,279 | 3,635 | 7,824 | 7,543 |
| Total Annual Cost | 25,889 | 28,657 | 32,744 | 41,872 | 43,122 |
| Profit | 580 | .... | 59 | 56 | 6 |
| Loss .... | .... | 649 | .... | .... | .... |

[Return No. 43.]

VI.—TRUST FUNDS.

HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| <i>Receipts.</i> | | | | | |
| Balance from previous year | 744 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Treasury Grants | 1,392,047 | 2,000,269 | 2,036,918 | 2,350,047 | 2,504,499 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 2,043 | 2,210 | 18,408 | 29,639 | 1,845 |
| | 1,394,864 | 2,003,479 | 2,055,326 | 2,379,686 | 2,506,344 |
| <i>Payments.</i> | | | | | |
| Administration Expenditure | 21,048 | 30,320 | 37,008 | 45,636 | 51,566 |
| Hospitals Expenditure— | | | | | |
| Departmental | 410,811 | 617,370 | 694,911 | 748,761 | 826,445 |
| Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc. | 921,166 | 1,264,647 | 1,267,379 | 1,511,052 | 1,522,624 |
| Miscellaneous | 41,839 | 91,142 | 56,028 | 74,237 | 105,709 |
| Balance at end of year .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| | 1,394,864 | 2,003,479 | 2,055,326 | 2,379,686 | 2,506,344 |

[Return No. 44.]

VI.—TRUST FUNDS.

ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1954-55.

| Details. | Main Roads Trust. | Common- wealth Aid Roads, 1950 and 1954 | Metro- politan Traffic Trust Account. | Total. |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Balances from year 1953-54 | 235,667 | 154,203 | 93,475 | 483,345 |
| Receipts during year— | | | | |
| License Fees and Permits | .... | .... | 584,454 | 584,454 |
| Recoups by Local Authorities | 273,886 | .... | .... | 273,886 |
| Commonwealth Government Recoup | 8,816 | .... | .... | 8,816 |
| Commonwealth Grants | .... | 4,389,503 | .... | 4,389,503 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 8,925 | .... | .... | 8,925 |
| Other Receipts in Suspense | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| | 527,294 | 4,543,706 | 677,929 | 5,748,929 |
| Transfer to Other Funds | .... | 253,470 | 95,139 | 348,609 |
| Transfer from Other Funds | 348,609 | .... | .... | 348,609 |
| Totals | 875,903 | 4,290,236 | 582,790 | 5,748,929 |
| Payments during year— | | | | |
| Administration, Plant, Office Equipment, etc. | 208,531 | .... | 62,626 | 271,157 |
| Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund | .... | .... | 70,000 | 70,000 |
| Treasury—Interest and Sinking Fund | 7,396 | .... | .... | 7,396 |
| Road Construction, Maintenance Surveys, etc. | 318,529 | 3,569,629 | .... | 3,888,158 |
| Distribution to Local and Statutory Authorities | .... | .... | 323,410 | 323,410 |
| Traffic Control Lights, etc. | .... | .... | 21,156 | 21,156 |
| Other payments in Suspense | 3,866 | .... | .... | 3,866 |
| Totals | 538,322 | 3,569,629 | 477,192 | 4,585,143 |
| Balances on hand at 30th June, 1955 | 337,581 | 720,607 | 105,598 | 1,163,786 |

[Return No. 45.]

VI TRUST FUNDS.

FOREST IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS,
1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <i>Receipts.</i> | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Balance from previous year | 947 | 460 | 1,883 | 217 | 10,834 |
| Appropriation from Revenue Fund | 150,314 | 188,651 | 250,165 | 294,980 | 328,838 |
| Treasury—Special Grant | 112,000 | 114,000 | 83,248 | 164,500 | 159,000 |
| Sundry Receipts | 59,179 | 59,393 | 103,711 | 125,544 | 237,254 |
| | 322,440 | 362,504 | 439,007 | 585,241 | 735,926 |
| <i>Payments.</i> | | | | | |
| Expenditure on Forest Improvements and Re-forestation during year | 321,980 | 360,621 | 438,790 | 574,407 | 735,682 |
| Balance at end of year | 460 | 1,883 | 217 | 10,834 | 244 |
| | 322,440 | 362,504 | 439,007 | 585,241 | 735,926 |

[Return No. 46.]

THE STATE HOUSING COMMISSION FUNDS—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS,
1950-51 TO 1954-55.

| Details. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55. |
|--|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Balance—Brought forward | 245,958 | 57,343 | Dr. 262,852 | 443,437 | 182,122 |
| Receipts during year— | | | | | |
| General Loan Fund | | 198,634 | 1,427,000 | | 1,598,000 |
| Other Borrowings | | | 170,000 | 500,000 | |
| Sale of Land and Leases | 12,328 | 37,629 | 57,854 | 44,699 | 51,769 |
| Rents | 3,251 | 5,484 | 7,684 | 9,475 | 10,149 |
| Principal Interest and Repayments from | | | | | |
| Borrowers | 93,464 | 95,309 | 114,161 | 166,758 | 224,493 |
| Construction | 102 | 2,096 | 26,431 | 3,470 | 133,544 |
| Fees and Agency Commissions | 186,078 | 246,094 | 319,315 | 328,538 | 341,556 |
| Other Revenue | 64,841 | 76,074 | 108,849 | 68,307 | 270,222 |
| Total Receipts | 360,064 | 661,320 | 2,231,294 | 1,121,247 | 2,629,733 |
| Payments during year :— | | | | | |
| Repayment of Borrowed Funds | 16,947 | 15,305 | 19,215 | 28,157 | 27,862 |
| Construction | 129,645 | 482,969 | 825,373 | 538,675 | 2,178,784 |
| Purchase of Land and Leases | 50,152 | 82,041 | 145,541 | 100,850 | 230,587 |
| Revenue Vote—Administration | 203,691 | 266,816 | 318,673 | 360,561 | 405,916 |
| Interest | 14,405 | 21,096 | 65,212 | 76,422 | 134,877 |
| Other | 133,839 | 113,288 | 150,990 | 277,897 | 161,191 |
| Total Payments | 548,679 | 981,515 | 1,525,004 | 1,362,562 | 3,139,217 |
| Balance on hand 30th June | 57,343 | 262,852 Dr. | 443,437 | 182,122 | 327,362 Dr. |

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

| Year. | Contribution towards Interest. | Surplus Revenue Returned. | Payment per Head, 25s. | Special Payment to W.A. | Grant Under Sec. 96. | Income Tax Reimbursement. | Tuberculosis Financial Aid. | Mental Institutions Benefits. | Immigration Subsidies. | Other Receipts. | Total. |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Period Covered by Braddon Clause. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) 1901-02 to 1910-11 | £ | £ 8,872,722 | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ 8,872,722 |
| Period Covered by Per Capita Payments and Special Payment to W.A. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1911-12 to 1926-27 | £ | £ | £ 6,632,264 | £ 2,556,248 | £ 565,905 | £ | £ | £ | £ | (p) £ 462,010 | £ 10,216,427 |
| Period Covered by Financial Agreement Act. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1927-28 | (c) 463,286 | £ | £ | £ | 300,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | (g) 25,775 | 809,061 |
| 1928-29 | (c) 463,578 | £ | £ | £ | 300,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | (p) 47,868 | 811,446 |
| 1929-30 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 300,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 773,432 |
| 1930-31 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 300,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 773,432 |
| 1931-32 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 300,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 773,432 |
| 1932-33 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 500,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 973,432 |
| 1933-34 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 600,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,073,432 |
| 1934-35 | 473,432 | £ | £ | £ | 600,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,206,432 |
| 1935-36 | 473,432 | (d) 133,000 | £ | £ | 800,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,306,432 |
| 1936-37 | 473,432 | (d) 35,000 | £ | £ | 800,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,306,432 |
| 1937-38 | 473,432 | (d) 33,000 | £ | £ | 500,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,006,432 |
| 1938-39 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 575,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,048,432 |
| 1939-40 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 570,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,048,432 |
| 1940-41 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 595,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,068,432 |
| 1941-42 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 650,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,123,432 |
| 1942-43 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 650,000 | £ | £ | £ | £ | | 1,103,432 |
| 1943-44 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 800,000 | 2,546,000 | £ | £ | £ | (h) 73,640 | 3,893,072 |
| 1944-45 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 850,000 | 2,546,000 | £ | £ | £ | (h) 95,188 | 3,967,018 |
| 1945-46 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 904,000 | 2,546,000 | £ | £ | £ | (h) 95,188 | 4,021,018 |
| 1946-47 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 950,000 | (e) 3,458,559 | £ | £ | £ | (h) 95,188 | 4,980,177 |
| 1947-48 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 1,873,000 | 3,384,000 | £ | £ | £ | | 5,730,432 |
| 1948-49 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 2,977,000 | 3,807,000 | £ | £ | 12,292 | (i) 3,190 | 7,272,914 |
| 1949-50 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 3,600,000 | 4,494,032 | 4,400 | £ | 4,225 | (j) 48,065 | 8,625,354 |
| 1950-51 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 5,618,000 | (f) 5,834,110 | 83,702 | 8,525 | | (j) 74,458 | 12,072,227 |
| 1951-52 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 5,839,000 | 7,176,426 | 130,490 | 17,225 | 6,583 | (j) 82,373 | 13,711,535 |
| 1952-53 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 5,688,000 | 9,400,000 | 196,335 | 17,527 | 1,280 | (j) 101,575 | 16,278,158 |
| 1953-54 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 8,041,000 | 10,854,544 | 513,826 | 17,723 | 50 | (j) 93,659 | 19,804,334 |
| 1954-55 | 473,432 | | £ | £ | 7,800,000 | 11,347,415 | 424,095 | 18,280 | | (j) 15,045 | 20,078,237 |
| | | | £ | £ | 7,450,000 | 11,806,004 | 467,981 | 9,453 | | (i) 12,407 | 20,219,337 |
| Total, 28 years | 13,256,096 | 201,000 | £ 6,632,264 | £ 2,556,248 | 59,810,090 | 79,200,690 | 1,806,905 | 88,733 | 24,430 | 853,273 | 154,741,136 |
| Total, 54 years | 13,256,096 | 9,073,722 | £ 6,632,264 | £ 2,556,248 | 69,875,905 | 79,200,690 | 1,806,905 | 88,733 | 24,430 | 1,315,283 | 173,830,285 |

(a) First complete year under Federation. (b) Including £868,903 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for 5 years after the imposition of uniform Customs duties. (c) Special payment under States Grant Act, pending passing of the Financial Agreement Act. (d) Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus distributed to States. (e) Includes special payment under the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, 1942 of £912,559. (f) Includes special payment on account of Coal Strike of £661,877. (g) Interest on transferred properties. (h) Entertainment Tax Reimbursement. (i) Ord River Irrigation. (j) Includes Ord River Irrigation and Price Control Reimbursement.

[Return No. 48.]

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.

RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH TAKEN TO VARIOUS FUNDS OTHER THAN CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, 1954-55.

| Details. | Amount. |
|---|-------------------|
| Trust Funds— | £ |
| Sinking Fund (Financial Agreement) | 396,749 |
| Commonwealth Aid Roads and Works Acts, 1950, 1954 | 4,389,493 |
| Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement | 3,500,000 |
| War Service Homes | 4,270,000 |
| War Service Land Settlement | 1,962,303 |
| Meat Production—Encouragement of | 160,000 |
| Promoting Efficiency in Dairying Industry | 17,400 |
| Agriculture Extension Services | 26,925 |
| Tobacco Industry | 3,815 |
| National Fitness | 10,675 |
| National Safety Council | 9,900 |
| Hospital Benefits | 592,000 |
| Pharmaceutical Benefits | 78,091 |
| Coal Mining Industry—Long Service Leave | 28,411 |
| Commonwealth Educational Training Scheme | 65,734 |
| Total—Trust Funds | 15,511,496 |
| Other Funds— | |
| Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme | 366,223 |
| University | 122,130 |
| Tuberculosis Financial Aid | |
| Free Milk for School Children | 127,015 |
| Ord River Irrigation | 455 |
| Total—Other Funds | 615,823 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 16,127,319 |

[Return No. 49.]

TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1955.

| Details. | Paid to C.R. Fund. | Paid to Trust or Special Accounts. | Total. | Taxation per Head. (a) |
|---|-----------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ s. d. |
| Probate and Succession Duties | 1,049,474 | ..... | 1,049,474 | 1 12 4 |
| Other Stamp Duties | 1,248,898 | ..... | 1,248,898 | 1 18 6 |
| Land Tax | 384,760 | ..... | 384,760 | 0 11 10 |
| Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement | 11,806,004 | ..... | 11,806,004 | 18 4 0 |
| Entertainments Tax | 226,626 | ..... | 226,626 | 0 7 0 |
| Liquor Licenses | 286,714 | ..... | 286,714 | 0 8 10 |
| Racing— | | | | |
| Stamp Duty on Betting Tickets | 30,335 | ..... | 30,335 | 0 0 11 |
| Totalisator Duty | 209,848 | ..... | 209,848 | 0 6 6 |
| Totalisator Licenses | 3,056 | ..... | 3,056 | 0 0 1 |
| Stamp Duty on Tote Dividends | 1,972 | ..... | 1,972 | 0 0 1 |
| Winning Bets Tax | 156,048 | ..... | 156,048 | 0 4 10 |
| Turnover Tax and Bookmakers' Licenses | 2,960 | ..... | 2,960 | 0 0 1 |
| Motor Taxation | 98,628 | 1,347,000 | 1,445,628 | 2 4 7 |
| Other Vehicle Taxation ..... | ..... | 3,250 | 3,250 | 0 0 1 |
| Vermin Tax ..... | ..... | 79,437 | 79,437 | 0 2 5 |
| Fruit Fly Eradication Registration Fees ..... | ..... | 10,586 | 10,586 | 0 0 4 |
| Licenses not elsewhere included | 37,239 | ..... | 37,239 | 0 1 2 |
| Total | 15,542,562 | 1,440,273 | 16,982,835 | 26 3 7 |

(a) Based on estimated mean population for year 1954-55, viz. 648,750

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.
COST OF SOCIAL SERVICES—YEAR 1954-55.

| Service. | Loan Li- ability. | Expenditure. | | | | Receipts. | Net Ex- penditure. | Cost per Head. | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| | | Indirect. | | Direct. | Total. | | | | |
| | | Interest and Ex- change. | Sinking Fund. | Con- solidated Revenue Fund. | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | (*) |
| 1.—Education— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Education Department and Schools | £ 7,159,136 | £ 245,063 | £ 45,684 | £ 5,437,504 | £ 5,728,251 | £ 66,799 | £ 5,661,452 | £ s. d. 8 14 7 | |
| (b) University | 114,582 | 3,922 | 870 | 372,844 | 377,636 | ..... | 377,636 | 0 11 8 | |
| (c) Technical Education | 298,417 | 10,216 | 1,900 | 538,789 | 550,905 | 22,992 | 527,913 | 0 16 3 | |
| (d) Agricultural Education | 187,551 | 6,420 | 1,425 | 98,312 | 106,157 | 37,104 | 69,053 | 0 2 2 | |
| (e) Library, Museum, Observatory, etc. | 37,440 | 1,282 | 286 | 113,632 | 115,200 | 435 | 114,765 | 0 3 6 | |
| (f) Deaf, Dumb and Blind | 884 | 30 | 7 | 6,500 | 6,537 | ..... | 6,537 | 0 0 2 | |
| Total 1 | 7,798,010 | 266,933 | 50,172 | 6,567,581 | 6,884,686 | 127,330 | 6,757,356 | 10 8 4 | |
| 2.—Health, Hospitals and Charities— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Public Health | 7,919 | 271 | 61 | 293,659 | 293,991 | 178,194 | 115,797 | 0 3 7 | |
| (b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted, Health of mothers and Children | 5,528,440 | 189,244 | 37,876 | 3,741,800 | 3,968,920 | 537,259 | 3,431,661 | 5 5 9 | |
| (c) Recreation Facilities | ..... | ..... | ..... | 44,918 | 44,918 | ..... | 44,918 | 0 1 5 | |
| (d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm, Child Welfare | 176,949 | 6,057 | 1,282 | 560,060 | 567,399 | 174,050 | 393,349 | 0 12 1 | |
| (e) Miner's Phthisis | ..... | ..... | ..... | 69,031 | 69,031 | 1,991 | 67,040 | 0 2 1 | |
| (f) Natives | 145,852 | 4,993 | 1,116 | 423,531 | 429,640 | 65,670 | 363,970 | 0 11 3 | |
| (g) Unemployment Relief | ..... | ..... | ..... | 147 | 147 | ..... | 147 | ..... |  |
| Total 2 | 5,859,160 | 200,565 | 40,335 | 5,133,146 | 5,374,046 | 957,164 | 4,416,882 | 6 16 2 | |
| 3.—Law, Order and Public Safety— | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Administration of Justice | 53,765 | 1,840 | 361 | 375,047 | 377,248 | 363,784 | 13,464 | 0 0 5 | |
| (b) Police | 328,322 | 11,239 | 2,126 | 1,316,011 | 1,329,376 | 110,814 | 1,218,562 | 1 17 7 | |
| (c) Gaols and Reformatories | 103,343 | 3,537 | 718 | 181,920 | 186,175 | 14,593 | 171,582 | 0 5 3 | |
| (d) Public Safety | ..... | ..... | ..... | 102,916 | 102,916 | 33,499 | 69,417 | 0 2 2 | |
| Total 3 | 485,430 | 16,616 | 3,205 | 1,975,894 | 1,995,715 | 522,690 | 1,473,025 | 2 6 5 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 14,142,600 | 484,114 | 93,712 | 13,676,621 | 14,254,447 | 1,607,184 | 12,647,263 | 19 9 11 | |

(*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1954-55, viz., 648,750.

[Return No. 51.]

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

| Details. | Year Ended 30th June. | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
| Average number of miles worked | 4,228 | 4,113 | 4,108 | 4,111 | 4,111 |
| Results of Operations (per train mile). | | | | | |
| Earnings | 226·41d | 304·33d | 340·34d | 361·62d | 372·51d |
| Operating Expenses | 275·93d | 359·47d | 529·77d | 440·91d | 415·99d |
| Depreciation | 16·03d | 19·91d | 30·78d | 26·28d | 29·60d |
| Interest | 24·57d | 25·20d | 38·28d | 37·69d | 43·52d |
| Operating Expenses plus Depreciation and Interest | 316·53d | 404·58d | 598·83d | 504·88d | 489·11d |
| Deficit | 90·12d | 100·25d | 258·49d | 143·36d | 116·60d |
| Operating Expenses per cent of Earnings | 119·77 | 116·39 | 151·62 | 120·94 | 111·21 |
| Passenger Traffic | | | | | |
| Rail | | | | | |
| Number of Passenger Miles | 173,226,699 | 147,906,751 | 109,574,235 | 135,840,554 | 145,552,603 |
| Earnings from passengers Carried | £830,963 | £912,019 | £697,855 | £882,841 | £959,670 |
| Average Earnings per Passenger Mile | 1·15d | 1·48d | 1·53d | 1·56d | 1·58d |
| Road Services. | | | | | |
| Number of Passenger Miles | 25,541,096 | 28,264,964 | 32,914,008 | 27,046,551 | 21,874,952 |
| Earnings from Passengers Carried | £187,653 | £235,452 | £271,719 | £224,255 | £178,503 |
| Average Earnings per Passenger Mile | 1·76d | 2·00d | 1·98d | 1·99d | 1·96d |
| Parcels Earnings | £358,328 | £382,730 | £323,530 | £406,931 | £427,845 |
| Goods and Livestock Traffic Paying. | | | | | |
| Number of Ton Miles | 459,973,271 | 469,747,561 | 409,590,736 | 537,798,882 | 556,504,766 |
| Average haul per ton of Goods (miles) | 161·65 | 153·38 | 156·4 | 167·73 | 163·36 |
| Average tonnage per loaded truck | N.A. | 6·18 | 6·77 | 6·99 | N.A. |
| Average train load (tons) | 111·73 | 111·45 | 122·11 | 118·71 | 117·15 |
| Average Earnings per ton mile | 2·72d | 3·56d | 3·44d | 4·08d | 4·39d |
| Earnings from Goods and Livestock | £5,361,983 | £7,148,052 | £6,202,530 | £9,308,162 | £10,359,555 |
| Goods and Livestock Traffic Gross | | | | | |
| Average Tonnage per Loaded Truck | N.A. | 13·93 | 14·65 | 15·97 | N.A. |
| Average train load (tons) | N.A. | 287 | 298 | 297 | N.A. |
| Average number of vehicles per train—Loaded | N.A. | 19·72 | 19·58 | 18·58 | N.A. |
| Average number of vehicles per train—Empty | N.A. | 6·49 | 6·9 | 7·03 | N.A. |
| Rolling Stock on 30th June. | | | | | |
| Locomotives Steam—No. | 434 | 454 | 440 | 414 | †378 |
| Locomotives Diesel Electric—No. .... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 16 | 45 |
| Passenger Vehicles | 435 | 429 | 419 | 424 | 413 |
| Brake Vans—No. | 211 | 210 | 221 | 216 | 221 |
| Goods Vehicles—No. | 10,825 | 11,088 | 12,497 | 13,616 | 13,423 |
| Omnibuses—No. | 54 | 54 | 54 | 54 | 53 |
| Staff—Average per Year. | | | | | |
| Salaried—No. | 1,832 | 1,955 | 2,037 | 2,113 | 2,124 |
| Wages—No. | 10,006 | 10,094 | 10,454 | 11,352 | 11,430 |
| Total—No. | 11,838 | 12,049 | 12,491 | 13,465 | 13,554 |

† Includes 1 Petrol Locomotive.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE OF GOODS CARRIED.

| Class of Goods. | 1950-51. | | 1951-52. | | 1952-53. | | 1953-54. | | 1954-55. | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | Tonnage. | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage. | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage. | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage. | Percentage of Total. | Tonnage. | Percentage of Total. |
| Coal, Coke, and Charcoal | 488,130 | 16.02 | 515,082 | 16.82 | 464,831 | 17.75 | 535,691 | 16.72 | 587,999 | 17.20 |
| Ores and Minerals | 258,876 | 8.53 | 296,777 | 9.69 | 281,014 | 8.82 | 271,205 | 8.46 | 156,793 | 4.60 |
| Wool | 41,009 | 1.35 | 51,997 | 1.70 | 21,279 | .81 | 51,062 | 1.59 | 49,230 | 1.42 |
| Chaff | 26,240 | .87 | 20,988 | .68 | 17,811 | .68 | 18,859 | .57 | 12,680 | .37 |
| Wheat | 599,330 | 19.76 | 666,419 | 21.76 | 539,575 | 20.60 | 637,067 | 19.87 | 778,624 | 22.66 |
| Grain and Grain Products | 212,294 | 7.00 | 212,289 | 6.93 | 185,858 | 7.21 | 214,287 | 6.68 | 168,043 | 4.93 |
| Firewood | 51,279 | 1.69 | 45,316 | 1.48 | 28,841 | 1.10 | 23,742 | .74 | 19,719 | .58 |
| Local Timber | 228,666 | 7.54 | 202,325 | 6.61 | 155,508 | 5.94 | 290,534 | 9.06 | 311,589 | 9.15 |
| Imported Timber | 433 | .01 | 247 | .01 | 181 | .01 | 52 | .01 | | |
| Fruit and Vegetables | 105,579 | 3.48 | 105,052 | 3.43 | 108,288 | 4.13 | 107,119 | 3.34 | 112,393 | 3.30 |
| Fertilisers | 219,385 | 7.23 | 224,365 | 7.33 | 247,017 | 9.43 | 341,248 | 10.65 | 366,421 | 10.76 |
| All other goods | 804,192 | 26.52 | 721,804 | 23.56 | 615,603 | 23.52 | 715,532 | 22.31 | 844,093 | 24.77 |
| Total | 3,033,213 | 100.00 | 3,062,641 | 100.00 | 2,618,806 | 100.00 | 3,205,958 | 100.00 | 3,406,634 | 100.00 |

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS—continued.

STATEMENT SHOWING EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

| Class of Goods. | 1940-51. | | 1951-52. | | 1952-53. | | 1953-54. | | 1954-55. | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. | Earnings. | Percentage of Total. |
| Coal, Coke, and Charcoal | £ 479,786 | 9.19 | £ 692,172 | 9.93 | £ 634,231 | 10.81 | £ 986,702 | 10.78 | £ 1,159,117 | 11.39 |
| Ores and Minerals | 228,188 | 4.37 | 367,707 | 5.28 | 376,573 | 6.42 | 549,112 | 5.99 | 423,232 | 4.16 |
| Wool | 151,032 | 2.90 | 227,771 | 3.27 | 104,476 | 1.78 | 275,381 | 3.01 | 296,112 | 2.91 |
| Chaff | 38,919 | .75 | 48,027 | .69 | 42,378 | .72 | 60,405 | .66 | 42,751 | .42 |
| Wheat | 687,014 | 13.16 | 923,886 | 13.26 | 719,704 | 12.27 | 1,111,930 | 12.15 | 1,489,054 | 14.65 |
| Grain and Grain Products | 220,865 | 4.23 | 295,570 | 4.24 | 259,707 | 4.43 | 394,741 | 4.32 | 306,729 | 3.01 |
| Firewood | 39,066 | .75 | 60,460 | .87 | 38,605 | .66 | 39,620 | .43 | 31,903 | .31 |
| Local Timber | 360,623 | 6.91 | 475,355 | 6.82 | 356,611 | 6.08 | 864,993 | 9.45 | 1,016,908 | 10.00 |
| Imported Timber | 1,242 | .02 | 769 | .01 | 298 | .01 | 252 | .01 | | |
| Fruit and Vegetables | 184,382 | 3.53 | 250,061 | 3.59 | 246,136 | 4.20 | 324,320 | 3.55 | 355,398 | 3.49 |
| Fertilisers | 181,134 | 3.47 | 342,200 | 4.91 | 365,100 | 6.23 | 689,441 | 7.54 | 718,280 | 7.08 |
| All other goods | 2,646,967 | 50.72 | 3,283,292 | 47.13 | 2,719,724 | 46.39 | 3,854,920 | 42.11 | 4,333,795 | 42.60 |
| Total | 5,219,218 | 100.00 | 6,967,270 | 100.00 | 5,868,543 | 100.00 | 9,152,317 | 100.00 | 10,174,279 | 100.00 |

VII.—STATISTICAL SECTION.

INDICATORS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

| Details. | 1945-46. | 1946-47. | 1947-48. | 1948-49. | 1949-50. | 1950-51. | 1951-52. | 1952-53. | 1953-54. | 1954-55 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Wool exported | £9,957,030 | £10,260,373 | £16,621,984 | £21,534,904 | £25,461,582 | £56,279,477 | £33,839,794 | £39,560,894 | £41,129,968 | £35,281,530 |
| Wool produced (a) (c)— | | | | | | | | | | |
| (quantity—lbs.) | 82,067,200 | 80,524,000 | 89,527,500 | 93,769,000 | 92,750,000 | 102,911,000 | 116,142,000 | 120,726,000 | 128,964,000 | 124,183,000 |
| (value) | £5,212,000 | £8,047,000 | £14,638,000 | £18,731,000 | £23,619,000 | £59,027,896 | £32,013,526 | £37,223,000 | £41,283,000 | £34,014,000 |
| Wheat Produced (bushels) | 20,929,000 | 23,800,000 | 34,500,000 | 36,250,000 | 38,500,000 | 49,900,000 | 40,000,000 | 35,458,000 | 39,700,000 | 34,300,000 |
| Wheat produced (value) | £7,898,753 | £10,890,000 | £24,941,000 | £20,784,000 | £21,628,700 | £28,488,830 | £29,506,778 | £27,696,965 | £27,711,647 | £23,628,000 |
| Hay produced (tons) | 287,476 | 280,252 | 267,901 | 277,329 | 272,052 | 226,703 | 211,629 | 290,296 | 293,936 | †330,000 |
| Gold produced (fine ozs.) | 498,299 | 680,345 | 680,343 | 693,972 | 617,284 | 632,364 | 650,324 | 786,889 | 845,675 | 848,502 |
| Gold produced (b) (value) | £5,363,214 | £7,419,077 | £7,322,192 | £7,468,877 | £9,051,302 | £9,706,388 | £10,440,951 | £12,843,286 | £13,371,494 | £13,263,348 |
| Coal produced (tons) | 575,500 | 673,431 | 719,750 | 767,112 | 781,877 | 835,474 | 880,015 | 770,439 | 958,958 | 978,304 |
| Coal produced (value) | £632,180 | £771,351 | £847,082 | £930,525 | £1,150,081 | £1,441,988 | £2,106,049 | £2,553,202 | £3,973,934 | £3,457,567 |
| Other Minerals produced (c) | £327,082 | £323,778 | £446,454 | £548,001 | £632,318 | £668,436 | £1,102,310 | £2,615,232 | £2,782,045 | £2,858,854 |
| Timber exported | £722,061 | £863,140 | £1,099,073 | £1,006,760 | £1,002,150 | £918,485 | £1,032,909 | £2,074,421 | £2,250,149 | £1,921,884 |
| Timber produced | £1,412,677 | £1,714,149 | £2,114,357 | £2,346,464 | £3,023,703 | £4,194,530 | £5,570,404 | £7,060,202 | £7,669,648 | (e) |
| Number of Sheep† | 9,765,973 | 9,787,973 | 10,443,798 | 10,443,600 | 10,923,167 | 11,361,908 | 12,187,752 | 12,474,672 | 13,087,108 | 13,411,282 |
| Number of Cattle† | 833,567 | 811,949 | 815,610 | 864,131 | 864,936 | 841,204 | 851,534 | 846,261 | 829,694 | 860,574 |
| Number of Horses | 88,180 | 80,746 | 74,537 | 68,521 | 59,166 | 55,340 | 53,347 | 50,241 | 48,770 | 46,753 |
| Area of land selected (acres) | 229,022 | 553,676 | 703,160 | 804,128 | 870,802 | 1,385,380 | 1,022,956 | 1,280,397 | 1,627,861 | 839,907 |
| Area of land leased (acres) | 1,168,645 | 5,128,710 | 5,233,085 | 6,785,119 | 3,415,545 | 4,963,089 | 2,877,227 | 3,588,644 | 3,625,299 | 5,160,940 |
| Area of land under cultivation (d) | 13,860,553 | 14,621,424 | 15,223,328 | 15,901,130 | 16,555,472 | 16,859,349 | 17,688,006 | 18,642,765 | 19,779,488 | 20,679,129 |
| Area of land under crop (acres) | 2,875,048 | 3,532,445 | 3,936,118 | 4,102,348 | 4,292,730 | 4,532,756 | 4,507,924 | 4,636,654 | 4,477,102 | 5,042,856 |
| Tonnage Shipping, Inwards | 2,378,266 | 2,532,759 | 3,378,006 | 4,632,678 | 5,226,736 | 5,506,575 | 5,477,087 | 5,339,213 | 5,250,774 | (e) |
| Tonnage Shipping, Outwards | 2,472,948 | 2,646,285 | 3,431,319 | 4,677,867 | 5,271,814 | 5,552,166 | 5,523,959 | 5,413,420 | 5,315,041 | (e) |
| Exports, incl. Gold Bullion | £26,544,880 | £29,720,015 | £55,731,230 | £55,593,840 | £61,865,636 | £111,857,881 | £97,692,527 | £113,132,804 | £91,650,379 | £96,094,094 |
| Exports, excl. Gold Bullion | £26,544,880 | £29,720,015 | £51,903,380 | £55,593,840 | £61,864,459 | £111,857,881 | £91,121,243 | £100,733,558 | £85,035,270 | £86,425,209 |
| Imports (Australian Currency) | £21,628,149 | £30,591,097 | £42,819,781 | £52,628,846 | £69,443,677 | £88,172,421 | £122,341,420 | £98,480,531 | £125,212,340 | £141,450,227 |
| Savings Bank Deposits | £32,917,664 | £26,140,983 | £26,773,839 | £28,389,145 | £33,528,416 | £42,950,423 | £44,055,906 | £46,698,191 | £51,586,968 | £53,135,339 |
| Savings Bank Withdrawals | £26,826,571 | £28,426,316 | £27,810,784 | £27,634,325 | £32,072,387 | £38,531,063 | £42,285,902 | £44,929,393 | £49,679,397 | £53,116,590 |
| Population end of Financial Year | 492,510 | 502,480 | 515,302 | 532,667 | 557,918 | 581,486 | 601,266 | 622,203 | *639,716 | †657,000 |

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

BILL—INSPECTION OF SCAFFOLDING ACT AMENDMENT.*Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 27th September.

MR. HEARMAN (Blackwood) [5.37]: As the Minister for Works said, when introducing this Bill, it is purely a safety measure and I see no reason why the House should not agree to it as presented. On inquiry I find that in this matter we are merely bringing the position here into line with the practice in the Eastern States, which I believe was introduced there a number of years ago. Inevitably an amendment of this nature will mean a slight increase in building costs in the country, but in view of the dangers involved in the erection of asbestos roofs, which are just as great in the country as in the city, it seems reasonable that we should afford the same degree of protection to both country and city workmen.

Mr. Court: There must be asbestos roofing used on farms.

Mr. HEARMAN: I was coming to that and I think the Minister might clarify the point in his reply. I am informed that if a farmer is putting asbestos sheeting on a roof for himself, he does not come within the requirements of this legislation; but if he employs labour to do the work, he must comply with the requirements of the Act. On the other hand, it seems most improbable that the Act could possibly be effective in country areas. The Minister drew attention to the difficulty and I feel that it may be honoured in the breach quite a bit in the country. But, as a matter of principle, I do not think we should object to the idea of at least affording workmen in the country equal protection.

I believe the matter was brought to a head in Western Australia due to a rather unfortunate fatality that occurred at the Metropolitan Markets last year and, of course, a similar type of accident could have occurred in any large building anywhere in the State. So long as the Minister can satisfy us, and I think he can, in regard to the extent to which farmers building their own structures—possibly only small buildings on their properties—are likely to be effected, I can see no reason why the House should not support the second reading.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville—in reply) [5.41]: There is only one point that requires clarification, and I do not hesitate to assure the member for Blackwood that the Inspection of Scaffolding Act, as it exists at present and which this Bill seeks to

amend, exempts the owner of the scaffolding and of the building from its provisions. The amendment will not alter that situation at all. The definition of "workman" in the Act reads as follows:—

"Workman" means any person not being the owner of scaffolding or gear, who is employed or engaged on works for the owner, and includes any overseer or foreman employed by the owner.

The term does not include any person who, being the owner of any premises himself and without the assistance of workmen, carries out works in connection with such premises for his own benefit

This amendment in no way interferes with the basic structure of the Act. It provides only that what we agreed to last session with respect to the city shall now be extended to country districts.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

BILL—PRICES CONTROL.*In Committee.*

Resumed from the 27th September. **Mr. Brady** in the Chair; the Minister for Labour in charge of the Bill.

The **CHAIRMAN:** Progress was reported on Clause 20 (2), to which the member for Nedlands had moved an amendment to delete all words after the word "therein" in line 21, page 11, with a view to inserting other words.

Mr. COURT: When we reported progress, a substantial degree of agreement had been reached as to the words that should be inserted if those at present appearing in the clause after the word "therein" were struck out. The only difference of opinion appeared to be in connection with the protection for the commissioner introducing evidence to the court on which to prosecute. I think it is fair to say that agreement had been reached on the principle that the books, documents and papers should be returned to the person entitled to them within 14 days.

The Leader of the Country Party raised a pertinent point regarding the question of producing evidence of a reliable nature by the commissioner to the court if the originals had been returned to the person entitled to them. From the Minister's observations the other night, I take it he agrees to the deletion of the words, and those I desire to insert in their place

should achieve the object which we desire—that the trader should have his original documents, books and papers returned to him within 14 days, and that copies certified by the commissioner be accepted in the courts as valid evidence, just as though they were the originals of those records. I commend the amendment to the Chamber:

Amendment (to strike out words) put and passed.

Mr. COURT: I move an amendment—

That the following words be inserted in lieu of the words struck out:—"The person entitled to those documents, books and papers, shall have such documents, books and papers returned to him within 14 days of the impounding or seizure of such documents, books and papers, and a copy of such documents, books and papers, certified as correct by the commissioner shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be received in all courts as evidence of and as of equal validity as, the original."

I take it that if these words are agreed to, the necessary punctuation will be attended to and a fullstop will be inserted after the word "therein."

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 28—agreed to.

Clause 29—Power of Minister to suspend order:

Mr. COURT: In his reply to the second reading debate, I cannot recall the Minister expressing any opinion regarding the effect of Clause 29, although I raised the point during the debate. The clause refers to the power of the Minister to suspend orders and as I understand it the power granted to the Minister enables him to suspend an order made by the commissioner for 28 days. During that period the matter is referred back to the commissioner who reports whether there should be a variation in his original findings and his decision then is binding. If he says the price should be up or down, the adjustment is made accordingly. If he says that it shall stay as it was originally proposed by him, it stays.

The Minister for Labour: As the commissioner originally proposed?

Mr. COURT: Yes. This is contrary to the Minister's original policy in regard to price control. If I remember rightly, he wanted reserved to himself the power to vary these orders if he thought they should be varied. If I read this clause correctly, he has no power to vary these orders unless the commissioner, when the matter is referred back to him, considers there should be some adjustment in the original price declared by him. I should

have thought that this was a rather vital point as far as the Minister is concerned because it restricts his powers.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: The Minister has always said what he would have done if he were Minister when I was in office. The Minister said that he would be the boss.

The Minister for Labour: I never used the term.

Mr. COURT: I know this provision existed before and during the Commonwealth regime, but I think only one Minister ever attempted to use the suspension power and it proved so embarrassing that I cannot recall another Minister giving it a try. If I remember correctly the present Minister for Labour said that he would want some other provision than this if he were administering the Act.

The Minister for Labour: The Commonwealth Minister for Labour?

Mr. COURT: No, the Minister himself.

The Minister for Labour: If you turn up what I said, I think you will find that what you are suggesting is not correct.

Mr. COURT: I have a distinct recollection of the Minister saying that if he were administering this Act, he would want full powers in regard to price fixation.

The Premier: Full powers for whom?

Mr. COURT: Full powers to vary the decision by the Commissioner; but perhaps the Minister wants it this way.

The Minister for Labour: Yes, that is so.

Mr. COURT: That is contrary to what the Minister told us before.

The Minister for Labour: No, I think the hon. member might have misunderstood me.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: There is a big distinction between being a member of the Opposition and being the Minister responsible for administering an Act. I can remember being criticised for making the statement that I could not interfere with the price determined by the commissioner and I think that criticism was made by the present Minister. He said that I should accept that responsibility and should not shelve it on to the commissioner.

The Minister for Labour: No, that is not right. The hon. member was trying to hide behind the commissioner all the time. I said that you should not criticise the commissioner and that you should take some responsibility.

Hon. A. V. R. ABBOTT: The Act clearly set out that the Minister could not accept the responsibility of fixing the price. The responsibility is held by the commissioner. The Minister can ask him to reconsider his decision, but that is all he

can do. So the Minister did not forward the principle one iota when he said the Minister should accept the responsibility.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: The member for Mount Lawley is only playing with words.

The Premier: He is always playing with something.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: It is seven years since the member for Mt. Lawley introduced price control legislation when he was in office. At that time the Commonwealth regulations were accepted in this State and published in the "Government Gazette" in August, 1949.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: And these clauses are they.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: That is what I am coming to. The regulations which were enforced under the provisions of the Act continued to be regulations, but we have transferred them to the Bill as clauses. I am open to correction, but if my memory serves me aright—and sometimes it does—it is some years ago, when I was on the Opposition side of the House, that I said to the then Attorney General that, rightly or wrongly, I took his action to mean that he was trying to shelve all the responsibility on to the commissioner and his staff.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: Yes, for the fixation of prices.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: I took the attitude—and I hold the same opinion now—that any Minister should accept the responsibility for the action of his officers. The Minister should not side-step his responsibility and let the blame fall on the heads of civil servants. A Minister must accept anything that is coming to him.

Hon. A. V. R. Abbott: That is not the point at all.

The MINISTER FOR LABOUR: I am only speaking from memory. I have no quarrel with the member for Mt. Lawley. These clauses have been lifted from the Commonwealth regulations.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: If the Minister holds the view that he should accept the responsibility for the administration of the Act, I would agree with him that that is the proper way to handle the matter, but this clause will not allow him to do so. As the member for Nedlands endeavoured to point out, the clause enables the Minister to say to the commissioner, "I do not like what you have done; please have another look at it," and when the commissioner has had another look at it and submitted his report, the Minister is obliged to accept it.

Thus, under this clause, at no time can the Minister say to the commissioner "You have made a mistake. You must

rectify it in this or that manner." If the member for Mt. Lawley said—though I do not recall him having done so—that he was obliged to accept the price fixed by the commissioner for any goods, he was only saying what is correct. He could raise an objection but he had no option but to accept the decision of the commissioner.

The Minister for Labour: I was only referring to criticism.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: I agree that the Minister should be prepared to accept responsibility in the final analysis. He cannot do so, however, because he has no control under this clause. In the final analysis, it is the commissioner's opinion that must stand. The clause provides that the Minister may request the commissioner to further consider the matter on which he has made an order under the Act.

Subclause (4) of Clause 29 states—

The Commissioner shall—

(a) within the period specified in the notice of suspension, report thereon to the Minister;

and, on receipt of the report of the commissioner, the Minister shall, by notice in the "Gazette," remove the suspension.

So, the suspension of the order for a short period is the only remedy the Minister has, and when the commissioner has made his report, the Minister has no option but to agree with it and allow the report to stand. I think the Minister will be well advised to consider an alteration to this clause.

Subclause (3) also interests me. It provides—

Upon the publication of the notice, the maximum price or rate, if any, which prevailed prior to the making of the order which has been suspended, shall apply during the period of the suspension.

Suppose there was no maximum price prior to the making of the order which has been suspended. Suppose the order to be suspended is the first order made by the commissioner in respect of that line of commodities. To what price do the goods return during the period of suspension when there is no prior order to govern them? It is much easier to review a clause in a Bill than it is to review a provision in a regulation. But it does not give the Minister the responsibility which I think he ought to have of being able to control his commissioner's point of view. Accordingly I think the clause requires review.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 6.7 p.m.