

Clause 25—Inquests on deaths from accidents in mines:

Hon. J. E. DODD: I move an amendment—

That after "mine" in line 3 the words "or factory" be inserted.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I went into this matter with the Solicitor General and I am inclined to think that good purposes might be served by inserting a clause that would have the same relation to accidents in factories as Clause 25 has regarding mines generally, and Clause 26 has regarding accidents in coal mines. I do not think that the amendment suggested by the hon. member would achieve his object, and I have had a clause drafted to stand as Clause 27. It is rather lengthy, and while I do not suggest that the hon. member should withdraw his amendment, I propose that we postpone further consideration of the Bill, and I will have the clause I refer to placed on the Notice Paper for to-morrow. I also understand that it is the intention of Dr. Saw to submit an amendment to give coroners power, on the certificate of the Commissioner of Public Health, to order a post mortem examination in cases of death from infectious diseases. I suggest to him that he might also have his amendment placed on the Notice Paper for to-morrow.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.57 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 26th October, 1920.

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

QUESTION—SLEEPER SHIPMENTS FROM ALBANY.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Minister for Works: Are the State Saw Mills supplying sleepers for shipment to Java and loading same by any steamer or ship at Albany?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: No.

QUESTION—BASIC WAGE IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Hon. T. WALKER asked the Premier: 1, Is the basic wage of 13s. 4d. paid as a minimum to all employed in each and every branch or department of the Government service? 2, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: No. The matter is now in the hands of the Assistant Commissioner specially deputed to handle such problems, but a decision has been delayed through this officer's illness, necessitating another temporary appointment.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

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

- 1, Local Authorities Sinking Funds.
- 2, High School Act Amendment.
- 3, Roads Closure.

BILL—CITY OF PERTH ENDOWMENT LANDS.

Report of Committee adopted.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1920-21.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 21st October; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Department of Colonial Secretary (Hon. F. T. Broun, Minister).

Vote—Office of Colonial Secretary, £11,043:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley) [4.35]: There has been practically no change in this department's Estimates since last year, with the exception that the Government gardens which formerly were controlled by the Colonial Secretary have now been transferred to the Premier's Department. The increase of £11,717 is due almost entirely to the increased rates which have had to be paid and the high cost of stores, and the general all round increase in the cost of administration. The total expenditure last year was £250,261 and the revenue collected was £71,889. The net cost of the department therefore was £178,370. The anticipated revenue this year is £78,309, which is £6,420 in excess of last year's figures. The net cost of the department this year is estimated at £5,295 more than that of last year. Considering the greatly increased cost of everything, and the large field of the work of the department, the figures must be considered satisfactory. Recently there has been a change in the administration of the department. During last year, after 34 years of service, the Under Secretary, Mr. North, was retired on account of ill health. In the period of his service Mr. North proved himself to be a most loyal

officer, and the services he rendered were greatly appreciated by the department. The appointment of a successor is now under consideration. During the past year a business manager was appointed for the hospitals, asylums, gaols, charities, and other departments under the control of the Colonial Secretary, and since the appointment a general saving has been effected in the administration of each of these departments. There are so many different institutions controlled by the Colonial Secretary and they are so varied in character that it was considered essential to bring them so far as possible into line with the view of securing greater efficiency. It was also considered imperative to reduce the working expenses of the institutions so that in the near future we should not be forced to cut down the assistance which is being granted. A full explanation of the expenditure in each of the departments will be given to members when the items are under discussion. Regarding the aborigines, the total amount required this year is £21,342. Of that sum £10,000 is provided under a special Act. There will be a recoup of £1,007 to be made by the Fisheries Department for a portion of the staff's services, the clerical staffs of the Aborigines and Fisheries Departments working as one. The receipts from the Aborigines Department are estimated at £1,800 and the net cost of the department therefore will be £18,535.

Mr. Johnston: How much do you get by way of kangaroo royalties?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot give the hon. member that information just now. The figures I have quoted show that the total is £2,401 in excess of last year's expenditure. Of the total expenditure of £21,342, salaries and wages account for £5,777. The general expenditure therefore it is expected will amount to £15,565. Last year the figures under these heads were £5,176 and £17,606 respectively. During last year there was an old Trust Fund balance of £4,321, which has since been transferred to revenue. In common with other branches of the service, increased rates of pay have been granted all round. The increased expenditure last year was due principally to the outbreak of influenza, to the alterations and additions at Carrollup and Moore River Settlements, and to the additions made to the depot in the North-West where diseased natives are treated. A sum of £700 was saved last year by making clothing for natives at Carrollup. This year it is intended to teach the natives at that settlement the work of spinning wool for making blankets for use at the settlements, and an old blanket-making machine has been procured for this purpose. It is hoped that the natives can be taught this work, so that they may be able to manufacture all the blankets that they require for their own use. The revenue of £1,800 which it is expected will be received is made up as follows—Employment of natives under permit

£800, revenue from the Southern settlements £950, and miscellaneous £50. The number of natives in employment at the present time under permits is 4,969. The medical treatment of diseased natives at the Port Hedland depot has met with considerable success during the past year, numbers of natives having been discharged as cured from that institution. Regarding the Fisheries Department, the prospects of the pearling industry were bright towards the end of last year, but since then values have declined both for pearl shell and pearls. As a result, the Government were approached with the request to guarantee advances against pearls as was done during the war. The Government agreed to provide a guarantee of £180 for the purpose indicated. Unfortunately, during the early portion of this year, the weather conditions prevailing in the North-West were not favourable for the pearling industry, with the result that the available tonnage is estimated at 1,200 as against 1,309 tons during last year. While the shell market has fallen, very good results in home markets have been obtained for pearls. There is not a great quantity of pearl shell held at the present time at Broome. During the year the Returned Soldiers Fish and Canning Company started operations at Shark Bay. They are doing excellent work with some assistance from the Government. They took over the old "Torrens" from the Government and have plant, the total value being estimated at £2,400. The company are paying so much for the ship and, in addition, are paying a further amount per month towards refunding the money advanced to them. They hope in time that they will be able to purchase both the plant and the ship outright. The Government advanced them a loan of £950 at 6½ per cent. interest for working expenses. They commenced operations in February last year, and since then to the end of June, 1,200 cases, representing 48,000 one-lb. tins, valued approximately at £2,800, have been turned out. About 800 cases of fish have been received in the metropolitan market and found ready sale. Thus no difficulty has been experienced in disposing of the company's products. This branch of the fisheries activities is showing great possibilities of expansion. The freezing works at Carnarvon are also giving this aspect serious consideration and in the near future it is hoped that they will start operations.

Mr. Teesdale: Is that in the fishing line?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. Whaling operations were suspended in 1916 and from then to the present, nothing has been done in that direction. It is probable that a commencement will be made at an early date in the re-establishment of this industry. Local business men have been making inquiries into the possibilities of the industry, with the intention of also establishing the turtle industry, in conjunction with

the whaling operations. In all probability a British company will also start operations with a capital of £80,000. I am given to understand that very shortly a big portion of this capital will be available. At the same time, the company are making inquiries with a view to including other commodities as well as the green and hawksbill turtle, dugong, and trepang. These are prohibited at present under the Act and if it should be considered advisable to allow the company to take these other species, I think it should be done. At the present time people are coming down the coast and bartering with the natives in the North for supplies of dugong and hawks bill turtle. We are losing them and most decidedly we should not be at a loss in this direction. Should it be found advisable to grant the company the rights I indicate, it will be necessary to bring down a small amending Bill to remove the restriction. An endeavour was made during last year to prove the possibilities of trawling along the south coast. The "Penguin" was fitted up for this purpose, but unfortunately, after making two cruises, she was wrecked. During the short period operations were carried out, it was proved conclusively that there was any quantity of fish to be secured by trawling. If it had not been for this unfortunate circumstance, we would have been able to establish the fishing industry there on a sound basis and no difficulty would have been experienced in recouping the outlay involved.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Would it not have been better to go north instead of south, where there are such rough seas?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I was advised that it was not so, and that it was rougher in the north than along the south coast at that particular time. The "Penguin" experienced heavy weather and took advantage of shelter available there, but with a shift of the gale, the vessel was wrecked. The Government are considering the purchase of another vessel to continue operations. Inquiries were made in the Eastern States and also in the Old Country, but unfortunately the prices quoted at the present time for a suitable trawler are so excessive that for the present we will have to hold the matter over until we can get a boat at a lower price. In the near future we hope that, as the price of shipping is coming down considerably, we will be able to reconsider the purchase of another boat.

Mr. Johnston: What! More State steamers?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They are good boats. The receipts under the Game Act for the year totalled £6,632. Royalties on opossum skins accounted for £2,235 of that amount. Trapping permits in the southern portions of the South-West were granted during the months of May and June and during that period 125,000 opossums were taken.

Mr. Mullany: And a lot were taken before May.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If such were the case, it is not within the knowledge of the Fisheries Department. So far as the opening of districts for the destruction of opossums is concerned, we had a certain amount of opposition from one or two quarters. Since they were opened, we have had requests from other portions for similar consideration. Wherever it is considered necessary to throw open areas for opossum trapping, I think we should do so, because the skins are a good asset. At the time we threw open the south-western portion in May and June, opossum skins were bringing enormous prices in the Old Country. Unfortunately, the prohibition of the importation of furs in France and one or two other countries resulted in the prices falling very considerably, but, irrespective of that, the prices obtained have been satisfactory since. Mr. Johnston: Why do the Fisheries Department control this matter?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It comes under the Game Act and the department control operations under that Act. Regarding the activities of the Friendly Societies branch during the year, the routine work carried out has been of considerable value, and actuarial valuations of societies have been made. Since July last seven societies, having a membership of 10,575, were valued. The results were interesting and it is satisfactory to know that the report shows they are in a sound financial position. The investigation of the societies' accounts was commenced during the year. An inspector was appointed for this purpose and the books of several societies and branches of societies were examined. The action taken in this direction has justified itself by results in several instances. The year has been particularly busy regarding industrial arbitration. During the year six unions registered and the registrations of 47 were cancelled. The large number of cancellations was due to the amalgamation of several miners' unions and the striking off of defunct unions from the list. There were 555 claims dealt with under the Government workers' compensation fund and the claims and medical fees paid amounted to £10,131.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What is the total of that particular fund now?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot give the figures from memory but they are in the report laid on the Table of the House. The number of gaols open during last year was the same as in the previous year. The commitments during last year amounted to 1,716 as against 1,975 for the previous year, showing a decrease of 259. The cost per head for maintenance amounted to £76 15s. 10³/₄d. as against £73 10s. 2¹/₄d. for last year. A reformatory prison has been opened at Rottneest and prisoners have been placed under an experienced officer. The prison buildings there are temporary but permanent quarters are now being erected. The men greatly appreciate the treatment they are receiving and appear to be in good health and excellent spirits. They

have ample reading matter provided for them, and a large variety of games. On Saturdays and Sundays they are permitted to indulge in fishing. The activities of the Harbours and Lights Department during the year have been well maintained. A light has been installed at Bannangarra, south of Broome. That light was required for the pearling industry. It has been decided to convert the Babbage Island light into an unattended light. The lights on the Swan River have been improved during the year. A large number of lights are now on order and the whole of the existing lights have been overhauled. The buoys and beacons south of Fremantle have been inspected and those on the north-west coast will be overhauled during the present year. Jetty receipts amounted to £18,534 as compared with £14,975 for the preceding year. The lumpers' wages were increased during the past 12 months at the various ports to bring them into line with the rates paid at the main ports. The increase amounted to approximately, £2,000 per annum and the handling charges have been raised to meet that amount. The inspection and survey of shipping has been carefully carried out and also the supervision of vessels loading. The equipment of vessels visiting our out-ports was found generally up to standard. Regarding immigration, one of the greatest difficulties experienced during the year was in connection with shipping accommodation. This is slightly easing now and for the first eight months of the year, 876 immigrants arrived here. During the nine months of the present year there were 946. A special charter of the steamer "Zealandia" has been arranged. She will leave England this month with about 1,000 emigrants. Arrangements have been made with the Commonwealth Government for the housing of immigrants on their arrival at Fremantle. The immigrants' home at Fremantle was taken over by the Commonwealth during the war for the purpose of a base hospital. Under the new arrangement the department have taken over the buildings on the Fremantle Oval, together with equipment, at a rental of £150 a year. Accommodation is there provided for 400 immigrants. As heretofore, the immigrants are permitted to remain in the home during the first three days.

Hon. W. C. Angwin. Do you pay rent for those buildings? You paid no rent for the other building.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Commonwealth are paying £300 for the old building, and arrangements have been made to pay £150 for the Fremantle Oval buildings.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Commonwealth are pretty strong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Immigrants are allowed to remain in the home during the first three days free of charge for board, and for the remaining period up to ten days only a nominal charge is made.

Mr. Davies: What is the total number of immigrants you can now accommodate?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Four hundred.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The old building accommodated 1,200.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Provision is made to accommodate 400 at present; more could be provided for if necessary. Arrangements have been made to place ex-service men and assisted immigrants in situations on the land. With the approval of the Government, the Ugly Men's Association, I am pleased to say, have undertaken to assist in placing ex-service men and assisted immigrants immediately they arrive.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Say "at the request of the Government" not "with the approval of the Government."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member can have it that way if he prefers it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is a big difference.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Approval was given by the Government for the Ugly Men's Association to assist in this way. Other bodies have offered to assist, but no one is permitted to do so without the approval of the Government.

Mr. Teesdale: Do they take charge of the immigrants on arrival?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No; immigrants on arrival are taken charge of by the immigration officer and are placed in the institution. Arrangements are then made with the Ugly Men's Association to place these people in the country. The services of the Ugly Men's Association have proved of great value, because there has been very little delay. This arrangement with the Ugly Men's Association is a good one for another reason. Where ex-service men without knowledge of farming desire to take up land, they are sent to practical farmers where they remain for a period before being placed on holdings of their own. It is hoped that in the near future some arrangement will be made with the Commonwealth with regard to passages for immigrants. The high fares now ruling are proving a drawback because we are not getting the number of immigrants which we would get if passages were less expensive.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Commonwealth have no steamers that are suitable.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Commonwealth steamers have accommodation to bring more immigrants than we are getting at present. The "Zealandia" has accommodation for 1,200, and I do not think we will have more than 1,000 on her. We have not heard of the exact number from the Agent General, but it is expected that there will be 1,000. During the year an additional inspector of liquors was appointed. The wholesale wine and spirit merchants agreed to find £250 per annum towards the salary of this officer. The new appointment has been justified because good results have followed. The operations of the Labour Bureau

reveal that useful work has been done during the year. The number of registrations was just over 6,000, as against 5,700 in the previous year. The number of engagements totalled 5,843 against 5,406. Fares were advanced to 1,394 men at a cost of £1,443 to go to jobs in country. Of this amount £1,289 has been refunded, or about 90 per cent. of the total fares advanced. Branches of the bureau have been established at Fremantle and at various country towns. The women's branch found positions for 2,347 women. The management reports that it is still difficult to obtain suitable girls for domestic service. There is no difficulty whatever in placing any domestics who arrive from the old country. The scheme inaugurated in 1916 to place goldfields boys on farms still continues to prove satisfactory. Last year 196 lads were placed, compared with 136 in the previous year. These boys are doing well and are giving satisfaction. Numerous letters have been received stating that the lads are well satisfied, and employers likewise have written expressing their satisfaction with the lads. One of these lads is now manager of the farm on which he was previously employed.

Mr. Munsie: What salary is he getting?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The salaries vary; particulars are given in the report. I consider that the salaries are good. I do not know whether the member for Hannans will agree with me.

Mr. Munsie: I cannot say when I do not know what they are.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member can obtain the information. The estimated expenditure in connection with the Lunacy Department this year exceeds the actual expenditure of last year by £4,616. The average number of patients last year was 1,149 against 1,123 in the previous year. The gross cost per head was £69 15s. 2d. compared with £57 5s. 1d., an increase last year of £12 5s. 1d. The increase was due to the higher cost of commodities, particularly of provisions, material for the manufacture of clothing, drugs and medicine, together with the increased salaries for the staff. The same thing applies to most of the institutions. The farm connected with the Claremont and Whitty institutions supplied produce to the value of £2,590. Plans are being prepared for the erection of a new building to relieve the overcrowding at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. It is hoped that before long we shall be able to go on with this work because for some time the Claremont institution has been overcrowded. It is essential that we should provide more accommodation, and especially more open accommodation. Under the new scheme patients will be given much more liberty than they have at the present time. During the year a special ward was set apart for mild cases. It is only a small place, but it has proved of great advantage to the patients, and the pity is that we did

not have a similar place for mild cases in years gone by. The educational features of the Observatory are being more widely availed of. Over 1,000 persons, including societies and schools, paid evening visits to the Observatory last year. Eighty-five evenings were devoted to these proceedings, which took the form of running lectures extending over two hours. Seven public lectures were also given. By agreement with the Admiralty the Observatory transmits wireless time signals twice daily at 11 a.m. and 11 p.m., and the tidal reports from Port Hedland to Perth are also kept. Regarding the State Children Department, there was a slight reduction in the number of children boarded out during the year.

Mr. Underwood: When do you expect the Royal Commission's report?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not know; I am waiting patiently for it.

Mr. Munsie: You will get it. Where is the chairman?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To meet somewhat the increase in the cost of living the subsidy rate for children boarded out was raised last year by 1s. The Government now pay 10s. a week for children under one year, 9s. for children between one and two years, and 8s. for children between the ages of two and fourteen.

Mr. Davies: Is that to foster parents?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. In special cases 12s. 6d. and 15s. has been paid. Even higher rates have been paid for delicate children who require special attention. I have approved of a rate as high as £1 1s. in a special case. The rate of subsidy to mothers was increased from 7s. to 8s. I do not know that it is necessary for me to go into this question, because I intend to do so when I reply to the motion standing in the name of the member for Hannans. The whole question can be dealt with on that occasion, and I shall take the opportunity to give the whole of the figures.

Hon. P. Collier: You had better deal with it here; we might never reach that motion.

Mr. Davies: Why anticipate it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The motion is well up on the Notice Paper.

Mr. Munsie: It has been closer to the top. It has gone back a bit.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I desire to deal with this matter, and it will take some time, because there are many questions involved. I think I shall be able to convince the House that we have done a good deal in the interests of the children. The high rates for invalids require special attention, but fortunately there is not a great number of them. If we did not pay higher rates for invalid children, we would not be able to get foster mothers for them. We have made a special endeavour during the year to board out children in country homes in preference to placing them in the institutions. I hope that as soon as the receiving home is completed we shall be able to appoint a proba-

tion officer to confine his energies to the adoption and boarding out of children, and more especially to placing them in country districts. Out of the whole of the adoptions since the proclamation of the State Children Act, 500 in number, there has been only one case which has proved unsatisfactory. The number of children in the orphanages and industrial schools has increased. These institutions are doing good work, especially that connected with the Salvation Army. I want to pay a tribute to the good work that is being done in this State by the Salvation Army. Undoubtedly that organisation is worthy of all the good that can be said of it. I can only wish those connected with it every success in the efforts they are making to help us in our State work. During the year the Salvation Army has transferred the home for girls from Collie to Kelmscott. The Childrens' Court has been removed into the old buildings at St. George's Hall, Hay-street. This transfer has tended to bring about better administration and affords greater convenience to the public. The accommodation is also greatly improved. The Government have constructed a receiving home in Lord-street, and I hope this will shortly be completed. It is near the Mt. Lawley Station.

Hon. T. Walker: Next door to the school.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is far enough away from the school, and a substantial fence will be erected to make it as private as possible. Provision has been made at the institution for detention wards. At present children are detained at the old buildings. This is unsatisfactory and unsuitable, and at the new place we are making provision for these wards. Children will be detained there, and a list brought down to the court in the morning by one of the officers. The number of women who received relief last year is greater than that for the previous year. This increase was accounted for by the epidemic of influenza.

Mr. Munsie: Is this other than the payment of so much per week for children?

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: These are the mothers and children who come under the heading of monetary assistance. A destitute mother would receive assistance, but that would be called outdoor relief. Industrial troubles accounted for an increased expenditure on outdoor relief, but I hope there will not be a recurrence of this. The assistance that is given is mainly due to there having been sickness and unemployment. Wherever it is essential to assist in this direction we do so. Cases relative to mothers and children vary greatly. Sometimes the husband has died and left a widow and four or five children with a house provided. In other cases there is no home, and the mother is paying rent. In other cases the mother is paying part of the rent, or it is being paid for her. In these instances we endeavour to secure the home for the mother if possible. If no provision is made for the rent to be paid, we endeavour

to see that the mothers are all placed as nearly as possible on an equal footing. If there is any further information that hon. members desire, I shall be pleased to give it.

Mr. ROCKE (South Fremantle) [5.20]: The Colonial Secretary's Department, including the sub-departments attached thereto, is very different from the other departments which have been discussed on the Estimates, and those which remain to be discussed. Many of the sub-departments of the Colonial Secretary's Department are non-productive as to revenue, and they are departments charged with the care of those who are faced with misfortune. There are the cases of those who are deprived of the breadwinner, there are others who have been deprived of their liberty, and there are those who have met with the greatest disaster of all—the loss of their reason. All these people come under the care of the Colonial Secretary. It is rather difficult to deal fully with each sub-department. The Colonial Secretary merely gives the Committee an idea of how his Estimates are made up, so that we can only reply to his statements in a partial manner. I regret that it was necessary for the Under Secretary to tender his resignation. The Government and the State have lost a good officer in Mr. North. I hope his successor will give the same attention to the interests of the State as Mr. North did. The Colonial Secretary states that a new departure has been made in the appointment of a business manager, and that by reason of the activities of that officer certain savings have been effected. One of the first directions in which this official made a saving was when he recommended that the issue of rations to persons in receipt of old age pensions at Fremantle should cease. This is one of the methods adopted by him to assist in squaring the deficit of nearly five million pounds. It was an unworthy act and deserves every censure. Surely there were other means of effecting savings than by taking away the small allowance given by the State Government to supplement the pensions of the Commonwealth Government. The State Government say that the duty of caring for aged persons devolves entirely upon the Commonwealth.

The Colonial Secretary: That is so.

Mr. ROCKE: I disagree. These people have done good service to the State, and that being so the State should be responsible and see that they have sufficient food. A pension of 15s. 6d. a week—in some cases it is less—is not sufficient for any person to live on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The State is responsible, but the Commonwealth supplement the State payments.

Mr. ROCKE: If the Commonwealth fail in their duty then the responsibility should rest with the State. The Colonial Secretary said that there have been some increases in

the Estimates for this year, and that this has been due chiefly to the increased cost of commodities. No doubt that is so in many instances, but it cannot be responsible for all the increase that has occurred. The Colonial Secretary spoke, in passing, about the fitting up of the steamer "Penguin" to conduct trawling operations on the South coast. Last session the Minister distinctly stated that the ship was to go North-West into fine weather. I pointed out at the time that disaster would befall the vessel if she was sent South, and I am sorry that my prophecy has come true, especially as a sum of over £3,000 had been spent in altering and re-conditioning the ship, a sum which was more than she was worth. In answer to a question of mine the Colonial Secretary recently said that he had not yet received all the accounts in connection with the vessel, but up to that time the expenditure had been over £3,000. The Minister is not responsible for this expenditure, and must abide by the advice of his officers. Those officers who recommend that expenditure were unfitted for their positions, and should be sent about their business. One bright spot in the operations of the Fisheries Department appears to be the success which has attended the operations of returned soldiers. I hope the Government will continue to assist these men, seeing that they have done so much for themselves. A good deal of money was expended on the steamer "Torrens" whilst she was doing the work of the department, and I hope the Government will be able to recoup themselves without casting any undue burden upon the returned soldiers in question. The matter of gaols, involving as it does the question of prison reform, is one of the very important functions which the Government are called upon to perform. During a previous session of Parliament provision was made for the establishment of a prison reformatory. I do not think it was the intention of Parliament that the department should go about the matter in the way that it did, for that meant nothing else but disaster, involving the expenditure of public moneys. It is all very well for the Colonial Secretary to say that the prisoners enjoy their stay at Rottneest, and that they have good fishing on Saturdays and Sundays. That is not prison reform. The first essential of prison reform is that it shall be dissociated from prison establishments. No more unsuitable place could be found for a reformatory of this character than Rottneest Island. It is a tourist resort, and one cannot have a tourist resort and a reformatory operating over such a small area of land. Last year 12,000 persons visited Rottneest, and they were within 1½ miles of the inmates stationed there. If we are going in for reforming these prisoners, we must first of all impress upon them the fact that life is worth living. To do that we must place in their hands something whereby they may

earn an honest living. I take it that when a reformatory is established, one of the principal duties in connection with it is to teach the men a trade so that they may earn an honest living. At Rottneest all that they are taught to do is to quarry stones and burn lime. The whole thing is a farce, and quite opposed to the intention of Parliament when the Act which enabled this reformatory to be established was passed. One of the provisions of the Act was that a board, known as the Indeterminate Sentences Board, should be appointed, and meet once a month. There has not been a meeting of the board this month and there will not be one. I do not know how many months have elapsed since there was a meeting.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They met at the end of September.

Mr. ROCKE: The board met at the Fremantle prison on one day of this month. The chairman—the late superintendent of the prison—was there early. He received a letter, I understand, from the Colonial Secretary's Department, and after, he had read it he put on his hat and said, "I am finished." He went away and has not been heard of since. I thought the Colonial Secretary would have told us something about the work of this board, and whether it has carried out the functions which Parliament intended it to perform. The present governor has been appointed at a reduced salary compared with that paid to preceding superintendent.

The Colonial Secretary: But not a reduced salary as compared with what he was receiving previously. When he proves his efficiency, his salary will be increased.

Mr. ROCKE: If the previous superintendent was worth £480 per annum, the officer now occupying the position should be worth an equal sum. If the reason for the change of title from "superintendent" to "governor" was merely to make the holder of the office a disciplinary officer rather than place him under the Public Service Commissioner, I think the change was wrong and unjust.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I see no necessity for changing the name at all.

Mr. ROCKE: Unfortunately the Fremantle prison is in great need of repair. The sum asked for was £12,000, and I see the Estimates provide £500. Probably the amount asked for was excessive, but to cut it down to £500 seems unreasonable. I do not see how the institution can be maintained in that state which is essential for such an establishment unless repairs are kept up. The place is falling to pieces, and if the necessary repairs are further delayed they are likely to cost two or three times the amount for which the work could be done at the present time. Incidentally I may mention the sewerage at the prison. The resident magistrate of Fremantle and the resident medical officer are now having the sewerage of their premises attended to, which is quite right and proper; but other officers should receive similar consideration. The

quarters of the governor and of the chaplain are in a disgraceful state as regards sewerage. Indeed, had those quarters belonged to private owners they would have been utterly condemned years ago. The open pan system obtains; and, until recently, in the case of the clergyman's quarters the pan had to be carried through the kitchen, a proceeding which is dangerous and obnoxious, and revolting to the sense of decency. At present the convenience is under the same roof as the kitchen. In the case of the governor's quarters the convenience is only 12 feet away from the kitchen. In regard to immigration, I desire to pay a tribute to the Ugly Men's Association. I believe that if the Government handed over to the association the whole business of placing immigrants much good would result. Last month, I believe, a ship arrived at Albany with, speaking from memory, about 400 immigrants—

The Colonial Secretary: Nothing like that number.

Mr. ROCKE: With a large number of immigrants, and every one of them was placed in a position during the train journey from Albany to Perth. That was done through the good offices of the Ugly Men's Association.

Mr. Teesdale: What are you talking about?

Hon. P. Collier: They were labelled for wayside stations.

Mr. ROCKE: They were placed in positions without adversely affecting the labour market in any way. I commend the good work of the association to the attention of the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: I suppose those immigrants were snapped up at low rates of wages, about 25s. a week.

Mr. ROCKE: I do not think the Ugly Men's Association would be guilty of placing men at low rates of wages. Next, the question of aid to widows and State children is one of the most important questions with which the Colonial Secretary's Department have to deal. The child is the basis of the nation; and until recognition is given to that fact, we shall not have the operations of the Colonial Secretary's Department placed on a proper basis. The Minister has told us that the subsidy for children has been increased by 1s. per week. In view of the increase in the cost of living, that seems a very small increment; and how the foster-mothers are able to keep the children for 9s. a week, I do not know. New Zealand pays for the same service at the rate of 15s. per week. That is the lowest rate, and applies in the case of children over a year old. For children under 12 months the allowance is 17s. 6d. per week; and there are additional payments in the case of delicate children and children requiring special care. The work of the State Children Department in New Zealand has been placed on a proper basis, which might very well be adopted by Western Australia. First of all, however, New Zealand pays attention to the widows.

Widows are divided into various classes, and are granted monetary assistance according to the class they are in. A widow who lost her husband through the recent outbreak of influenza is called an "epidemic widow"—rather a strange title, but she is placed under that heading so that she can be known from the others. Then there is the "war widow," meaning a woman who lost her husband at the war. Then there is what is known as the "civil widow," who did not lose her husband either through the war or through influenza, but owing to some other cause. Then there is the "miner's widow," who lost her husband through miner's phthisis. They are all placed in their proper category, and money is paid for their maintenance accordingly.

Mr. Davies: Is there discrimination as regards the amounts?

Mr. ROCKE: Yes; but every woman who has lost her husband and is left with from four to six children is entitled to a weekly payment of £3 5s.

Mr. Teesdale: Whether she can find work or not?

Mr. ROCKE: A woman with from four to six young children should not have to go out to work. The fact that she receives money for looking after the children proves that they are young, under 14 years of age. Some of the institutions in New Zealand are supported by the Government, and others by public subscription. New Zealand possesses public-spirited citizens, whom Western Australia sorely lacks, and consequently New Zealand is able to do this work at a less cost to the public funds than we, proportionately, notwithstanding that we pay, so much less for the services rendered. As regards recoveries of moneys paid in this connection, that is to say the amount of money paid back to the department by parents or guardians who, having children on the State, are able to pay, that work has not been on a good basis here until just recently. However, the amounts recovered have been very much greater of late, showing that the work is now on a better basis. If the present rate of recoveries is maintained, that will relieve the department. I certainly consider that parents or guardians able to pay for maintenance of children who are on the State should be compelled to pay.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If they can be found.

Mr. ROCKE: Yes. There is a good effect from this to the State by reason of the money coming into revenue, and there is a good effect in the case of the parents, who are made to face their responsibilities. On the other hand, there are parents in such a position that it is utterly impossible for them to refund any of the money which the State has advanced; and the State would be doing an injustice if it withheld assistance from those people. The child should be our very first consideration. The child of to-day is the father or the mother of to-morrow, as the case may be; and children are

the basis of the nation. I hope the Colonial Secretary in replying, when he has all the facts and figures at hand, will be able to tell Parliament and the country that the children of the State will get a better deal in the future than they have had in the past. Referring to the receiving house which is being constructed, I do hope that the detention wards there will be an immense improvement upon the horrible holes used for that purpose in Murray-street. It was a crime against a child to have him or her imprisoned in one of those holes.

Mr. Davies: The whole place looked like a charity house.

Mr. ROCKE: I presume the hon. member is referring to the receiving home in Marquis-street; and I wish to say that if the city had been hunted over for the worst locality for such an institution, a less suitable one could not have been found than that situation in Marquis-street. The Minister referred to a probation officer to undertake the boarding out of children; but that can hardly be right, since a probation officer deals solely with delinquent children. In New Zealand, owing to the Government having adopted a reasonable system of dealing with delinquent children, the cost of that work has been reduced by an almost inconceivable proportion. For example, 354 delinquent boys were dealt with in the Auckland Province at a cost of approximately £2,000. Had that number of delinquent boys been dealt with under the old method, the cost to the State would have been £22,596. It may be urged that a probation system is in operation here. True, but it is a very small affair, and it makes no attempt to deal with the question of the delinquent child in the comprehensive manner which that question merits. We have just touched the fringe of the question, and I hope the Colonial Secretary means to have this branch of the work of his department placed on an efficient basis. If so, he shall have all the support I am able to give him; and I am sure he will also receive all the support that other members of the Committee can render.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [5.45]: As I have previously said, the Colonial Secretary's department is not granted money until every other department has been supplied. The Treasurer, as a rule, is very loth to grant money to this department. At the same time, I think the Colonial Secretary's department the most important of them all. With its various sub-departments, whose purpose is to look after the welfare of the people, it is, in my opinion, even more important than the Lands Department, to which so much attention is given. Comments have been made in regard to the State Children's Department. Frequently people fail to realise that this department furnishes aid to a large number of children who are not State children. In South Australia, and I believe also in New Zealand, this department deals exclusively with State

children, but in Western Australia the numbers of State children are very small indeed.

Mr. Davies: How do you define State children?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A State child is a child committed to the care of the State by the court, in which case the child is placed under the control of the State until it reaches the age of 18. I am pleased to say that in Western Australia we are getting away from the old system of compelling mothers to go to the court to get assistance for their children. To-day, when a mother can show that she requires assistance for the maintenance of her children, the State at once comes to her aid without her being compelled to go before the court and without her child being taken away from her and placed under the control of the State. Children committed to the control of the State are very few in comparison with those who receive assistance without coming under such control. I have known mothers come in to the department with tears running down their cheeks and declaring that they would rather go without sufficient food than apply to have their children committed to the control of the State. I think we can be proud of our present system, but in my opinion it could be carried a little further. In various parts of the world mothers can claim assistance in the maintenance of their children, not as a charity, but as a right. In 30 of the States of America this obtains, and also in Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, where it has been passed into law. Queensland, I think, has adopted it, and last year a similar measure was passed in Victoria, with the difference that the mother has to go before a magistrate. New Zealand in 1913 passed a law under which mothers can claim maintenance for their children until 14 years of age. In Illinois 15 dollars per month is paid to the mother for the maintenance of herself and her first child, with a maximum of 50 dollars per month for the family. If there be a number of children 10 dollars per month is paid for each child after the first child, and this continues until the children reach 14 years of age. In Michigan three dollars per week is paid for each child until 17 years of age. In Ohio 15 dollars per month is paid for the mother and first child, and seven dollars per month for each further child. In Victoria the minimum is 6s. and the maximum 12s. per week. No doubt eventually this system will have to be adopted in Western Australia. In 1914 I asked the department to get into communication with some of the States of America with a view to embodying in our legislation the system which obtains there. In my opinion, with the increased cost of living, mothers at the present time do not receive sufficient to maintain their children. It is all very well to ask, cannot the mother go out to work? I agree with the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale), that, if the family has grown up, the mother can do something.

The Colonial Secretary: She cannot be expected to go out to work if she has five or six children to look after.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, that is so, especially if the eldest be not more than perhaps eight years of age. Let me say, to the credit of the Minister, that every case I have brought under his notice has been promptly attended to. But there is in the department someone who has not that sympathy which should characterise every officer in the department. A decided change has come over the department during the last 12 months.

Mr. Davies: For better or for worse?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A decided change for the worse. I do not care who administers the department, or who may be in charge of it, the department is bound to be occasionally victimised. Having regard to the thousands of cases the department has to deal with, it is impossible that it should escape imposition; no matter how careful it may be, it will be imposed upon. Whilst every care should be taken to guard against imposition, that care should not be allowed to prejudice the claims of bona fide applicants. I am afraid that many applicants to the Charities Department are met with the hostile view that they are endeavouring to get something out of the Government. So recently as last Thursday I received a letter from a lady in Leederville who has eight or nine in family. Her eldest son is doing all he can to assist his mother in the maintenance of that family. The good lady is in receipt of £3 per week, out of which she has to pay her rates and provide for the upkeep of her children. The department has declined to render her any assistance. I would be the last to urge that the department should give everything that is asked for. All applications should be scrutinised, but the departmental officers should avoid hasty conclusions. In this case it seems the department decided that, £3 a week being apparently a large sum, the lady was not entitled to any more. But it all depends on the number of children the lady has to feed and clothe. If she had but one child, possibly £3 per week would be a handsome sum to her, but with seven or eight children it is almost impossible for her to keep going. It seems the department has been regarding the total sum and taking no account of the size of the family. The department should be in charge of an officer who will deal sympathetically with applicants.

The Colonial Secretary: I think we have such a man in charge.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I believe we have a good officer in the secretary of the State Children's Department, a man who knows what is required, who has been trained in the department.

Mr. Roche: And now he is being harassed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is very likely. He has been trained in the department, and he knows its requirements. He knows it is necessary to examine every application,

and he knows also that nothing should be done which would prejudice the applicant. I have every confidence in the secretary, and I think he is a good man for the position. I am afraid there has been a change there lately which has altered the whole thing.

Mr. Foley: Perhaps someone else wants the job.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It was brought under my notice lately that an attempt had been made to form districts in which the inspectors of the department should operate. In fact it was carried into effect. It is impossible to carry on the work successfully under such a proposal. If the inspectors had regular routine work to perform it might be possible to confine them to one district where there may be nothing to attend to, while in other districts there may be ten or perhaps a dozen people who require to be looked after. Inspectors have to go everywhere to make inquiries, and while in one week there might be twenty applications at Fremantle, there might only be two in the same week at Midland Junction. Therefore, the man in charge of Midland Junction would have nothing to do while the man at Fremantle would have his hands full, and the people whose cases he was investigating would have to await their turn. Another proposal that it will not be possible to carry out is that of placing the inspection of babies, who are under the care of foster mothers, in the hands of male inspectors. At the present time, these inspections have been carried out by very well trained women, who have been performing these duties for years. It is absurd to give men the work of seeing whether babies are properly looked after.

Mr. Roche: That has been denied, but I am convinced it is true.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not know whether it has been denied, but I am sure it is true.

Hon. P. Collier: That combination then is irresistible.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We have in this State a good officer who was brought here from South Australia to carry on this work. She has been paying strict attention to infants, and her work has been enlarged by the press and by everyone who has had occasion to visit the homes. Now it is suggested that this work should be taken from her and given to a man, who, with other inspectors, is to be allotted a district to attend to instead of having the whole area to cover, as has always been done. Just fancy a man who has had no training so far as children are concerned, advising a foster mother as to how she should manage a baby, and telling her what she should do with it! This kind of thing shows that the person who made the recommendation had no idea whatever of the manner in which the work of the department should be carried out.

Mr. Teesdale: Who would make such a recommendation?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will tell the hon. member privately if he likes. I will not tell him here.

The Colonial Secretary: We should have all female inspectors.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Certainly. At any rate in that respect.

Mr. Roche: The Government of New Zealand will not allow a male inspector to interfere with that class of work.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope the minister will see that the new officers, not the old ones, display more sympathy so far as the work of the department is concerned. I desire to say a few words with regard to old age pensions. We are all aware that the looking after of the old people formerly devolved on the State and not on the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth came along with their Old Age Pensions Act, which was advantageous to the old people. That was all right and it did good, but owing to the increased cost of commodities, the amount of the allowance granted at the present time is not sufficient to enable some of these old people to live. Is it not far better then, in view of the existing conditions, for the State to give something to supplement the pension? If the Commonwealth were not granting anything, the State would have to pay the whole lot. No person to-day can live on 15s. a week. Take a man who is 84 years of age. He must have certain things in the form of delicacies.

The Colonial Secretary: He should be in the home when he reaches that age.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We all like our liberty, and many of these old people do not care about going into the home.

The Colonial Secretary: Suppose all the inmates in the Old Men's Home took that view.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Many who are there are receiving pensions, and I will guarantee that many of these old people in the Old Men's Home and even the women in the Old Women's Home would not stay there a week if they could look after themselves. They only go there at a time when they need attention, and the consequence is that when they go there they forfeit their pension to the State. It is only within the last year or two that the State has been getting anything at all from the Commonwealth towards the support of the inmates in the homes. Some time back, when these old people went into the homes, they forfeited their right to the Commonwealth pension. The Minister should deal with these cases on their merits. Some of these old people who may be living with their families may be able to get along, but when they have no assistance, it is impossible for an old couple to pay rent and live on the pension of 30s. a week which both would be entitled to. Some have small places in which to live.

Mr. Davies: What rent would they pay for them?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Generally 5s. or 6s. a week. I hope the Minister will give this matter his attention. Some remarks have been made to-day on the subject of the receiving home for infants. Very few of us really know what the idea of establishing a receiving home really was. It was established in West Perth but it was shifted hurriedly. The difficulty in connection with the conduct of a receiving home is to see that it is maintained as a receiving home, and that it shall not be allowed to become an institution. There was a receiving home at Subiaco, which afterwards became the King Edward Memorial Home. That place was used for some years, but it became an institution, and there were rarely less than 200 inmates in it. A receiving home should only be for the purpose of taking in a neglected child, or a child that has no person to look after it. That child should remain there temporarily, at any rate only until it is transferred to a foster mother, or to an institution.

Mr. Griffiths: It should only be a clearing house.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is all a receiving home is. A receiving home should be nothing but a receiving home, and we should take care to see that a large staff is not built up in it. The Marquis-street receiving home, which was opened by the member for Pilbara, was never intended as a permanent depot for children, but like other institutions of the Government, once a certain line of action is decided on, a variation quickly comes about.

The Colonial Secretary: You must hold some infants for a while.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A few weeks perhaps, but a receiving home should not become a permanent home for infants. Like other institutions the receiving home developed until it accommodated 15 or 20 children when the original intention was that it should not provide for more than three or four. I hope that the Minister will see that in the new buildings that are to be erected they will be kept entirely as a receiving home, and that a large staff will not be provided so that the premises shall not become anything but a receiving home.

The Minister for Works: Outside pressure sometimes brings that very thing about.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not think it does. At any rate I have never heard of it so far as the receiving home is concerned. The only outside pressure which is applied in connection with the receiving home is as to which institution the children shall be transferred, or as to whether they shall go to a foster-mother. The children should only be kept in such a place for a few days.

The Minister for Works: It is outside pressure that I am speaking about.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I thought the Minister referred to pressure in regard to the transfer of the children. I do not say that the site in Marquis-street was the most suitable, but it was certainly the most suit-

able at the time the building was opened. Children were taken there to be dealt with because the other place which was used as a receiving home was required to be converted into the King Edward Memorial Home. On the subject of immigration, a great change has come over the question so far as Western Australia is concerned.

Mr. Davies: So far as Australia is concerned.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We are dealing with this State at the present time. We were told two years ago that we were going to get 25,000 immigrants a year.

The Colonial Secretary: Who said so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister has only to look at the reports.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Before the tea adjournment, I was pointing out that it was anticipated that we would have some 25,000 immigrants coming to Western Australia. A committee was appointed just prior to the Agent General going to England with a view to drafting an immigration scheme. Details of that scheme appeared in the "West Australian" and therein it was anticipated that the number of immigrants I have mentioned would come out. Now we find from the Minister's statement that the steamer "Zealandia" is expected to leave London this month with accommodation for 1,200 immigrants, and that of that accommodation, only such as would be required for 1,000 has been used. It appears somewhat different from the statements that were made previously, to the effect that we would have a big rush of immigration to Western Australia. I hope the member for York will take notice of that particular point.

Mr. Foley: Perhaps it is what the Board of Trade regard as sufficient for 1,000 only. That body is not always right.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, the "Zealandia" is a good steamer. I have seen her in port. I regret very much that the immigration to Australia is not going to be in the numbers anticipated. Statements have been made here repeatedly regarding the large number of immigrants we might expect. So long as things are brisk in England no doubt people will desire to remain there, and should a slump take place, they will come out to Western Australia. I do not know much about the moneyed people. The member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) has more information on that point than I have. I have been informed that there were a few applications from people with money who desired to come out and take up land. It is useless for any man to take up land unless the necessary labour to enable him to till the soil effectively is available. It is essential that there should be a large number of farm workers to render that assistance. I have gone into the matter carefully and I have come to the conclusion that the total

number of people desiring to come to Western Australia when the "Zealandia" leaves will be about 1,000. When I left England on 21st May last, the total number of immigrants on the books of the Agent General was 800, including nominated passages, ex-soldiers, and applications for assisted passages. It convinced me that we were not going to experience any large inrush of population such as is necessary for the development of this State. I regret that such is the case. I agree with the Premier and with the leader of the Opposition, that it is necessary to fill up the empty spaces of Australia, but the applications coming in are such that I am convinced it will take a very long period to make up the losses experienced during the war. There are many matters which affect this question. The Minister spoke very highly of the Ugly Men's Association. I am pleased to see that that body took steps at the request of the Government to assist in the direction indicated.

The Premier: They offered their services.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: All the assistance we can get, no matter from whom it comes, is necessary, because I have always felt that one of the greatest blots on our immigration policy has been the fact that there has been no one to look after immigrants on their arrival at Fremantle. One of the principal factors operating against a large inrush of immigrants is that the wages are better in England than in Australia. I am dealing with the rural workers, and it must be conceded that the rural districts are the best to which we can go to secure immigrants. While wages are fairly high in the rural districts it is impossible for the officers of the Government to put up good reasons in favour of immigration to another land. Farm labourers are not abundant.

The Premier: I do not think they have ever been abundant.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, but I think they should be. Mr. Sanderson, M.L.C., took the same view in an article which he contributed to the "West Australian." There is more demand for farm labourers in England than the supply is equal to, and farmers are in the position of not being able to get a sufficiency of labour. The only persons we should get here are those who can be trained as farm labourers, and we must go to the rural districts to get men who will settle in the interior of this State. We will not get them from the towns, for such people would merely drift back to the towns to again enjoy the life they have been accustomed to. That is not the class of settler this country requires. Members are aware that farm labourers' wages have been increased considerably during the past year or two in England. The last quotation I saw showed that farm labourers' wages had been fixed by the district council in Cornwall at £2 2s. per week of 48 hours.

The Colonial Secretary: And keep?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will explain the keep aspect presently. For work extending over 48 hours, they had to be paid extra wages, and they had to be paid for work on Sundays at the rate of 1s. 3½d. per hour in addition to the weekly wages. The Minister asks about keep. The keep that they receive there is not to be regarded in the same light as we view it here. A farm labourer in England has a house provided for him. He keeps a pig or two and has a certain area for a garden. A large number can almost maintain themselves from the products of the areas they have been given.

The Premier: They pay for that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In addition to the wages and these other things, they have milk, etc., provided for them. There has been no alteration, so far as I can gather, in these conditions, apart from the wages and hours of labour. In 1911, for the same class of work, the farm labourer got from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per week. The difference between the old rates and those obtaining now will be obvious to hon. members.

Mr. Harrison: What about the cost of wearing apparel?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The cost in Western Australia and in England is approximately the same so far as outer garments are concerned. I do not want to touch on that aspect at present, but I might mention that steps were taken in London which may have the effect of making clothes considerably cheaper there than in Western Australia.

Mr. Harrison: Which means that we can look forward to cheaper clothes here.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope so. With all these conditions obtaining, it will be agreed that immigration officers will find considerable difficulty in promoting immigration from those districts to Western Australia, particularly when the minimum wage is less here than there.

Mr. Harrison: But it is not less is it?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, the figures show that the minimum is as low as 30s. per week and in some instances even less. The highest wage, I noticed, was 75s. and keep, and there was only one engaged at that rate. The rates vary down to 10s. and 12s. per week. We hear a lot regarding the cost of living and the price of commodities, but from what I could see living is dearer here than it is there. Bread, sugar, and meat are dearer, although possibly in the rural districts they are cheaper.

Mr. Davies: What about butter?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Butter was 2s. 6d. a pound retail when I was in Cornwall and there was no shortage. At the same time I must confess that I never saw any butter in London at all; it was rationed there. When we consider the conditions in the rural districts of England, we must realise that we shall have some difficulty in getting rural workers. For farm work that was being done for 15s. a week previously 9s. a day is now being refused. This shows that a consider-

able improvement has taken place in England on what obtained previously. Miners are in a similar position. Several men asked me if they would not be fools to go to Kalgoorlie and work for 13s. 4d. a day, because they were receiving 10s. a day and had their homes and were among their own people. They knew as much about Kalgoorlie as I did except that they had not been there. They pointed out that they could do better in America where they could get £1 a day.

Mr. Munsie: They would be lucky if they got more than 12s. 6d. a day in Kalgoorlie.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I saw fair sized mackerel sold at 1d. each, and no man would have eaten more than half of one at a meal.

Mr. Harrison: Was that during your recent trip?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, it was the season for these fish. Many other commodities were much cheaper there than they are here. I have nothing to say with regard to the town workers. In the large towns commodities were rather expensive. I am dealing with the rural districts, for it is to those districts that we must look to get suitable immigrants for Australia, men who will work in the country instead of flocking to the towns. If things slump in England there may be a chance to get a fair number of general labourers from the towns, but while they might come here with the intention of settling on the land they would probably drift to the cities as before. Some of these men might make good farm labourers if they could be kept on the farms, but if not they would be of very little use to Western Australia.

Mr. Munsie: It would take more than a rabbit proof fence to keep them on the farms.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I regret that the position is such, because after the reports I had read in the Press I thought there would be a possibility of getting a large influx of people. The statement made by the Minister, however, proves conclusively that we cannot hope for this. Another factor which affects immigration, particularly, is the cost of steamship fares. In pre-war days a person could come to Western Australia for £17. Today a similar berth costs £40. This is the point of view from which possible emigrants regard the position. They realise that they would be travelling a long distance and that if Australia did not agree with them, it would cost a lot of money to return to England. The shipping rates are almost a bar against taking a passage to Australia at the present time. The Premier is hoping that under arrangements with the Commonwealth, the latter will undertake the whole of the cost of shipping. This might improve matters somewhat for the trip out, but there has been no alteration in the assistance given by the State Government in the matter of fares, compared with what was given prior to the war. The immigrant in pre-war days paid £6 towards a fare which cost £16. To-

day the immigrant has to pay the whole of the balance in addition to the assistance rendered previously. I understand that there are many girls who desire to emigrate to Australia, but the fares are prohibitive; it is impossible for them to raise the necessary money to come out. This is one of the matters which the Government should consider at a very early date.

Mr. Davies: Ex-service men's fares are paid by the British Government.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not wish to say much about that question. Perhaps the less I say, the better.

Hon. P. Collier: They were going to come here with £500 each.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Canada is getting the bulk of the ex-service men. Canada is nearer to England than is Australia, the fares are much lower and the Canadian office is very close to the Colonial office. The British Government, too, is not anxious that their able-bodied men should leave Britain. They realise that the nation lost several hundred thousand of their best workers during the war. The building trade in England is 200,000 men short. When we realise that England desires to build up her industries in order to supply the markets of the world which she held before the war, we can understand that she is anxious to retain her able-bodied men. I noticed by the Press the other day that 200 children are coming out. I conclude that they are children whose fathers were killed in the war. Some arrangement was made eight or nine months ago to bring out 200 children, but when I was in England I was informed that it was almost impossible to get the required number. These children are receiving pensions and no doubt they will have every opportunity to become good citizens. The position as regards immigration, in my opinion, is very black indeed. Our only hope is that a slump will come to the Old Country whereby it will be necessary to get rid of a large number of people. I believe that there were 1,000 men with money who made application to come here, but I am dealing with those workers who would require assistance to develop their holdings. I have a complaint against the Minister with regard to the Claremont asylum. Some time ago I directed the Minister's attention to the fact that an assistant at the asylum, after having been employed for five years, had been dismissed. During the war no person was appointed permanently. It was considered that any appointee should be taken on temporarily in order that the positions might be reserved for returned soldiers. This man was dismissed and his case was to be heard before the appeal board exactly as if he were a permanent employee. The Minister said he did not see why the appeal board should not deal with the case, and he gave me to understand that the case would be so dealt with. On Saturday I saw a letter which came from the Minister's office

which stated that he did not intend to interfere and that he would not grant an appeal.

The Colonial Secretary: He was a temporary officer.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, for five years.

The Colonial Secretary: I did not know that at the time.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I told the man that the Minister had agreed to an appeal and now the Minister has refused to permit it. This man is named Branson and there is another man named Gallagher, whose case was similar, though he was not employed so long. If a man is willing to have his case heard by the appeal board, there is no reason why it should not be so dealt with. I hope the Minister will reconsider the matter and allow the appeal to go to the board, especially in view of the conditions which have prevailed during the last five or six years. In both instances the men were dismissed. I have a good deal of sympathy for the Minister controlling this department. It is not the best department, because it produces no revenue, though it is an interesting department on account of the different classes of work dealt with. The Minister must be at the Treasurer at almost every turning. I realise his difficulties, especially in the way of satisfying Parliament that the votes have been properly expended and the amounts well scrutinised. If there is one office under the Government that needs the assistance and sympathy of Parliament more so than any other, it is that of the Colonial Secretary. I hope members will give all the assistance possible and see that the many difficult tasks to be performed in the alleviating of sickness and distress are carried out to the satisfaction of the State.

Mr. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [7.57]: After the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) there is little that can be said on the question of immigration with which I had proposed to deal rather fully had not the hon. member anticipated me. I can confirm a good deal of what the hon. member has said with regard to the supply of agricultural labourers. I too, am afraid that we shall experience great difficulty in getting the number which at one time was considered probable. I quite agree that at present the position of the farm labourer in the Old Country is equal, if not a little superior, to that of the farm labourer in Australia. Farm labourers in England enjoy numbers of perquisites which represent a considerable addition to their wages. In the district from which I come, outside the wages of which the hon. member spoke, the farmer feeds a pig with his own pigs at no expense to the labourer. The latter has the advantage of having all the skim milk which he requires, and that skim milk is a little superior to the average new milk obtainable in Perth at the present time. He has a rood of potatoes planted by the farmer for him. All the fruit that falls in the orchard—it might be called

specked fruit—or as much of it as he requires, he may have, and I have seen apples which have fallen on the soft meadow land equal to anything in Australia, not broken, discoloured, or worm-eaten. It is an item to be considered that he can have for his children as much fruit as he likes to carry from the orchard. All these considerations tend to increase his wages, for they would represent a considerable sum if he had to purchase them.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the fare to the Old Country? We shall be emigrating.

Hon. T. Walker: Either that or bananas.

Mr. TEESDALE: I can vouch for this; it is the practice in my district.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Which district?

Mr. TEESDALE: These men, too, are being housed better than before. Their dwellings are much superior to what they were when I was a boy. All these things must be considered. In South Australia I have seen 22 men sleeping in as many thrashing machines with their legs hanging out of the ends.

Mr. O'Loughlen: With a rooster roosting on their toes.

Mr. TEESDALE: The hon. member is quite right in drawing attention to the relative position of the labourer in Australia and the labourer in England. I question if there is much difference between them.

Mr. Harrison: To what part of England do you refer?

Mr. TEESDALE: To Lincolnshire. The question of immigration is occupying the attention of various people in the Old Country who are interested in settlement schemes. This Government should be very careful, when our immigrants arrive here, to see that they are properly looked after. It is not a question of rushing in the numbers so much as it is of seeing that the people are properly settled when they come here. There are many newspapers in the Old Country ready to attack any State that fails to carry out its immigration policy in a proper manner. I have seen some scurrilous attacks on a certain Australian State in connection with a few cases that apparently turned out unsuccessfully.

Mr. O'Loughlen: To what State do you refer?

Mr. TEESDALE: To Queensland.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You get attacks in your own local papers.

Mr. TEESDALE: I did not mention the State until I was asked to do so.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They should not be proud of their attacks, either.

Mr. TEESDALE: We must see that there are no attacks upon our own State, and that if there are any they are not justified.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The "West Australian" attacked the Queensland Government for their deficit, when we have a deficit twice as big as theirs.

Mr. TEESDALE: During the last 12 months the prospects in Western Australia have been discussed more favourably than

those of any other State of Australia. We must maintain the good standing we have in the Old Country. We want more immigrants and must do what we can to get as many as possible.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Queensland is getting more than we are.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is to be hoped the Queensland immigrant will be satisfied with the treatment he receives.

Mr. O'Loughlen: He will.

Mr. TEESDALE: I trust that immigrants will be properly treated everywhere.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You were in Queensland, and know that the position was not as it was represented to be.

Mr. TEESDALE: Quite so. The Government must do all they can to suitably receive these immigrants on arrival. Everything depends on the first impressions of these men and women. At times they are allowed to get adrift, especially those who are not nominated and not taken in hand by relatives. Probably this is where the trouble often starts. They are sore and embittered by their first two or three days in the State, and write to some of the newspapers in the Old Country that are only too glad to misrepresent the position in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is almost impossible to stop them from going adrift, try as you will.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am sure the Government will do all they can to see that they are properly taken care of and settled as quickly as possible. The statement made by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. Roche) was hardly correct when he spoke about 400 immigrants being taken in hand by the Ugly Men's Association.

Mr. Roche: I said my figures were not correct.

Mr. TEESDALE: I appreciate the work of that organisation, but we must not allow our department to be reflected upon. We are obliged to that association for the interest they have taken, but we do not desire that interest to be prejudicial to the work of the department. The hon. member suggested that the department should look to them for guidance. That would be a great mistake, and show a want of confidence in our own powers. Up to the present we have been fairly successful in our treatment of immigrants, and I see no reason why we should not continue to be so. It is to be hoped that those who are coming out by the "Zealandie" will be quickly absorbed. If these people are properly handled they may induce others to try their fortunes also in Western Australia. We need have no hesitation in offering every inducement to immigrants to come here. In our lands we have a wonderful asset, and we have a Premier who is determined to do all he can to settle these lands. Great interest is being taken in the other States of the Commonwealth in land settlement in Western Australia. We have

had several illustrations lately of a very encouraging nature, which indicate that Western Australia is at last coming into her own. There is the settlement scheme at Kendenup, about which I may have something to say at a later stage. We have another large institution called the Australian Farms, Ltd., which proposes to transfer its operations to this State in a few months' time. At a meeting held the other day many Western Australian merchants showed their confidence in this State by practically guaranteeing £10,000 in connection with this company. If the company does transfer its operations here it will purchase land outright and pay cash for it. No assistance from the Government will be required. Only experienced men will be settled upon the farms. That is an excellent idea, as it will reduce the possibility of failures. The company has a very good reputation in Victoria inasmuch as it has accomplished things. There are three settlements in that State upon which the settlers have practically paid off all their indebtedness. In two instances there are areas which support 75 people to-day, but eight years ago there were sheep running on them and there was not a person living there. We should be glad to have people of that class in this State to help us in settling our land. We shall not be jealous because these people come from Victoria. They will bring Victorian money to this State and everyone will benefit. I am sorry the Federal Government are about to take over, to a great extent, our immigration scheme. I do not look for any benefits from that crowd. We ought to be very jealous of our immigration scheme. Very little consideration will be shown to this State when the slip panels are dropped and the stream of immigrants is let loose.

Hon. P. Collier: It was the Premier who moved for consent to be given to this arrangement, and the Minister for Mines who seconded it.

Mr. TEESDALE: I should have thought the Premier would have been more careful in safeguarding the powers that we have left to us, than to have given away anything more to the Federal Government. The Commonwealth have power to select these immigrants in London and to this I take great exception. We ought to be able to select our own people. They are simply gathered up by thousands and apportioned in blocks to the different States.

The Premier: Oh, no!

Mr. TEESDALE: Under the present system we have an official at our London agency who gives a good deal of attention to the cross-examination of the various applicants. Too much time is lost through our not having sufficient officials there to interview these people. It may be that this is responsible for their only being 800 applicants on the books at the present time. There is only one official there now who can answer the ordinary inquiries about Western Australia. That is not right. If we are to

absorb a large number of people we should have more officials in London to deal with them. I have seen too much delay in the London office. I did not ask the officials for this information, but obtained it for myself. I put in a good deal of time at the front counter of that agency. That is the place where one sees the applicant arrive, hears how he is approached in the first instance, and hears the questions he asks and the answers that are given. It gives one a good idea of the position to put in a few weeks at the London agency. The officers there should have more knowledge of this State than they have, particularly those who deal directly with immigrants. Mr. Taylor, who was sent home lately, has too much of his time taken up in answering questions. The whole of his time should be devoted to making the necessary inquiries to insure the successful taking over of the immigrant in Western Australia. Too much time is lost in detail. The Government would be well advised to give Mr. Taylor additional help. I am sure the result of that would be satisfactory. The officers at our agency are not properly paid. Their present salaries are not sufficient for them to live in a decent manner and maintain that appearance which is necessary for such officials. The cost in England now of ordinary foodstuffs, and particularly meat, bread, tea, and sugar, is very high indeed. Our agency is paying its employees lower rates than any other agency in London, and that is not a good advertisement for the State. I have heard the matter discussed in public; and that, I think, is a very bad thing for Western Australia. I am given to understand, indeed, that just after the war broke out various officers in our London agency had their salaries reduced. To my surprise I have learned that their salaries have not been increased since the Armistice, whilst all other officers in similar positions have had their salaries raised. I trust that if there is any vote from which these officers can obtain an increase, the Minister will take the matter into consideration and give them fair treatment. At times the window display at our London Agency is a disgrace to the State—handfuls of parched up wheat, cracked and blistered pieces of timber, stuffed turkeys and other extraordinary illustrations of our products.

The CHAIRMAN: That matter had better be discussed under the Premier's Department vote. The Premier controls the London Agency.

Mr. TEESDALE: The exhibit in question is one of the disadvantages of our immigration office in London. That office is not a show place. It looks rather like a bird-stuffer's shop. I myself saw in the window a turtle from Port Darwin, which is not part of Western Australia. Certainly the window display is not in any way calculated to be an advertisement for our immigration office. Opposite our agency there is the window display of another State—a window well filled with

good exhibits, which are changed monthly. Evidently the London Agency of that State is well organised, or else its merchants and producers take more interest in their agency than do the merchants and producers of this State in the London Agency of Western Australia. Our display is indeed a shabby one. I do not think the fault lies with the Agent General, who does his best with the material he has.

Hon. P. Collier: But surely if the Agent General were to make a request to the Government for a periodic change of exhibits, they would comply with that request.

Mr. TEESDALE: The timber exhibit is a reflection on the State. The pieces of timber shown are cracked and discoloured, and compare very badly with those in the Queensland window on the opposite side of the street. It has been suggested by a gentleman in another place that our Agent General should come to Western Australia in order to have his memory refreshed regarding the wonderful possibilities of this State. I take strong exception to holidays on the part of the Agent General. We should have among our officials men competent to keep him in touch with the new developments here since his departure. I would take strong exception to any expense incurred in bringing the Agent General to Western Australia in order to make himself conversant with what a member in another place termed new developments in Western Australia. We can keep him in touch with them without bringing him here. I would rather see any superfluous money available for that purpose distributed proportionately amongst the employees of the agency. In regard to passage rates I entirely agree with the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. L. Angwin). The rates now are simply appalling for even second and third rate accommodation. I had the opportunity of discussing the matter with a recent arrival here, a man who worked hard for years in England in order to get sufficient to pay the fares of his family to Western Australia. The family are six in number, and it cost him £315 to land them here. Even if such a man lands here without a shilling, he is a valuable acquisition to the State, because he has shown sufficient confidence in Western Australia to expend practically every pound he had in order to come here. Let me add that in the old country £315 represents a small fortune to a working man. The man I refer to is the sort of man who should be borne in mind by the Government, and the Government should give him every possible assistance. I am pleased to see so many nominated passengers coming out. With regard to the immigration office in Perth, I find it very satisfactory to do business with them. Reasonable requests for information are met immediately, and the office show great expedition in dealing with nominated cases. As the new arrivals meet with success, we shall have considerable additions to our nomi-

ated passengers. To obtain additional population in that way is highly satisfactory, because immigrants who send for their friends must have been treated fairly by the Government and must have done well here. I trust the Minister will not lose sight of the matter of additional payment to our officials in London, because I consider the present rates a reflection on the State, especially when other States are paying higher rates than those ruling at our London Agency.

Mr. ANGELO (Gaseoyne) [8.25]: I have a few words to say on the subject of Fisheries. I would not have spoken had not the Minister volunteered the information that the Government are looking out for a steamer to replace the "Penguin," which was wrecked some time ago on the South coast. Last session when the Minister told us the "Penguin" was to be fitted out as a trawler, I entered a protest, because I did not consider it necessary to go prospecting for fish. The proposal reminded me of the case of a miner who had a good goldmine to work on, but instead of being satisfied to continue to develop that mine went out to look for something else. In Shark Bay we have one of the greatest fishing assets of the Commonwealth. Just before the war a Norwegian company who were whaling in the North-West sent for one of their fishing experts from Norway to report on the possibilities of extending the fishing operations on the North-West coast. That expert's report was that in Shark Bay there was enough fish to supply the whole of Australia. The Norwegian company intended to ask the State Government for a concession to fish in Shark Bay. However, the war came along, and nothing was done. Every member of this Committee will agree that one of the chief requirements of the metropolitan area is cheap fish. Some definite scheme should be put forward by the Government, not to catch fish, but to provide means of conveyance to the metropolitan market. The money which the Government propose to expend on a boat to prospect for new fishing grounds would, if put into a vessel to carry fish after they had been caught to the metropolitan market, do far more good for the State. Further, in connection with a prospecting vessel, the expenditure would be all outlay, whereas a vessel to bring fish to market should be self-supporting. Hon. members may think that Shark Bay is only a small sheet of water. It is about 90 miles long by about 40 miles broad; but there are numerous promontories running out from the shore, and the beach of Shark Bay would represent about 300 miles of fishing ground. Within a radius of 50 miles from the port, therefore, there would be 300 miles of fishing beach. If the Government would only supply the means of getting the fish to market, numbers of fishermen would make Shark Bay their headquarters. We know that the Labour Government instituted a scheme for supplying cheap fish. However, they went too far. They

tried not only to bring the fish down, but also to catch it. There is no necessity for the Government to catch fish. The fishing would be done by private enterprise if the Government would provide a suitable vessel for quick transport of the fish to the metropolitan market. I was pleased to hear from the Minister that the few soldiers engaged in the canning industry in the North are doing well. However, we do not want canned fish here if we can get fresh fish. I wish the soldiers every success, and I am sure they will always have a big market for their tinned fish; but what we want in the southern portion of the State is fresh fish. The Minister said this afternoon that the North-West Meat Company operating at Carnarvon intend to tackle the fishing industry in Shark Bay. What the company hope to do, however, is not to can the fish they catch, but to send them to the metropolitan market in a frozen or chilled condition. It will be time enough when Shark Bay is fished out—which cannot possibly happen during the lifetime of any of the members present—to go prospecting. In the meantime I trust the Minister will reconsider the idea of converting this new boat into a trawler and will, instead, fit her out for expeditiously bringing fish to the metropolitan market.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [8.30]: I find there are no reports on the Table dealing with the question of immigration, notwithstanding that it is the most important subject confronting the State to-day. We have been told by the members for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) and for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) that the prospects of securing immigrants from England are very remote, if only for the reason that in England the workers are being paid higher wages than they would receive in Western Australia, and that the avenues of employment are wide and numerous. Still, there is one opening by which we can obtain immigrants of the best description, namely, by a child immigration policy. This policy has been frequently announced in the House and, I think, is favourably viewed by all members of the Country party. We know that Mr. Fairbridge went home to England in connection with this policy.

Hon. P. Collier: Went to England, not home. This is home.

Mr. PICKERING: But many people who are Australian by birth speak of England as home. However, I hope the Colonial Secretary, when replying to the debate, will give us some definite statement as to the attitude of the Government towards child immigration. I understand that Mr. Fairbridge was assisted by the Government in his mission to England. He was appointed an immigration officer. We have not had any report as to the result of Mr. Fairbridge's efforts, but we know that he was very successful in England.

Hon. P. Collier: What was the result?

Mr. PICKERING: He secured promises of between £25,000 and £30,000 to assist him in his project.

Hon. P. Collier: He secured promises on a previous occasion, but they never materialised.

Mr. PICKERING: These promises are conditional on the favourable attitude of the Government of Western Australia towards the proposal. I am anxious to find out what that attitude may be. In view of the statements made by the members for North-East Fremantle and for Roebourne, there is no greater avenue of immigration which this State can exploit than that entered upon by Mr. Fairbridge. It is a large sum promised by the people of England to assist this State to get population. The child immigrant is the best we can have. He comes here without prejudice, he takes up his Australian life as a child, he is educated in our schools, and he is brought up in the environment best fitted to develop him into that most useful of citizens, the man on the land.

Mr. Roake: Would it not be better to care for our own children first?

Mr. PICKERING: When we find there are not sufficient of our own children to take up this work, why oppose the introduction of further children from Great Britain?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No one but you is opposing it.

Mr. PICKERING: I am not opposing it. I am in favour of Mr. Fairbridge's scheme.

Hon. P. Collier: A scheme with £25,000 behind it does not require much assistance.

Mr. PICKERING: But it does. The present property occupied by the Fairbridge farm school is not suited to its purpose. Mr. Fairbridge has to secure a new property better fitted for the education of children destined to go on the land. This will involve considerable outlay. The buildings will have to be removed from their present position and established on the new farm.

Mr. Foley: The Government have to find the money, and Mr. Fairbridge will do the job.

Mr. PICKERING: Well, what is the matter with that? He is perfectly competent to do the job.

Mr. Foley: He has not proved it yet.

Mr. PICKERING: Indeed he has proved it. Mr. Fairbridge has demonstrated his ability to adequately train boys at the Fairbridge farm school. Every boy from that school has turned out satisfactorily, everyone of those boys has gone on the land. The trend of population these days is from the land. One has but to look at the figures supplied by Mr. Knibbs to see that this trend is something appalling. It is quite impossible to induce our own people to take that serious interest in the development of Australia which is essential to its proper progress. Mr. Knibbs' figures show that the population of Sydney is 824,700, of Melbourne 740,000, of Brisbane 184,000,

of Adelaide 250,000, of Perth 142,000, and of Hobart 45,000, making a total of nearly 2¼ millions resident in capital cities, out of a total population of less than five millions. This trend of population to the cities, which is being hastened by our policy of protection, presents a most fateful outlook for Australia generally. Fortunately Western Australia is in a better position than the other States, in proportion to population.

Mr. Johnston: Nothing of the sort. She is in the worst position of all.

Mr. PICKERING: I thought it was otherwise. I regret it if I am wrong in that respect. Clearly, it is of the utmost difficulty to get our own people to take up those avenues of employment which will lead to the most fruitful development of the State, and in view of this every encouragement should be given by the Government to this policy of child immigration. The very considerable sum to be furnished by the people of England will be spent in the provision of a home for the child immigrants and the furnishing of the necessary instructors. It is, therefore, essential to this movement that a substantial sum should be given by the Government of Western Australia by way of subsidy to keep this home going. I hope the Colonial Secretary will be able to announce to-night that the Government are favourably viewing this question of child immigration, and will be in a position to tell the Committee to what extent it is proposed to assist Mr. Fairbridge.

[Mr. Foley took the Chair.]

Hon. T. WALKER (Kanowna) [8.40]: I wish to draw attention to one or two points in the introductory remarks of the Minister in charge of the department. It is not very long since we had a great display of zeal on the part of a former Attorney General, when he introduced a measure for reforming our gaol system. I understood that the Minister now in charge of the department was in sympathy with that scheme, and that something had been done to initiate reform on up-to-date lines in our own institutions. I remember predicting that we should have a perfect fiasco in the committee suggested by the ex-Attorney General, the member for Canning (Mr. Robinson). No words that I have spoken in this Chamber have come more true. There is a complete failure in the committee that was appointed, as I predicted must happen from the nature of the case. As a matter of fact, I question now if we have a committee at all. Mr. Hann, who was appointed chairman, has resigned. We have not heard one word of that from the Colonial Secretary.

The Colonial Secretary: It is news to me. I have no official intimation of it.

Hon. T. WALKER: That is one of the points I have to complain of. I do not like to appear to have any rancour against the

Minister, but it does seem to me that his officers run the department unknown to him.

The Colonial Secretary: Nothing of the kind.

Hon. T. WALKER: Why nothing of the kind? Is it not a fact that Mr. Hann has resigned?

The Colonial Secretary: I have had no intimation of it.

Hon. T. WALKER: Will you deny that he has resigned?

The Colonial Secretary: I have had no information in regard to it.

Hon. T. WALKER: Will you deny it?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes; so far as I know, he has not resigned?

Hon. T. WALKER: So far as you know!

The Minister for Works: What more could he say?

Hon. T. WALKER: If he is running his department as it ought to be run, he must be in a position to know.

The Premier: He is, and the hon. member is not.

Hon. T. WALKER: He is not, and I am.

The Minister for Works: That is only an assertion.

The Premier: The resignation cannot be accepted without the Minister's approval.

Hon. T. WALKER: Has it been presented?

The Premier: He says not.

Hon. T. WALKER: But that is the point: I want to know. It is not the first time that news has been brought to the hon. member, even in this Chamber. That is what I am objecting to. I say distinctly, from all the records that we have of the history of these institutions, the Minister has not had an originating or initiating quality of control over his department.

The Premier: That is unfair.

Hon. T. WALKER: I do not wish to be unfair.

The Colonial Secretary: You should be the last to criticise anyone in this House. Anyhow, I do not expect anything fair from you.

Hon. T. WALKER: I have always endeavoured to be fair, even to the hon. member. Mere interjections of that kind do not answer the criticism I am bringing forward.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not fair in the statements you are making now.

Hon. T. WALKER: I am. I say the committee appointed has been a failure. I say the chairman has sent in his resignation. I say there is no chairman acting. I say there has been no effort, since the hon. member has been in power, to put that committee upon a workable footing or to put it in the way of being anything more than a useless and almost an injurious ornament to the management of a great department. I may appear to be irritating, but that is the only way in which we can get any notice taken of what is going on. It is easy enough to go on flattering Ministers and making them believe that all is well; we can go on till we suffer to the last stage of dry rot in that way. But that is not the way to go

ahead and get work done. There is another point. It shows the quality of the discerning mind of the hon. member when he tells us that they have established a reformatory at Rottneest. At Rottneest of all places, to fit them to mingle with the world, to fit them to face the battles of life when their sentences are over, to fit them once more to rehabilitate themselves in citizenship and to clothe them afresh!

Mr. Teesdale: Where could you have nicer surroundings?

Hon. T. WALKER: In an almost isolated island? Is that the way to fit a man to face the temptations of life? Bring up your children in a glass cage and no matter what the scenery they may look upon—

Mr. Teesdale: You would not have them in a tent?

Hon. T. WALKER: There is an enclosure at Rottneest, and there they ought to be tutored, trained, and disciplined to come into contact with their fellow citizens and to take their part in life's struggle for existence. What to learn, what to do, and how to fit them for life's battle; how to get them into a new frame of mind and to give them confidence that they may wage life's battle with some faint prospect of success. That is what we should do. How can we train them there? It is only a barracks, a bigger barracks, it is true, but even then, having none of the realities of the actual life worth having, none of that touch that is necessary to fit a man to go abroad and earn his living, and whilst this so-called reformatory is going on, in another department under the same Minister with every possible zeal they are pushing ahead Rottneest as a tourist resort, a fashionable sort of sea-side island. And that is where they want to fit men to compete with their fellow citizens to earn a crust when their sentences are over! When this matter was considered in this Chamber some time ago we had elaborate speeches on the subject of labour colonies on the mainland where we could imitate the example of Ontario and other parts of America. But what has been done? How has the spirit of the Act been carried out? Not a step has been taken, not one item of a progressive programme has been carried out. There are any number of examples going on in the world that might be followed—Norway, Sweden, in Belgium before the war, and even in Germany before the war.

Mr. Underwood: And in Turkey, too.

Hon. T. WALKER: I would not wonder, but I am not familiar with prison reform in Turkey. Certainly in Japan there have been prison reforms. Japan in that respect could show Western Australia a most enlightening lesson if we cared to look for a lesson from that country. But we need not go so far. The member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) has just come back from England, where experiments are carried out in re-

formatory treatment in Borstal where prisoners are taught not only the benefits of industry, a healthy industry on artisan lines in some cases. The hon. member also learned of the efforts to place these men in society, that is to say, in the industrial classes where they may have a chance to earn a living after the term of probation is over. What is being done here? What is being accomplished? Nothing but what was done before the Minister came into office. The placing of better class prisoners at Rottneest Island, to give them a chance to improve, was carried on long before the Nationalist Government came into office. The scheme which was propounded is inadequate; it does nothing. What is the consequence? It is just the same in connection with the lunatic asylum where the cost of looking after the mentally defective is increasing year after year out of all proportion to the population. We are getting the mentally defective under our gaol system, the costs are flying up and we are not restoring any to citizenship; we are making a mill, a factory for the perpetuation of so called gaol birds. Although I may appear to be harsh on the Minister it is because I want to be just to my fellow men. I want to see that they get justice and I want to see that we are not behind those nations I have mentioned in the spirit of reform that they have developed. Personally the Minister is a decent gentleman and I respect him, but in his capacity as Colonial Secretary I submit he is not fulfilling the duty that is demanded of him, that duty that ought to be accomplished. Of course, the Government share in the blame. They are not stirred, but they cannot afford to neglect this domestic part of government; they cannot afford to close their eyes to the by-products as it were of society as it exists. They must seek a cure, a remedy for that blot on our civilisation that we call our Fremantle gaol; if they are callous and indifferent we cannot blame the Minister for following the line of least resistance and going along the easiest and rosiest path. It is time the Government were called to their stern duty and were compelled to face the problem as it exists.

The Premier: It has existed for 20 years.

Hon. T. WALKER: It has existed for hundreds of years, not twenty. Although that old spirit still prevails of vindictively treating by every harshness the weak minded and the feeble and the wrong-doer, the hereditary criminal and the accidental criminal—we have treated them badly and we are doing so still, and the answer we get is that this has existed for twenty years. Surely my friend the Premier would not contend that his hat was excellent because he had worn it for twenty years?

The Premier: You were in office for five years, you know.

Hon. T. WALKER: What did we do? We made a stir that never was made before.

The Premier. I admit that.

Hon. T. WALKER: We started, and more than started; we accomplished much. My successor in office tried to do something, but I told him then it was only a shop window display. Now the Premier tells us it has existed for twenty years. We are then twenty years behind the times. The Premier is still in the bullock wagon when he ought to be in an air ship. It is this of which I am complaining. What was good enough for our forefathers must be good enough for us. We cannot go one step ahead.

The Premier: I merely wish to suggest that we are wearing your mantle.

Hon. T. WALKER: The Premier tried to get into it and tore it to shreds. I am only speaking metaphorically; I have no desire to be personal. I have no ill feeling towards the Minister, but I have severe criticism to offer to the methods which are being applied by him as the head of the department. Not one step has been initiated. There has, on the other hand, been retrogression; there has been a going back, and we are rather worse off to-day in that respect than when the National Government first took a seat on the Treasury bench, and day by day we are going back in the same way. In listening to the speeches which have been made to-night, I have heard another matter referred to, still connected with this theme, and that is the criticism of the management of the State Children Department. I quite agree we have some good men there, but there is an evil influence getting in, and the little children are dogged now very much as older men are dogged by policemen, both male and female. The spirit of the police force over-shadows our little children before they have learned really the responsibility that detects right from wrong. That spirit of sympathy that puts the State in the position of parent, with a parent's heart, as well as a parent's severity—I hope that position is being realised. But a few officious men think they can do anything; their desire is to get cases and make a noise and ruin the real purpose of the Act, which, by the way is not Australian but was taken from America. It was that country that first gave to us our children's courts, and if hon. members want an example, let them peruse the accounts of the children's courts in Denver and the methods adopted there; let them also make themselves familiar with something of that system of vigilance committees in all the big cities of America which give a help to children starting on the stony path of life and those who have got into trouble and need a helping hand. The Government here are doing absolutely nothing. When the gates of our goals open to let men out into the world again, those men are allowed to go back to their associates. There is no one to give them assistance; there is always a policeman watching for the prey; never a sympathetic kindness for the man who has gone wrong. Our Children's Courts are drifting in the same way and what matters it. As it was yesterday, so it is to-day and so it shall be

for ever. That is the policy. Let it go on. Do not disturb it. I have drawn attention to these points because I want them attended to. Hon. members may sneer and call me names as much as they like, but I speak with the tide that is flowing and some hon. members still remain in the pool that is stagnant.

The Premier: We know that you are sincere.

Hon. T. WALKER: I want to draw the Minister out of that pool and into the flowing stream that moves to the living and glorious future.

Mr. MUNSLIE (Hannans) [9.2]: I desire to say a few words on the general discussion, principally in connection with the operations of the State Children Department, and outdoor relief. I want to express my appreciation of the announcement made by the Minister when he spoke of the valuable work that is being done by the various institutions for the welfare of the children in this State. I would like to have a good deal to say on that matter, but the Minister has definitely stated that he will give me more particulars when he is dealing with the motion I have on the Notice Paper.

Mr. O'Loughlin: We may not reach it.

Mr. MUNSLIE: Well, I will take a risk for I am anxious to get the details.

The Colonial Secretary: You will reach it all right.

Mr. MUNSLIE: I think so. I want to correct one or two false impressions that may have been gained to-night. I do not blame the Minister, because I think the Minister spoke the truth, but was misunderstood by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. Locke). The Minister, in introducing the vote, referred to the amount which was being paid to foster mothers, and also to those looking after their own children, but who are supported by the State. He informed the Committee that the amount had been increased from 7s. to 8s. per week. The member for South Fremantle congratulated the Minister on the increase from 8s. to 9s. That increase has not been made. Where the increase has taken place it has been on the recommendation of the select committee dealing with the State Children Department, in an interim report that has been submitted.

The Colonial Secretary: That is regarding monetary assistance.

Mr. MUNSLIE: Yes. The Government have agreed to give the natural mothers, from whom the bread winner has been taken away or is not in a position to earn a living, the same amount as is given to foster mothers, namely 8s. a week. It costs a natural mother just as much as a foster mother to keep children in her care in these days with the high prices of commodities.

The Colonial Secretary: It is 10s., not 8s., up to one year.

Mr. MUNSLIE: Yes, but for children from three to fourteen years they are paid 8s. a week.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Mr. MUNSIE: And that comprises the great majority of those receiving assistance. That is not sufficient. I have information to present to the Minister in support of a larger amount. I have secured information from the Eastern States showing the amounts paid there.

The Colonial Secretary: I have it as well.

Mr. MUNSIE: And I am prepared to admit that the Minister will be able to say that there are States paying less than we do, but that does not justify us in any way in paying mothers an insufficient amount to keep body and soul together. There is another matter I wish to refer to and that is a remark by the member for North-East Fremantle dealing with a statement alleged to have been made by an official of the State Children and Charities Department. He is alleged to have issued instructions that men were to do inspecting so far as babies were concerned. The member for South Fremantle (Mr. Roche) said that that statement had been contradicted, but the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) said he knew it was true. I want to say I know it is untrue. No such statement has ever been made by an official of the State Children Department. I think it only fair to make that statement here. I heard the same rumour and went to some trouble to investigate it. When we had the head of the department before the Royal Commission, I pressed him for a reply. I asked Mr. Watson time and again as to whether that statement was correct. The only reply I could get was that it had been mentioned in conversation.

Mr. Roche: Men are doing the work. That is proof.

Mr. MUNSIE: Men are not doing the work any more to-day than they have been in the past.

Mr. Roche: Were not instructions issued to inspectors to do the whole of the work in their districts?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And only men inspectors were to do the work.

Mr. MUNSIE: Every member of the Commission has had a copy of those instructions. They were in type, but they were not instructions that male officers had to do the work.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The inspector was the man who was to do the work. It is not a case where women were expected to do it.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, but the Minister can hear out what I say. I ask the Minister to find out for his own information. If he goes to the Health Department he will find there a record in writing from an officer who, it is suggested, issued these instructions. He will find that only in one district was there a man and not a woman to do the inspecting and in that case the officer had already made provision for a lady inspector of the Health Department to look after the children.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you not say that the officer mentioned it in conversation?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Well, what more do you want?

Mr. MUNSIE: It has been said that these instructions were issued and I say they were not.

Mr. Roche: Unfortunately, they were issued verbally.

Mr. MUNSIE: I say they were not issued verbally and no member can get any officer in Western Australia to say that he was instructed, either verbally or otherwise, to examine babies.

Mr. Roche: Well, they were young children, and girl children at that.

Mr. MUNSIE: It all depends what the member might term young children. I do not know what age he would fix.

The Colonial Secretary: In any case, they would inspect the home, not the children.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And render advice to the children.

Mr. MUNSIE: No.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, there is a lady inspector.

Mr. Roche: And the men do the work.

Mr. MUNSIE: I am glad that the Government practically carried out as nearly as possible the recommendations issued in the interim report by the Select Committee that the inspectors should be given districts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They cannot do it.

Mr. MUNSIE: Of the whole of the evidence submitted to the Select Committee and the Royal Commission, nothing has been brought home more to members than that it is absolutely essential in the interests of the children themselves and also of the inspectors, that districts should be formed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Commission have not been sitting for some time now and yet we have not the report.

Mr. MUNSIE: The hon. member will get the report shortly. It is not my fault that it is not here now. For my part, the work on the Royal Commission has been no sinecure, although I would not have missed it, because I have gained considerable knowledge of the working of the State Children and Charities Department, particularly of the State Children Department. I hope next year, when the Estimates are being submitted, instead of having the children of the State considered under the State Children and Charities vote, we will have them dealt with under the Education Department, which should be the department controlling them.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [9.13]: Various items will be dealt with as we go along, but I would like to say a word or two on the general discussion. The member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) has referred to the position regarding emigration

under the Agent General. Members discussed the attitude of the Agent General, and his qualifications for the post. The member for Roebourne pointed out that it was a very poor advertisement for Western Australia, and great discouragement for the Government, that the agency had got into such a deplorable state and that, compared with other agencies, it did not stand in a favourable light at all. The only remark I make about this paradoxical position is that we have had members on this side and on the other side of the House, making comments of a laudatory nature, about the Agent General and his staff, and yet condemning the results of the work of the Agent General's office. I believe, and I presume no other member will agree with me, that we should scrap the Agent General's office altogether.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It would be a bad job for this State.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It may be, but we have long enough continued under the impression that unless we operated from our own back yard, we could not go forward. I realise the lack of sympathy on the part of the Federal regime and appreciate that there is a good deal in the contention that we might not get that treatment we would like. We want to look at the results. For the last five years our Agents General have had nothing to do in London, with the exception of trying to arrange for a few batches of emigrants. There has been no indenting and no loan flotations. We have a High Commissioner's office which is being maintained at the huge expense of £86,000 a year. We have a magnificent building in Australia House which is a fine advertisement for Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A fine advertisement?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have not seen it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Several of my friends who have been in England recently have explained that it is a fine advertisement for Australia. If the hon. member tells me differently, I shall accept his word. I was always under the impression that the lavish expenditure on Australia House was justified by the fine advertisement.

Mr. Teesdale interjected.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: We live to learn. We have a High Commissioner and staff costing the taxpayers of Australia £86,000 a year, and I challenge any man to show that good results have emanated from any High Commissioner.

Mr. Teesdale. A waste of time.

Mr. Underwood: Also ran.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The hon. member will agree that all those who get into these positions are "also rans." The Agent General's position is nothing but a sanctuary for played out politicians.

Mr. Hardwick: You are qualified.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have nothing to say about the present occupant of the position. He has always been a friend of mine, but

under the system which operates, it is not possible for him to give the service which the State has a right to expect.

Mr. Davies: He suggested that he should be brought back in order to bring his knowledge of the State up to date.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: He has not been absent from Western Australia long enough to have forgotten the State.

Mr. Davies: He himself made the suggestion.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Then I would fetch him back and keep him back, and would not send anyone in his place. The idea of a man wanting to come back after an absence of a couple of years to brush up his local knowledge is ridiculous! The point is that we have six Australian States competing for the few people who are disposed to leave the Old Country for the new. Wherever there is competition someone must get a smack, and some of the States are not getting that fair representation to which they are entitled. In the desire to succeed and score off another State, an injustice is done to some part of Australia. I believe the Commonwealth should maintain Australia House. I believe we should have a High Commissioner speaking with one voice for the whole of Australia, and buttressing and supporting that officer should be representatives, keen publicity men with local knowledge, to speak for each of the States. Thus, Australia could be represented at half the expense and more effectively than at present. Not a man in the House will agree with this proposition, but the day will come when this Parliament will realise the futility of passing our ex-Premiers and ex-Ministers, sometimes after they have got into disfavour, into the office of Agent General for a long term. In this office there is very little to do as public agent or publicity expert. During the last few years there have been no loan flotations and no indenting and the only thing to occupy the attention of the Agent General has been the question of emigration in which all the States are competing. State is competing against State and claiming superiority, and in that competition damage is done to some part of this continent which, after all, is our country. We should talk as Australians; not as Western Australians, Victorians, or Queenslanders.

Mr. Pickering: Despite our experience at the hands of the Commonwealth?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I believe a case can be made out for this State. I am not satisfied with the treatment which we have received from the Federal Parliament, but that does not detract from the attitude I take up that the representation required in London to-day could be satisfactorily carried out by one High Commissioner, with representatives of every State in his office, speaking with a clarion voice for the whole Commonwealth instead of having six Agents General, many of them worthless representatives so far as their duties are concerned from the fact that they are so circumscribed and that they have

not that definite progressive leader which we might reasonably expect.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We have not fared badly.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Will the Minister tell us how well we are faring now for this huge expense of £10,000 on one man? The Minister, as a member of the Government, has to justify this expenditure. The member for Roebourne told us how futile the whole business in London is. Intending emigrants went to the office and could not get the information they desired because there was nobody to give it to them. The hon. member himself had to stand on the footpath for three weeks giving information to intending emigrants. I fail to see that we are getting the results which we are entitled to expect. I do not think any man, no matter who the occupant of the office, will do much better under the present system. The cost of Australia's representation in London will in another few years be creeping up to the vicinity of a quarter of a million a year, and I believe we can provide that representation at half the cost and with better results to Australia as a whole.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. F. T. Broun—Beverley—in reply) [9.24]: After the very moderate criticism of members, there is very little which calls for reply. Most of the departments which come under the Colonial Secretary are non-revenue producing, but they are none the less important. There are several matters with regard to the State Children Department to which reference has been made. One is the discontinuance of assistance given by the Government to old age pensioners. This matter was carefully inquired into. The old age pensioners are receiving 15s. a week from the Commonwealth Government and this amount was considered to be sufficient for them to live on. It was not a matter for the State Government to grant them further assistance.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: A bad decision.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If they needed further assistance or if the 15s. a week was insufficient for them to live on, there was the Old Men's Home for them to go to. There they would be well looked after and protected and would have good living in a nice home.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: You know what the desire of the old men is.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes, they do not like to go into a home.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Premier suggested small homes for them.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They prefer to be out, and those who are out would be better off under a scheme of small houses where they could live on their pensions. The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) mentioned the case of a pensioner and his wife who were paying so much rent that it left them little to live on.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: They are begging every day.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There are only about 15 of these cases.

Mr. Roche: In the Fremantle district only.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not think there are many more. I will go into the question again and see if there is any case of real hardship.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In Perth there are dozens.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I shall make inquiries and see what can be done. There were cases in which assistance was being granted which should not have been granted, and quite a number of men in institutions were able to go out and work. The business manager specially appointed to make these inquiries submitted recommendations and as a result of his recommendations we are getting more efficient administration, but we have no desire to create any hardship. This applies to State Charities as a whole; no one desires to see any child or mother living in very poor circumstances. Wherever possible the Government assist them provided they have no other avenues of support. One or two members have referred to the fact of male inspectors going into homes and inspecting mothers and young girls. The policy of the department is that wherever new appointments are made for this work, the appointees shall be female inspectors. As far as I know no instructions have been issued. This is news to me, and I am glad the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) has contradicted it. I know of no instance of male inspectors being appointed to do this work. I will make inquiries and see if it is so, but I am sure it is not. In future only female inspectors will be appointed for this work. The member for North-East Fremantle mentioned the receiving home at Marquis-street, which has been used for a few years. The accommodation at the new home is only for 30 children. It was limited to that because we considered it was quite sufficient to take in children from time to time and keep them there until they were placed out. The hon. member said that in some cases the children were returned and stayed there for a considerable period. It all depends on the particular case. If we have a child that is taken by a foster-mother and the foster-mother does not keep it, the child is returned to the home, and remains there until another foster-mother is found. There are a few difficult cases which come before the department in which children are delicate and it is hard to place them with foster-mothers. We provide a special sum to deal with such cases, and we are doing all we can to see that they are well cared for. The hon. member also said he could see that we would not have many immigrants coming to this State, and that it was also proved that immigrants were not available in the Old Country by reason of the fact that the "Zealandic" was not properly booked up. On that vessel there is accommodation for 1,200. It was anticipated that we would

not be able to secure more than 1,000 but probably we will be able to secure the full quota. We have had no information from the Agent General as to exactly how many are coming out, but we have reason to believe that the number will be not less than 1,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There was a cable in the paper the other day about it.

Mr. Teesdale: To the effect that the departure of the vessel was temporarily postponed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The whole difficulty arises through the high cost of passages. It is hoped that the Federal Government will come to the assistance of the States in the future in this direction. If we are able to find more money than we can find at present towards these fares, we will then have no difficulty in getting a greater number of immigrants per month than we are getting at present. The member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) referred to the child immigration policy. It is known to hon. members that we are endeavouring to get some children from the Old Country. The institutions in this State undertook to take 200 children, if their departure from the Old Country could be approved. I am afraid we shall not be able to get that number, as the people in the Old Country are reluctant to allow the children to leave because of the pensions provided by the Imperial Government. If they allow the children to leave they will lose that amount of capital. There is a fight over the matter, and they may possibly be kept in the Old Country. So far as the Fairbridge farm school scheme is concerned, hon. members know what has been done in that respect. The member for Hannans said he hoped I would say what the Government were doing in this matter. It was finalised by the Government some short time ago, when the Fairbridge farm school committee were offered 4s. per head per week for each child up to 150. It was anticipated that there would be at least 200 children, 150 of whom would be orphans and the balance of 50 the children of ex-service men. These ex-service children would get an Imperial pension, leaving a balance of 150 to be provided for by the committee in the Old Country and the local committee here, as well as by the Government at the rate of 4s. per head per week. The amount of money collected in the Old Country is considerable. The actual amount at the disposal of the Fairbridge farm school is at present £7,000 per annum. This is for the upkeep and maintenance of the institution. The sum of £1,085 has been received from the overseas general committee, £1,560 from the Government, £500 from the Rhodes' trustees, £1,816 for pension children, and £2,039 from the child immigration society. These amounts total £7,000 a year. The society considered that they could not care for these children and bring them up successfully as good citi-

zens on this sum, and required another £1,000 a year.

Hon. P. Collier: Seven thousand pounds a year for 200 children works out at 5s. or 6s. a week each more than the Government allow the mothers for the upbringing of their own children. It actually works out at about 15s. per head.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It would amount to £40 a year per head at the school.

Hon. P. Collier: That is 5s. or 6s. more than you allow the mothers of Australian children.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: For the mother and child, that is so.

Hon. P. Collier: The Australian mothers have to rear their children on 8s. a week, and you say that these children need 14s. or 15s. a week.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is the upkeep and cost of the institution and staff and education to be taken into consideration.

Hon. P. Collier: It does not come to as much as the mothers of Australian children have to pay.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The whole of the cost of the institution is taken into consideration in this amount.

Hon. P. Collier: The mother has to provide for the upkeep of her home and for clothing and everything to do with the children.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is food and clothing provided for in the case of the mothers and children here.

Hon. P. Collier: You are starving the Australian children on 8s. a week, and giving subsidies to an institution amounting to 14s. or 15s. a week for each child.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The mothers are getting 8s. a week to provide each of their children with food and clothing, and they have their education free. The £7,000 per annum, which is assured to the Fairbridge farm school, represents £35 per head annually, and £10 per head is advanced by the Government. This was taken into consideration at the time when the Government were approached for a further sum. We considered that 4s. per child per week was quite as much as the Government could give, and that the sum was sufficient for the administration of the institution. The allowance is equal to the amount given to other institutions in comparison with the amount that they raise here.

Hon. P. Collier: It is much more on your own figures.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: So far as monetary assistance is concerned, it is more. I am referring now to industrial institutions. Taking into consideration the amount they receive from the Government and the amount they raise, we are paying them on an equal basis with the other institutions in giving them a 4s. per head capitation grant. It was pointed out by the member for Kanoona that the chairman of the Indetermin-

ate Sentences Board, Mr. Hann, had resigned. I interjected that I knew nothing about it, and I did not. The hon. member also made some remarks regarding my administration of the department, to which I very rightly take exception. I do not consider he was justified in making the statements he did. Only last week, or the week before at the latest, the file came before me dealing with Mr. Hann. A report was made for certain fees to be paid to the chairman for travelling from his home at Busselton to Fremantle to attend to the duties of the board. I had no idea of this, and there was nothing on the file to show that Mr. Hann had retired. If the hon. member possesses information on the subject he must have obtained it from some other source, for it has not yet reached the department.

Mr. Rooke: He certainly refused to sit at the last meeting.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: How long ago was that?

Hon. T. Walker: About a week ago. I had the information not from him but from a high authority.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: How does the hon. member expect me to know of the matter? Evidently he was informed by someone outside. So far as I am concerned the hon. member's information is incorrect. I know nothing about it, and I doubt if the department knows either, unless the file has just come to hand. The hon. member also said that practically nothing had been done. Acts of Parliament are frequently passed which contain no machinery to enable the Government to carry them out.

Hon. T. Walker: That is true.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When the Act was passed for the appointment of the Indeterminate Sentences Board no provision was made for the building of a reformatory. During the past year the Comptroller General of Prisons recommended that a board be appointed. We thought it was a good board, more especially as Mr. Hann, the chairman, had been superintendent of the Fremantle prison for some years. I believe he assisted the member for Kanowna in the early stages of that board.

Hon. T. Walker: He did a lot in the early stages.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am pleased to hear that. He also assisted the ex-Attorney General, the member for Canning, in the framing of the Act. Mr. Hann was appointed to this board, as chairman, because of his knowledge of prison work. Major McClure was also appointed to the board as a capable man; I consider him one of the finest men we could possibly get for the purpose.

Hon. T. Walker: I do not wish to say a word against him, but I think he has hardly the wide general knowledge that is requisite.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Another member of the board is an ex-mayor of Fremantle, Mr. Wray. We appointed these gentlemen in order that they might make

arrangements for a reformatory prison. It was decided to start the reformatory at Rottnest temporarily; not permanently by any means. I admit that some of the reformatory prisoners at Rottnest are doing carpentry work, but the small buildings to be erected there—they are not numerous—will eventually be suitable for the accommodation of tourists. This temporary provision is being made until such time as we are able to provide other accommodation. I discussed the matter with the Premier, and we came to the conclusion that the permanent reformatory should be located in some large open space, where the inmates could have some liberty and learn trades. Such an institution could to some extent become self-supporting. All this, however, takes time. During the war very little was done in any direction as regards building; and when the present Government came into power, what were they faced with? First of all, with the necessity for extra accommodation at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. Then there was the matter of Charities accommodation, to which I shall attend before I attend to prison accommodation, while I have no intention of neglecting the latter. We must feel our way to finance all the additions that are required to the various institutions. Undoubtedly there is an absolute and urgent need for additional accommodation at the Hospital for the Insane. It has been the endeavour of the Government to place on the Indeterminate Sentence Board men who will be able to administer the Act as it should be administered, and they will have my help and that of other Ministers in every possible direction. Any information hon. members may desire on the items I shall be glad to furnish.

General debate concluded; items discussed as follows:—

Item, Under Secretary and Comptroller General of Prisons, £557:

Mr. UNDERWOOD: What is the reason for reducing the salary of this office, which last year was fixed at £636? My impression is that this position is the most difficult one of the Under Secretaryships to fill. There is no end of work for this Under Secretary to do, and why should he receive a lower salary than any other Under Secretary? The Under Secretaryship for Agriculture, to take an example, is a nice easy position, and it carries nearly £100 a year more salary than this one.

Hon. P. Collier: This is a new position, classified by the Public Service Commissioner; and the holder will receive the minimum salary to commence with.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am not specially enamoured of the Public Service Commissioner's methods, and I am not sure that the present Public Service Commissioner knows everything.

Mr. Smith: This Under Secretary has an assistant under secretary.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: So have the other Under Secretaries. This Under Secretary has 12 or 14 sub-departments to control, and a man who will work in that position is certainly worth more than the salary set down here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is no intention to reduce the salary of the office. The present holder of the office is acting under secretary, and this provision of £557 is made in view of the fact that practically six months of the year will have elapsed before a permanent appointment is made. The acting under secretary receives an addition to his fixed salary.

Mr. Underwood: What do you intend to pay the new Under Secretary?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I take it, £636 to start. Certainly the salary will not be reduced when the new Under Secretary is appointed.

Item, Business Manager of Institutions and Inspector of Accounts, £504:

Mr. SMITH: This is a new appointment, and in the nature of an experiment. We have not been told what sort of institutions this business manager controls.

The Colonial Secretary: I stated that in introducing the Estimates.

Mr. SMITH: I have come across a few of the operations of the business manager as regards reduction of rations to unfortunate people. If the business acumen of this business manager simply consists in cutting out a few rations, I doubt very much whether he is worth the expenditure. What savings has he effected to date, and what further savings is he likely to effect?

Mr. MUNSIE: Is the business manager appointed for the purpose of going through all the Government institutions, or only those under the Colonial Secretary?

The Colonial Secretary: He is going through the lot.

Mr. MUNSIE: The title of the office seems peculiar since we understand that the officer really cannot interfere with a single employee in any institution. What are the duties of the position, and what savings are expected from the appointment? I am given to understand that the business manager cannot interfere with one single employee.

The Premier: I assure you that he can.

Mr. MUNSIE: Perhaps Ministers will inform us what this officer's powers really are.

The PREMIER: The Colonial Secretary will reply, and will give hon. members a good deal of information in regard to savings effected. Meantime I may state that Mr. Simpson was appointed business manager because it was felt that a great deal ought to be done in the way of inquiry and reform in connection with the enormous expenditure of the Colonial Secretary's Department and in connection with Medical and Health. Naturally, Ministers cannot control such expenditure. The business manager

has not been appointed, as the member for North Perth suggests, merely to cut down a few rations here and there. That particular matter was replied to some time ago. The business manager is there to attend to the general management of the various Government institutions. The Wooroloo Sanatorium, the Old Men's Home, and other institutions of that kind spend very large sums of money in purchasing supplies; and he is supposed to see that those supplies are properly purchased. Further, he is supposed to see that only such people as are entitled to be in, for instance, the Old Men's Home, shall be there. His business is to see that economy is practised, without detriment to efficiency, in every one of those institutions from Kalgoorlie to Perth. Mr. Simpson has done splendid work in his position.

Mr. Munsie: What are his powers in regard to employees?

The PREMIER: If he reports to the Public Service Commissioner that there are officials employed who are not required, those men will certainly not be kept on. The business manager reports if an institution is over-staffed. He also reports in case there is anything wrong in an institution. For example, he reported that the heating system at the Kalgoorlie hospital was very expensive and very ineffective; and that matter is receiving attention. In this way things that are wrong get rectified, and so savings are effected. In connection with the Wooroloo Sanatorium, the Government should have collected old age pensions in respect of a considerable number of patients. The Commonwealth Government had agreed to pay them, but the amounts had not been collected. And so, too, at the Old Men's Home. The Commonwealth Government are supposed to pay us for the inmates of that institution. They pay for a number of them, but they refuse to pay for many others. These anomalies have been set right now. Altogether the savings in expenditure, and the additional amount collected, will total about £25,000 for the year.

Hon. P. Collier: Goodness me!

The PREMIER: Government departments grow, and grow rapidly, and the expenditure grows in keeping. If an old man goes into the Home without first applying for his pension, we can never afterwards get anything in respect of him.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But you can liberate him for a few weeks.

The PREMIER: No, that has been tried in Queensland, where it failed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What do you do in the case of an old man entering the home?

The PREMIER: We see to it that he applies for his pension before entering.

Mr. Underwood: You do not want a business man to look after that.

The PREMIER: But we do.

Mr. Underwood: What are your officers doing?

The PREMIER: The hon. member was once in charge of the department, and therefore he should know what the officers are doing.

Mr. Underwood: I got £4,000 from the Federal Government.

The PREMIER: And there was another £4,000 which you did not get. This man's work is largely the work of an inspector. He is doing it well.

Mr. Munsie: I am not questioning that. I want to know what his powers and duties are.

The PREMIER: His powers are sufficient for the job. He has to go to Claremont, to Woeroloo, and to Kalgoorlie. He has to use tact, and bring about reforms without interfering with efficiency, or disturbing the administration. He has done that, and done it very well indeed. It may not be necessary to keep him very long, but it is necessary to have these things cleaned up. The late Colonial Treasurer set up an inquiry office. This is being carried on by Mr. Simpson, and the reforms are being made under his direction. The position is not only fully justified, but it could be extended to other departments. The Minister can give details of the savings made, and in the meantime I can assure hon. members that they are very great indeed.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Aborigines, £8,535:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I should like some information regarding the aborigines' settlements at Mogumber and Carrolup. I have heard that at those settlements, where an effort is being made to reclaim aborigines who previously wandered around the towns and city, magnificent work is being done; but it is suggested that those settlements are situated on exceedingly poor land and that in consequence it is impossible for them to become self-supporting.

The Colonial Secretary: Not impossible.

[Mr. Stubbs resumed the Chair.]

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Practically impossible, at all events. If the aborigines at those settlements can do the work they are engaged upon, it is only fair that the Government should provide them with good material, with land suited for cultivation. I understand that both settlements are on the poorest of land. That is an economic waste. If the land were better, the department would probably reap a handsome revenue and would be able to maintain the settlements without coming on the Consolidated Revenue at all.

The Colonial Secretary: The whole vote is only £8,000.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: But that might be wiped out.

Mr. Underwood: That £8,000 is plus £10,000.

The Colonial Secretary: But that £10,000 is a special fund.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have been informed by men in the police force that aborigines who were regarded as a pest in the city have been taken to one or other of the settlements and have become useful members of the little community, without any desire to go back to their old haunts. If they are working well, I think they should be provided with an area of ground better suited to the purpose of the settlement. The information I have is that the land at the Mogumber settlement will not grow anything worth while. There are there 133 men producing virtually nothing.

Mr. Teesdale: It is pretty rotten land.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That is so, and I hold that the settlement should be shifted to better country, where improved results would be secured and the settlement become self supporting. The Minister would do well to consider this suggestion.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I have never seen the Mogumber settlement, but it has been represented to me as being on reasonably good land. I have seen Carrolup, and I know there is good country there. If the land at Mogumber is unsuited, the Government should resume some better land in that locality. The position of the settlement is right, and it would be a pity to move it to any distance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Both these stations are intended to become self-supporting. If I had had anything to do with the choosing of the sites, I would never have chosen Mogumber. However, the main desire of the chief protector was to get the settlements well away from any white community. That is why he went to Mogumber, where there is a plentiful supply of fresh water. I have visited both the settlements. The soil at Mogumber, outside the river flats, is very poor but it will grow excellent oats, and once the scrub is cleared and oats planted, it will carry sheep. At Carrolup where, in the main, the land is poor, there is nevertheless a fair area of cultivable country, sufficient to render the place self-supporting.

Item, Chief Protector, £456:

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We see a footnote, "Also secretary of immigration," and we understand that this officer is to be secretary of the Department of the North-West. On behalf of the people of the North-West I say that in the new department there will be nearly enough to keep the secretary occupied. Most certainly he will not be able to be Chief Protector of Aborigines and secretary of immigration and in his spare time look after the North-West. If we are to have nothing better than that, then better have nothing at all. The Minister should give the Committee a fair explanation of the position. I have no objection to the chief protector as chief protector.

Hon. P. Collier: Would he not be able to fill the dual position?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: A lot of people, probably judging by its representatives, think that anything will do for the North-West.

Hon. P. Collier: Still I should say the chief protector is not overworked and ought to be able to look after the North-West.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, anything will do for the North-West.

Hon. P. Collier: But that is not the view I am taking. The Minister has tacked it on to his other portfolios.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We object to being tacked on to everything. If it is intended to make this a live department one officer cannot do these things.

Hon. P. Collier: It was only a part of the kidstake after the Minister came back from the North-West.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I should like an explanation from the Minister.

The PREMIER: The hon. member knows what has happened in regard to the North-West. A great many natives are in the North; there are very few in the South-West. At present it is not intended to take away the work of the aborigines from the North, because this officer can do both jobs very well; one works in with the other. When it is found that the work of the North-West Department necessitates another officer, an appointment will be made. The work as secretary will not be made ineffective by reason of the work for the aborigines.

Mr. Underwood. What about immigration?

The PREMIER: That work has been taken over by another officer. The North-West Department is as yet hardly on its feet, and it would be wrong to incur unnecessary expense at this stage.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I suppose it will not go bung until after the elections?

The PREMIER: It will not go bung after the elections.

Item, Secretary, £360.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If the alterations suggested are to be made, this position may be warranted, but if the department is to be run on ordinary lines, this office is quite unnecessary. I have nothing to say against the occupant of the office. When Minister I endeavoured to prevent the appointment, but could not. This officer does not accelerate business; he retards it. A good clerk is all that is required. The secretary is a surplus officer, who came over from the Water Supply Department.

Mr. Teesdale: Is not he connected with the Fisheries, too?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, but he knows nothing about either. When a letter arrives for the Chief Protector, he opens it, adds a minute and sends it on to the Chief Protector. The Chief Protector sends it back to him and he forwards it to the typist.

Hon. P. Collier: He is not the only one who does that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am aware of that. The Public Service Commissioner and several of the heads—Messrs. North, Munt, Lawson and Simpson—put their heads together and got this man transferred as a surplus officer, cutting out other applicants for the position.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Did your minute say this office was not wanted?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes.

Mr. Smith: The business manager has passed it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes. That shows what the business management is like. I would like the Minister to explain how this officer got an increase from £336 to £360, when so many officers below £250 cannot get an increase. When he started in this office in 1915 he received £24 more than his predecessor.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Have you accurately described his duties?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes. From my knowledge of the department we are paying £360 a year for an office which is not warranted. Unless a rearrangement is made this office should be abolished.

Mr. Smith: Does this officer draw £360 in addition to his salary from the Fisheries Department?

The Colonial Secretary: That is a mistake; it should be £180 for each office.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Let us know something about his duties and whether he is required.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There will be a rearrangement of offices and the aborigines in the southern portion of the State will be worked in connection with the Fisheries.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Fisheries, £6,021; Friendly Societies, £9,862—agreed to.

Vote—Gaols, £26,233:

Item, Governor Fremantle Prison, £456:

Mr. ROCKE: It seems extraordinary that the new governor should receive a lower salary than his predecessor. It is a mistake if this officer is not under the Public Service Commissioner.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Provision was made in the previous year for only five months and the salary was at the rate of £490 a year. The present governor was formerly superintendent and his salary will be increased automatically. I do not know whether he is under the Public Service Commissioner.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Why is the title of this officer altered from superintendent to governor?

The Colonial Secretary: I do not think there is any particular reason for it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Evidently the title of superintendent is not dignified enough for the officer in charge of the Fremantle gaol. Efforts have been made in the past to alter it, and I can see a danger of a superintendent

being appointed later on in addition to a governor. I move—

That the word "Governor" be struck out and "Superintendent" inserted in lieu.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have a pronounced objection to the title of governor in this regard. That of superintendent is quite sufficient. Evidently officialdom has put this forward for a definite purpose. It is a misuse of the term to apply it to a man in this position.

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

Votes—Harbour and Light, £3,600; Jetties and Tramways, £25,293—agreed to.

Vote—Immigration, £1,513:

Mr. PICKERING: In connection with the policy of child immigration, I understand that as regards the children at the Fairbridge farm school the sum that will be contributed by the State will only be at the rate of 4s. per child per week.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggest that this can better be dealt with on the Loan Estimates. This vote only deals with the salaries of the officers and not with the policy of immigration.

Mr. PICKERING: Do you rule that I am out of order in dealing with the policy of immigration?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes. I rule the hon. member out of order.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Inspection of Liquor, £978; State Labour Bureau, £3,036—agreed to.

Vote—Lunacy and Inebriates, £84,762:

Item, Assistant Medical Officers, one at £528 (six months), one at £408.

Mr. BROWN: The select committee which inquired into the management of the Claremont Hospital for Insane found that there were sufficient medical officers to do the work. From this item it appears that another medical officer is to be appointed. Is that so?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Provision is made for another medical officer at £528 for six months.

Hon. P. Collier: The item seems to indicate that it is proposed to appoint two more medical officers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We are now advertising for two. However, provision is made for one at £528. The salary of £408 refers to Dr. Benson, who is now at the institution.

Hon. P. Collier: Is he an officer appointed during the past year?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. He has been there for some time. There are three medical officers at the hospital, including the Inspector General.

Mr. Brown: And now it is intended to appoint a fourth?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: Is it now proposed to appoint an additional officer, or two additional officers?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Two additional officers. We are advertising now for two medical officers, a senior and a junior.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If that is so, the Estimates do not clearly show it.

The Colonial Secretary: They do not.

Hon. P. COLLIER. The Estimates show provision for four medical officers altogether, which would include the three now employed and one additional. However, the Colonial Secretary states that the intention is to appoint two additional medical officers, who, he says, are now being advertised for. Has the Minister thoroughly satisfied himself that it is necessary to have one additional medical officer, let alone two?

Mr. Brown: Hear, hear!

The Colonial Secretary: I am informed that they are needed.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No doubt the Minister has been so informed; but the select committee found that at the time of their investigation the three medical officers then employed were only giving 1½ hours per day to the patients. What is required is not that we should appoint additional medical officers, but that we should see that the men already holding those positions devote a little more time to the patients. What is clear, as the result of the select committee's investigations, is that the medical officers who have been there in the past have not given a fair proportion of the time at their disposal to the patients. Now, the institution having been under criticism for a year or two, it is an easy matter for the Inspector General of Insane to say, "We are going to see that the patients receive more medical attention in future, and with that end in view we are going to appoint two more medical officers." But the Inspector General does not propose that the medical officers already appointed shall do the work themselves. There is an item for the Medical Superintendent at £708 per year, and this shows really a clever way of doing things, especially with a Minister new to office. The same jokes are put up on all new Ministers. The title of an office is changed. A more sounding, more imposing title is given to an office, and then the holder of the office naturally has a claim for an increase of salary. Not only that, but he creates a vacancy which he leaves behind him, and this vacancy has to be filled by another appointee. The Medical Superintendent is now receiving pretty well double the salary that he got about two years ago. I think he was paid £708 for the first time last year. Two years ago, if I remember rightly, he was being paid £350. But he induced Mr. Colebatch to change the title of the office to "Medical Superintendent." There was no Medical Superintendent at the Hospital for Insane two years ago; there was

only the Inspector General and a medical officer. When the medical officer became a Medical Superintendent, he had to get a salary commensurate with the importance and dignity of his new office, and so he got £708.

The Colonial Secretary: It is not too much for a medical man in that position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A house goes with the salary.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The position carries free house, light, fuel, vegetables, and so on, and also stores at cost prices. In these times of high cost of living, such privileges would be equal to a few hundred pounds a year easily. The appointment of the Medical Superintendent created a vacancy, though the officer in question has not left the institution. An ordinary workaday doctor must be appointed to do the routine work.

Mr. Teesdale: One and a-half hours a day!

Hon. P. COLLIER: The select committee reported that the patients were not getting sufficient medical attention inasmuch as the doctors were devoting only one and a-half hours per day to them. The Inspector General evidently took up the attitude that if he was required to put in extra time, he would insist upon having another medical officer. That is the way to build up expenses. I do not know whether the Minister is acquainted with that fact.

Mr. Smith: The business manager has not spotted it yet.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not think that the number of patients at the institution is much greater than in the past, yet they are to have two more medical officers appointed. Although in the past they have been able to get along with three officers without any complaints regarding the inadequacy of the medical staff, when the position is raised by the select committee they turn round and ask for two more medical men. Next year, if there are any complaints during the discussion on these Estimates, presumably they will ask for another officer.

The Colonial Secretary: The provision on the Estimates is only for one more medical man.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, I see that is the case, but still the Inspector General will not be expected to do more work. There are doctors in Perth working from 14 to 16 hours a day and many of them are not drawing larger salaries than those payable to these officers.

The Premier: The Inspector General is working all day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Oh, yes, we know all about that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I have seen his motor-car around the town too much to accept that statement. I do not think he works an hour a day. He has no intention of working more.

The Colonial Secretary: He has enough to do with the management of the institution.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We want to take it away and put it in the hands of more efficient control.

The Colonial Secretary: There are lots of inspections to be made outside, as well as within the institution.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What does it amount to?

The Colonial Secretary: He has to carry out inspections at Stromness, Whitby, Green-peace and other places as well.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, it looks a lot on paper, and in addition to that the Minister might add that the Inspector General has to give evidence in court occasionally.

The Colonial Secretary: At any rate he is earning his money.

Mr. TEESDALE: It appears to me that if the select committee's report is not to be treated as a farce, it is time some notice was taken of it. It is clear to me that the select committee called attention to the want of proper service in the interests of the patients so far as the medical officers are concerned and we are assured that those officers only put in an hour and a half a day in giving that attention to the inmates. That is actually on record in their report. I consider it a scandalous reflection upon the officers themselves that they should ask for an additional man to help them in view of this position.

Hon. P. Collier: If they are to give more attention to the patients, these officers want some more to help them.

Mr. TEESDALE: I will object to any additional officer being provided for, in view of the fact that they are only putting in an hour and a half a day on this work.

The Premier: Who gave that evidence?

Mr. TEESDALE: We have it that that statement was made in evidence and it is mentioned in the findings of the select committee. It was evidence given on oath, and that is sufficient for me. It is time these medical officers devoted 4½ hours a day at least to this work.

Mr. BROWN: I intend to move that the provision for the extra medical officer be deleted, and I will then leave it to the Minister to say which officer will be dispensed with. We had it in evidence from Dr. Hugh Montgomery that, before he went to Wooroloo, he had had experience in an asylum in South Wales where he had control of 600 patients. The Claremont Hospital for the Insane has 1,200 patients and two medical men can do that work practically without further assistance. As a matter of fact, they have three medical men at Claremont, and that should be ample to attend to all those patients. In reading a report which the member for North-East Fremantle brought with him from England dealing with a similar institution, it shows that two medical officers attended to the requirements of the 1,200 patients there, which works out at an average of 600 each. Thus, three medical men here should have ample time to do all the medical work required by 1,200 patients at Clare-

mount. I am satisfied that there is no necessity for increased medical help, although I know that Dr. Anderson, in the course of his evidence, said that it was necessary to have four medical men there. I am quite satisfied that three medical men at the asylum will meet the case, and it will be foolish to provide more.

The CHAIRMAN: It will be necessary for the hon. member to mention a specific sum in his amendment.

Mr. BROWN: I intend to move that the item be reduced by £528.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I hope that the amount of £528 will not be struck out because it will leave nothing for the other man. The extra amount provided is half the difference, namely £264.

Mr. Brown: In those circumstances I move—

That the item be reduced by £264.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I support the amendment. This is the outcome of giving added dignity to the titles of officers.

The Colonial Secretary: This officer has always had the same title.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Since just before you came into office.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The superintendent takes charge of the management, whereupon it is necessary to get somebody else to attend to the medical work. This report for 1917 shows that the superintendent has a medical officer to assist him. We require to keep down the cost of the institution, and this can only be done by a change in the management. There are three medical officers down there, two of them attending to the management, while even the third does nothing, or not in his capacity as medical officer, and so it is held to be necessary to appoint another medical officer. I hope the medical officers will not be increased.

Amendment put and passed.

Item, Secretary, £274:

Mr. SMITH: Does this officer get quarters, fuel and light?

The Colonial Secretary: No, but he gets an allowance.

Mr. SMITH: Surely if he is paid not more than £274 he is distinctly underpaid.

Item, Clerks and Storekeeper, £908:

Hon. P. COLLIER: Apparently it is proposed to double the staff.

The Colonial Secretary: No. The increase represents an amount for two temporary officers last year.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Is it not unusual to have clerks and storekeepers working as temporary employees? The amount here is double what it was last year.

The Colonial Secretary: It represents grade increments and allowances and the making permanent of two temporary officers.

Item, Chaplains, £200:

Mr. SMITH: Apparently this item was new last year. Can the Minister tell us something about it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: These two chaplains visit the institution. Provision is here made for their remuneration. They cannot be expected to visit the institutions for nothing.

Item, Attendants and Nurses, £26,110:

Mr. LUTEY: Surely these are very low wages to be paid to nurses in an asylum.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I think the Minister might make a general pronouncement in regard to this item. The Treasurer should be asked to find more money for these officers. Lavatory attendants at railway stations are paid a minimum of £4 per week. Apparently officers in more helpless positions in the Government service are disadvantageously placed because they have not behind them a body to fight their cause with the Colonial Treasurer.

The Premier: This item is considerably increased this year.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do not admit that there has been a considerable increase in the individual salaries under the item. I never imagined what a nurse's duties were until a year ago, when I was in hospital for three months.

The Premier: If all hospital patients were like you we should have to increase the amount.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: In my latest view nursing is the noblest calling on earth, particularly when the nurse has to take charge of persons who have lost their reason. Without experience, hon. members have no conception of what a nurse has to put up with. Any recognition of the services of nurses which the State can give would be supported by the people. In an institution such as this, nurses should be at least on a footing with those others in the public service who have behind them a party to fight for their proper recognition. The Minister ought to declare that he will give more generous treatment to the nurses.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The salaries mentioned by the member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey) are for probationary nurses, who receive more after completing their course. During the year an increase was given to nurses and a considerable increase was given to the male attendants. The question of granting further increases is now under consideration. The salaries provided for the nurses are higher than those paid in most of the ordinary hospitals.

Mr. O'Loghlen: So they ought to be; the private hospitals have nothing to boast about.

Item, Engineering Staff and Farm Managers, £4,370:

Mr. SMITH: These are rather varied items to be lumped together in one large

sum. The Minister should give some information regarding this item.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: An increase of £480 is due to the provision for officers who last year were paid from the temporary vote, and the remaining £55 represents an increase to one of the farm managers.

Item, Contingencies, £40,000:

Mr. BROWN: This item includes £600 for official visitors' fees. At present there are three official visitors, who visit quarterly. Has the Minister provided the increased amount in anticipation of the Lunacy Act Amendment Bill being passed?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. If the Bill is passed we propose to pay each of the medical practitioners on the board £112 and each of the laymen £75 a year.

Mr. SMITH: A sum of £300 is provided for certificates of lunacy. Is this amount paid to the staff or to outside doctors?

The Colonial Secretary: To outside doctors.

Mr. SMITH: Does the Minister contemplate a big reduction in the number of deaths at the institution this year? Last year there were 98 deaths and this year only £60 is provided for burials.

Vote (as reduced to £84,498), put and passed.

Vote—Observatory, £1,895:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Have the Government paid any attention to the votes of Parliament that the Observatory should be handed over to the Commonwealth or abolished? This subject has been discussed at the Premiers' conferences.

The Premier: It is worn threadbare.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Then surely something should be done before it degenerates into a mere shred of cotton. If there is one department which the Federal Government should administer, this is the one.

Mr. Smith: Is this the department that provides the rain?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yes, whenever it is wanted.

Hon. P. Collier: No; this is distinct from the Meteorological Department.

The Colonial Secretary: The amount involved is only a couple of thousand pounds and the Observatory serves a useful purpose.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Yet the Government have informed me that they cannot afford to pay an extra shilling a week to a mother and four children who were unable to get enough to eat. It is time we gave up star gazing; we cannot afford it. Have the Premiers' conferences decided to do anything in the way of handing this institution over to the Federal Government?

The PREMIER: This matter was not discussed at either of the two latest conferences and I cannot answer for the previous conferences. I hope the matter will be discussed at the next conference.

Mr. Munsie: You are an optimist. Do you hope that the Federal Government will take it over and foot the bill?

The PREMIER: I think they should do so.

Mr. Munsie: Is it of any benefit to the State?

The PREMIER: The Observatory is a fair charge on the Federal Government. I shall bring the matter before the next Premiers' conference.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—State Children and Outdoor Relief, £82,805:

Item, Payment to women on whom children are dependent, £33,500:

Hon. P. COLLIER: What is intended to be done with regard to the payment to women on whom children are dependent? There is certainly an increase on the Estimates over last year, but having regard to the higher cost of living and to all the circumstances this increase is not nearly sufficient. The position generally is a reflection upon the State. In 1912 we were allowing 7s. 6d., and the cost of commodities was about half what it is to-day, and yet between them and now the allowance has only been increased by 1s. per week.

The Premier: The amount paid away each year has greatly increased.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There are many cases in which the mothers have to starve their children, because they do not get enough money with which to buy food for them. I ask the Government to make up the allowance for each child to 10s. They do not mind paying the passages of children out from the old country, and a weekly allowance for them when they reach here, but our own children are the best citizens we can have, and our first duty should be to see that they do not go short. The position of the mother who is unable to supplement by her own earnings the amount allowed by the Government is almost impossible. The practice of the department has generally been to allow for one child less than the total in the family.

The Colonial Secretary: That is not so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If there are five children under 14 an allowance is made for only four.

The Colonial Secretary: Not at all.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am sure that cases of this sort have come under the notice of many hon. members.

Mr. Munsie: Only a fortnight ago I brought a case of this nature under the notice of the Superintendent, but without avail.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The department invariably endeavours to reduce its expenditure upon any one family, and only when a protest is made is the full amount restored. We should not be niggardly in regard to the feeding of our children. No matter where the money is to come from, it is

the duty of the Government to see that the children get enough to eat. Many men earning £5 a week find it a struggle to feed and clothe their children, and how much harder must it be for a widow to rear four children on the allowance given by the department. Because of the fact that these women are not organised so that they can protect their own interests they are not in the position to fight for their rights. This affects a body of the community who have no organisation.

The Premier: And who cannot strike.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Quite so. They are not in a position to fight for their rights, and this is the only opportunity we have of putting up a fight in their behalf. These people are feeling the pinch of high prices more than any other members of the community. I hope that before the vote goes through, the Colonial Secretary will express his readiness to do something to alleviate the desperate plight of these women and children. The great majority of the women who are affected do not care to parade their misery and prefer to submit to terrible poverty in silence.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It has been suggested that a charity tax should be introduced by the Government this session to cover the cost of upkeep of hospitals and other deserving institutions. If that is done, it will liberate a fair amount of public money now being utilised for that purpose. The Premier ought to know that these people will not bring their cases before members of Parliament. Nevertheless, we are brought in contact with deserving, pitiable cases day after day. It is impossible for children to get enough to eat and enough to wear on the present miserable allowance of 8s. per week; and prior to January last they were starving on 7s. per week. One of the earliest acts of the member for North-East Fremantle upon first taking office was to increase the allowance from 3s. 6d. to 7s. While 7s. at that time was a fairly handsome allowance, it is nothing of the kind to-day. Last year I brought before the Minister's department the case of the wife of an unfortunate settler who had been four years out from the old country. He had worked like a slave on a piece of land on which the Agricultural Bank would not make an advance; and eventually he fell ill and was brought into the Perth Public Hospital, where he died. Through the efforts of the Salvation Army and some South-Western settlers a few pounds were collected for the widow. The amount did not last long, necessarily; and then she was in the position of receiving 2s. per week from the State Children Department to keep her four young children and herself. She appealed to me to get her also an allowance of 7s. After several weeks' battling I induced the department to grant her this allowance; but they would grant it only for a period of two months, at the end of which it was cut off. To-day that woman is struggling to keep herself and four children on 8s. per week. Only a fortnight ago she wrote to me saying that her children

could not get enough to eat; and I have sent around an appeal for assistance in her behalf to people who do not know her at all. The fault does not lie with the Government but with the extraordinary conditions prevailing—the prices of commodities being utterly beyond the reach of poor people. The test of good government is that humanitarianism which helps children to grow into good citizens. How can that end be attained if children do not get enough to eat? I hope that before this vote is passed the Minister will make a pronouncement on this question, and not wait for the report of that Royal Commission which ought to have reported long ago. I know that additional expenditure is involved, but money must be found for this purpose. I hope that in this connection the Premier will display some of that bigheartedness which he so frequently shows in the agricultural districts. If he does not, it will be evidence of callousness.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier is wrong in saying that the amount of this vote has been largely increased. For the year 1915-16 the total amount paid to women with children dependent on them and on account of outdoor relief was £38,509. For this year the vote is £41,500, showing an increase of about £3,000. But the Premier should bear in mind that his revenue for this year, as compared with that for 1915-16, shows an increase of £1,687,965.

The Premier: That includes receipts from State trading concerns and business undertakings. There is not that increase in clear revenue.

Hon. P. Collier: The revenue is booming.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Foster mothers are complaining that though they do not wish to part with their foster children, they are not getting enough to keep them. Many of these foster mothers have children of their own, and surely the Premier does not desire to see these children go short in order that the parents may be able to keep State children? They are doing it at the present time. In some instances they are paying 9s. and 10s. a week. Where there are a large number of children it is cheaper to maintain them than where there are only three or four in the house. Yet, the institutions are subsidised to the extent of 1s. or 2s. more than the private individuals.

The Colonial Secretary: No.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Some are, surely.

The Colonial Secretary: No, 9s. to 10s. is the maximum. In the case of the Fairbridge school, of course, they asked for more.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, they want 16s.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: These mothers have to take great care of their children just as the children in the institution have to be cared for well. According to the statement made by the Minister, he acknowledges that that is so, but the mother's control must be more effective than the results achieved by institutional life. At

the same time, it is impossible to keep three or four children in a family as cheaply as 100 can be kept. That is what keeps down the cost of our institutions. Yet the institutions get 10s. and the foster mothers only 8s.

Mr. Griffiths: And they can get their supplies more cheaply.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, institutions can buy wholesale.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government show their appreciation of the position by increasing the subsidy to the institutions.

Mr. Munsie: They are not paying 10s. all round. Some are getting 9s.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister said so just now. I think the foster mothers should be treated with the same consideration.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: In Melbourne recently this question cropped up. The allowance was considered too small, and large numbers of children were returned to the State by the foster parents, necessitating largely increased expenditure on the part of the department.

Hon. P. Collier: To what extent?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The increased cost is shown in bulk, but it does not say what the extra amounts payable were. The leader of the Opposition was perfectly correct when he referred to the case in which five children were kept by a foster parent and only four were allowed for by the department. That case was brought up before the Royal Commission and yet we could not find out how it occurred. There seemed to be a sort of system whereby the department endeavoured to cut out what they could. I know of a case in Perth of a widow with six children.

The Premier: She would get about £2 16s.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Recently she got £2 8s. A widow gets no allowance at all. There was another case which came under our notice in which a woman was trying to run a milk round. We are making a proposition to try to avoid that. Something should be done for the woman. It only came to the knowledge of the officials owing to the children going to sleep in school. It was then found out that they had to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning to help milk the cows.

The Premier: What age were they?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: They were very young.

The PREMIER: I am anxious that all these people who, by stress of circumstances brought about by misfortune, are obliged to come for relief, shall be reasonably treated. I know, of course, that the cost of upkeep for a widow and children is very much higher now than it was some time ago. The Minister discussed the matter with me just lately and pointed out the fact that there are some women with very young children who are having a struggle.

Hon. P. Collier: A lot of them have a truly terrible struggle.

The PREMIER: A lot of them are bound to. A lot of them receive special help from time to time. Often it happens, of course, that when they lose their husbands, some of the women have a little money coming to them and do not use it wisely. The result has been that they soon become entirely dependent upon assistance. I promise that the representations which have been made by the Minister will receive consideration. We expected to receive the Royal Commission's report before this, and I understand that we will have it in a day or two.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, what has become of that report?

The Colonial Secretary: Has it been lost?

Mr. Munsie: No, it has not. Ask one of the members sitting behind you about it.

The PREMIER: In any case, I understand we are to get it in the course of a day or two.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Why not anticipate it and say you will do it now?

The PREMIER: The Minister has discussed the matter with me and we are going into it. I hope we will make a satisfactory arrangement.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Will you allow the motion standing in the name of the member for Hannans on the Notice Paper to be discussed this session?

The PREMIER: Yes, I hope so.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You want to close up, you know.

The PREMIER: I want to close up now, but I want to give members an opportunity to discuss everything on the Notice Paper they desire to deal with. I will give the necessary opportunity to discuss the motion if the hon. member is not satisfied with what the Minister does in connection with this matter. It would not be right not to give that opportunity. I think members can trust the Minister to do what is a fair thing.

Mr. MUNSIE: The Premier, during the course of his reply, made use of one statement which I cannot let pass because I wish to emphasise the point to the Premier and the Minister controlling this department. The Premier said that he did not want to see any woman rearing children placed in really adverse circumstances. It is the duty of the Government to help these women. The Premier stated that unfortunately some of these women had a little money when their husbands died, but got rid of it quickly.

The Premier: It quickly disappears.

Mr. MUNSIE: That is the point. We had many cases brought before us. If a man has left a little money for his widow, the department will not give that woman a shilling towards the maintenance of her children until she is destitute. In one case a woman had £40 in cash, and the department told her that she could not get any assistance for her children until the £40 was spent. How much better would it have been if the department had said, "Put your money in the bank against a rainy day, and we will grant you assistance for the

maintenance of your children." The attitude of the department is that the applicant must prove destitution before she can get any assistance. At a later stage the department agreed to assist that woman who had the £40 if she could prove that she was putting the money towards the purchase of her little home.

The Colonial Secretary: They are working on those lines now.

Mr. MUNSIE: I hope they are.

Vote put and passed.

Department of the Premier (Hon. J. Mitchell, Premier).

Vote—Premier's Department, £17,822.

Item, Secretary, £600:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The custom of the past has been for the Premier to choose his own secretary. Recently this officer has been permanently appointed, and so is now acting in an established capacity. Also, in order to build up the department, two or three sub-departments have been added.

The Premier: Please do not say that; they were not taken over for that reason.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: At all events they have been taken over by the Premier's Department. The Premier did wrong in appointing the secretary as a permanent officer. In the past this officer has been clerk to the Minister, receiving a sum additional to his departmental salary while occupying that position. It has been the practice to change that officer from time to time.

The Premier: A good practice too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Now, however, he has been appointed permanent secretary to the Premier's Department. It is building up a new department, notwithstanding that in the Constitution Act no mention is made of the Premier's Department. I was surprised when I heard of the permanent appointment of the secretary to the Premier. The present occupier of the post was formerly an officer of the Mines Department and with an addition of £48 to his salary, was appointed clerk to the Minister for Mines. When the late secretary to the Premier went to London the present occupier of the post—against whom I have nothing whatever to urge—was transferred to the Premier's Department, not by the Public Service Commissioner, but at the request of the then Premier. It was an appointment made by the Premier.

The Premier: That is so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And now the appointment has been made permanent. I trust that the next Premier will make the secretary a surplus officer and get away from the principle of having a permanent secretary to the Premier. I am not speaking against the occupant of the office.

[12 midnight.]

The Premier: All the other States have a secretary.

Mr. O'Loughlen: That is no reason why we should have a permanent secretary.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Formerly the London Agency was under the Treasurer; Printing was under the Colonial Secretary; Analytical was under the Colonial Secretary; Literary and Scientific grants were controlled by the Treasurer, and public gardens and foreshore were in charge of the Colonial Secretary. These sub-departments have been transferred in order to build up this new department.

The Premier: No.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To adopt this course was quite wrong, especially when we are preaching economy.

The Premier: We are doing it for economy's sake.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I cannot see where economy comes in. I have never known of any Government officer who was set up in an office who did not have a staff around him in the course of a few weeks. This is another department with a permanent head. If the title of the office were altered from secretary to clerk to the Premier, the office would be abolished and we would revert to the position which formerly obtained. No doubt Mr. Shapcott is a very good man—I am not blaming him—but any Premier should have the option of deciding who is to be his secretary. This appointment has been made by the Public Service Commissioner under the Act. I feel sure Cabinet could not have given the matter the careful consideration which was so necessary.

The Premier: It is not increasing expenditure.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: How can the Premier say that? The London Agency was formerly under the Treasury.

The Premier: Not rightly so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, rightly. There was no such thing as a Premier's Department.

The Premier: There ought to have been one long ago.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It was quite wrong to establish a new department when we should be practising economy. If I had my way I would oppose the vote until it was put in proper order. The Government are merely increasing the number of departments.

The PREMIER: There is a great deal of work which comes under the direct supervision of the Premier and cannot be done by other departments. Every one of the items mentioned forms part of the work. In every other State there is a secretary to the Premier.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is not to say that the principle is right.

The PREMIER: We transferred these departments so that a proper supervision might be exercised. There are various votes which ought to be controlled and will be controlled under this arrangement. There is also a tremendous amount of correspondence to be dealt with. I think I have done the right thing. Another Premier might

alter it if he wishes, just as we have made an alteration. There is not one of these things but has been transferred with considerable advantage to the work itself.

Item, Ministerial Tour of North-West, £1,200.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I feel inclined to move that the word "ministerial" be struck out and the word "election" inserted in lieu. I do not object to a Minister going to the North-West and doing propaganda work, but I question whether it is worth £1,200. Can the Premier arrange for the proceeds from the lecturing tour being undertaken by the Minister for Education to recoup this amount of £1,200?

The Premier: No.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister for Education is a very competent lecturer and there should be an opportunity to recoup this amount.

Item, National Workers, £3:

Hon. P. COLLIER: Although the item this year is small, the expenditure last year was £849, making a total of £852. Where did this money go?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: To Lazarus.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I would remind the Premier that, on the first or second day of the session, he promised to place the report of the Royal Commission on the Table, but we have not seen it yet.

The Premier: This year?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes.

The Premier: I am very sorry.

Mr. Munsie: It has been asked for two or three times and is not here yet.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Premier knows that the reports of Royal Commissions are, as a matter of practice, always laid on the Table. Members should not have to beg for them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have not seen the report of the Andinach Commission, either.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It ought to be someone's business to see that the promise made by the Premier is kept.

The Premier: The officers should see to that. They are supposed to watch "Hansard."

Hon. P. COLLIER: How is this amount of £849 made up? It would appear that the nationalist workers received witnesses' fees in addition to the amount awarded by the Commissioner.

[Mr. Munsie took the Chair.]

Mr. Lambert: They have all been paid.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If they were paid witnesses' fees it was a scandal that the Commissioner should have been paid as well. We all know how he brought up a procession of witnesses day after day, and that each witness committed the same perjury that was committed by the preceding witnesses. Any ordinary commissioner would have done the work within a week or two at a quarter

of the expense. No doubt he found it a remunerative position and kept it going as long as he could.

The PREMIER: I cannot give the exact details of the expenditure for last year, but I will get the information for the hon. member. The fact that counsel was engaged led to a considerable expenditure. The hon. member will not think the amount excessive when he considers the time that was spent on the inquiry.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Premier should report progress. Last year we voted a sum of £250 under this item and £840 was expended. We do not know how the difference was made up. About 130 witnesses were brought before the Commission. These may be divided into two classes, those who were engaged on the wharf prior to a certain date, and those who were engaged after that date. All that the Commissioner had to do was to ascertain when these men were engaged, and in that way determine whether they were entitled to compensation or not. The State has been plundered by some of these persons, many of whom were living on amounts paid to them by the Charities Department. Notwithstanding their position they were represented by one of the leading firms of solicitors in Perth. There is no doubt that there was money behind them for the purpose of pushing the case to an extreme, and forcing the Government to pay compensation as an encouragement for men of that stamp in the future.

Mr. Lambert: If the Government had not paid, the shipping companies would have had to pay.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Commissioner announced that his instruction was to give compensation.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, but that is a matter we do not wish to discuss under this item. Because these stone-broke men were able to retain a leading firm of solicitors; the Government also had to brief counsel.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Government had to be protected.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, though I do not know that their counsel did much. In any case, the Commissioner had his mind made up beforehand. A total amount of £14,000 was paid as compensation, and no member of the general public knows to whom the money was paid. I hope that the report when laid on the Table will not prove to be a bowdlerised report, with the names of the payees omitted.

The Premier: I have no objection to laying the report on the Table.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It has been promised twice already.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The names of the men who appeared as witnesses before the Royal Commissioner were withheld from publication in the Press on the plea that there was danger of victimisation. Some of the witnesses may have absolutely been committing perjury, but nobody knew who the witnesses were and thus nobody was in a position to

contradict them. The suppression of the names was an encouragement to the witnesses to tell lies, and I am sure some of them did. In my experience of the public life of this State I have never before known a Royal Commissioner to take it upon himself to forbid the publication of witnesses' names on the ground of fear of victimisation. All those men, and their places of residence, were perfectly well known to the Fremantle lumpers and the people generally of Fremantle. In fact, these national workers, only a fortnight before the meeting of the Royal Commission, held a meeting in the Claremont hall and discussed their grievances, in the presence of their solicitor. Did the Government pay any of the costs of that solicitor?

The Premier: No.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Possibly the solicitor had an understanding with the men that each of them should contribute a proportion of his costs. Some lawyers do accept business on those terms.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But they are generally shady lawyers.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They are not respectable lawyers. If those men got any compensation at all, it ought to have been paid by the Commonwealth Government and the shipping companies. The Premier of the day, Sir Henry Duffry, was led into this business after weeks of bombastic deliverances by the Prime Minister, who promised the men permanency of employment. However, when the trouble came the shipping companies stood from under, and so did the Prime Minister, with the result that this unfortunate State had to foot the bill. Has the Premier asked the Commonwealth to pay any portion of the amount?

The Premier: I have asked them, and I hope to get half.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Commonwealth Government never let slip an opportunity to escape payment of their just debts. The Colonial Treasurer's Estimates for last year show in this connection an item of £1,000, on account of which £859 was expended. I would like to know how it was expended?

The Premier: I will let you have the information.

Hon. P. COLLIER: This money, I take it, represents merely the expenses of the Royal Commission, such as witnesses' expenses and the Commissioner's fees. The report will not give details of that expenditure.

The Premier: No, but I will lay the information on the Table.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am sorry that after three months have elapsed and after I have twice asked for the report, I have not got it.

The Premier: I am very sorry too, and I will see that you get it.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Governor's Establishment, £1,926; Executive Council, £10—agreed to.

Vote—London Agency, £10,230.

Item, Commissionaire, £132:

Mr. TEESDALE: This official acts in about 17 different capacities.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But look at his title, brother.

Mr. TEESDALE: I think this official should receive more than £132 a year. He is a very satisfactory officer who has been there for a number of years. He is very civil and courteous to people who visit the Agent General's office. When we consider the price of food in London, I think this amount could well be raised.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is he an old man?

Mr. TEESDALE: I should say he is between 55 and 60 years of age.

Hon. P. COLLIER: What are his duties?

Mr. TEESDALE: He receives everyone who comes to the office and asks their business. He is the lift attendant and generally does all sorts of things about the office.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is a paltry wage.

Mr. TEESDALE: If it is possible to supplement this amount by some means or other, I hope that the Minister will agree to do so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not know how he lives on such a salary.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope the Premier will take notice of the statement of the member for Roebourne. There is no doubt that this man is not paid enough, and he is receiving a smaller wage than any person following the same occupation in any part of London. In fact, the Western Australian agency is getting a name for paying sweating wages more than any other office in London.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is a bad reputation in London.

Mr. Maley: What are his hours?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He starts at 9 and finishes at 6. As the member for Roebourne says, he has many duties to attend to, and there can be no doubt but that this official is not sufficiently paid. In fact, none of the officers there is being paid enough now.

The Premier: We have given them all a bonus lately.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There is no mention of that here. In any case I hope it will be many a long year before the London Agency is wiped out altogether.

Vote put and passed.

Votes — Public Service Commissioner, £2,850; Government motor-car service, £361; Printing, £60,982—agreed to.

Vote — Public Gardens and Foreshore, £1,786:

Hon. P. COLLIER: When discussing the Estimates of the Works Department I mentioned the position regarding the reserve at Crawley Point. I want to remind the Premier of my remarks on that occasion, seeing that it is the intention to bring these reserves under the control of the Premier's Department. I hope that the officer in charge of the gardens will note my remarks.

The PREMIER: The officer had instructions next day, and I believe he is arranging to put in 50 trees.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Literary and Scientific Grants, etc., £8,780—agreed to.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 12.38 a.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 27th October, 1920.

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

PRIVILEGE—PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL.

Debate resumed from the previous day on the following motion by the Hon. A. Lovekin—

That the words uttered by the Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM as recorded in "Hansard," dated 5th December, 1919, constitute a breach of the privilege of this House.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM (North) [4.34]: After listening to the remarks of Mr. Lovekin yesterday, I think all members will agree that the hon. member lost no time in bringing his grievances before the House. It occurred to me that the old sayings, the precepts of youth, must have vanished from his mind—precepts such as "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath" and "Time softens all things." These, apparently, he has overlooked, although he has not forgotten during his absence in many lands that his first duty when he came back would be to bring his grievances here and submit them to hon. members.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The Standing Orders compelled me to do it.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: I stand accused of a breach of privilege of this House. The position I am in is that I must either justify what I have said in the words for which I have been accused of a breach of privilege of the House, or receive censure at the hands of hon. members.

Hon. A. Lovekin: Not at all.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: Because it is plainly put forward that "The words uttered by the Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM as recorded in "Hansard," dated 5th December, 1919, constitute a breach of privilege of this House." Hon. members have to say either that the words do constitute a breach of privilege, or that they do not. Therefore the position I have to take up is that those words which I used at the conclusion of last session must be justified by me or else I must abide by the censure of the House. The reasons were given in reading out my remarks from "Hansard." Those remarks were correctly reported; it was a correct statement of my speech on the evening in question. The words quoted are admitted by me. The facts of the position are as follow:—On the closing evening of last session a Bill was brought down for the purpose of increasing the salaries of members of Parliament, or rather of increasing parliamentary allowances. Everybody will admit that there was a good deal of interest and some excitement surrounding the Bill because it had been passed by the Assembly and had come to this House for decision. Therefore the ultimate fate of the Bill was in the hands of this House. It is almost superfluous to say that every member of the House, and many people outside the House took a great deal of interest in the fate of the Bill; and, naturally interest was excited outside as to what the division list to be taken that evening would show. On that afternoon an issue of the "Daily News" came out. In that issue was a statement of how it was expected the House would divide, and what would be the fate of the Bill. The "Daily News" is the property of Mr. Lovekin, and Mr. Lovekin is a member of this Council. After reading the statement in the "Daily News" it seemed to me obvious that it had been inspired by the hon. member who, as I say, is the proprietor of the newspaper and also a member of the House. Perhaps other hon. members may have thought the same. I have been unable to get a copy of that issue of the newspaper, although I have tried everywhere to secure one.

Hon. A. Lovekin: I would have given you one.

Hon. Sir E. H. WITTENOOM: But I have had an extract made, and this is what appeared that afternoon. I would remind hon. members once more that interest was excited in respect of the Bill. Some people were opposed to it and some were in favour of it, but a great many were interested, and therefore naturally, everybody wanted to know how it was likely to go. And, as