

# Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 29th August, 1928.

	PAGE
Question: Metropolitan swamps ... ..	492
Leave of absence ... ..	492
Papers: Gosnells Road Board secretary, dismissal ...	492
State Shipping Service agency, termination ...	492
Motions: Physical well-being ... ..	498
Fremantle Harbour Scheme ... ..	502

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

## QUESTION—METROPOLITAN SWAMPS.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Works: 1, Are such waters as Butler's Swamp, Claremont, and Shenton Park Lake, Subiaco, portion of a general water table in the metropolitan area? 2, Would the draining of one of these swamps affect the level of the others? 3, Would it be practicable to relieve them by pumping electrically to the nearest point from which they could gravitate to the ocean? 4, Are the Government in possession of data in regard to the cost? 5, If not, will he have estimates prepared in the near future?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. 3, Yes. 4, No. 5, Will be considered.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. Panton, leave of absence for one month granted to Mr. Lamond (Pilbara) on the ground of urgent private business.

## PAPERS—GOSNELLS ROAD BOARD'S SECRETARY, DISMISSAL.

MR. NORTH (Claremont) [4.34]: I move—

That the file relating to the dismissal of Robert Samuel Webb, late secretary of the Gosnells Road Board, be laid upon the Table of the House.

I propose to move this formally, for I do not think there can be any objection to it. If there be, perhaps the Minister might agree to my inspecting the file.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. A. McCallum—South Fremantle) [4.35]: There are objections to these papers being made public, but the hon. member can per-

sonally peruse them at the department. If he desires to do so, I will make them available to him any time.

Mr. North: Thank you. I will withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

## PAPERS—STATE SHIPPING SERVICE AGENCY, TERMINATION.

MR. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [4.36]: move—

That all papers relating to the termination of the State Shipping Service agency, held by Mr. D. C. Watts, Darwin, be laid upon the Table of the House.

In doing this I am actuated by the desire to gather some information. It has been reported to me that Mr. Watts, whilst acting as agent for the State Shipping Service, misappropriated funds amounting to £700 or £800. If it be a fact, the papers, I take it, will disclose the misappropriation. That is the information I desire to get. Since it is the taxpayers' money that is alleged to have been misappropriated, I should like to find out whether the State Shipping Service has taken any steps to have restitution made; if not, I should like to see if there are any reasons why proceedings for restitution should not be instituted. I have nothing more to say until I know whether there is any objection to the papers being laid on the Table. If there is, I may have something further to say.

Mr. Thomson: Is it only for your own information, or is it for the information of people in your electorate that you desire to see these papers.

MR. COVERLEY: A number of people in my electorate desire to understand the position.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. Millington—Leederville) [4.37]: On behalf of the Minister controlling the department, I wish to say there is no objection to the tabling of the papers.

HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [4.37]: Unless the hon. member has very definite information, he ought not to have made the statement he has made here to-night. He says an agent of the State Shipping Service misappropriated funds. But apparently the hon. member is not

quite certain of that, and so he wants to see the papers. He is a comparatively new member, and evidently does not quite realise that that statement, going out to the public, will damage this man irretrievably—and absolutely wrongly if there be no truth in the allegation. It would have been very much better if the hon. member had seen the Minister before asking for the papers and basing the request on such a charge.

Mr. Corboy: Do you think he would be so stupid as to damn a man without being sure of his ground?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I am only repeating what the hon. member said. He asked for the papers in order that he might see whether or not the allegation was true. Papers should be requested only for some public need. It does not do to damn a man unnecessarily. Of course the hon. member does not believe his information to be incorrect, or he would not have mentioned it at all.

Mr. Corboy: Do you think the Minister would have agreed to lay the papers on the Table if the information given were not correct?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I do not know what is in the Minister's mind. If the hon. member is perfectly certain that his information is correct, there can be no objection to the tabling of the papers, but unless he is absolutely sure, his motion may do irretrievable harm.

Mr. Coverley: If the imputation is not true, is this not the best way to clear a man's character—by permitting us to see the papers?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It may be a case of save me from my friends. However, I merely rose to protest against such statements being made unless founded on the very best evidence. The Minister has agreed to lay the papers on the Table.

The Minister for Agriculture: I have no comments on the motion except to say, on behalf of the Chief Secretary, that there is no objection to laying the papers on the Table.

Hon. G. Taylor: Have you seen the papers yourself?

The Minister for Agriculture: No.

Question put and passed.

## MOTION—PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.

MR. NORTH (Claremont) [4.40]: I move—

That this House is of opinion—(1), That the social and economic burdens arising from faulty nutrition merit the serious attention of the Government. (2), That the State system of education should embrace a curriculum in which physical well-being would assume even greater importance than reading, writing, or arithmetic.

This motion is a little out of the ordinary, and I feel very humble in bringing it forward. It may look to be a prosy motion, appear to be just academic, but I trust that when I shall have quoted briefly from a few authorities the House may be interested and may even be prepared to take action. I would much rather read out the motion and sit down, for to me the request is simple and self-evident. The first clause of the motion postulates that the community is suffering from want of nutrition and that certain losses are thereby involved; the second clause proposes that we should use that enormous force, the Education Department, to achieve the end of cure and relieve the disabilities arising from malnutrition. There is a lot to prove, but I do not intend to weary the House with a mass of small details. Still, I must make it clear that it is impossible, on a motion like this, to speak merely for myself. If I did, I should be told to go to a warm place. But if I say these things are true because X or Y says so, members will be more inclined to listen, provided I am not too prosy. For some years past I have noticed points covered by this motion. But what first caught my interest was a remark by a distinguished visitor from India a year or two ago. He came here for his health, and he declared this was a wonderful place. He chose Western Australia for its healthy conditions. But on arriving here he was surprised that the hospitals should be overcrowded. He could not understand why with our ideal physical and economic conditions—the latter influenced largely by an industrial court, our hospitals should be overcrowded. It must be admitted that the two things are a bit incongruous. However, I made no reply to him, although I have thought a lot about it since. It is true that we have crowded hospitals and that, even worse, we have newspapers crowded with advertisements of nostrums purporting to cure all kinds of diseases. Take the Perth Hospital. Some members here have served

on the board of that institution. I have not. But I have secured a copy of the latest available report, that for 1926. In that I find the following interesting information, which will be news to the public, if not to those who have served on the board. In the first place, we have the following statement by the chairman:—

Comparison with last year's statistics indicates the steady expansion year by year of work in every department.

Of course there is no underlying motive in that remark. He merely made the statement. Then he continued—

Your board views with alarm the large number of persons seeking treatment, both as in-patients and out-patients, and begs to commend to the serious attention of the Government the immediate setting aside of a suitable area of land for extensions.

What this House is entitled to view with alarm is, not so much the question of further accommodation, serious though that may be, but the fact that we, as a white race, with all our education, science and knowledge, are prepared to accept the position year after year, not only of an increase in the number of patients in our hospitals, but of an increase of illness throughout the community greater than the increase of population. We are reaching the point when we must consider how much longer the hale can carry the sick. When I say that in 1926 52,000 visits were paid to the Perth Hospital which, at a very liberal estimate, means one visit to every two persons in the metropolitan area, excluding children at school, members must realise that something is wrong with the community, unless we are a pack of wrecks of bad hereditary stock.

Mr. Panton: It was much larger this year than last year.

Mr. NORTH: Yes, but I do not wish to take the worst year. The figures supplied to me were those for 1926. For us to accept that position in cold blood and see the Minister for Health scrambling for money to meet requirements, is bad enough, but if we, with a healthy community and ideal conditions, hygienically and industrially, and everything in favour of a growing State, realise what it means, it is time further inquiry was made. I have made further inquiry and with the good grace of the House I shall give some facts that I trust will prove interesting. The first fact I wish to mention is that 4,000 persons were put on the operating table at the Perth Hospital in

that year. In other words, ten persons were ripped open by the surgeons every day. That table must be in use throughout the week and probably it is.

Mr. Panton: It is going from eight in the morning until 10 at night at present.

Mr. NORTH: One hospital only and ten persons being put on the table every day. That is merely a commonplace fact. Perhaps what will strike members as being of greater interest is that of the 4,000 persons operated on in 1926 in the Perth Hospital the number might be more this year—

Mr. Panton: A lot more.

Mr. NORTH: One-third of the operations had to do with digestive disorders. It is not a matter of 1,200 people going to a chemist and purchasing bisurated magnesia; it is a matter of 1,200 people being opened up by the surgeons for digestive derangement. An examination of the figures shows that a serious number of digestive disorders were treated as well, and everyone knows that the newspapers are full of advertisements dealing with remedies for various disorders of the human anatomy. We do not find this long list of disorders in connection with foddors or stock. On the other hand we find highly trained experts dealing with crops to ensure that the correct quantity of phosphates is fed to the plants and to ensure that the stock get proteins, carbohydrates, mineral salts and other things they require. But man can please himself and he pleases his own taste. The 4,000 operations included those arising from accidents, so that nearly one-half of the total operations in the year am quoting had to do with the food people eat. Let me argue a little by analogy. Suppose one went to all the garages in Perth in a given year and discovered that of all the motor cars overhauled, one-third of the defects were due to carburettor trouble, one would be forced to the conclusion that there was something wrong with the spirit supplied. We should have an inquiry at Fremantle into the bulk handling of spirit and probably conclude that the gasoline supplied was not up to standard or that the carburettors were not suitable for the gasoline, and that either the carburettors or the fuel must be altered. Similarly with human beings. When we find that one-third of the operations in the Perth Hospital, which institution is costing £80,000 this year, are due to digestive dis-

orders, we are justified in assuming there is something wrong with the fuel foods and tissue-building foods supplied to the people. That is quite a reasonable assumption to start with and there is no need to present masses of figures or enter into details of the particular forms of digestive disorders. During the year I am quoting, there were many other operations and many diseases treated that were entirely due to faulty nutrition, but not classed by the doctors as digestive disorders. I refer for instance to nephritis and diabetes. It is interesting to note that £70 was spent on insulin which, as members know, is used only in the worst cases of diabetes. That is known to be a gluttony disease. I do not use the term in any vulgar sense, but people suffering from diabetes have over-loaded the system with food and broken down the pancreas. Having reached the fact that nearly one-half of the operations in the Perth Hospital in 1926 had to do with the digestion of the people, one is ready to proceed with the subject, look into the facts established by authorities, and apply those facts to the community in our metropolitan area. Let me quote the preface of a work by Dr. Tibbles, one of the most eminent of all the registered doctors in the world on the subject of nutrition or foods. I wish to quote only short extracts because I realise how easy it is to spoil a good case by citing long quotations. This is how Dr. Tibbles opened the preface of his work of 1914, the first year of the war—

Dietetics and the application of its principles has been my special study for many years, and the more I learn of the subject, the greater importance it assumes in my estimation. In fact, I deem it of such importance to mankind that I would there were appointed a professor of dietetics in every university and medical college throughout the world . . . . . Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that the study of dietetics and its practical application would benefit 50 per cent. of the physicians' clients when they are sick, and is no less important as a branch of preventative medicine.

That is a striking statement, because hitherto the average doctor has not emphasised this subject much, especially as it is affected by legislation under the Health Act. Now I come to Dr. Atkinson, our own Principal Medical Officer, who remarked recently—

One cannot expect mothers to avoid trouble during the confinement crisis when they try to subsist on tea and toast.

That appeared in the Press about a week ago. Since his return from America, Dr. Atkinson has also stated from time to time what should be a suitable diet for the people. Fancy its being necessary for the Press to have to advise us what to eat and how to live, when we have an education system costing £700,000 or £800,000 a year! I make no reflection upon the Education Department or the Health Department. I think both are magnificent institutions dealing with difficult and complex duties, perhaps more difficult and complex than the duties of the Treasurer. I am referring now to their difficulty in getting results. The Treasurer can get results every year, definite results, and when he has presented his figures, we know to a shilling where we stand. But results in the Education Department and the Health Department are very hard to achieve. The Minister for Education might have a curriculum operating for a period of 15 years before he would be able to determine definitely what results he was getting. As a matter of fact, authorities realise that education is empirical still only a matter of rule of thumb. There is no real theory behind it, except the theory of trial and error. At any rate, I believe that is the position. The same applies to the Health Department. The responsibilities of the Minister for Health are enormous. With all his efforts, he cannot expect to do more than control a few of the diseases, and in a sense he achieves wonders with the staff at his command. Still, that does not prevent our bringing home to ourselves from time to time just what we are getting from those two departments and asking whether the enormous sums expended are giving the results we are entitled to expect. Let me quote a word or two from some authorities who have studied the question of nutrition in relation to human beings. I know that if I were talking about sheep or wheat I should have a much more interested audience, because expert knowledge is being applied to stock and crops to-day. We have specially trained scientists for them, but in regard to ourselves we follow our own tastes. If a man wants a bit of steak, he has it. There is no one to tell him what a bit of steak or any other food means to his system. Such a thing would be considered almost a joke. I wish to show how serious a matter it is and how it affects the community, not only as regards the paltry £80,000 a year spent on the Perth Hospital, but also in regard to childbirth. If the

seriousness of the position is realised, it may be necessary to call a halt and inquire whether we can forever allow the race to deteriorate, because it is deliberately undermining its constitution without knowing it. The incident I am about to relate occurred in America. Some time back there was a man in Western Australia named Hoover—certain members may have known him—and he is now regarded as one of the greatest food experts in the world. After the war, he practically fed starving Europe, and his opinions should be accepted with respect. When he was in Western Australia, he was probably just one of the people. In Philadelphia two or three years ago a lecture was given by a nervous young man. On its conclusion Mr. Hoover stepped to the footlights of the Academy of Music and said to the large audience, "In my estimation, what you have told us to-night is the most important discovery of modern times." That discovery followed upon certain feeding tests with cattle. Three lots of cattle were tested in the hope of ascertaining something about food values because no one previously had troubled much about the scientific feeding of cattle. People had worked by rule of thumb and admittedly had got some magnificent results. One lot of cattle was fed on wheat, whole wheat; another lot on oats, whole oats, and another lot on corn, whole corn—maize. With the maize were some leaves. The cattle that ate the wheat did not grow up. The cattle that ate the oats grew up to be fine animals but only had one offspring, which died. The cattle that ate the corn became quite normal. That made the people think there was something in the food that was eaten. They began to experiment on rats and other animals which they had been torturing for years in other directions. They made discoveries that affect the human race. They have been able with rats to introduce all the symptoms which figure so largely in the advertisements in the Press, dealing with nervous disorders, bladder troubles, and the like. They were able to convey all these diseases to rats, merely by giving them the foods that people can buy in a grocery shop or a store. Of course, many foods in shops are quite sound. In the case of motherhood they were able to bring about confinements which create so much difficulty amongst the white race, and from which mothers suffer so greatly. They were able to bring about a position whereby the mother rats were not able to give milk

to their young, and whereby they would eat them alive. The moment the supply of the foods was removed—I refer to certain foods that are sold in special packages—the experimenters were able to recodition the rats back to normality, until they became ordinary mothers once more, and were able to give milk to their young. It is possible to draw an analogy between the rats and human beings, these people have made a great discovery, and Mr. Hoover was right in the remarks he made two or three years ago. I will quote an instance of an ordinary menu, before which the ordinary person sits down, to show what is thought of it by those who understand the subject. I am sure no hon. member will deny that a menu such as this would be regarded as a liberal one. It would mean not only living in clover, but would be better than "good gold." If the unemployed were to see such a menu, I am quite sure that they would feel they could not sit before a better meal even if they were at work. This is one of those menus which is referred to as being the cause of many of those diseases which send people into hospitals. It is the kind of "deficient" menu that is attacked by the authorities. It is—

Breakfast—Oatmeal with cream and sugar  
hot cakes with glucose or sugar syrup, sausages and coffee.

Most of us would call that not only a large menu, but something more than most of us would partake of. It is classed as dangerous to man, and as a reason why our hospitals are so well filled.

Dinner—Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, white bread and nut margarine, canned corn and apple pie.

These menus are classed as dangerous, and are quoted by those who know as such, and as the cause of our hospitals being so crowded. When at school I would have thought that this was a good menu, and that I would be doing myself very well if I started the day with those things. Having got at what these authorities are driving at, I now understand what they mean, and it is possible for me to point to the weaknesses of such meals. I do not want to say anything about the things we ought to do. I want to leave that to the Minister for Health. Later in the session I shall ask one or two questions, and in that way get replies from headquarters. It is no use my asking what is wrong with such a menu. I want to know from official

circles why it is necessary that we should be careful with our food. In our youth we learnt all about Julius Caesar and many other subjects of that kind. We spend many years of our lives at school but learn nothing about the elementary conditions of health, and we live to be about 40 before we know anything about it, and by that time are possibly broken down in health. There is something wrong with our civilisation when we ignore questions of food, when we merely take our chance and make one of the crowd that is filling up our hospitals. What we should go in for is prevention rather than cure. I have here the preface to a work by Bernard MacFadden. This book was bought in Perth, and passed by the Government as fit matter for sale here. I presume it represents the truth, and that if the author was telling fables the book would be taken off the market. "There never was a time in the history of the world when the human diet was worse than it is at the present day," this author remarks, and goes on to say—

We are starving in the midst of plenty. De-vitalised foods of all kinds are depended upon for sustenance. People are dying literally by millions because of their pitiful ignorance of the subject of diet. You can starve to death while you are eating three square meals a day, and that is exactly the status of literally millions of people at this time. The facts presented here should be taught in the primary schools, and the day is coming when such knowledge will be possessed by every growing child.

I will not burden this House with all the facts. I would rather the information came from the Health Department, who are in possession of it. All I want to do is to suggest that we should connect up between the expert knowledge of those who put that knowledge into pigeon holes—I do not say they do so deliberately—with the thousands of young children who have to face all those commodities they see in shops, who do not know the intricacies of the trade, and do not realise how much they are dependent upon demanding the right food and facing the position which surrounds them. Some of us may have heard of Judge Lindsey, who created quite a stir last year with his two works on "Marriage" and on "Youth." Although his last book is all about sex, I will not touch upon that to-day. Even this man, although he has sex strongly in mind in connection with both youths and adults, could not help reverberating about the same thing that I am now putting forward. After

giving us about 140 pages on sex, Judge Lindsey, speaking from 35 years' experience of the juvenile courts, and having much the same experience as Mr. Lovekin has had of the Children's Court in Perth, says—

My experience with the senior girls of that high school in the western city confirmed another conviction which many years of work in the juvenile court had already created in my mind; the conviction, namely, that the home and the school had brought them up densely ignorant of the most elementary laws of health.

He goes on to say this—

Because meat, boiled potatoes, white bread, and white sugar are the four corners of our dietetic temple—

We cannot deny that. He adds—

Constipation and acidosis are our two basic national diseases, from which most other diseases come.

Here we have the statement of the judge after 35 years' experience, talking almost like a parrot with the food experts, because of what has passed before him. The judge goes on to say that the cases which came before him were mostly due to the children being on the verge of acidosis through a crook diet, and that this in turn was "due to the systems being starved of certain necessary salts and other things which led to a craving of nature to reproduce itself more quickly than under normal conditions." I think these remarks are fairly striking. They show it is time for us to take stock of the position and find out what is really wrong with our food. I had a conversation with my own doctor, and I think I can give it without breaking any confidence. He said, "It is quite impossible, North, to get a properly balanced meal served without a special request." Let me suggest the point that is at issue. The point is that under industrialism we have got away from where the food is grown. Before the industrial age people all lived around their food; therefore the food was natural, just as it is in the case of stock. The moment industrial conditions started, with their railways, roads and motors, we got away from the food, and it became necessary for those who produce it to make it storable. In making it storable they had to deprive it of most of those salts which are so valuable to humanity. It took years before the dire results came about. The reason why perishables have become a smaller part of our products than prior to the days of industrialism is that they are naturally difficult to handle. I

will make a final quotation before discussing what we can do in the matter. I could put forward a great deal of evidence on this subject. We take up our newspapers and we see advertisements dealing with hundreds of different cures. The papers contain columns about these things, about health and so on. We see them every day in the week, but we do not find the newspapers discussing the problem whether Julius Caesar lived before Christ or not or whether William the Conqueror ascended the throne in 1066 or not. Those facts are all settled. After nine years at school we know all about those things but we have no idea of the form of diet that is good for us. At school very few of us learnt that we consist of 13 or 14 different elements. We learnt about carbons, hydrogen, calcium, and other elements that we have to put into ourselves throughout the week in order to keep ourselves alive, but what we should eat and how we should eat it are not brought home to us. We are so superior to the animal even since Darwin's theory, that we think we can ignore food, as a secondary matter. All these theoretical questions, even that of the differential calculus, seem to be worth while racking our brains about. Some of the cleverest men in the community have racked their brains until they have found themselves in hospital. Are we to stand this for all time, or is Parliament going to face the question and take certain measures to deal with the menace which lies before the white race? Are we going to justify the position wherein 52,000 people out of 100,000 visit our hospitals each year, whereby we are so hard put to it to bear the financial burden? It may be said that we must have some curious customs, or else we come of bad stock. That is not so. If there is anything wrong with our stock, it is not for me to say. I have no intention of discussing eugenics, stud farms, or the question of people being herded together. I assume that our stock is all right, but that our food is wrong. I know what is wrong and perhaps most members do also. I will not say much about that because I do not desire to lay down the law. I would rather leave that to those who are qualified to do so. But I do consider that it is up to us first of all to bring this question before the public in a live fashion and secondly to see that our schools have full knowledge of

all to do with it. This may be brought home in a more concrete way than I have done so far by a quotation from a work by Alfred McCann published in 1926—

Most victims of refined food give no thought to the fact that the secondary consequences of acidosis, even of its milder forms are more dangerous than those of nervous prostration, neuritis, edema beri beri, pellagra or any other term to describe a consequence of mal-nutrition . . . . Consequently they wholly disregard the truly appalling fact that refined food acidosis is now engaged in breaking down human tissue, and is the forerunner of tuberculosis, diabetes, Bright's disease, heart disease, and diseases of the arteries.

The man sets out to prove and proves beyond dispute by means of animals that those are the facts. He takes animals analogous to man, animals with identical organs, and he puts them on identical foods. He is able to go through 15 generations with animals, which thank goodness, do not live too long. In this way he is able to transfer humanity, by analogy, to the year 2010 in a few years. No one would suggest that the Perth Hospital exists to deal with casualty cases; those cases are only a flea-bite. This great burden on the community, the hospitals, which we accept without a word or a murmur, is shown, by those who know, to be due almost entirely to faulty feeding. I am going to make a suggestion before I go on to the question of children, which is the main issue of the motion. My suggestion is that the Government should prepare a really good picture reel showing the facts of this question, showing the dangers, showing how people are deliberately, though ignorantly, trying to eat themselves into the hospital. When I say that they are doing it deliberately, I mean they are doing it by merely following their inclinations in regard to choice of foods available. One point made by the expert—as I think, a vital point—is that if you doctor your foods you create an unnatural craving for more food than you need to make good the deficiency. You never do make it good; you merely weaken the system; and the next thing is that the Minister for Health is worrying about how he can finance his hospitals. I have mentioned this afternoon, and I remind hon. members, that it has been possible to reproduce in small animals the weakness of our mothers in being almost unable to produce their progeny. The experimenters took a rat, which required twilight sleep and all the rest of it in order to be able to produce its progeny. That

was under the wrong kind of feeding. Under normal feeding, however, the rat later produced its progeny quite normally. No one will deny the facts in regard to our having too many hospital cases, or in regard to our having too heavy a burden of ill-health to carry, or in regard to our newspapers being full of deaths and all kinds of weaknesses and diseases and neuroses that do not apply to animals. No one will deny that these things are a growing menace. Therefore I suggest that there should be put up by the Health Department a properly constructed picture, to be exhibited throughout the State, showing the dangers resulting from the present evils in food—the evil, for instance, in buying starchy foods, which represent about 50 per cent. of the food of the people. Let the people know the facts. Let them know why such food is faulty. Show them the hospital cases. Bring the truth home to them, and some good will result. I fear, however, that on the whole you and I, Mr. Speaker, are past the age of redemption. All we can do is to pass through our natural days as we are and take our chance of figuring as out-patients at the hospital, with a still greater chance of being put on the operating table and cut open. However, we have a duty to our children. So far as I can see, there is no reason why in these days we should not make even more of the healthy body of the child than we do of the alert brain. We have found that the alert brain has not got us very much further. Of what use was the alert brain to the unemployed? All they required was an economic demand for their services. They might be the best tradesmen in the world though they might know nothing about Julius Caesar or the differential calculus. They might know a trade, and yet not be able to get employment because of the economic conditions happening to be wrong. There is every reason, however, why they should know, when going for a meal, that it is a good nourishing, if cheap, meal. But they do not know it, and perhaps we are building up cases for the hospital amongst them as well as amongst the employed. Let me tell the House two instances, because so far I have not advanced anything that hon. members might not gather from the newspapers. I wish to refer to two striking facts. One was a case where human beings found themselves on board a vessel like rats undergoing a test. During the war a German raider, whose name I will not trouble about, was engaged for about two years on

the high seas. During those two years she got her food from various ships of the British and other mercantile marines that she was able to capture. For two years, therefore, the people on board that ship resembled rats in a cage that were being fed on specific foods. Those foods were the ordinary victuals supplied on board ship. There was no question of special value attaching to them. The people on board the ship merely did what we do day after day, live on bread, potatoes, sugar, tea, meat and so on. They lived just on the ordinary food that they got from captured ships. This went on for two years, until one day the raider pulled up off the United States coast hors de combat. Of the number on board about 50 per cent. were totally paralysed and the rest on the point of paralysis. All of them were taken to the hospital. The case is of special interest because it shows that perhaps many of us are hovering much more dangerously near the hospital stage than we realise. In making this remark I am not referring to hon. members, who may have seen daylight by consulting doctors. In the case of the raider, how were the paralysed and those on the point of paralysis cured? The doctors cured them within ten days by filling them up with potato skins and orange juice. These were the two things they had been starving themselves of in their particular metabolism for two years. That was an extreme case, because there was no running round the corner to get things from the chemist when one felt a bit below par. These people had to go on and on, and the doctors eventually were able to renew the missing elements which are all known to us, by filling up the patients with orange juice and potato skins—not potatoes, mark you. There were 300 or more persons involved. Next I will take the case of a nation, and then I shall have done with experiments and facts. During the war Denmark was blockaded and could not get out of the ring fence. The Danes approached their chief expert and said to him, "What are we to do? We are surrounded by the British fleet, in effect, and cannot get supplies through." The doctor answered, "You will have to kill most of your stock, and will have to feed the nation on the wheat instead of, as you do, ruining the wheat before it gets into the shops, with the result that the people get only the powder." That was done. Within two years the death-rate in the Danish nation dropped between 30 and 50 per cent. That was the result of feeding



the people on a war-starvation diet of natural foods, and removing from them what they had been accustomed to all their lives. Those things, I submit, are of some interest, and it is time they were dealt with in the departments that are concerned. It is up to the House to show the Health Department that this State is behind in the endeavour to bring home to the people that the subject is of importance to them, that a knowledge of it will make the basic wage go much further. Above all, if we are to be reduced to bad times, if there is to be a shortage of money and a shortage of work, how much more necessary than ever is it that we should know exactly what we have to spend in order to get adequate food, not merely to fill our stomachs three times a day! I think I have said enough to make my points. I do not believe in ramming them home. There is a certain amount of, shall I say, toleration or give-and-take in a House of this nature. I am sure hon. members realise that I could have said a good deal more. However, I do not wish to weary them. Our minds run in grooves in regard to foods as they do in regard to other things. For example, we have a law saying that there must not be more than a certain percentage of preservatives in butter. Preservatives are known by the Health Department to be a bad thing. The department informed me to that effect by way of reply to a question two sessions ago. We also have a law saying that meat sold must not be putrid, and other things of that kind. But we have no law by which the public are enabled to know the physical significance of what they are buying in the way of foods. Certain foods sold which form 50 per cent. of the food of the people, should bear a warning something to this effect, "This food is dangerous unless such and such a food also forms part of the diet." A warning of that kind would at all events cause people to make further inquiries. I still commend the suggestion of the moving picture to the Government, and in the last resort of all I suggest that the matter come before the Education Department. On that side of the subject I am well supported by the department. I am glad to say there is no question of any criticism from that quarter. I shall presently cite what Mr. Andrews has to say on the subject. Before doing so, however, let me quote a few words

from George Bernard Shaw's "Doctor's Dilemma," showing that even Shaw, with all his wide range of interests, has thought out this subject.

The Premier: Evidently Gene Tunney has studied the question of health.

Mr. NORTH: It looks like that.

The Minister for Railways: He wants to meet his friend Shaw.

Mr. NORTH: Shaw writes—

Take the utmost care to get well-born and well brought up.

It is a child that is being addressed.

Be careful to go to a school where there is what they call a school clinic, where your nutrition and teeth and eyesight and other matters of importance to you will be attended to. Be particularly careful to have all this done at the expense of the nation, as otherwise it will not be done at all.

Which I think is very true.

Mr. Mann: People may not be inclined to fall in with that part of the advice which says those things are to be done at the expense of the nation.

Mr. NORTH: What is the expense involved here? The motion involves no expense whatever, except perhaps a paltry thousand pounds for one picture reel. Now let me quote Mr. Andrews, who has done and is doing splendid work and has a wonderful charge under the Minister. This is what he says—

If a man cannot read and write and perform simple arithmetical calculations, he is handicapped for most trades. While this is true, is this all that the schools may reasonably be required to give as training for future citizenship? Obviously, not.

Then he goes on to say—

Perhaps it would be helpful if, instead of taking the above decision of educational effort, we were to consider what many of the leading writers on sociology agree in enumerating as the principal interests of society.

He places the interests of society as comprising health first, wealth second, and knowledge third. How true that is! Then he proceeds—

Lessons on hygiene are useless unless they produce practical results . . . Hygiene should be one of the vital everyday interests of the school, not something that is merely touched upon in a weekly or fortnightly lesson.

That was written by Mr. Cecil Andrews in 1924. In dealing with the question in relation to our schools we can do something without any appreciable cost to ourselves, by using the machinery we already have available in our schools and the teaching

staff, and thus reach the 50,000 children who attend those schools and whose ages range from six to 14 years. What a wonderful power we can wield over them! By making those children think of their own bodily efficiency, we could empty the hospitals that are now being filled mainly because so many people fill their stomachs with what are really unsuitable foods. They do not know any better. How many members of this House have ever appreciated that fact until they have had to consult a doctor? Only then have they considered what they have eaten. I was unable to obtain a copy of the hygiene manual in use in our schools because it is out of print and it is now being brought up-to-date and extended before being reprinted. The whole question of the food of the people, and essentials regarding their daily lives, is not sufficiently dealt with by merely having a weekly lecture in the schools. It is necessary to have much more than that. I do not see how it is possible to teach the lessons of nutrition, cleanliness and ventilation unless the atmosphere of the schools is in consonance with the whole subject. In the latest edition of Chambers' Encyclopedia there is a fine article dealing with education. *Inter alia* it states—

In the ultimate resort true education and true statesmanship cannot but agree that the final aim of all education is the self-realisation of the individual. Many other aims have been put forward to prepare for complete living, to secure a sound mind in a healthy body, etc. Yet each and all may be fairly claimed as a part of self-realisation.

Are we doing that? Is it sufficient that children are merely introduced to this question of feeding and nutrition as a side line? Recently I have been in one or two of our State schools. In support of the candidature of the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) for a seat on a road board I attended a meeting held at night in the local school. It was in a disgraceful condition. The windows had been sealed up for years. It was a hot night and the room was filled with rotten, stale air. I have travelled on buses with children and dozens of them have been suffering from vile colds, influenza and running at the nose. Probably it was all due to one child who had gone to school with a cold and spread the trouble among the rest of the scholars. This defiance of health, obstinacy regarding the results of our defiance, and our general

lack of interest regarding what we eat, pervade the community, and it will require a sledge hammer to effect an alteration. I believe in making use of what we have at hand, and I have already referred to two means by which we can set to work at once—the Health Department and the Education Department. If the House accepts my motion, I hope the Government will invite Dr. Atkinson and Mr. Andrews to confer with the object of drawing up a suitable curriculum, so that we may make some advance with the subject among the schools. I hope that particular attention will be devoted to those attending the Teacher's Training College at Claremont. I believe that if we undertake this work we shall be able to add at least 15s. per week in achieved values to the basic wage, without any additional cost. We can do that by merely letting the average householder know some of the important facts regarding food and the constituent elements. I have said enough to bring the facts before the notice of hon. members. I could have quoted extensively regarding experiments, and could have gone further, had I been bold enough, to indicate what is needed and what is lacking. I could refer to the instances of nervous prostration and other diseases that are due to faulty eating. That is not my province; it is for professional men to deal with and particularly for Dr. Atkinson, who has the subject at his finger tips. While the present generation may prefer to ignore the truth of what I say, the coming generations are entitled to the knowledge we possess, or which is available to us. The children of to-day are certainly taught something about cleanliness, and so forth—

Hon. G. Taylor: And also about waltzing to Fremantle and back.

Mr. NORTH: But where do we find anything being taught about the chemistry of the body? I wonder how many members of Parliament are aware of what their bodies consist of? Do they know that they are composed of 13 elements? Do they know that those elements can be replaced by means of suitable food that contains the chemicals lacking in their body? How many children realise the benefit they would derive if they knew the good there was, for instance, in some raw carrot, well grated?

The Premier: A child would rather steal an apple than eat raw carrots.

Mr. NORTH: Recently I read an article in an American newspaper that indicated that many of the American beauties were concerned about their figures and even greatly interested to learn that some marvellous expert from Europe had arrived in order to tell them how they could retain their figures. I can just imagine the faces of those ladies as they hung on the professor's words when he advised them to eat raw carrots!

The Premier: Raw carrots are healthy!

Mr. NORTH: I believe there is as much benefit in raw carrots as in a few whiskeys. It may be interesting to hon. members to know that our bodies consist of about 5s. worth of chemicals. People may go on for 10 years or so before one of the elements is lost and then they go on and lose other constituent parts of their bodies. When they get down in the scale, they have to go to hospital. Last year 1,000 people in that condition were placed on the operating table. I will leave the subject at that. If I have interested members, I hope my remarks will be brought under the notice of those concerned and that steps will be taken to provide the community with what I may describe as a lifebelt to help them on their trip through life. There was one thing that happened just before the war that will never be forgotten. I refer to the loss of the "Titanic." That tragedy brought home to the world that, after all, our civilisation is a very frail thing. There were 3,000 or 4,000 people on board that magnificent liner, which embodied all the latest improvements known to the shipping world. Then suddenly she struck an iceberg, but even then nothing much was thought of it. The officers gave the orders to man the boats and the ship's band struck up "Nearer my God to Thee." Then it was discovered that one thing had been overlooked. For years the big liners such as the "Titanic" had paid no attention to their lifeboats, for in those palatial vessels the feeling uppermost was that they could get on without lifeboats at all. When the "Titanic's" lifeboats were put in the water, the tragedy of it was soon apparent. So it is with civilisation. We are all embarked upon a voyage through life, and because we have big institutions and spend vast sums of money, we think that all is well, and we

do not take heed of things that are of vital importance to our health. But that is not so. What happened to the "Titanic" is slowly happening to us, and those who watch the hospitals and diseases will see that it is happening to us no less surely. If I were a farmer I would be far more bitter than I am as a citizen to think that all the production of wheat, all the work in sweat and blood—and, may be, in overdraft at the bank—should be cast upon the waters and ruined before it reaches the tables of the people. I have concluded. But I must pay my tribute to my leader, Sir James Mitchell, who when the facts come out—and I propose to try to get them by means of a question to the Minister—will be highly commended on his magnificent foresight in establishing in the South-West a certain industry, which is the real answer to the loss of vitality that is slowly overtaking this community and others joined in the white civilisation. I trust that my motion will be agreed to.

On motion by the Premier, debate adjourned.

### MOTION—FREMANTLE HARBOUR SCHEME.

*Consideration Postponed.*

Order of the day read for Mr. Thomson to move—

That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the scheme proposed by the Engineer-in-Chief, Mr. Stileman, for the development of Fremantle Harbour, and that in the opinion of this House no further expenditure should be incurred on the Leighton-Robb's Jetty railway, including the bridge over the Swan River, until such time as this House shall have an opportunity of discussing the report of such committee.

Mr. THOMSON I desire that the taking of this motion be postponed until the next sitting day.

*Point of Order.*

Hon. G. Taylor: On a point of order. I think, Sir, if you will consult Standing Order 104, you will find that if a member fails to rise in his place when called upon to move a motion on the Notice Paper, the order must be discharged.

Mr. Speaker: That is correct. But the hon. member has not failed to rise in his place.

Hon G. Taylor: But he has not moved the motion, so it must be discharged.

Mr. Speaker: No, it is in the possession of the House. If a motion is not moved or otherwise dealt with by the House, it lapses; but it does not lapse on a request for postponement if the House agrees to that request.

Hon. G. Taylor: My point is that the motion is not in the possession of the House until the hon. member has moved it. And it will not be competent for him to move it until you state the question. He must then move the motion, not move to postpone it. He cannot do this under Standing Order 104.

Mr. Thomson: I draw attention to Standing Order 103, which reads as follows:—

A member desiring to change the day for bringing on a motion may give notice of such motion for any day subsequent to that first named, but not earlier, subject to the same rules as other notices of motion.

It is because the House proposes to adjourn presently that I desire to postpone my motion.

Hon. G. Taylor: You can give notice of it again to-morrow.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member wish to withdraw his motion?

Mr. Thomson: Yes, if it is not permissible for me to postpone it.

Mr. Speaker: Either course is open to the hon. member. But it has invariably been the practice that when a motion is called on, and the member in charge of the motion being present and asking permission of the House to defer the matter, the House, although not fully in possession of the motion, has given consent and therefore has approved of being placed fully in possession of the motion at another date. Otherwise, of course, the motion would lapse. If it were not moved and no notice were taken of it, it must lapse. The member in charge asks permission of the House merely to defer the whole matter of considering the motion. Then, the House giving that consent, I submit that the motion can be postponed.

Hon. G. Taylor: Standing Order 104 reads as follows:—

After a notice of motion has been given, the terms thereof may be altered by the member reading aloud and delivering at the Table at the usual time of giving notices, an amended

notice, any day prior to that for proceeding with such motion, or may withdraw the same when called upon. And if a member be not in his place when the notice of motion given by him is called on, or fails to rise and move the same, it shall be withdrawn from the Notice Paper.

There can be nothing more plain than that.

Mr. Panton: On a point of order. You, Sir, have already given a ruling to the effect that the member for Katanning was in order in asking to postpone his motion. Is the member for Mount Margaret in order in discussing your ruling without moving to dissent from it?

Mr. Speaker: No. Strictly speaking, if the member for Mount Margaret wishes to discuss the ruling I have given, he must move to dissent from it.

Hon. G. Taylor: I simply rose to draw your attention to the Standing Order. Having read it, I was about to resume my seat when the member for Menzies came in with his point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Here is an illustration of the same technical constructions that both sides are placing upon the position that has arisen. I have taken it that the hon. member is desirous of obtaining information, not of conflicting with my ruling. For the information of the House, I refer the member for Mount Margaret again to Standing Order 104, which he has read. He will see that it has not the slightest bearing upon and does not touch the particular point he himself has raised. The Standing Order merely says that a member in charge of a motion may, by giving notice, make alteration in a specific way. He may drop the motion by being absent, designedly or otherwise, when the motion is called on. He may drop the motion by declining to move it, even though sitting in his place. The motion lapses in either case. But when a member in charge of the motion does not sit in his place and do nothing when the motion is called on, but rises and asks permission of the House that the motion may be postponed, and the House by failure of objection gives that permission to postpone, the will of the House is obeyed. Proper respect is shown for the House, and it is the invariable custom then to allow the motion to stand on the Notice Paper as one postponed.

Hon. G. Taylor: If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, is that the ruling you give on Standing Order 104?

Mr. Speaker: That is the ruling.

Hon. G. Taylor: Then I shall discuss it with you at some other stage.

Motion postponed.

*House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 30th August, 1928.*

	PAGE
Bills: Electric Light and Power Agreement, 2s., Com. report ... ..	504
Dried Fruits Act, 2s., Com. ... ..	504
Fertilisers, 2s. ... ..	511
Electoral Act Amendment, 2s. ... ..	513
Abattoirs Act Amendment, 2s. ... ..	524

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

### BILL—ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT.

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 28th August.

**HON SIR JAMES MITCHELL** (Northam) [4.35]: I do not think there is any reason why we should oppose this small Bill. Undoubtedly there has in recent years been great development in the use of electric current in and around the metropolitan area, and it is not unlikely that this development is due in a great measure to the price at which the Government are able to supply current in bulk to consumers. We know that in the case of the Perth City Council the charge per unit is very small.

The Minister for Railways: We have to get some other outlet for our current at a higher price in order to get round.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I hope the Minister will bear in mind that the areas to be supplied around Bayswater will, for all time, probably, be manufacturing centres. Some regard should be had for the future requirements of the secondary industries that it seems inevitable will grow up there.

The Minister for Railways: There is any amount of scope in that direction.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I think there is. Little by little we are manufacturing those things that are required for our own use. Electricity has played a big part in that production. Near Guildford we have Hadfield's works, where electric steel is being made by the conversion of scrap iron into that commodity. I have no objection to passing the Bill, and am glad it has been brought down.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*In Committee.*

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

### BILL—DRIED FRUITS ACT AMENDMENT.

#### *Second Reading.*

Debate resumed from the 28th August.

**HON. G. TAYLOR** (Mount Margaret) Although I do not represent any section of dried fruit growers, I am strongly disposed to oppose the Bill. Hon. members however, referred to the deplorable condition into which the industry has fallen, to the need for some assistance being given to growers, and to the fact that they are anxiously awaiting this Bill so that growers may improve their positions. But for that, I would be inclined to vote the Bill out on the second reading. It is a bad principle to foster industries year after year at the expense of the consumers. The Bill does not contain a word about protection for the consumers, but only for the producers. These people have been settled on the land, and in the early stages of their industry they were getting enormous sums for their produce. It can well be realised that such prices could not be maintained, although that was the factor which induced many people to embark upon the industry at the time, and settle upon our lands.

Mr. Thomson: They are settled all right.

Hon. G. TAYLOR: It was a most profitable industry at the time, but has turned out disastrously. There are many directions in which industry has been bolstered up by the Federal Government, through bounties