

Mr. Drew will give a little consideration. There is no definition in the Bill of the word "sustenance." Strictly speaking, if one came to construe it in a court of law it would be said that all wages or salaries were paid for sustenance. Of course we know what is meant by Mr. Drew, but it is just as well to make it clear by a short definition of the word.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 9th November, 1932.

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

QUESTION—COLLIE COAL.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Mines: What was the monthly analytical test of coal supplied to Government departments from each local mine respectively from the 30th December, 1931, to the 30th June, 1932?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: Presuming that the calorific values are required they are expressed hereunder in British thermal units as follows:—

Co-operative Mines—January, 10,316; February, 10,106; March, 10,092; April, 10,557; May, 10,186; June, 10,313.

Proprietary Mine—January, 9,808; February, 9,584; March, 9,445; April, 9,567; May, 9,481; June, 9,457.

Stockton Mine—January, 9,313; February, 9,230; March, 9,570; April, 9,282; May, 9,221; June, 9,232.

Cardiff Mine—January, 8,966; February, 9,240; March, 9,080; April, 9,153; May, 9,024; June, 9,030.

Griffin Mine—January, 10,447; February, 10,224; March, 10,182; April, 10,234; May, 10,278; June, 10,092.

QUESTION—SLEEPER CONTRACT.

Mr. WILSON asked the Premier: 1, Did the Deputy Premier send the following message to him in Melbourne:—"Ascertain from Commissioner Commonwealth Railways the cause of delay, if any, for payment of sleepers on account of Sleigh's contract? 2, If so, what was the nature of the reply received by the Deputy Premier? 3, Is he aware that the cutters have satisfactorily cut all the sleeper orders given them by Sleigh's agent in Western Australia, and that the sleepers were shipped some time ago, and so far no money payments have been made for them? 4, Is it a fact that Sleigh's sleeper contract owes to the Forests Department money for royalty for sleepers cut under the contract? 5, Is he aware that Sleigh's agent in Western Australia is getting some of the cutters to sign affidavits that they have been paid, in order to get Sleigh's money from the Commonwealth Railway Department, when, in fact, the men have received no payments whatever? 6, Will he take steps to induce the Commonwealth Railways to cancel Sleigh's contract for non-fulfilment of the provisions, and pay the cutters out of the money owing under the contract for the quota of sleepers cut by each man?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, The Commonwealth Railways advised that the contract provided for the submission by Sleigh of a declaration that all accounts had been paid, and on submission of that declaration payment would be made. 3, No. The matter is not the concern of the State Government as the contract is between Sleigh and the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner. 4, Monies are owing to the Forests Department by permit holders who have supplied sleepers under this contract. 5, Answered by 3. 6, The State Govern-

ment is no party to the contract and can take no action, but the individuals concerned may. I understand that the Commissioner of Commonwealth Railways has power under the contract to make such payments direct.

QUESTION—ARBITRATION COURT.

Hon. A. McCALLUM (without notice) asked the Premier: Will he remind the Attorney General that he has not kept his promise to lay on the Table the papers relating to the Crown Law Department and the Arbitration Court?

The PREMIER replied: Yes. If possible, I will get the papers.

Hon. A. McCallum: They should be tabled before we renew the discussion on the Estimates of the Attorney General's Department.

The PREMIER: Yes.

ASSENT TO BILLS.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. East Perth Cemeteries.
2. Supply Bill (No. 2), £860,000.
3. State Trading Concerns Act Amendment (No. 1).

BILL—ROADS CLOSURE.

Introduced by the Minister for Lands, and read a first time.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1932-3.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day: Mr. Richardson in the Chair.

Department of Agriculture (Hon. P. D. Ferguson, Minister).

Vote—Agriculture, £59,132:

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

(Hon. P. D. Ferguson, Irwin-Moore) [4.38]: In introducing the Estimates I would like members to carry their minds back to the days before there was a Department of

Agriculture in Western Australia. In 1890, when Western Australia was granted responsible Government, the late Lord Forrest was appointed Premier, and with that foresight and intuition with which he was so abundantly blessed, he visualised some of the agricultural possibilities of Western Australia. I say "some" of the agricultural possibilities because many of them have not been visualised up to this moment. After the establishment of responsible Government, the late Lord Forrest brought into operation what was then known as the Bureau of Agriculture. The functions of the bureau were to advise the Government of the day on matters pertaining to the establishment of the agricultural industry, and to advise and assist those who were already engaged in the industry. It is interesting to note that the first members of the Bureau of Agriculture were Charles Harper, J. C. H. Amherst, W. Paterson, F. H. Piesse, and A. R. Richardson. All those gentlemen were at one time members of this House. Quite a number have had sons in Parliament, and all of them have sons or grandsons who are taking a prominent part in the development of the agricultural industry in various parts of the State. The Bureau of Agriculture was placed under the Ministerial control of the then Commissioner for Crown Lands, Hon. George Throssell. He was appointed the first Minister for Agriculture in Western Australia, and a grandson of the first Minister for Agriculture is to-day a valued officer of the department. The first secretary was the late Mr. Lindley Cowen. In looking up the early history of the department, I ascertained that in 1898 Mr. Cowen penned the following recommendation to his Minister, in which he suggested the formation of a Department of Agriculture to take the place of the then Bureau of Agriculture. This is what he said—

It is better to be accused of being too far ahead of the times than behind them. The average agriculturist is slow to learn, and I would suggest that every effort should be made to instruct the people boldly in the possibilities of the future and let the present, which is prosperous, take care of itself.

The Hon. George Throssell appended the following minute to that recommendation:—

Excellent! We shall succeed. The education of the people is our first duty, and must be regarded as one of the main factors to national wealth.

That was the beginning of the Department of Agriculture, which had its birthday just 34 years ago, and that is the spirit which has actuated the officers of the department since its inception in 1898. Ever since its formation, it has been housed in the historic building in St. George's-terrace, which a few years ago before housed not only the Department of Agriculture but every department of State. When we realise that to-day the State departments are scattered all over the metropolitan area, it is interesting to know that every civil servant in the nineties was housed in the building that accommodates the Department of Agriculture to-day. From those small beginnings the department has progressed, until to-day it is regarded as one of the most up-to-date Departments of Agriculture in the British Empire. I think it can be claimed as a fact that, largely as a result of the activities of the department, the handful of people engaged in agriculture in Western Australia are doing more to win wealth from the soil than any similar number of people in any other part of the world. While I wish to give pride of place for that wonderful achievement to those who are engaged in practical agriculture, I wish to add that the scientists attached to the department have assisted them in a material degree. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. Sutton, who has devoted the best years of a busy life to the work of the department, has been singularly fortunate in gathering around him a staff of scientists who have done such good work in assisting our practical agriculturists. The member for South Fremantle (Hon. A. McCallum) referred last night, in dealing with education matters, to the activities of one or two officers of the department. The spirit that animates the officers to whom he referred, is also apparent in the work of others engaged in the department. Each of them is out to do his best in the interests of the particular section of agricultural practice with which he is concerned. I shall deal with some of the activities of the department during last year. The veterinary branch in particular has been singularly fortunate and successful in its work. Our stock people have had to encounter fairly difficult propositions in relation to some of the diseases that have troubled our flocks and herds. There is the braxy-like disease in sheep, a complaint somewhat similar to one that has existed in older countries of

the world for many years past, and to the task of combating which, the best brains available there have been applied to ascertain the cause and to discover a cure. Dr. Bennetts, one of the veterinary officers of the department, has achieved wonderful success in dealing with the disease. He has definitely ascertained the cause of it and during recent months has told the sheep men of the State the cure for it. He has advocated the inoculation of the sheep and the department has arranged with the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory for the manufacture of a serum that is to-day being distributed to the sheep men in the districts concerned, where the braxy-like disease is most prevalent. The losses to our flocks have decreased appreciably as the result of Dr. Bennetts' work, and experiments have shown, when comparisons have been made between inoculated sheep and a similar number of sheep running on similar farms under similar conditions, that the benefits from inoculation have been pronounced. The cost of inoculation is 1½d. per sheep, and this year 15,000 sheep have been inoculated throughout the State. Another disease known as toxic paralysis or botulism has also received the attention of the departmental officers, who have been similarly successful in their efforts. In road board districts alone 8,000 deaths from that disease occurred among the sheep. The advice of the departmental officers to the sheep owners was that the disease would be considerably lessened if they used di-calcic licks, and, in consequence, the use of those licks has had a marked effect where the disease has been so prevalent. We look forward to the time when the advice of the experts in that direction will be followed to a much greater degree, with a consequent marked saving of the life of sheep, the death of which represents a considerable economic loss to the State as a whole. In portions of the South-West, particularly in the Manjimup area, where the advice of the departmental officers has been followed by dairymen, we are informed that there has been a great improvement in the condition of the stock. Two of the departmental officers are also engaged in connection with a disease known as the Denmark wasting disease, regarding which the member for Albany (Mr. Wansbrough) is so concerned. The investigations have been proceeding for quite a long time,

and some of the stock owners appear to be somewhat impatient. It must be remembered, however, that experiments of this nature are slow and scientists do not make announcements regarding the results of their work until they have achieved something worthy of publication. I believe we are on the right track towards discovering the cause of the wasting disease at Denmark, and when we do reach that point, we shall make the particulars public. Last year we lost the services of a valuable veterinary scientist when Mr. Ohman left the department. He was trained in the department as a cadet and passed the necessary examinations, after which, unfortunately, we lost his services. He was offered a far better position in Queensland and naturally he took it. In his place we have appointed Dr. Stewart, who arrived recently from the East, and he has taken up the work that was formerly carried out by Mr. Ohman. During the past year, members have shown considerable interest in the work carried out by the Government in subsidising the purchase of stallions and bulls. During the past 12 months we subsidised the purchase of stallions at a cost of £1,500, which, with £3,347 spent in a similar direction in previous years, represented a total of £4,847 spent as subsidy on the purchase of 60 stallions. I believe the result of that expenditure will be seen in the marked improvement in the type of draught horses in the agricultural districts. If we say that those 60 stallions, during their useful working life, will be capable of getting 30 foals each per year, it will represent an increase of 1,800 foals. I am hopeful that the subsidy will be continued in future, because I do not know of any better means by which we can increase the number and quality of our draught horses. With regard to the bull subsidy, we spent £203 last year, which, with the expenditure in previous years of £955, gave a total of £1,158 provided towards the purchase of 94 bulls at an average cost of £12 6s. 7d. to the department. If members will take the trouble to travel through the dairying districts of the State, I am sure they will note the marked improvement that has taken place in the quality of the dairy cows as a result of the provision of the pure-bred bulls. The dairying industry has made greater strides in development than has any other branch of

agricultural practice in Western Australia. In 1931 for the first time in the history of the State, we embarked upon the exportation of butter, and we sent 25,000 cases overseas. I hope that the quantity will be increased 100 per cent. this year. What is more important, however, is that 93 per cent. of that butter was graded as first-class quality, or better, by the Commonwealth Butter Grader. That is a performance that has never been excelled, or even equalled, by any other State in Australia so far as the proportion of first, or better, quality butter bore to the whole of the quantity exported. If we continue to maintain the standard that we have set in the first year of our exportation, we shall do very well indeed.

Hon. M. F. Troy: You are talking about export butter exclusively?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes.

Hon. M. F. Troy: That is easily explained.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I was making a comparison between the butter we exported in the first year and I pointed out that no other State in Australia had ever been able to claim that 93 per cent. of the export butter sent out during the first year that trade was embarked upon, was of first-class, or better, quality.

Hon. M. F. Troy: The quantity exported was small; the rest was consumed locally.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I know that a lot of the butter that was consumed locally was not graded by Commonwealth officers, but I have pointed out the position regarding the 25,000 cases that were exported last year. That is very creditable for our first year in the export trade. We have 99,187 dairy cows in the State and last year they produced 10,115,852 lbs. of butter and in round figures 30,000,000 gallons of whole milk.

Hon. M. F. Troy: How much butter did you say was exported last year?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We exported 25,000 cases.

Hon. M. F. TROY: What proportion of the butter produced was exported?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: We exported 25,000 cases out of 10,000,000 lbs. produced. Side by side with the development of the dairying industry, has grown up the pig-raising industry. We

have now in this State 120,000 pigs and last year we exported 220,000 lbs. of pork and bacon. That is a trade that is calculated to increase considerably and ultimately should reach considerable proportions in Western Australia. At the present time when wheat is being sold at less than 3s. a bushel, it is obvious that it would pay to turn the wheat into bacon and pork. Speaking to a man who grows his own wheat and turns it into pork, I was told last week that he valued his wheat on the basis of his returns from pork at 4s. per bushel on the farm.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Do your departmental officers endorse those figures?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I do not know that they do, but the man who informed me of his results was a practical farmer. He assured me that he valued his wheat at that figure as a result of feeding it to his pigs. In the south-west portion of the State, pastures have been developed side by side with the dairying industry and we have now 339,371 acres under pasture. Last year we were able to make 17,000 tons of silage. It is a fact that money spent in the South-West on irrigation and other schemes has contributed largely to that achievement. To-day we have 14 butter factories, two condensed milk factories and one cheese factory operating in the State. Much experimental work has been carried out in the South-West regarding the establishment of pastures and that work has been assisted materially by the officers of the Agricultural Department. We have 95 plots established in various parts of the State. There are pasture nursery plots established in conjunction with Cuming Smith and Mt. Lyell Fertilisers Ltd., of which there are 72 in different localities throughout the South-West. Then there are the experiments in the semi-bottle brush country west of Denmark, where we have two plots. Also, we have pasture and fodder variety trial plots at Denmark, Busselton and Perth, and we have oat variety and wheat grain trial plots at Williams Bay, Hester, Balingup, Donnybrook, Waroona, Brunswick, Dardanup, Jardee, and two at Denmark. Last year pasture experiments and grazing trials were carried out in conjunction with the British Chemical Industries Ltd. at Serpentine, Wonnerup and Kulikup. Pasture variety, manurial and grazing trials were carried out at Wokalup,

Harvey, Busselton, Quarrum, and Denmark. During the butter export season we had a visit from Mr. P. J. Carrol, the Commonwealth Supervisor of Dairy Exports. In a report he made to his Minister on his return to Melbourne, he said he was convinced that the Commonwealth production of dairy products would be greatly augmented by the big development that was bound to take place in Western Australia and expressed the view that, provided strict attention were given to the essentials of high quality butter production, butter from this State would be equal to that from any of the other States. He also said he was greatly impressed with the prospects ahead of the pasture lands and the proper treatment and the importation of dairy stock from high producing strains in the Eastern States, must prove of great value to the industry. Quite a number of the very best dairying strains of stock have been imported from the Eastern States and are scattered about the various dairying and breeding districts of the State. A question of all-absorbing interest to me, and I know to many other members of this Chamber, is the work that is being carried on by the State experimental farms. Some people have stated that these farms are not a success because they do not pay. No experimental farm in the world has ever paid. I have heard it said on one or two occasions that they are not a success unless they are a financial success. I do not subscribe to that idea at all. It is a fact that they carry out a very great deal of experimental work.

Hon. J. C. Willecock: They were never established with the idea of being a financial success.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Of course they were not. There would be no justification for their establishment if they were to be conducted as commercial farms. Commercial farming should be left to the farmers of the State; that is not the duty of the Department of Agriculture. I maintain it is the duty of the Government to carry on experimental farms and I trust they will be carried on for all time, and that their sphere of usefulness will not be lessened in any way. There is still a great amount of experimental work to be done on these farms and it can be carried on much more economically by the department than by a thousand different farmers. Moreover, the results are much more authentic and satisfactory when the experiments

are conducted by the officers of the Department of Agriculture. It is not right that we should expect individual farmers to do that work, although in many instances they have attempted to do it in the past. The area under wheat on these various experimental farms is 1,837 acres; and in addition to growing pedigreed seed wheat and oats, which are distributed on a reasonable basis to those farmers who require them, a considerable amount of wheat breeding has been done. The varieties of wheat that have been bred on these farms and distributed among the various districts of the State have, in my opinion, helped to increase very considerably the average wheat yield of Western Australia. Very many hundreds, in fact, I should say thousands, of new varieties of wheat have been bred, but until we ascertain their types and qualities and are sure that they are superior to well-known existing breeds, we do not put them on the market. Occasionally, we get an exceptionally good breed and then it is distributed among the farmers. We have been singularly successful in this respect. The great majority of the breeds of wheat which are in general use in the wheatgrowing districts of the State to-day are those which have been produced on the experimental farms. With a view to the possibility of increased development in the flax growing industry, experiments have been conducted at the Avondale stock farm to ascertain whether the time of planting would be of any advantage in eliminating the dreaded cutworm, which has caused so much havoc to the flax crops of the State. Those people who have endeavoured to encourage the flax growing industry have met with considerable trouble as the result of the depredation of the cutworm, but we hope eventually to be able to demonstrate by experiments on the Avondale farm that the time of sowing has a material effect in this respect. It is usual to hold field days at the various State farms, so that the farmers in the surrounding districts can see what is being done there and reap the advantage of lecturettes delivered by officers of the department. These field days have been held for a number of years and are becoming increasingly popular each year. This year a new departure was made, in that at shearing time we conducted sheep and wool days at two or three of the farms. These days have been equally popular. Quite recently I had the opportunity of seeing the

State's most northern wheat crop, which was grown beyond the rabbit-proof fence north of Geraldton. It speaks well, I think, for the future of Western Australia as a wheatgrowing country that we can say now we can grow wheat from the Murchison River to Esperance.

Member: It is not profitable to crop.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: That is purely a passing phase, let up hope. The Government, in conjunction with the Wandalong Syndicate, has an experimental crop of wheat growing, I think, 20 miles north of the No. 3 rabbit-proof fence. To-day I received from the syndicate the results of that crop. Last year 100 acres of land were cleared and fenced.

Hon. M. F. Troy: That was three years ago.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: No. It was not. Half of it was scratched in last year. The yield was 19 bushels to the acre. The balance was fallowed and harvested this year. The resultant crop is 20 bushels 50 lbs., practically seven bags, to the acre. It is interesting to note that that land was first put into cultivation in July, 1931. It was sown on the 4th and 5th May, 1932, with 45 lbs. of seed and 90 lbs. of super per acre. It was harvested on the 25th October, the only district in Western Australia where harvesting was started so soon. The useful rainfall during the growing period when the 7 bags to the acre were produced was only 787 points. That fell from May to September, but only 11 points fell in September. I think that district is going to prove a very fertile wheatgrowing district.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Where is it situated?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: North-east of Yuna.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Is it in the Dartmoor area?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. The manager of the Wandalong syndicate, which has the biggest farm in the area, assured me recently that he had obtained valuable information and advice in regard to the development of their property and the growing of their crop as a result of the work that had been carried on at the State farms. During the year the officers of the wheat branch of the Department of Agriculture have assisted very materially in the judging of the various competitions. It is interesting to note that in the 50-acre

crop competition there were 110 competitors and the average yield was not less than 27 bushels to the acre. In view of that fact, it seems to me we ought to be able to get a better average yield than 13 bushels to the acre for the State. I hope that we shall be able to reduce our cost of production by increasing the yield. We would thereby decrease the cost per bushel, even if we could not decrease the cost per acre; the net result would be the same. During the past two or three years our average wheat yield has been slightly increasing. That may be due to seasonal influence, or it may be due to improved farming practice. It may be due to the fact that we have been farming only our better types of land; but it is a fact that our average yield per acre is on the increase and I sincerely trust that that increase will be maintained. Some two years ago I suggested to a prominent resident of Western Australia, who has been a farmer all his life, Mr. M. T. Padbury, that it would be very helpful if he or someone else who could afford to do so would make available a sum of money to provide a trophy for the person who could grow the greatest quantity of wheat per inch of rainfall, irrespective of the district in which it was produced. Mr. Padbury promptly adopted my suggestion and made available the sum of £150 for the trophy. The winner of it in 1930 was Mr. F. Williams. He put up the wonderful performance of 3 bushels 23 lbs. of wheat per acre, per inch of rainfall. I am given to understand that that result has rarely, if ever, been obtained before in the world. This year the winners of the trophy are the Messrs. Atkins, of Mukinbudin, who were successful in growing three bushels of wheat per acre per inch of rainfall during the growing period. That is a wonderful performance and it indicates what can be done in the great majority of our wheat-growing districts. Last year we harvested 3,547,081 acres of wheat, the average yield, as I have said, being 13 bushels per acre. In connection with the compilation of wheat statistics, the Government statistician has divided the State into road board districts. Statistics have been collected in those districts for the last three or four years, and it is interesting to note that one of our driest farming districts, Yilgarn, has grown more wheat than any other road board district in the State. A considerable amount of interest is evinced in various parts of the country in the work that

is being done by the sheep and wool adviser of the department, Mr. McCallum. He spends most of his time travelling about the country giving advice and assistance to the sheep farmers. That advice and assistance are very much appreciated. In connection with the work he has been able to do for the sheep and wool days that I have just mentioned, I have received congratulatory messages from all the districts where the days have been held. Now, we have in connection with the seed wheat that is grown on our State farms what is known as a seed wheat exchange scheme. When I came to the department in 1930 I found that a considerable quantity of seed raised on those farms was not being utilised as seed. Whether it was due to the fact that the farming community was not able to pay the price asked by the department for the seed, or whether it was not sufficiently advertised or not sufficiently appreciated by the farmers, I am not able to say; perhaps it was a little of each. But I have brought into being a scheme whereby the farmer can obtain a bushel of pedigreed seed wheat for 1 bushel of f.a.q. wheat, and can obtain a similar quantity of pedigreed oats for 1½ bushels of f.a.q. wheat. So much has that been appreciated by the wheatgrowers that they have applied over and over again for the quantity we have available for distribution. Last year we distributed 6,674 bags of wheat and 1,466 bags of oats, and no fewer than 25,000 bags were applied for. This year probably we shall have a similar quantity to distribute, and 30,000 bags have already been applied for, thus proving that the farmers want to make the fullest use of this pedigreed seed. Officers of the department have been engaged in certifying export wheat, and have used Government certificates in connection with various cargoes of wheat shipped overseas. Some of our wheat customers overseas demand these Government certificates with each cargo. Last year the total wheat exported was 36,866,000 bushels, of which 14,140,000 bushels were certified. So 38 per cent. of the total exported carried the Government certificate, and 90 per cent. of that certificated wheat was sent to Asiatic countries, whose people seem to place full faith in the Government certificates. We have in connection with the department what is known as our lamb committee, consisting

of officers of the department and experienced lamb breeders in various parts of the State. At the Avondale stock farm at Beverley, that committee has been carrying out investigations as to the most suitable type of export lambs. It has been felt that if we are to engage to any considerable extent in the export lamb trade we should endeavour to produce the very best type of lamb, suitable to the requirements of our customers overseas, and give definite advice to the lamb raisers as to the breed and type they should produce. As the result of investigation and experiment we have been able to give the definite advice to our farmers that they should use a Southdown sire and a long wool merino cross-bred ewe, since that cross produces the most suitable export lamb. If the lamb raisers would but go and see their lambs on the hooks at Fremantle they would not require any further proof of the statement I have made. During the past year we established a small border Leicester stud at the Wongan Hills light lands farm, where we propose to cross them with merino ewes with the object of producing crossbred ewes to mate with Southdown rams at Avondale, where we have also established a small Southdown stud. We have also secured the sole right to use a mark known as the "Swandown," which we intend to put on every choice lamb that goes overseas which comes up to the standard we consider should be maintained. Every lamb breeder who wishes it, can have this mark placed on his lambs by an experienced officer of the department. Last year we exported 63,123 lambs, but due to the drop in prices I am afraid the export this year is not coming up to expectations. If we are to embark upon that trade to any considerable extent, we shall have to supply a better type of lamb than is going into the metropolitan market this year. The Old Country imports 17 million lamb carcasses per year, and Western Australia should endeavour to capture some of that trade. We have in the State over 10 million sheep, and last year we produced 70,000,000 lbs. of wool, an average of 7 lbs. per sheep. This year, due to the fact that we have had a pretty good season, and to the further fact that our pastoralists have not been able to dispose of their surplus sheep, but have had to retain them on their leases, we shall have another record wool clip. Last year we had

a record fruit crop and exported overseas 812,395 cases. Our previous record was 737,669 cases. Most of these were apples, and it is regrettable that the prices for our export apples were in some instances very disappointing. The member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) the other evening declared that some of the apple growers in his electorate had received debit notes for considerable consignments to the Old Country. Unfortunately it is only too true. However, some of the prices were quite satisfactory, prices received by those growers who were fortunate enough to sell on their holdings, but a number of those who exported overseas met with disastrous results.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: And it will be so every year until the marketing is organised.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The entomologist of the department has been carrying on considerable research work in connection with the lucerne flea and the red mite and other pasture pests. It has been definitely proved that a lime and sulphur spray now on the market is effective against the lucerne flea, but so far we have not been successful in providing a cure or a parasite for the red mite. It is a tremendous pest in our pasture districts, and in fact is getting well outside the pasture districts and becoming a curse in various parts of the State. We in Western Australia are not alone in having this pest, for it is rampant in other parts as well. We have had Mr. Womersley, an officer of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research collaborating with our officer during the year, but so far they have not been successful in this regard. There is in the agricultural districts a very bad pest known as the brassica tournifortii, or wild turnip. Members who have farmed in the eastern districts will know something about this pest. We have been endeavouring to find a means to overcome it, and it appears as if the ordinary peach aphid, which previously we have regarded as a nuisance in our orchards, will go a considerable way towards eradicating this wild turnip. I myself have noticed that the aphid does tackle the turnip, and will kill it, so I hope that eventually we shall be able to eradicate the pest altogether. In the meantime I trust that our farmers will not rely solely upon this means of eradication, but will endeavour

our by cultivation and other methods to rid their farms of the pest. There has been considerable increase in our export of eggs during the year, an increase of 121 per cent. over the previous year's figures. This year we sent overseas 1,180,000 eggs. For a long time I have been endeavouring to have the word "West" imprinted on our eggs before the word "Australia," which under Commonwealth regulations has to appear. We have approached the Commonwealth department with the request that we be allowed to put in the word "West," but have been refused. Every Western Australian member of the Federal Parliament has endeavoured to use his influence in this regard, but so far we have been unsuccessful. Our own Agent-General has told us the Perth egg is very popular on the London market, so I think it is only right that our egg producers should have any benefit that is coming to them as the result of the production of a better egg than those exported from the Eastern States. However, we are prevented by the Commonwealth regulations from printing the word "West" on our eggs. In view of the fact that there is nothing to stop us from putting the words "Western Australia" on our apples and other fruits, it is inconsistent that we should not be allowed to put it on our eggs. I hope the Federal people will see the wisdom of withdrawing their opposition to this. During last year we sent away a small trial consignment of poultry, and it met with great approval in the Near East. I think there are possibilities in that direction. For a number of years the stock owners who send their stock to the metropolitan markets at Midland Junction have complained of the accommodation made available to them there by the Government. Our predecessors in office started to improve those yards. The improvement was very marked indeed, and our producers generally were highly commendatory of the type of yard made available. But only 50 per cent. of the sheepyards were rebuilt. During last year we completed the sheep yards at a cost of £6,000. Instead of flooring them with concrete, we floored them with white gum sleepers, and although the job may not be quite as satisfactory as would be a concrete floor, nevertheless it meets all requirements and will last for many years. We have increased the accommodation in the pigyards by 100 per cent. at a cost of £2,000, and have put in a new block of 20 additional cattle pens, and have re-

graded, drained, and rebuilt the existing cattle yards at a cost of £7,000. Tobacco cultivation is making great strides, especially in the South-West. The area under crop last year was approximately 500 acres, and the production approximately 100 tons. Tobacco, I suppose, is one of the trickiest plants to cultivate, being more susceptible to disease than is any other of our plants. A disease known as downy mildew worked great havoc amongst the young plants this year, no fewer than 50,000 seedlings being destroyed. It is every necessary that the seed should be disinfected. Those who are planting seed are having the work done by an officer of the department at bare cost, and are reaping considerable benefit through having clean plants. This is necessary if we are to develop the tobacco industry. Our people must grow only the best quality leaf. They must be prepared to become proficient in agricultural practice and to devote all their time to it if they wish to make a success of it. Tobacco requires a certain type of soil and climate with long, dewy nights, if available. There are several necessary climatic conditions which make for the production of high-grade leaf. Tobacco can be grown anywhere, but, unless the quality of leaf is high, it is very difficult to market the product.

Mr. Hegney: Tobacco is being grown at Bayswater.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: There is no difficulty about growing it there, or even at Moora. But whether a sufficiently high-class leaf can be grown so far north or not is a matter for further experiment. It would be wise for our tobacco growers to confine themselves to the extreme South-West where most suitable areas have already been proved. This year we have 4,892 acres under potatoes. The yield was 20,253 tons, an average of 4.14 tons per acre. This is the highest yield of any State in the Commonwealth, and is therefore another record for us. One of the most disappointing features of the potato trade is the tremendously depressed price that growers are receiving. When they planted this additional area it seemed as if there would be a market for our potatoes in some of the Eastern States. There, too, good crops have been grown, and it is not likely we shall be able to export anything to the Eastern States this year. The

Department of Agriculture has a certified seed scheme in connection with potato production. This has been largely availed of by most of the up to date producers in this State. Just as it is necessary to utilise pure seed in wheat production, so is it necessary for potato growing. The department through its officers inspects certain areas of potatoes, sees the tubers dug and bagged, seals the bags, and then issues a certificate that the potatoes are fit for seed. Last year no fewer than 2,250 bags were sealed and certified to in this way by the departmental officers. The tomato export business has assumed considerable dimensions this year. The number of cases sent to Victoria during the last few months was 42,716. We are endeavouring through the activities of the department to induce our agriculturists to grow more onions. We have the type of soil and climate suitable for the growing of considerable quantities of onions not far from the metropolitan area. Some of the country referred to by the member for South Fremantle is suitable for this purpose. Last year we only produced 591 tons of onions, whereas we imported 2,366 tons. Our growers, therefore, should endeavour to make use of this local demand and catch up with the local consumption.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: And should grow the keeping variety.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: One of the difficulties is that our onions are not of the best type for keeping purposes, and some loss has been incurred in the endeavour to store them. That difficulty should be overcome by experience. Prices are good to-day, with the result that a larger area of land is under crop this year than was previously the case.

Mr. Lamond: Onions are coming from Egypt, are they not?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: They come mostly from the Eastern States. A few have come from Egypt and a few from Japan. When I was at the Royal Show recently I saw onions which had been imported from Egypt, Japan and America. The viticultural section of our industry is largely at a standstill because our production has overtaken our consumption. That applies also to world conditions. We have cultivated 1,022 acres of table grapes, and last year produced 56,699 cwt. We have 1,136 acres under wine grapes, and last year produced 30,133 cwt. We have 2,291 acres under drying grapes, and last year produced

190,883 cwt. The total of these figures is 4,766 acres under cultivation, yielding a production of 297,715 cwt. Our export of fresh grapes constituted a record, seeing that 34,171 cases were sent away, this being 5,488 cases in excess of the previous highest record. It is believed there has been an increase of 50,000 gallons of wine in excess of the previous year, when we produced 307,788 gallons. For the first time in the history of the State our wine has been exhibited at the Melbourne and Adelaide shows, where it was highly commended by the judges, and was successful in competitions. This year a new winery has been established on the Swan, where up-to-date machinery has been installed by a well-known Eastern States firm. The winegrowers in the Swan Valley and surrounding districts will, therefore, have an additional market for their surplus grapes. I should like to pay a tribute to Mr. Wise, our tropical adviser, who is doing splendid work in the North-West. He has gone to considerable trouble to introduce new fodder grasses, some of which should be of benefit to the local pastoralists. He has assisted materially to improve the gardens around the various stations, and station owners have told me how greatly they appreciate his work. This has helped to make their lives in that dry country more pleasant and satisfactory, and the gardens themselves are infinitely better than they were in the past.

Mr. Coverley: He has had to pay for a lot of the seed out of his own pocket, because the department were too mean to pay for it.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The peanut industry in the North-West is developing, and this year we expect the yield to be 100 tons. Last year we imported 70 tons at a cost of £5,000, but this year it looks as if we shall be able to supply our own requirements. Banana cultivation in the Gascoyne Valley is beginning to assume dimensions which warrant us in calling it an industry. In 1930 we imported 700 suckers from Queensland. These have been developed into 10,000. It should not be long before Carnarvon and the surrounding districts are producing all the bananas required locally. Pineapples are promising well. I hope they will be as successful as the banana cultivation. In all the places where agricultural development is going on, our officers have been doing all they can with a limited staff to assist producers. Every officer is enthusiastic in his particular job, and is out to

do the best he is capable of. If we are to get anywhere as a great primary producing country we must see to it that the sphere of usefulness of these scientific officers is not cramped in any way. The department is understaffed to-day. Were the Treasurer able to find money, I could supply work for a considerable number of additional officers.

Mr. Barnard: There are too many there now.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I wish to refer to two officers who unfortunately died during the year. One is the late Chief Inspector of Rabbits, Mr. C. J. Craig, who, after 30 years of service in the department, passed away at his post. He had gone to the eastern district on departmental work, and died there. His services will be greatly missed. He was very warmly liked amongst those with whom he had to deal, and carried out his duties to the entire satisfaction of the department, and the settlers with whom he came in contact. The same thing applies to Mr. Limbourne. He returned from the war in 1918 and became the cerealist at the Merredin State Farm. He suffered from war injuries, but stuck to the job right up to the time of his death. The wheatgrowers of the State are under a debt of gratitude to him because he was largely responsible for the production of several new varieties of wheat, which are calculated to make a name for themselves in the wheatgrowing world. I refer to such varieties as Bencubbin, Totadjin and Noon-gar. Those varieties are all being largely used in the wheat belt, and they owe their origin to the enthusiasm and energy displayed by the late Mr. Limbourne. The cost of the department in 1931-32 was in the vicinity of £64,000. There is a slight increase this year. Members will see how small this expenditure is compared with the departments in some of the other States. The South Australian Department of Agriculture last year cost £140,000, and that in New South Wales cost £630,000.

Mr. Corboy: It is one of the votes regarding which we might agree to an increase.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I agree with the hon. member. The small increase that will be noted on the Estimates this year is not due to any lack of urging on my part. Because of the difficult times through which we are passing, members

will realise how difficult it is for the Treasurer to make further sums available.

Mr. Corboy: I wish you had twice as much.

MR. BROWN (Pingelly) [5.45]: I am pleased to learn that our agricultural industries are progressing. We well know that the Department of Agriculture is one of our most important departments and that, under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Agriculture, come most of the primary products that are grown. We have now between 10,000,000 and 11,000,000 sheep in the State and our wheat yield is increasing also, whilst there is every indication that Western Australia will be one of the greatest wheat-producing States in the Commonwealth. The quality of our wheat is good. It is recognised that our wheat ranks as some of the finest grown in the world, particularly our hard wheats. The department also controls the veterinary branch. Naturally, with such an enormous number of stock, there must be various diseases, and it is right that we should have an efficient staff in that branch. I am glad to know that braxy-like disease is slowly being eradicated. There have not been such great losses this year as compared with previous years. I understand that Dr. Bennetts has been successful in introducing a serum that will be the means of preventing the disease from spreading. Still, there have been losses in certain districts, and a considerable number of lambs have died this year. Those lambs, however, may not have been inoculated. When the farmer is able to procure the serum, the mortality may be reduced. I am glad to know that our experimental farms are doing good work. Those farms have been instrumental in finding the exact kind of wheat required for the particular districts. During the last few years we have had many varieties, and the same remark applies to oats. I saw a paddock recently that had never produced a good crop of oats, but in this paddock at the present time there is a new variety of oats growing and a splendid crop is the result. There are mulga and gnyra oats.

Mr. Wells: And wild oats.

Mr. BROWN: Yes, as the result of bad farming, although they make good stock feed. There is pedigreed seed wheat and this applies also to oats, and splendid results have followed the sowing of these. The pedigreed wheat has been made available to

the farmers and I heard that 30,000 bags were applied for. I really like to see farmers making a science of their business because it is so easily possible to put in a crop that will turn out a failure. With the right variety, it is more than possible that the crop will be successful. That is what is happening now as the result of experiments and the introduction of fresh seed. The farmer is able to determine which variety is applicable to his particular district. I should like to see more experimental farms established. If there had been one in the Lake Carmody district, the farmers there might have escaped the trouble they are in now. The results from the experimental farm would have indicated whether or not there was salt in the soil.

The Minister for Agriculture: You do not want an experimental farm to prove that

Mr. BROWN: Perhaps not, but that particular country will probably grow other products. I know that the natural feed there is marvellous. Unfortunately, the area is very far away from the market and at the present time it is only possible to go in for cattle and sheep raising. Going on further east from Lake Carmody, we come to the Forrestania area. I urge the Government to establish an experimental plot there. Reports show that there is a considerable area of good land there and when railway communication is established and there is water conservation, that land will produce cereals in abundance. It should, in fact, become one of the greatest wheat-producing areas in the State. At one time unemployed men were sent there to clear roads, but that was the end of it. It is all good forest country. The greatest indication of good land is the flora. First of all there is the coast country and then, when we pass over the ranges, a different class of timber exists. Further inland, at Marradong, Bannister and Wandering there is some beautiful country, but it is patchy. Experiments, however, should prove the inferior land to be adaptable for dairying or grazing. I am glad to know that there is an experimental plot at the Noombling estate. If it can be proved that clovers will grow there, undoubtedly the value of the land will be increased. We have had splendid results from land in the Dartmoor area. Seven bags to the acre have been obtained, though perhaps it was the result of a good season.

Hon. J. C. Willecock: No, no.

Mr. BROWN: Well, better still if we can depend on the amount of rainfall in that part of the State. If with the rainfall that is obtained there and by means of good farming, it is possible to continue to get seven bags, the State will have a splendid asset there.

Hon. J. C. Willecock: That class of country goes back 30 or 40 miles from the railway line.

Mr. BROWN: Anyone who has had experience in wheat growing knows that not more than 12 or 14 inches of rain is required. Along the Great Southern there has fallen no less than 25 inches, and most of that rain has fallen since May. The grass along the Great Southern is as green as a leaf, which is extraordinary for this time of the year. Many of the farmers along the Great Southern, I am pleased to say, are going in for dairying as a side line, and it would surprise members to see the number of milk cans on the railway stations and sidings. There is a butter factory at Narrogin and another at Northam. It is satisfactory to know that we are exporting butter to the Old Country and that through the medium of the Paterson bounty butter is fetching a higher price in this State than that for which it can be purchased in England.

Mr. Marshall: It is cheaper in foreign countries than we can buy it for here.

Mr. BROWN: Most of our butter goes to the Old Country.

Mr. Marshall: What have they to do with us?

Mr. BROWN: Do you call Englishmen foreigners?

Mr. Marshall: When I look at you, I wonder what you are.

Mr. BROWN: And it would be a mystery to know where you sprang from?

Hon. J. C. Willecock: Is that last remark of yours on your notes?

Mr. BROWN: No, it was spontaneous. The population of the State is not increasing as we would like it to increase. We have a population of 430,000 people, burdened with an enormous debt. Production from the land results in gluts at certain portions of the year. Producers have to rely upon the large centre of population—Perth—to absorb the surplus produce. We are too remote from any other large centre to be able to find an outlet for surplus produce such as vegetables; the metropo-

litan area and the larger towns must be depended upon to absorb all that is produced. The experimental plots have served the useful purpose of demonstrating the variety of crops that can be grown at different periods of the year. I congratulate the department on their work, as well as the present Minister and his predecessors. All have been imbued with the need for fostering the primary industries of the State.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford-Midland) [6.2]: I wish to express my thanks to the Minister for the vast amount of interesting information he gave us. In the Department of Agriculture we have enthusiastic officers whose ambition is to increase the production of commodities, particularly the exportable lines, and so increase the wealth of the State. I am more than interested at present in the Department of Agriculture and the Lands Department, because I take a somewhat gloomy view of the unemployed situation. The other night I spoke of the part that the Lands Department should play with a view to emphasising the fact that a large number of the unemployed will never get back into industry. The outlook for them is most depressing. There is only one way in which to relieve their depression and that is to put them on the land so that they may produce much of what they need, and to arrange for the distribution of their surplus produce so that in return for it they may get the wherewithal to provide for the needs they themselves cannot supply. We have reached the end of our resources from the point of view of monetary relief. We cannot balance the State Budget; we are not making ends meet, and we are borrowing money to pay the interest on the deficiency. That sort of thing must come to an end sooner or later. Apart from the fact that we are definitely on a compound interest basis, we have a large number of unemployed receiving relief from the State, and they are supposed to be occupied on work that will mean increased development and expanded production. I want Ministers to realise the impossibility of continuing the development being undertaken with any prospect of making it reproductive in time to help us over our trouble. Apart from borrowing money to meet the deficiency, we are borrowing money to undertake development that in some instances will never be-

come reproductive and in other instances will take a long time to become reproductive. The Premier was not present the other night when I dealt with the need for providing relief for the unemployed through a land settlement policy, but he is present to-day. I take it that the Premier has gained experience of land settlement on the more remote and less suitable lands, as compared with areas that could be made available. Land is available, but unfortunately it has been alienated for many years, and the State cannot give attention to it. Co-operation is needed between the Lands Department and the Department of Agriculture if we are to reach the stage that it is essential for us to reach. We cannot possibly continue as we are going. If we do not approach the problem in an organised way, it will have to be done in a way that will not reflect any credit on the State. In other words, we shall be unable to carry on. If we continue as we are going, a receiver must come into the State. Surely the two departments that control the possibility of avoiding such a state of affairs should devote attention to what might be done.

The Premier: You were Minister for Lands at one time.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: There was always a season when we had unemployment, but in my time as a Minister it was limited to a couple of months of the year. All that was necessary was to organise in anticipation of it, and there was little or no trouble to arrange for the absorption of the unemployed. If the two departments I have mentioned actively were associated in the work of relieving unemployment, we could expect a big absorption of men into a new sphere of life and they would have permanent work. If we could obtain control of the land and use the departmental experts to direct the settlers, we should be transferring them from casual employment with a depressing outlook as regards the needs of their families into a sphere of life that would be brighter and would enable them to provide for many of the needs of their families. Attention should be devoted, not only to marketing overseas, but to the organisation of marketing within the State. People will say that the commodities produced in areas settled by the unemployed are already a glut on the market. The Minister told us that potatoes were at present being sold below the cost of production,

and that applies to other commodities as well. Yet the fact remains that such commodities are not being supplied in sufficient quantities to many of our people. Even at the low prices ruling, the Government are not in a position to supply the individual with sufficient money to purchase the quantity he needs. That, however, resolves itself into a matter of organisation. If we have more than sufficient production and the surplus is causing distress to the producer and not helping the consumer, there is something radically wrong with the system. We cannot organise and direct markets overseas, but we can organise and direct them within our borders.

The Minister for Lands: You have no right to anticipate legislation.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister is out of order in interjecting when not in his seat.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Had the Minister, who has shown himself disorderly, intimated the other night that legislation would be introduced to deal with the problem of marketing, my remarks on this occasion would have been brief, but we received no such intimation.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: When we adjourned, I understood the Minister for Lands to indicate that the question of arranging for marketing and placing our producers in a better position in future was under discussion.

The Minister for Lands: And I refer you to the Whole Milk Bill.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Whether the Minister intended to refer to more than the Bill, matters little. My complaint is that last year, when dealing with the question of marketing, the Minister for Agriculture conveyed the impression that his department would be more directly associated with the problems of marketing, and that in addition a marketing Bill would be introduced.

The Minister for Agriculture: Who said that?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I understood from the remarks of the Minister himself last year that that course would be adopted. In fact, I heard the Minister make references of that description when speaking in the country. As to whether he intended to convey that legislation was to be introduced or whether it was merely under considera-

tion, I do not know. That the Minister for Agriculture made some such definite references I am positive.

Mr. Sampson: The Whole Milk Bill is evidence of that.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: My contention is that agriculture is bound up with the question of marketing. I have repeated over and over again, and will emphasise it tonight, that our problem is not that of production but of marketing. We are over-producing many commodities, and our producers are capable of overcoming the problems associated with production. I do not desire to discount the work carried out by the expert officers of the Agricultural Department, for I appreciate the fact that they contribute largely in assisting the producers who are inexperienced, and by their activities prevent those producers from making mistakes. The experts also enable them to achieve successful production at a faster rate than would be possible without their assistance. In my opinion, however, we could well do without the experts for a time, but we would require them in greater numbers later on, particularly if those experts were to devote their attention in the meantime to the problem of marketing of our products. Those products are being grown in greater quantities than can be consumed, and the efforts of the experts should be directed to showing the producers how to profitably market their commodities. The Minister, referred to the export of dried fruits. The Premier particularly, and no doubt the Minister for Agriculture himself, will remember that it is only a few years since the grape growing industry was in a parlous condition. Dried fruits were a glut on the market at a time when the other industries of the State were flourishing. If the grape-growing industry was not in a parlous condition, it was at least causing the Agricultural Department grave anxiety. An agitation followed, and ultimately Parliament passed a kind of marketing Act. It is wonderful what progress has been made by the industry since. Industries that were flourishing at the time the grape-growing industry was languishing, have lapsed, comparatively speaking, into an unsatisfactory condition and the grape-growing industry has become flourishing in turn. I want the Government to profit from the experience gained as a

result of the passing of that marketing legislation. Parliament was very cautious regarding the measure, and doubted if it would be of any value to the producers. Some members thought that the legislation would penalise the consumers. Years of experience have demonstrated the value of the legislation and it has proved of marked value to the producers, while it has also enabled the consumers to obtain better quality grapes than was possible before.

Mr. Patrick: You want to apply to the grape growers what is desired for the wheatgrowers.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I have always contended that the producer of a given commodity has the right to control that commodity. That has been my ambition in life. I want the worker to control his labour, and I have always worked to give the worker legislative power to control his labour, as much as possible, and to market his labour under the best conditions possible. I want to extend my efforts in that direction to the producer.

Mr. Marshall: Is he not a worker?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Of course he is, but he cannot take advantage of any legislation passed by Parliament to help the workers, and, therefore, I want to extend equal consideration to him. Just as I extended that assistance to organised labour, I want to give the producer all the assistance I can by way of legislative protection and encouragement. I have already mentioned that the Minister referred to dried fruits and wine production, which he said had increased markedly. There is a grave difficulty in regard to the wine market to-day. Efforts are being made to establish markets overseas for our wines. If the wine-growing industry were organised on the same basis as the dried fruits industry, we could help the export of wine by improving the marketing of the local product.

The Premier: By charging more.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I do not want to go into that phase.

The Premier: Of course not.

The W. D. JOHNSON: The point is that great harm is being done to-day not through the consumer being asked to pay too much, but because the consumer is getting rubbish that is injuring the reputation of the superior classes of wine. That sort of trading discounts the production of

superior wines and the rubbish that is being marketed locally is not contributing towards the cost of marketing the superior article. In other words, a limited number of the wine manufacturers are shouldering all the burden involved in establishing a market overseas, without the remainder contributing towards the expense. The latter comprise those who are manufacturing inferior types of wine. We can never overcome that difficulty except by legislation.

Mr. Thorn: The industry requires to be brought under strict supervision.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The hon. member has had practical experience and he knows that legislation would bring the manufacturers of wine under strict supervision and help to assure that the production of the State was of the highest quality. Inferior wine, which is known as "pinkie," should not be produced in Western Australia. There is no room for "pinkie" and for good wine as well. Therefore we should not allow the inferior article to interfere with the marketing of the best types of wine that we can produce. We cannot obviate that position and place the industry on a better basis, without legislation. The Minister spoke proudly of the achievement of his department in tests and experiments regarding the various breeds of sheep that would produce the best fat lambs, and what I have said regarding the other industries refers equally to the marketing of fat lambs. The Minister said that it was intended to have a registered trade mark, "Swandown" which would be attached to the lambs that would be exported. The trouble is that the Minister will not have control of that market, and cannot prevent anyone else from putting that trade mark on lambs that may be exported.

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes, we can.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I question whether the Minister can do so, but even if he can, I doubt whether he can control that particular market without legislation. While there will be that difficulty in supplying the market with fat lambs, we are not limiting our export to the right variety of lamb. It is no good saying we will breed up to export standard, unless we can see to it that lambs not up to standard are not placed on the market. Even if the Minister were able to attach the trade mark to stan-

dard carcasses only, he cannot prevent inferior grades of lambs being marketed as well; therefore, the value of the superior article is discounted by the competition from the inferior type.

The Premier: London people buy on quality after inspection.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: They buy as we do: they try to buy the best, but we interfere with the marketing of our best by deliberately sending something inferior, from the same State, in the same vessel, to the same market. I know I will never convince the Premier, because I have appealed to him so often, and he has stated on more than one occasion that the question of marketing is not a responsibility of Government.

The Premier: I have never said it.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I have heard him say it. He has told me so. He has said it in this House.

The Premier: Turn up "Hansard."

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: You turn it up; you have more leisure at the moment than I have. I am not speaking directly to the Premier. I am trying to convince the members of the Government, particularly the Minister for Agriculture, that what we want to do to-day is to organise the marketing of our products. Last year we made a special feature of marketing the fat lambs of Western Australia. We spent a fair amount of money in organising the market and in distributing carcasses throughout Great Britain so as to establish their value. This year we have exported practically no lambs. I submit that we shall never get the Minister's Swandown lambs on the market if we place them there one year and leave the market bare the following year. The only way to establish a market is to maintain supplies. For instance, it would be ludicrous for us to attempt to market wheat in that way. We have to continue marketing our wheat year after year, whether we sell at a loss or at a profit. We have to continue exporting wheat in order to maintain our connection with the wheat markets. The same thing applies to fat lambs. You cannot place fat lambs on the British market one year and then leave the market bare the following year. There must be a continuity of supply during the season that it is customary for the lambs to reach the market. You will never get the marketing

of lambs on an organised basis without legislation. For instance, who is to accept the responsibility of attending to the marketing of fat lambs? If it is left to private agents, then they will pay for the fat lamb what they think it is worth. If you decide to cut out the agent, how are you going to arrange with the producer as to what lambs shall be placed on the local market and what shall be exported to the British market? You cannot regulate that without legislation or control of some kind. Therefore, there is no hope of our ever making a success of marketing lambs unless we have a marketing Act. It has been tried in other States of the Commonwealth, but was not successful without legislative assistance.

Mr. Patrick: What about South Australia?

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The South Australian contribution to the British market is small compared with the total exported from the whole of Australia. I do not know whether the Minister is in a position to compare the prices obtained by South Australia with the prices obtained by New South Wales and other parts of Australia where the organisation is better. It seems to me impossible to maintain a continuous market without organisation. As I have said, we have succeeded in firmly establishing the value of our dried fruits on the English market since we have organised the industry by legislation. We can do the same in regard to our fat lambs. It may be said that we cannot improve the market for these primary products, but I would point out to the Minister the position with respect to wheat. Before ever the pooling system came into operation, wheat marketing had been carried on in Australia for many generations. When the pool came into operation, however, and the farmers themselves accepted the responsibility of marketing the wheat, they found that a considerable number of charges and quite a number of operations in connection with the marketing of wheat overseas were absolutely superfluous, and certainly very heavy. I remember inquiring why all these charges were made, and I was informed that it was a custom of the trade that wheat marketing had to go through those channels. The Wheat Pool organisation decided to investigate those charges and ascertain whether, after all, it was necessary for the producer to continue paying them. The charges had been going on for years. John Darling became a millionaire as the result of marketing

wheat under those conditions. He took his quota and allowed others to exploit the producer. I do not say he did so wilfully, but the fact remains that he did not concern himself about the charges that were made by the British market: he merely wanted to make sure that the producer could pay those charges in addition to contributing to his profits as a wheat merchant. But when you put the producer in charge of his commodity he becomes active in inquiring into these matters. At one period the producers sent a man Home with definite instructions to investigate all the charges and see whether economies could be effected. It is wonderful what has been done in the way of effecting economies since the operations of the pool started and the producer got control of his commodity. Shipping arrangements have been revolutionised, freights have been lowered, and the cost of marketing the grain has been considerably reduced. I would like the Minister for Agriculture to inquire into this question of the Wheat Pool's administration, just to see what can be done in the way of improving markets by organisation. If the Minister finds, as I have found, that considerable economies can be effected by organisation, then I hope he will be sufficiently influenced to extend that method of marketing to other primary products. At this stage I would like to express a fear I have in regard to the marketing of our wheat. Under the bag system of marketing, a pool system has been established, to which I have already referred, but I am very much afraid that the usefulness of that marketing organisation will be greatly reduced if bulk handling is introduced. While the position at the moment is not acute, while it may be urged that the need for a marketing Act in regard to wheat is not pressing, at the moment I am strongly of the opinion it will be found, after bulk handling has been introduced, that we shall have to do more to protect the producer than we are called upon to do to-day. There will be a larger number of buyers in the field. Every one of those buyers will be desirous of preventing the pooling of wheat. To-day there are about four buyers outside of the pool. There are four organisations operating which are trying to get the maximum amount of wheat away from the pool. But under the bulk handling system the number of buyers will be multiplied tenfold.

Mr. Doney: A multiplicity of buyers will do no harm in any case.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I do not know that such competition will be of much value to us when the market is so limited.

Mr. Doney: It will have a beneficial effect.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It may have the opposite effect. Just to give an illustration: the Minister stated there has been an increase in the quantity of eggs exported, but it is an extraordinary thing that a Victorian firm came over to Western Australia and entered into competition with the exporters of eggs here. The Victorian firm sold to the same firms that we were selling to previously to their coming to Western Australia. In other words, the London buyer, previously to the advent of the Victorian buyer, was buying from three organisations: one distributor in London had three competitors in Western Australia. Instead of his having to quote a price to one selling organisation, he had three competing against one another, and he was able to play one off against the other. Then the Victorian firm entered the field, with the result that we have a multiplicity of sellers to the one buyer. The result is disastrous to the producer. Therefore, a number of buyers is not always an advantage to the producer. If the Minister would but investigate this matter, he would find that that is so. Where the market is limited a great number of sellers discounts the value of a product.

Mr. Doney: But the market is not limited.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Unfortunately, the market is limited even for wheat. There are not very many buyers. The world is wide, but the number of buyers for Western Australian wheat is not great, generally speaking. Buyers of wheat will buy a shipment from one agent to-day and from another to-morrow; but it is the same buyers and he gets on very much better because, when asking for quotations, he can play one seller off against the other. That is the kind of thing I want to avoid. It is exactly the same in regard to apples. The Minister stated to-night that losses were suffered by producers in the marketing of apples last year. That, however, will be the case every year because we have not organised our market. The apples growers of this State are not getting the true value of their product. That is purely because one district is competing against another.

There is no understanding between the producers of Mt. Barker and the producers of Bridgetown. The apples ripen at the same time and are shipped at the same time, but they encounter competition owing to the limited market that is available. The Bridgetown apple is brought into competition with the Mt. Barker apple to the prejudice of the price of both. Wherever we have surplus production that has to be marketed overseas, to get the maximum result for the producer the sale must be organised.

Mr. Griffiths: So as to get orderly marketing.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes, and not to have the competition we have to-day. The Minister has referred to butter. It is interesting to note that the 25,000 cases of butter exported last year were exported solely from the co-operative butter factories owned and controlled by the producers of the South-West. But again a grave injustice was done, because we had no marketing Act to assist the exporters. To maintain the quality necessary for export, the moisture contents have to be reduced to 16 per cent. The whole of the co-operative butter factories immediately organised on the basis of a moisture content of 16 per cent. and reduced the competition of that butter by exporting 25,000 cases. But while they were doing that, the privately-owned butter factories were selling butter with a moisture content of about 20 per cent., which discounted the value of the product on the local market. At the same time those private factories were deliberately paying more for cream and were advertising the fact that they could pay more than the co-operative factories were paying. So they actually influenced suppliers to the co-operative factories to leave those factories and accept from the private factories a higher price for their cream.

The Minister for Agriculture: Only in very few instances.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: It actually occurred. I can quote one instance. The owner of a private factory went to a supplier and said, "You are producing really good stuff; you should be getting such-and-such a price for it." The supplier said, "Well, I am not getting that." "Then there is something wrong with the testing" said the factory owner "and you are not getting a fair deal. I will pay you more for your

cream." So the producer sent his cream to the private factory and for a time received increased payment. But after a while he found the private factory was reducing the price, and so he transferred back to the co-operative factory. That went on to a very great extent. The explanation of the private factory's ability to pay more was because it put more water into the product and sold an inferior quality of butter on the local market. It would not be possible to do that if the Dairy Act were being strictly administered. I have asked the Minister to see to it that the Act is enforced. He said it was being enforced. The fact remains that butter is still being marketed with a higher moisture content than is allowed under the Act. I admit the Minister has slightly improved the position, but he has not sufficient inspectors rigidly to enforce the Act long enough to secure reform. The little he does now steadies the factory owners up for a while, after which away they go again disregarding the Act. The only factories strictly observing the Act are those on a co-operative basis, and they are doing all the export to-day. They exported 25,000 cases last year and already this year 16,000 cases have gone out. So I say the producers require all the encouragement they can get. The Dairy Act was designed to prevent those occurrences which are taking place to-day. We have a splendid Act, giving the Minister full power to protect the producer and bring about correct marketing, but unfortunately it is not being enforced. I have repeatedly referred to the need for a marketing Act, which for years has been the outstanding requirement of the agricultural industry. I am disappointed that the Minister should not have made a move in regard to marketing legislation on the lines of that existing in New South Wales and Queensland. I should like to refer to the proposed bonus on wheat. There is a need for Parliament to take notice of what is proposed in regard to the payment of that bonus and the basis of the payment. For some time past the "West Australian" newspaper has been urging that the bonus should be paid by part-payment of the super supply, and in part to encourage fallowing. That is going to be of no value to the State and will certainly not be equitable to the producers. If we get a 4½d. bonus on wheat, and are going to divert some of that to the super suppliers, assisting them

to get rid of their product, it will not help the wheat industry. Quite a number of farmers require the bonus to increase their fencing so that they may be able to depasture stock. This they cannot do while they have no fencing and no water supply. We require to increase the value of their wheat crop so that they may get sufficient from it to enable them to meet the expenditure on fencing and the purchasing of stock and the increasing of their water conservation. If the bonus is not to be used for those purposes, it will be doing a grave injury to a number of settlers. An increased use of super may not be of advantage to the farmer; in most cases it will be of no value to him.

The Premier: And they want the money now.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: As the Premier points out, under existing conditions the money is available to the farmer forthwith, but if it is to be supplied on a super basis he will get it some time next year. I suggest to the Premier it might be as well if members were to express their views on this important matter: because otherwise it might be taken by those in the Federal Parliament, who have control of this question, that the views expressed in the "West Australian" and emphasised during the last few days are actually the views of the public men of Western Australia and possibly of the farmers. A newspaper is supposed to voice public opinion, and so in this regard it may possibly be accepted in the Federal Parliament that the opinion of Western Australia as a whole is in favour of the distribution of the bonus on the proposed new basis.

The Premier: But we have already carried a resolution here.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Yes, unanimously, favouring a bonus. But the value of the bonus is going to be discounted by the proposed method of distribution. In view of that the Government should get an expression of opinion as to how the bonus ought to be distributed. I hope and believe that the opinion of members of this Chamber is that the distribution of last year is the only sound and equitable way of helping the farmers.

Mr. Doney: That was all laid down in the resolution.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: If so, there is no need to repeat it, but I was under the impression that the resolution simply ex-

pressed the need for a bonus this year such as was paid last year.

Mr. Doney: No, it went farther than that.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: Then my fears may not be well grounded. I do hope the Federal Parliament will not adopt the ideas propagated during the last month or so, that we should distribute this bonus on an entirely new basis. I want to pay my tribute to the activity and efficiency of the officers of the Agricultural Department. The Minister has rightly eulogised the activities of quite a number. He mentioned the work of the officer in charge of the wool and sheep branch. From practical experience I know that officer is doing wonderfully good service in educating farmers as to the kind of sheep to keep, how to cull sheep, what to aim at, to have a definite policy and to maintain continuity of that policy. I have myself gained as the result of that officer's direction in regard to wool and sheep production. I also know that my own experience is pretty general throughout the wheat belt. I wish to express my appreciation of his activities, as I do also in regard to the other officers specially mentioned.

MR. GRIFFITHS (Avon) [8.15]: I should like to stress what has already been referred to by the member for Guildford-Midland (Hon. W. D. Johnson). Last evening the member for Perth said we must depend upon agriculture, and that while wheat was sold at a loss it would not always be sold at a loss. That is not much comfort to the 10,000 farmers in this State. The position relative to a Federal bonus for wheatgrowers was set out in the "Daily News" last evening. I would like to read an extract from that article. It appears under the heading of "A Bogged Cabinet," and is as follows:—

The floundering of the Commonwealth Cabinet over the wheat bounty is pitiable. At the time of this writing it appears to be still playing with the twin notions of payments to superphosphates manufacturers and State railways to be reflected in price and freight reductions, and also perhaps a dole for "necessitous cases." If this is the last word, it means that all the wheatgrowers will get this year a shaving off railway freights and although this will go to the credit of the growers' accounts it will not, in the great majority of cases, go direct into the growers' hands. Whatever advantage there may be in reduced superphosphate prices will accrue only next year. In this the prime consideration seems to be not the grower but the superphosphate manufacturers who, to the extent

of the subsidy, will have the benefit of a cash payment. There is room for more than a suspicion that the Commonwealth Ministry has some advisors who are not wanting in astuteness and they do not happen to be representatives of the wheatgrowers. If the Government has some good reason for side-stepping a direct payment to the growers it should say straight out what that reason is. As it is, the suggestion voiced by Mr. Lyons that a bounty to the industry is economically unsound is sheer cant. If a bounty is unsound for wheat all bounties are unsound and the sugar embargo is unsound and the tariff is unsound.

Last night I said it was a pity we were not sugar growers instead of wheat growers. It appears to me that were we in the position the representatives of Queensland appear to be in, and had the balance of power over there, we should get bounties not only on sugar, but on many other lines. I have heard discussions within the precincts of the House to the effect that some of our State farms should be abolished. I hope the day will never come when that will be even considered by members. I refer more particularly to Merredin. I was with the Minister for Agriculture at the annual field day there quite recently. From the point of view alone of the pure seed wheat that is provided from our State farms, they are fully justified. In addition to that they conduct a number of experiments, which no farmer with ordinary resources could carry out for himself. The member for South Fremantle, when speaking on the Education Vote, said that if our people were to compete with the world in general they required all the mental equipment it was possible to give them. All the scientific knowledge that can be disseminated amongst the farmers through the medium of our State farms should be fully availed of. In to-night's paper there is a remarkable record of what has been done in Italy since attention was turned in 1926 to the average yield of grain per acre. When they first started there I think the average was 12 bushels to the acre. That has now been increased to 26 bushels, and I believe according to the latest return that in spite of a bad year of rust the yield is even higher than that. The Minister went to a great deal of trouble in preparing information for members. He referred to the number of side lines which could profitably be carried out by farmers. Recently the Premier spoke upon the same lines, and mentioned the pig-raising industry as one which should be encouraged, and could profitably

be carried on by farmers. This morning I received a letter from a farmer who adopted that advice and went in for the breeding of pigs. Recently he sent to Midland Junction 12 pigs ranging in weight from 40 lbs. to 90 lbs. Even if they averaged only 40 lbs. the total weight would be 500 lbs., for which he received the sum of 30s. This works out at 3¹/₄d. a pound. Of course the farmer is not making a profit.

Mr. Doney: That must be an extreme case.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: It is an extreme case, but there are many others of a similar nature.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It is not uncommon if the market happens to be glutted.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: At a dinner recently held in Merredin the Chairman of the Agricultural Society, Mr. Teasdale, enquired the work of the manager of the State farm and that of his staff. At the same time he referred also to the obsolete tools of trade that were in use on the farm. I hope the Minister will be able to induce the Treasurer to provide a more up to date and effective outfit. Serious attention should be paid by Parliament to the wheat growing industry and the calling of agriculture generally. I have been expecting to hear something from the Premier regarding a conference at which a committee was formed. This was going to put right the farmers' troubles. There was going to be an amendment to the Federal Bankruptcy Act, uniform State legislation was to be introduced, the farmers were to be given a five years' tenure and their debts were to be funded, and there was to be a general safeguarding of the industry all round. When Mr. Hill returned from Adelaide to Melbourne he said it was the best news the farmers had had for many a day. Mr. Stevens, who was on the special committee, has been endeavouring to introduce legislation, which might be of help to the industry if applied to this State. I believe that things are in a bad way in the farming industry of New South Wales. After all the talk of what is being done in the Eastern States to help the farmer, one has a right to expect that something will be done to help the industry here. Very little, however, seems to be coming our way. I wish to protest against the delay in regard to the proposed legislation, if any is proposed, that would have

for its object the extension of help to farmers in these troublous times.

MR. J. I. MANN (Beverley) [8.27]: I listened with interest to the Minister's speech. He referred amongst other things, to the Avondale Estate where research work was being conducted in connection with the fat lamb industry. He also visited Beverley some months ago with his officers, and a demonstration was given of the type of lamb required for export. Criticism was levelled against the Government because this 1,700 acres of magnificent country was so poorly stocked with sheep. The view taken by those who attended the demonstration was that it was not a practical one because so few sheep were grazing there, and that the illustration was not on a large enough scale. I hope the Minister will take steps to stock fully that farm. It has been understocked for the last three years. If it were stocked to its full capacity, there would be a saving in the cost of administration. There was an agitation that the property should be turned into a training centre for boys under the Chandler Farm scheme.

The Minister for Agriculture: Do you agree with that?

Mr. J. I. MANN: A deputation waited upon the Minister but he would not agree to the proposition. This farm is given up to growing of wheat or oats, but it was intended to be used for research work, particularly in the direction of controlling the red mite and lucerne flea. To this end a laboratory was established, but no research work has been going on. Undoubtedly there is a big opening for it there, and I hope the Minister will try to arrange for the necessary finance. We want research work not only in regard to pests, but in regard to parasites in the pastures, and as to growing the right sort of pastures for dairying. The Great Southern is different from the wheat belt. I realise the wonderful part the State farms are playing in the breeding of wheat alone. Along the Great Southern people go in more for mixed farming, and it is more necessary than ever that research work should be started there along the lines I have indicated. The Minister would not entertain the idea of Avondale being used for the training of boys. The question of what to do with our boys when they leave

school is one of great importance. There seems to be little prospect of any other channels through which boys can earn a living except in agriculture. These boys, as was remarked last night, spend their time on street corners and will drift eventually on to the unemployed market; so that from the period of adolescence to that of manhood everything that might have been in them will be knocked out of them. We can realise what the future generation is likely to be if we permit this condition of things to continue. To-day our only hope is our farming areas, and it should be the desire of the Government to try to place the youths on the land where they can help themselves, and eventually the State as well. Regarding the wheat belt, I can only say that this State has been the plaything of the Commonwealth for many years past. The industry is carrying every load that it is possible for it to carry. Bounties have been given for almost everything else and though our main industry in Western Australia is showing a loss each year, we are not yet in a position to know whether it is going to receive any assistance this year at the hands of the Federal Government. I hope the Premier will endeavour to force the issue and get some satisfaction from the Commonwealth regarding the bounty for the coming harvest. It is now that the money is required. We are anticipating a large crop, but unfortunately the price of wheat is lower than it was last year, and from the evidence that is being given before the Bulk Handling Committee there seems to be little prospect of the price rising very much. Consequently unless the farmers are helped by way of a subsidy or bounty it will be God help the industry in the coming year. Each year the load is getting greater, and the day is coming when the farmer will lose all heart. He is working on credit all the time with no prospect of relief. I notice in the Estimates that the Vote for veterinary surgeons has been reduced. There has been a number of outbreaks of disease amongst our stock, and it is only by obtaining the services of professional men that we can hope to combat the diseases. I do hope that the number of officers will be increased and that it will be possible for them to be kept in touch with the various outbreaks that occur in different parts of the State. Fortunately, however, Western Aus-

tralia is comparatively free from the diseases that exist in other parts, but we hope by the strictest possible supervision on the part of the veterinary officers of the department that the satisfactory state of affairs existing to-day will continue. There is one more matter to which I wish to refer. On a recent trip through some of the wheat areas I found that what is known amongst farmers as "role-y-poley" was spreading very rapidly. This weed is undoubtedly a great curse, and impedes the progress of harvesting. From what I saw of it in the eastern wheat belt it is a heavy seeding plant and will play havoc in our wheat areas if steps are not taken to eradicate it. I congratulate the Minister on the manner in which he submitted the Estimates of his department to the Committee. We must realise that the Department of Agriculture is one of the most important departments we possess, and I agree with the member for Guildford that there must be greater co-ordination between that department, the Lands Department and the Agricultural Bank. It is the bringing together of those three departments that will, more than anything else, assist the advancement of the agricultural industry.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [8.35]: I join with the member for Beverley and even go further with regard to what he said on the subject of co-ordination. I feel that the Department of Agriculture should have the fullest assistance of the Agricultural Bank, the Railway Department and the Lands Department. The orchardists of the State have had a difficulty to face in respect of fertiliser freights. The same consideration should be given to them as is given to the wheatgrowers, and I suggest to the Minister that his influence might be used to secure a revision of the attitude adopted. The subject has been gone into in detail already, and therefore I do not propose to speak on it at length to-night. We have heard on different occasions of the importance of producing greater quantities per tree or per acre, as the case may be, and that is very largely the secret of success. In the last few hours we have read of the success achieved by the Duce of Italy, Signor Mussolini, in regard to increased production in that country, not an increase of area but per acre. We are doing the same thing,

but our increase has not been as rapid as that of Italy. It shows what can be done if those who have the power and the will to do it will only exercise both. The position of Western Australia from the standpoint of marketing remains much the same as it has been all along, although we have been very much heartened by the attitude adopted by the Minister, and we believe his colleagues, on that important subject. Our marketing methods are at sixes and sevens. There is no marketing, notwithstanding the many efforts that have been put forward by different members of this House. We have on the Notice Paper a Bill to provide for the marketing of whole milk, and I earnestly hope that success will follow in respect to that. We want marketing methods for all products that leave the State. The growers of those commodities concerning which there has been compulsion in marketing, have made progress. I refer particularly to dried fruits, and also sandalwood. It was a remarkable thing that in spite of the opposition of a section of this House respecting compulsory co-ordination in marketing, there was unanimity on the question of control legislation. Legislation is required for the marketing of fruit, eggs, wheat and indeed every commodity. I would be pleased if it were possible for some encouragement to be given to dehydration. We have not heard much of this in the last few years, but there is need for consideration along lines which will enable fruit and vegetables to be dried and made available throughout the year. Then there is the question of refrigeration. At the second annual conference of the Growers' Marketing Association, interesting details were brought forward by Mr. Brooks. It was pointed out that refrigeration would permit of vegetables being carried in cold storage for a considerable time, and they could then be marketed when otherwise they would be unobtainable. As for perishable products there is the need which has always existed for refrigerated trucks on the railways. The Californian term for these trucks is "freightcar," and that is what we need here. In the summer months it is possible to carry fruit in these cars without any injury arising. During the past few weeks there have been notices in the Press and excellent advice regarding the value of thinning, has been given by the Chief Inspector of Horticulture, Mr. G. W. Wickens, and

many important matters have been brought under the notice of fruit growers. Everyone concerned is grateful to the Minister and those associated with him for what has been done. There is no doubt that a great difference can be brought about if only those concerned will take advantage of the advice tendered. It is founded upon experience and acting upon it will result in a wonderful difference. Only the other day Mr. A. C. R. Loaring, the well known fruitgrower of Bickley, pointed out the tremendous difference which had followed the thinning of his fruit crops. There is need, however, to stress that, because it is well known that to a limited extent, very limited, I regret to say, is thinning practised. As a matter of fact, our most successful apple growers practise thinning regularly. Mr. George Simpson of Karragullen, and Price & Sons, also of Karragullen, have proved beyond all question the benefits to be gained by thinning. The Education Department is co-operating very fully with the Department of Agriculture. Only recently something in the nature of a model orchard was established at Roleystone, and in this connection the Department of Agriculture materially assisted. The local residents are concerned about the importance of the children in the school being taught along practical lines, and arrangements have been made for local residents qualified to impart knowledge to do so in the local school and in other schools in the orchard districts. When I was in Nambour, in Queensland some years ago, I was impressed with the wonderful work being carried out by the school children there. I am not able to say whether the Department of Agriculture collaborated with the Education Department, but I have no doubt that it did. Queensland has made wonderful progress in establishing project clubs among the children in rural schools. Here the Department of Education is collaborating with the Department of Agriculture, and considerable progress has been made. We have already heard of what has been done at Yannah in the South-West, and the same class of work is being carried out in different areas. I know of a small school—the attendance averages about 26—where no fewer than 14 of the pupils have started home project clubs. That is a remarkable tribute to the work being done by the departments concerned. The great difficulty that faces many people desirous of

taking up fruitgrowing is that of securing land. I have no desire to reiterate this phase unduly, but in spite of all that has been said, the difficulty exists, owing to the retention of land for forestry and water conservation purposes.

The CHAIRMAN: That is a question affecting the Lands Department.

Mr. SAMPSON: I appreciate that, but it seriously affects the work of the Department of Agriculture, which is hamstrung because of the inability of prospective settlers to obtain land.

Hon. M. F. Troy: If the Lands Department will supply the land, the producers will supply the fruit.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is not the Lands Department that is holding up the land. The difficulty arises with the Water Supply Department and the Forests Department. The question is so interwoven with this vote that it is difficult to say it is improper to refer to it under this heading. I have noted from your air of concentration, Mr. Chairman, that you have wondered whether I should have been stopped. Like myself, you are not quite certain.

The CHAIRMAN: I inform the hon. member that I am quite sure of my ground.

Mr. SAMPSON: I am glad to hear that, and will bring it up under the water supply vote. We have heard a good deal about the importance of experimental farms in the wheatgrowing areas. No one disputes their importance. I have been over the experimental farms at Merredin and Wongan Hills, and I agree with everything that has been said as to their value. Those people who expect experimental farms to pay their way do not understand the position. Indirectly they pay for themselves over and over again. Unfortunately, there is no experimental fruit farm in this State. During the evening reference was made to Adelaide, and I was hoping that the experimental fruit farm in the Mt. Lofty ranges would have been spoken of. Our opportunities for fruit production are immeasurably superior to those of South Australia. There is no doubt that the climate here more closely approximates that of California than does the climate of any other State of the Commonwealth. That was the opinion of the late Mr. Grashby, a man who had made a close study of the question, who had visited California, who had conducted a fruitgrowers' newspaper in South Australia, and who was qualified to

express an opinion. If funds permit, the Government should establish an experimental fruit farm. It would offer great opportunities for study: the advance being made by insect life, enemies of the fruitgrower, makes it more than ever necessary. When for a short period I was in Canada, I had an opportunity, with the present Minister for Lands, to inspect a fruit and vegetable experimental farm in Ottawa. It was conducted by the Department of Agriculture, and the work was most interesting. Efforts were being made to improve different fruits. We were shown fruits that a comparatively few years before had been wild and almost useless and had been developed until they were nearing the stage when they would be fit to market. We could not undertake what is being done at Ottawa. We have not the money to spend that is being spent by that Dominion, but it is essential that something should be done here. We cannot afford to continue along the haphazard lines followed for so many years. There is a widespread opinion that whatever is best will come to pass in time, but the orchardists cannot devote the time and expense necessary to secure the results essential if success is to be achieved. I hope that when times improve consideration will be given to the establishment of one or more experimental fruit farms. We should have one in the hills districts, another in Bridgetown and another in Mt. Barker. Each has problems peculiar to itself, and such farms would pay the State. More wealth is to be produced from one acre of apples than from perhaps a hundred acres of grain. Western Australian apples have won the first prize against the fruit of all the apple countries of the southern hemisphere, and we need have no fear as to the wisdom of doing what I suggest. I should like to express my thanks to the Minister for the statement he made in introducing his Estimates. For assistance given I should like to thank the officers of the department, particularly Mr. Wickens and the fruit advisers who go into the field. There are not the facilities for them to travel and on this point I would appreciate a few words from the Minister when he replies. Their transport is largely limited to railways journeys and consequently the services of the advisers are restricted. While I appreciate the difficulty arising from lack of funds, the importance of the matter just-

ifies special mention and a special effort to remedy it.

[*Mr. Angelo took the Chair.*]

MR. MILLINGTON (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.55]: I wish briefly to offer some general comments on the activities of the department and later to refer to some of the items. This department being a spending department is rather in danger in these times of economy of having its Estimates reduced, but I am pleased to note a slight increase in the Estimates over the actual expenditure of last year. This is well, because it would be false economy to cut down necessary expenditure for this department in a State so greatly dependent upon its primary industries. It can be said of the department that it compares most favourably with those of the Eastern States. Usually we consider that we are behind the Eastern States. They were established before us, and on that account are wealthier, and they have the experience of years, but when we compare our Department of Agriculture with similar departments in the Eastern States, we can claim to be quite as up to date. I do not suggest that we have nothing to learn from the Eastern States, but we are holding our own in the attempt to keep abreast of the times. The administration of the department is highly important, considering that it is advisory and that a great deal of its work is educational. The departmental officers have earned for themselves a reputation throughout the agricultural districts. In the South-West where orchards have been established and where, in recent years, dairying has been established, as well as in the North-West, the departmental officer in each instance stands well with the primary producers. Danger is always likely to arise from indulging in over-laudation of our fellow men, but we should give honour where it is due. Without undue flattery we can say that the Department of Agriculture shows the efficiency we expect—this applies to many departments—and it also gives a stimulus to the people with whom the officials come into contact. I do not know of any money better expended than that spent through the department. No matter what economies are practised, this is the last department that should be attacked. I am not suggesting that we have reached the stage when we can adopt the smug complac-

ency that is dangerous to any individual or industry. We still have much to learn, and a long way to go. The member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) suggested the establishment of an experimental orchard. In time past a similar request was made, and I opposed it. It was necessary in respect to wheat-growing, and for other primary industries that we were endeavouring to establish. Although we may not have an experimental farm or orchard, we have experimental plots. Experimental work is being carried out, supervised, or assisted by the department, but there are reasons for that work that do not exist in connection with orchards. In every branch of primary production there are men well in advance of the times and acquainted with the latest principles of modern practice. They take advantage of the technical knowledge spread by the Agricultural Department and from other sources. As to the suggestion that an experimental orchard should be established, there are growers in Western Australia who are well abreast of the time in regard to up-to-date methods. What is required is not an experimental farm, but that the efforts of the experts of the Agricultural Department be directed to assist in the raising of the general average among our growers. That is what is most required in Western Australia in respect of every branch of agricultural production. If members are not inclined to accept my assurance on that point, let them discuss the matter with the Managing Trustee of the Agricultural Bank and he will inform them that the general average throughout the State is not what it should be. Some of the producers who commenced with little experience but were prepared to learn from those capable of teaching them, have progressed satisfactorily, but it cannot be said generally that our producers, in whatever branch one may desire to discuss, have reached a generally high standard of efficiency in production. In that respect the departmental officers have done splendid work. Mention has been made of the work of the sheep and wool adviser, and I believe his methods are particularly appropriate to Western Australia. He does not go only to those who adopt efficient methods, and are successful, but, having gained some knowledge from those people, he spreads the information among those who are not so favourably circumstanced. That

is the only true way of making technical and practical knowledge available to those who cannot be regarded as being in the highest flights of agricultural efficiency. In co-operation with the various agricultural societies, including the Royal Agricultural Society, the Agricultural Department have done much to raise the standard not only of our wheat producers but those interested in stock, orchards and sheep. It also has to be recognised that after some people have attained a certain standard of efficiency, there is a tendency on their part to slow down. The efforts of the department and the agricultural societies have been invaluable in inspiring such producers to attempt better things. From that standpoint alone, the Agricultural Department has justified its existence time and again. I regret I was not present when the Minister introduced his Estimates, because I realise that the department is capable of engendering much enthusiasm in connection with the various agricultural activities. Had it not been so, I do not know what would have happened to Western Australia, especially in these times when people are not only talking about the depression but are inclined to be depressed themselves. That tendency has to be combated, and we must learn from past experience. There is an inclination to lean too much on the Government, with the idea that unless the Government come to the assistance of the agriculturists generally, they are in a hopeless position. Within my own memory, I know of times just as bad as the present, and no assistance was rendered by the Government in those days. There seems to be an impression regarding agriculture generally that it is on the same plane as the man who collects his wages or salary in a regular way. There never has been a guarantee connected with agriculture, horticulture or any other form of primary production. There has never been an assurance that all that is necessary is to go steadily ahead. That has never been the experience of Western Australia. I can draw attention to industries that have been built up entirely by private enterprise, with little or no assistance from the Government. When bad times were encountered they were able to stand up to the difficulties that confronted them. Let me cite the position of pastoralists in the North-West. It is not easy to develop that part of the State and those who went outback knew that a bad season or a drought represented normal conditions just as much as a really good year.

They made their arrangements accordingly. They did not depend on the Government for assistance but made their own arrangements to keep their stock up to standard. In good seasons they improved their holdings. They provided water supplies, fencing and other developmental work that enabled them to carry through when bad times were experienced. That position also applies to many wheatgrowers, and to orchardists as well. They kept themselves abreast of the times, followed up-to-date methods and selected the best varieties to be grown. The successful farmer or orchardist did not wait for years, only to discover that the products he was growing could not command a market. They showed foresight and therein they differed from others. Thus, I say, the necessity confronting Western Australia to-day is to raise the average efficiency throughout primary production. That has been the work of the Agricultural Department. They have brought to bear the necessary encouragement and inspiration that has tended to foster ambition in the producers themselves, until they too were imbued with the desire to raise their standard and improve their methods. I pay a tribute to the departmental officers for the enthusiasm they have put into their work. It has been asserted that there are too many experts associated with the Agricultural Department, but those who adopt that attitude know nothing of the departmental activities. I do not know where Western Australia would be to-day had it not been for the efficiency of the work of the departmental officers in connection with primary production, in conjunction with our agricultural societies and other educational bodies. Although we can congratulate ourselves in that regard, we should not delude ourselves into the belief that we have attained a high average standard, for we have not done so. Hence the position we are in to-day. The aim of the Agricultural Department will ever be to increase the average efficiency in production. Turning to the details of the Estimates, I find that, despite the depression, an amount is still provided for agricultural cadets, and I trust that will continue. Of all the training given, whether at the University or at the Muresk Agricultural College, the money that is spent most advantageously from an educational point of view is that in respect of the agricultural cadets. The very fact that they are cadets in the department indicates that they are at the commencement of their training as agricultural

advisers. While the students are undertaking their course in agricultural science at the University, they are also gaining practical experience as part of the machine. These young men are those to whom I look to assist in disseminating practical and technical knowledge, and the money spent in this way is the most economical that I can imagine.

The Minister for Agriculture: Some of our best men have passed through their cadetship.

Mr. MILLINGTON: That is so, and I am very pleased to know that despite the necessity for economy, the vote has been provided for. With regard to the State farms, some people think that those institutions are becoming more or less stodgy and that they are not so necessary to-day as in past years. That is an entirely mistaken view. No matter what problems we have been confronted with in the past, new ones are always appearing and there is therefore always need for the State farms, particularly when they are situated in the proper geographical positions throughout the State. Particularly does that apply to the two main farms, that at Merredin and Chapman in the north. The work of the agricultural farms is most useful as indicating to those operating in the districts where they are located, just how operations should be carried out. A farmer in a given district may not be prepared to take notice of an experiment made some hundreds of miles away, but he would be compelled to take notice of an experiment conducted locally. As regards wheatgrowing, I assume there is still a great deal for us to learn. As a matter of fact, there is no smug complacency about the competent farmer: he realises he has much to learn. He is aware of the competition he has to meet. If we are to be a wheat producing country and compete in the markets of the world, we certainly must adopt the latest scientific methods. Consequently, there appears to be still need to carry on our experimental farms. I am not at all concerned about what has been said as to the obsolete nature of the plant at Merredin. It may be obsolete from the point of view of commercial farming: but the experimental practices are not obsolete. Visitors to this State who have inspected the Merredin farm have expressed the opinion that in no State—I will not go outside Australia—is the work carried on more methodically. Farmers

must be assured that the experimental work conducted on these farms is to be depended upon. They realise that those in control of the farms have no axe to grind, that they are simply seeking the truth.

Mr. Griffiths: The methods are up-to-date, but the plant is decidedly obsolete.

Mr. MILLINGTON: From a commercial point of view, that would be important. But the point is whether the experimental work done there is being impeded in any way. I do not think it is. It will be news to me if the work done on the Merredin farm is not properly carried out and not thoroughly reliable. The records of the farm appear in the printed report. Of course, with an up-to-date plant, probably its methods might be more economical, but the actual value of the experimental work is not lessened in any way. I hope the plant is not so obsolete that the experiments cannot be properly carried out. I would draw the Minister's attention to an item of £9,500 for rabbit-proof fences. Are we still to be loaded with this expense? That would be the annual cost, I assume, of the upkeep of the two rabbit-proof fences.

The Minister for Agriculture: There are three fences.

Mr. MILLINGTON: I would like the Minister to say, if that is so, whether the expense is justified.

Mr. Marshall: In the northern portion of this State it is not justified.

Mr. MILLINGTON: It is a big expenditure. Could not the money be expended in a better way? My impression is that the farmer who hopes to farm successfully in any of those districts will have to erect wire netting around his holding. If he depends entirely on the rabbit-proof fences, I am afraid he will be depending upon a pretty rotten stick. In any case, there remains the expenditure and I say it should be subjected to the closest inquiry. I know the departmental officers say the fences are absolutely necessary.

The Minister for Agriculture: We have just had proof that they are keeping back 10,000 to 20,000 emus.

Mr. MILLINGTON: If that is so, what about the inner fence? Should that be maintained?

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes.

Mr. MILLINGTON: You say yes, but the gates are left open by the farmers.

Mr. Doney: How do you know the farmers leave the gates open? Other people pass through them who are more likely to leave them open.

Mr. MILLINGTON: You say the farmers do not.

Mr. Doney: I say they may not.

Mr. MILLINGTON: I have no evidence that the farmers leave the gates open, but there is abundant evidence that people passing through do leave the gates open.

Mr. Doney: Some of them do.

Mr. MILLINGTON: In these times, if we spend money for the promotion of agriculture, we should make sure we are getting value for it. I am not in a position to say whether the expenditure on these fences is justified to-day or not. That is the question I am putting to the Minister. I think there should be the closest inquiry made into this expenditure in order to find out if it is justified. I made inquiries myself and I suppose my experience is the same as that of others who have done so. Those officers who say the fences are necessary should produce evidence to show that they are. I look upon the experimental plots, including the assistance to the tobacco industry, as being highly important. It is a cheap and very effective way of improving farming methods. It is far more economical than experimental farms. Dealing with the items for experimental plots for tobacco growing, I think the Minister said that 100 tons had been produced. Is that right?

The Minister for Agriculture: Yes.

Mr. MILLINGTON: As regards tobacco, it is not a question of tonnage. There are some people who are getting restive because they are not permitted to grow tobacco. They say they could grow it by the ton, but that is not desirable until we have reached the stage when we can grow a satisfactory variety of tobacco. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached that stage. Just now it is a question of checking our methods and making sure that we can produce a tobacco which has the right burning qualities and the right aroma. When we have achieved that result, then we can set about producing tons of tobacco. I hope that our soils are suitable for tobacco cultivation. I made some inquiries when I was in Queensland, and found that on the tablelands past Cairns tobacco can be grown prolifically. They have an extended rainfall there; it extends

over a much longer period than it does in Western Australia. That is an advantage to tobacco growing. I understand that in Queensland tobacco growing is reasonably successful, but I do not know that anywhere in Australia we can say we have solved the problem. When we can say that, it will be an enormous thing for Australia. I see two other items of interest. One is an additional amount by way of grant to the Royal Agricultural Society for district displays. This is a new item. The previous Government encouraged the Royal Agricultural Society to erect a building and granted a subsidy of pound for pound. There is no more interesting, educational or inspiring display than the district displays. I consider the item is justified, right up to the hilt. The other new item is also of great importance. It is a grant for grade herd testing. I do not know whether this amount is coming from the Commonwealth Government.

The Minister for Agriculture: We are getting a proportion of it from the Commonwealth Government, but the amount is not definitely stated.

MR. MILLINGTON: Herd testing is very essential and it should be carried out, even if we have to find the money ourselves. Money so spent would be better spent than much other money expended in building up the dairying industry. We should encourage dairy farmers throughout the State to form associations in order to assist the conducting of herd testing in various districts.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is the only way to get the unprofitable cow out of the herd.

MR. MILLINGTON: Yes. In addition, every possible method will have to be adopted to raise the average standard of our dairy herds. It is a rare thing to find one herd that is entirely satisfactory. People have come to me from dairying districts to get me to help them in their difficulties. However, the position of a great many dairy farmers is positively hopeless, particularly those who are endeavouring to make a living out of 10 or 12 cows. That is an utter impossibility with butter fat at 1s. 1d. per lb. In a great many instances those dairy farmers could not make it pay if butter fat were 2s. a lb. The Agricultural Department should use every means in their power to endeavour to increase the

efficiency of the dairy herds in Western Australia. The department might seek the co-operation of the Agricultural Bank, which controls a great many of the dairy farmers. There should be a weeding out not only of scrubby cattle and under-grade cows, but also a weeding-out of inefficient dairymen. This State cannot afford to keep them in the industry. They will have to be told that very plainly, and therefore someone will become unpopular. A person should not be left to imagine that he can make a living out of 10 or 12 cows. On present prices it is impossible to put the industry on a sound basis under a 20-cow standard. Yet it is nobody's business to see to this. We are producing a lot of butter, but only at double the cost that should obtain. I wish to pay a tribute to the tropical adviser appointed by the previous Government. Every man with whom I come into contact in the North-West is enthusiastic about the work that officer is doing up there. I believe there are reasonable prospects of increasing the production of tropical fruits in the North-West. It will make a wonderful difference in the living conditions in that area if the production of tropical fruits can be increased. Also I wish to pay a tribute to the various officers of the department and to the administration generally. I am pleased to note that the disposition of the Government and the Minister is to maintain the standard that has been set and to endeavour by the inspiration that comes from the department to assist generally agriculture in Western Australia.

MR. McLARTY (Murray-Wellington) [9.33]: Despite the fact we are getting such low prices for our primary products the Minister clearly indicated that the industry continues to expand. The growth of the dairying industry has been most marked. The Minister told us there are 99,000 cows being milked in this State at present. That number will rapidly increase. Even those irrigation areas as they come under development will make a tremendous difference, but apart from that the industry is expanding in every direction. I agree with the Minister that the dairy stock are showing wonderful improvement. Credit must be given to the department for the work it has put in and the excellent results obtained. The Minister told us that during the year £1,158 had been spent in subsidies for bulls. That is money well spent, and I hope that during the com-

ing year it will be increased. We should do everything possible to encourage the farmers to breed their own stock, particularly dairy stock, because they can by careful breeding and weeding establish a very much better dairy herd than they could buy in the market. Another pleasing feature is the fact that we have new breeders coming in. Some of the best dairy stock in Australia has recently been imported into this State, and it has been found that a large number of this stock on becoming acclimatised have proved to be better producers than they were in the Eastern States from which they came. The dairy shows now being held clearly indicate that the stock are making rapid improvements. Let me again touch on the zone system. We have reached the stage when we should encourage breeders in all parts of the State, irrespective of the breed they go in for. If a man decides to breed Jerseys or shorthorns or any other variety the Minister should encourage him. One has only to go to any zone to find that there is in it different breeds and many of them. I know men who would, if allowed, go in for a particular breed, but they are debarred from getting any subsidy if they depart from the breed prescribed by the department for a given district. It would be wise to abandon that zone system and help men irrespective of the breed they favour. I am sure greater success will spring from allowing a breeder to breed the stock he fancies. Despite the fact that the price of dairy produce is lower to-day than for many years past, the industry must expand until it becomes one of the greatest of our primary industries. We are now at a stage in the development of the industry when we can rectify mistakes of the past and help the industry generally. The department is doing all it can in that direction. It is certainly going on right lines in improving the production per cow. The member for Mt. Hawthorn pointed out that we still have a number of scrub bulls. However, I think the officers of the department know where they are and are doing all they can to eliminate the animals. The Minister is to be congratulated on tightening up the Dairying Act, which is a very good Act. The member for Guildford-Midland indicated that some of the butter factories were not turning out a satisfactory product. I think the Minister will tell us that he has got over that difficulty and that his department is insisting upon every factory turn-

ing out first-class butter. The figures the Minister gave us indicate from the fact that so large a percentage of good butter is being turned out, the factories are standing up to their job pretty well. Every factory should be forced to export a fair percentage of the butter it manufactures. It has been suggested that we have too many butter factories. I have been wondering what the intention of the Minister is in that regard. I am often asked whether the Government intend to restrict these factories. It has been pointed out that the more factories we have the greater the overhead expenses, while on the other hand it is claimed that the more there are the greater competition will there be and the better the price the producer will receive. It seems to me extraordinary that with all these butter factories we still have cream motor vans running about the country picking up cream and carrying it a score of miles past one factory on to another factory. I have wondered how that difficulty could be overcome. Certainly a man would not pass one factory to reach another at a great distance if it were not that by so doing he would get a better price for his cream. The price of butter fat is fixed every month, and the producer does not know what he is going to get for his butter fat until he receives his returns each month. The price is fixed by a board consisting entirely of manufacturers or their agents. The Minister and the producer should each have a representative on that board. The producer would then have a say as to the price he was to receive for his commodity.

The Minister for Agriculture: Do you think that would make the factories pay that price?

Mr. McLARTY: I think so. Moreover it would give the producer some satisfaction to know that he had a representative on that board to look after his interests. The member for Mt. Hawthorn referred to herd testing. This is most important, and should go hand in hand with the subsidising of stud stock. It would be a great thing if in addition to having stud herds tested we had grade testing as well. It would be of considerable help to the dairymen and I hope the Minister will tell us he has money available for herd testing, which is most important. The wholemilk section of the dairying industry is still in a rotten condition,

and there seems to be no indication of an immediate improvement. Unfortunately, the position is giving the producers grave concern. There are some bright spots in the industry despite the fact that prices are low. Only recently condensed milk factories have been established and are doing good work. The Serpentine Cheese Factory is turning out a really good article which is meeting with a splendid demand. These factories must have a good effect upon the industry. The Minister told us what had been expended in helping horse breeders. That is most desirable. Is the subsidy only paid to breeders of Clydesdales? I think the breeders of Shires should also be encouraged. Some of the best draught horses I have ever seen have been of the Clydesdale-Shire cross. They seem to have the weight. The cross is a very desirable class of horse to breed. I should like to know whether it would be possible to establish an experimental plot on the group settlements near Perth. This would be of great help to several hundred settlers on the Peel and Bateman Estates. They are closely settled. By means of one of these plots demonstrations could be made as to the types of grasses that can be grown and the different manures that can be used. Some of these grasses are sure to be successful, and the plots would be of great educational value to the settlers. Such a move would be in the best interests of the Government.

The Minister for Agriculture: Quite a number of plots have been established in your electorate.

Mr. McLARTY: I wish to make reference to noxious weeds. A weed that is particularly noxious in the South-West, along the brooks and elsewhere, is the *Watsonia*. It is spreading rapidly. It is found on Government property including railway reserves, and is establishing itself along the roads. I know it is the duty of local authorities to get rid of noxious weeds, but it appears that the *Watsonia* is spreading so rapidly that it is almost impossible for local authorities to deal with it. It has established itself firmly along the creeks and rivers, but I think every effort should be made to prevent it spreading further afield. The Minister also referred to the potato industry. He told us that 4,892 acres had been planted this year yielding 20,000 tons of crop. The potatoes, however, are prac-

tically unsaleable seeing that they are fetching only 4s. 6d. a cwt., equal to about 1½d. per lb. That does not offer much inducement to the growers, who are already heavily taxed. It is a most expensive crop to grow. The department has done all it can to help these people by giving them certified seed, and has also given them useful advice through the medium of its officers. The main difficulty is the present low price. Perhaps something could be done to organise the industry and prevent the carry-over of old stock, which is being marketed this year to the detriment of the new crop. This has ruined the price. If anything could be done to put potatoes on the market in an orderly fashion, it would be a good move to make. I join with others in paying a tribute to the departmental officers. I hope the Minister will do all he can to send his advisers out to as many people as possible who are going in for poultry raising, but who have very little experience and are just embarking upon the industry. This is a stage when they most need such expert advice as is available. I am glad to be able to pay my tribute to the officers of the department.

MR. PATRICK (Greenough) [9.50]: The Minister is to be congratulated on the informative manner in which he has introduced his Estimates. Farmers are taking an increasing interest in the work of the department. Recently I was with the Minister on the occasion of a field day at the Chapman State Farm, which was revived this year. It was good to see the keen interest with which the farmers followed the different experiments. There are many problems to be solved in farming. In that neighbourhood there is country very different from that on the wheat belt, namely jam and wattle country. It is steadily going back as wheat growing country, and different methods will have to be adopted to save it from that point of view. On the Chapman Farm a great deal more by way of experiment could be conducted. One settler has to a great extent solved the problem by alternating his wheat crops with lupins. He has had rather wonderful results. One of our great problems in the future is the maintenance of the fertility of the soil. We have to a large extent been cropping new land. As that percentage becomes less, unless the fertility is

maintained our averages will go back. It is easier to get good crops off new land than it is off land which has become dirty. Better farming methods are required. It is in that direction the department can point the way. We must go in more largely for diversified farming. The department is to be congratulated on the propaganda they have put out with regard to the fat lamb industry. We have been paying too much attention to wheat growing, especially to growing wheat alone. Great Britain is an old established farming country employing up to date methods, and yet wheat growing represents only 5 per cent. of its agricultural industry. This shows the vast improvements we could make along the same lines. We are suffering great difficulties to-day. I put this down to a large extent to the artificial prices which obtained just after the war period. No doubt those prices forced many countries to cultivate large areas of land which would never have been used had it not been for the high prices then ruling. This was especially so in the United States. The difficulty is to know what to do with those who have been put on the land. They are trying to remain there and produce wheat at unprofitable prices. Reference has been made to the advance in wheat farming in Italy. Italy, France and Germany ought to be importing countries. The advance in Italy has only been brought about by the maintenance of artificial prices. In Australia we have adopted the policy of bolstering up secondary industries at the expense of primary industries. In those other countries people are working in the opposite direction. The wheat production in Italy and France is only maintained because the price there has during the last two or three years been kept in the neighbourhood of 7s. a bushel. The depression in this State has unfortunately caused a lowering in the standard of farming. A much smaller area this year will be placed under fallow. The importance of this can be recognised by the quotation of figures from such an up to date farming State as South Australia. Last year South Australia had sown under fallow 2,285,000 acres of land, which yielded an average of 14.81 bushels per acre. Of non-fallowed land, 1,685,000 acres were sown, yielding only 7.59 bushels

to the acre. The difference can be realised more clearly in a drought year. In the previous year in South Australia fallowed land yielded 9.07 bushels while non-fallowed land yielded only 2.84 bushels. In the year 1928-29, another dry season, fallowed land averaged 10.74 bushels, and non-fallowed land only 3.65 bushels. We can realise what a disastrous thing it would be for this State if we allowed our area of fallow to go back under present conditions. Another question the department might look into is that of reducing costs by the use of producer gas in power farming. That is regarded as an important matter in South Australia. In that State there is a standing committee consisting of an engineer and three or four other gentlemen, who examine all new patents that come on the market dealing with producer gas as applied to tractors and motor transport generally. The reports issued are very interesting. If, instead of sending large sums of money out of the country on the importation of fuel supplies, we could use our own timbers, it would be of great benefit to the State. The Minister referred to the experimental plot in the northern areas. This is a type of land which does not obtain anywhere else in the State. The member for Mt. Magnet, when Minister, did quite right in arranging to have 100 acres laid out in an experimental plot before the land was thrown open for settlement. This land is heavily timbered. A large percentage of the timber is pine. The land is of a type not previously cropped in Western Australia. It is a very loose, red loam carrying a natural mulch, and it is able to grow good crops, as this year's results have shown, on a very light rainfall. The Minister has indicated that with a rainfall of only 8 inches in the growing period it has returned an average of 20 bushels and 50 lbs. Owing to damage Noongaar variety averaged only 14 bushels 54 lbs. The main crop really averaged in the neighbourhood of 23 bushels. Reference was made the other night by the member for Guildford-Midland to the fact that probably no more railways would be built in our time. The area I have referred to is one that we cannot afford to leave undeveloped. It is the type of country that will grow crops on a lower rainfall than any other in the State and it is probably the only country in the State that can

be said to be independent of whether the September rains are a failure or not. Like other members, I have been greatly disappointed at the action of the Federal Government with regard to the bonus for wheat production. They proposed a bonus to the super firm and a bonus for what they termed necessitous farmers, or, as we might call them, incompetent farmers. Even as regards super, it might be that in giving it a bonus we are assisting up-to-date farmers; but super alone will not make a good farm; there must be good farming methods independent of super. And it might be possible for one man to use double the quantity of super and with indifferent farming grow less wheat than another farmer might with less super and better farming. I hope that it will be impressed on the Federal Government that there is a necessity to give a straight-out bonus so that the farmers will be in possession of cash that will enable them to proceed with necessary improvements. Another matter on which the Agricultural Department is to be congratulated is the improvement made at the Midland sale yards. Those improvements were long overdue and no doubt will be a great convenience to the people sending stock there. I am in agreement with the Minister as regards the necessity for State farms. There are many problems yet to be solved in agriculture. There is no doubt the ordinary farmer cannot afford the time or expense to work out those problems, and the Government, by establishing the experimental farms, can save him a great deal by way of expenditure in connection with needless experiments. It is false economy to cut down expenditure in this direction and I hope the State farms will be maintained. There is no doubt that we have a splendid staff attached to the Agricultural Department and I join other members in congratulating them on the wonderful work they have done. I hope it will be possible not only to maintain that high standard, but to adopt a basis such as that in existence in South Australia, which State provides expenditure to maintain a high standard and also to increase the efficiency of the department in every direction.

MR. THORN (Toodyay) [10.6]: I would not like the vote to be passed without saying a few words in commendation of the work of the Agricultural Department. It is

one of the most important of our departments because undoubtedly the welfare of our primary industries is dependent on it to a large extent. I also wish to congratulate the Minister on the work of the department during the past 12 months and the very close personal attention he has given it. We are continually reading in the papers that the Minister spends his week-ends in the country furthering the interests of the department. I am pleased to know that the vote has been slightly increased, but the increase is very small and I am afraid it will not help very much. I should like to see the vote increased by at least £20,000, because we are short of field inspectors to-day and we could do with the services of more. Insect pests are gradually spreading and taking control of quite a lot of our principal industries, and if we do not carry out more field work and cope with the pests, I am afraid that losses will result in many directions in the not distant future. A lot has been said on the subject of the marketing of our products. The sooner we pass a marketing Act to deal with all our primary products, the better will it be for the State generally. Some members are not in favour of control legislation, but I am of the opinion that if we did have such legislation and supervision, it would help considerably. The milk industry is at present in a most parlous condition and from information I have obtained I know that milk is being sold at as low as 6½d. a gallon. It is surprising how the industry can be carried on when the product has to be disposed of at such a figure. I am glad that some money has been spent on herd testing during the last 12 months. That is very necessary work and I have heard from different farmers how pleased they are that the Minister and his department have extended the work of herd testing. I sincerely hope the Federal Government will see their way to give a cash bonus of 4½d. on the production of wheat, and that they will not confine themselves to necessitous cases. If they start to do that we will have one of the biggest muddles that has even been experienced in connection with the distribution of the bonus and it will be found that many deserving cases will be cut out and that probably undeserving cases will receive the bonus. Again I

congratulate the Minister and his department on the work that has been carried out during the past 12 months.

HON. M. F. TROY (Mt. Magnet) [10.10]: The discussion on the Agricultural Estimates is one of the most interesting that can take place in Parliament. I know of no department which renders services to the community such as the department under consideration. Its services may be inconspicuous but they are nevertheless valuable. In the days to come the work of the technical and professional staff must be of immense value to this country. Without those services, the State can make very little progress. Development has been taking place in Western Australia during the last 20 years but that development and the problems that have to be dealt with can only be faced by the officers of the department. It is quite easy in the early days of the country to bring its fertile lands into production. There is no handicap from weeds and pests and for a time the land yields a high production. So it has been in Western Australia that our lands have produced a higher average than probably the lands in any other part of Australia. That is due entirely to the virgin country, but with the development of industries which spring from the land, there also develop pests, and those pests increase year by year until to-day some of them are attacking the greater part of our areas and doing much injury. If those pests are to be attacked, the work must be done by the Agricultural Department. Any Minister who is associated with a department of this character should feel happy. The work of the department is not ostentatious, but it is the most valuable work that is carried on in the State. In the Agricultural Department I have met quite a number of men who give valuable services to the State but whose work unfortunately is not recognised as it should be. There is no one who has a greater love for or who takes a greater interest in the work to be done than the body of officers associated with the Agricultural Department. The scientists live their profession and are interested in their work. That being so, they can render far more value to the State. The State is fortunate in having built up a technical staff which is rendering good service. The problems that are facing that staff are most difficult to solve. There are a lot of difficulties to-day in respect of the

agricultural industry. For instance, in the dairying areas there is what is known as the lucerne flea and the red-legged mite. Both are causing a great amount of loss and are giving the officers considerable concern. In the wheat industry there are other pests which arise from time to time, whilst there are also pests in the fruitgrowing industry, and so it is that there never was a time when the activities of the department were so necessary if the State is to progress. Thus from that standpoint the department is probably one of the most important in the State. In the years to come it will be the most important because in a State which has its people settled on the land that land will need the services of the officials of the Agricultural Department. To-night the Minister spoke eulogistically of the butter production, and the fact that Western Australia had exported a bigger percentage of first-grade butter than any other State. I do not think this comparison is worth while. We do not produce any butter better than that produced in other parts of Australia and there is no disguising the fact—and it is not disparaging our own State by saying it—that other parts of Australia have better dairying areas than ours. In New South Wales and Queensland, particularly in those tropical and well watered districts that boast of summer and winter rain-falls, the production of butter is carried on under conditions that are better than those in Western Australia. Unquestionably they can produce just as good butter as we can. As a matter of fact, they have greater advantages than we have here. It would be more profitable to address ourselves to the fact that we labour under bigger difficulties than prevail in most of the Eastern States, that here our land is only just coming into development, that we have to spend large sums of money to fertilise it, which is not done in the Eastern States. If we approach those matters from that standpoint, we are more apt to do the country service than by pretending that we have the best possible country in the world. As one who has had some association with the development of the South-West, I have no hesitation in saying that if the same amount of money spent there had been expended in the dairying industry in Queensland, the production would have been more permanent. We have spent a tremendous sum of money in the South-West, about £10,000,000. We have lost

£6,000,000 on group settlement and will lose £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 more. It is of no use pretending that our butter industry is a very prosperous one because it is not. I was rather amused at the report of the Royal Commission on Group Settlement, in which they stated that although the expenditure on group settlement had been accompanied by great loss to the country, it had established the dairying industry. If industries are to be established by losing millions of money, it would be possible to establish any industry in this country. In fact, there is no industry that could not be established if we were prepared to stand the loss of so much money. It is true that we are exporting butter, but the industry is not paying. A large number of people engaged in the industry are paying no interest; they are being sustained by the country. While it may be a matter for congratulation that we are exporting butter, it will be a matter for greater congratulation when we reach the time when settlers are able to pay their way and are no longer a burden on the State. We should address ourselves to those facts. We should be under no misapprehension that the group settlements are progressing. We hear the most doleful accounts of their position. We are told that the group settlers cannot pay their interest and will not pay their interest. There is talk amongst the group settlers in the South-West of rebellion against the administration. Is it not more important that we in this Chamber should know just what the position of those settlers and of other settlers is? What is the use of members talking about progress here and progress there? It is due to us to have the facts stated, and it is extraordinary to me that no Minister and no member representing that part of the State has ever given the facts. The facts are concealed. No Minister except the Premier could state the facts, because the Premier has the administration of the department. There is a conspiracy of silence. Although dissatisfaction prevails in those areas, and the greatest anxiety exists in the minds of those who officially control the settlements, not a word is said about it here. Instead of that we get a statement that the butter industry is established, that we are exporting so much butter and that the industry is progressing. Every pound of butter we export is paid for by the people of the State, because the

industry is being conducted at a loss. The member for Murray-Wellington (Mr. McLarty) said to-night that much of the trouble was due to the low price of butter fat. The price of butter fat is as high as it was before the war and the capitalisation of the group settlements has been cut down by one half.

(Mr. Richardson took the Chair.)

The Minister for Works: By two-thirds.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I confess I am modest in my statements—two-thirds in the majority of cases. Though the price of butter fat is equal to the price that ruled before the war, the settlers say they cannot pay their interest, cannot make a living, cannot carry on. That is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and it is high time that the Premier gave an explanation on the Loan Estimates or that some members representing those areas explained the position. I do not want to do it. I have adopted the attitude that if I did so, I might embarrass the administration, as members opposite embarrassed me. Even though I have been approached by settlers, I have refused to take any action in this Chamber. But I know their position and so do members who represent them, and the matter should be discussed so that we may understand the true position. The statement that we are exporting a large quantity of butter does not explain the situation at all. It is very different from what that statement would convey. I was surprised to read a statement by the member for Sussex (Mr. Barnard) and by Mr. W. J. Mann, M.L.C., who represents the South-West Province, that had the report of the Royal Commission of which Mr. Harper was chairman and Mr. Lindsay a member, been adopted, there would not have been the loss that has resulted on group settlement. They intimated that all would have been well although they condemned and derided the report of the Commission at the time. They were most hostile to it. Yet now they come forward and say that if the report had been adopted, everything would have been satisfactory. It is extraordinary how people can change their attitude. They must think that we in this House have very short memories. I am convinced that the whole settlement is in a disastrous condition again and that a great part of the country is reverting to nature. The pas-

tures are not being top-dressed and 80 per cent. of the settlers say they cannot make a living. This is the position after ten years of settlement and after the expenditure of millions of money. Instead of being told the position, we are told of the quantity of butter that is being exported. One of the Ministers said the other night that we had to organise marketing and control marketing. I am intrigued by the question of control. Control merely means making the other fellow pay what you like to charge. It is a wonderful proposition. The gentlemen who advocate it lack, I will not say intelligence, but any evidence of fairness and justice. Members ask for control which means handing over an industry to the producers and making the people pay what they like to charge. It is a wonderful position for the men who control. It means control of the other fellow, making him pay what you like for the product, and that is all. That is the grand idea, the new policy about which the Minister is talking. I think he said the other day that if the milk Bill passed, there would be more control.

The Minister for Agriculture: The producer is controlled in the interests of other sections of the community.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Well, the producer can get out of it. He controls his own products just as the producers in every other industry control their products. It is human nature to demand as much as they can get and demand more and more as they become entrenched. In the end they demand a price that keeps the most inefficient person on the land. The fellow who does the least has a vote and his voice will be heard. My experience of life is that the person who does the least is the noisiest. When I was administering some of the affairs of this State I found that the greatest agitator was the greatest idler, and it is safe to say that men of that type would secure positions on the proposed board. They would fix the rate for the consumer to pay, and it would be a rate to give the easiest life to the least efficient man in the industry. Control will not help the situation. Rather let the department aim at efficiency, at getting the best results, at getting the highest standard, and not give the producers a monopoly by which they can slacken off their activity and become inefficient. There is not the slightest doubt that if the Government pursue a policy of control, such as has been sug-

gested may be given legislative effect, it will end in inefficiency, idleness and slothfulness, and will not give good results. If we are going to compete with the rest of the world, as we now know we must do, we must have efficiency. Many countries are competing for the only market we have, namely the British market, and that market cannot absorb all that producing countries can export. Canada, Argentine and Australia are competing for that market, and the only way in which we can win it is not by control, but by efficiency, by teaching our farmers how to secure the best results. If we do that, we shall not need any control, because we shall get the market as a result of efficiency to supply what it needs. I have heard a lot of talk about orderly marketing. What that may mean, I do not know. Orderly marketing, so far as I can judge, consists of appointing boards by legislation, giving a monopoly to the producers, and empowering them to charge what they like and impose any burden they like on the community. By such means we are told the difficulty will be solved. When I was Minister for Agriculture I introduced a Bill providing for marketing, but not on those lines. I did not provide for the compulsory organisation of the people in the industry. I left that to themselves. I did not give them an opportunity to organise until they secured a fair majority in favour of the proposition. There was to be no Government interference; they had to work out their own salvation. Only by producers working out their own salvation is it possible to get results. My experience is that if people lean on the Government they will blame the Government for everything. I found that amongst group settlers the great excuse was that the officers interfered or that the officers would not do this or that. Immediately the settlers were asked to accept some responsibility, they blamed the officers and the Government. The less the Government interfere in such matters, the better it is for the settler and the State. The settler owns the land and receives any profit gained, and the settler should take the responsibility.

Mr. Sampson: Those who are opposed to compulsory marketing always complain that the Government interfere, and Government control has nothing to do with it.

Hon. M. F. TROY: When people get an opportunity they shirk responsibility and

lean on the Government, and that sort of thing is undesirable. I approve of the action of the Minister regarding the distribution of wheat from the State experimental farms. In former days wheat was sold there and although the Government asked a reasonable price, a large number of the settlers could not secure any of the wheat that was available. Under the new scheme the settlers are allowed to put a certain quantity of wheat into the pool, and take a proportion of the wheat from the experimental farms in exchange. By that means they are certain of getting some of the new wheat. There is no doubt that the production of new types of wheat at the State farms, together with the provision of pure seed for the farmers have done much to increase the average wheat production of Western Australia to an extent greater than any other factor.

The Minister for Agriculture: It has been worth more than anything else to the farmer.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The two great factors have been the encouragement of fallowing and the supplying to the farmers of good clean seed wheat and new types of wheat developed at the various State experimental farms. It has been said by several gentlemen who are associated with the Primary Producers' Association—I do not refer to members of Parliament—that we should get rid of the State farms or lease them.

The Minister for Agriculture: You are thinking of the Pastoralists' Association, not of the Primary Producers' Association.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They are allied.

The Minister for Agriculture: No.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Of course they are. They are represented on your executive.

The Minister for Agriculture: Not by the man who made that statement.

Hon. M. F. TROY: At any rate I am inclined to the opinion that they are. I do not know of any more stupid suggestion than that. The experimental farms have not been conducted with a view to showing profits in the shape of pounds, shillings and pence. The profit is to be seen in the results that have been obtained, following upon the experiments that have been carried out. The farms have been purely experimental, and had the State desired to make them pay, it is quite possible that that end could have been achieved. They could have been conducted as farms, and not primarily for carrying out experiments. As a result of

the work on the farms, we have new types of wheat, grain and cereals. By that means the industry secured definite advantages which could not have been gained in any other way. I believe in the farms and I am sorry there are not more of them. I am not ashamed of what I did to assist in their development. If our land settlement had been preceded by the establishment of experimental farms, we would have obviated the failures that were experienced in the drought years from 1911 to 1914 and even later still. The farms have been of great value and if there is one service that cannot be discontinued by the State it is that rendered by the experimental farms. The Minister said that the average yield of the State was increasing. Of course it is; it is only logical and natural that it should increase. Until the last few years thousands of acres of new country were brought into production and were merely scratched over. In those circumstances the production could not be heavy. During the last few years, owing to the necessity for better farming and the curtailment of areas, the land has been properly worked. The farmer is fallow-farming and there are not now the large areas of new country being opened up that characterised operations in earlier days.

The Minister for Agriculture: There is still room for considerable improvement in the average.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Of course there is.

The Minister for Works: There is very great room for improvement.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I congratulate the Agricultural Department upon the new wheats that have been developed, and particularly Bencubbin, which has given splendid results. I have some friends in South Australia who asked me to send them some of our wheats, and I sent them samples of Merredin, Bencubbin and other types, with which they are very pleased. I know the Merredin, Nabawa, Bencubbin, Noongar and other new types that have been developed there, which have meant so much to the farmers. If the experimental farms had not done anything but produce those wheats, the institutions must have earned the gratitude of the farmers of this State. I am sorry that Nabawa is not proving as good as was anticipated, and perhaps some other strain will be de-

veloped to take its place. As the Minister said, the department will go on continually experimenting and so will produce wheats that will take the places of those that fall by the wayside. There is some controversy regarding wheat known as Gluelub and the department has been urged to advocate the non-production of that type. It is said that Gluelub is not a good wheat, and that its cultivation will not enhance the reputation of the State. When Mr. Thomson, the general manager of Western Farmers Ltd., was in London, he cabled to the Government saying that Gluelub was giving Western Australian wheat a bad name. In view of these apparent facts, I am surprised that the department is not facing the position more courageously. A deputation waited upon the Minister urging the provision of a five-year term. I hope the Minister will refuse to agree to any such suggestion. I cannot imagine any better way to postpone a difficult question than by allowing it to stand over for five years. If that suggestion were adopted, then soon most of the farmers in Western Australia would be growing Gluelub. I was inclined to do so myself, but a prominent farmer advised me strongly not to go in for it. I did not adopt it, and I am very glad that I did not. As it is, I am not going to put my wheat into the pool if the value of my production is to be undermined by wheat such as Gluelub. That is the danger facing Western Australia. If the Minister and the departmental officials are satisfied that Gluelub wheat will damage the reputation of the country, let them say so and make the position clear. The Minister has a duty to discharge, and I ask him not to be embarrassed because a large number of farmers are growing Gluelub extensively. It is his duty to look after the interests and reputation of the State. Seeing that we have to enter into competition with the wheat producers of the world, we should see to it that we produce the very best types of wheat possible. I can understand farmers growing a wheat that will increase their returns by a few bushels to the acre, but if that short-sighted policy is to prevail, the effect will be to oust us from the markets of the world, for our wheat will not be able to stand up in competition with that produced in other

countries. If the departmental officials are sure that Gluelub wheat is unsuitable, and that its production will be detrimental to the interests of the State, they should unhesitatingly say so. They should marshal all the support possible to justify them in their action. There is no doubt that the growth of this wheat is indulged in extensively, and is extending to the northern areas. If the Government temporise, Gluelub will soon be the chief type of wheat grown in the State. It has been said that the Director of Agriculture is opposed to Gluelub because he did not grow it. I know the Director of Agriculture has his peculiarities like other men, but I am absolutely sure that he would not be opposed to Gluelub merely because he had not produced it.

The Minister for Agriculture: He has recommended other varieties he did not grow.

Hon. M. F. TROY: I know that people are often wedded to their own varieties, but I know that the statement made about the Director of Agriculture is not correct. I trust the Minister, if he is convinced, will adopt a strong attitude; but if he is not convinced, then I do not urge him to take the action I have indicated.

The Minister for Works: I am convinced myself, and have cut Gluelub out.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Minister was growing it extensively, and if he has adopted that attitude, I congratulate him. I myself was rather impressed with the wheat and intended to grow it, but when I was cautioned about it and had a look at it, I could see for myself.

The Minister for Works: You have only to look at it to realise that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Yes, I was struck with its apparent inferiority. On the other hand, if the farmers adopt a selfish attitude and persist in the growing of the wheat merely because of the slight increased yield it gives, it will be serious for the industry. I want to refer to the bonus on wheat and the peculiar attitude the Federal Government have adopted in their latest proposal. I can attribute the attitude of the Federal Government to two considerations only. One is that they are disinclined to pay the bonus, but, having been forced to pay it because of the pressure of public opinion, they are endeavouring to get out of it as lightly as possible. They are attempting to do so

in the most stupid manner imaginable. If wheat were at 3s. a bushel, I would not approve of the bonus. I do not think bonuses are much good at all, except from sheer necessity to enable the farmer to carry through. If it is possible for the farmer to pull through and pay his debts, then I would not approve of any Federal bonus, because the money must come out of the pockets of the public. Bonuses bring in no new wealth and must eventually be paid by the citizens themselves. It is merely a method of providing temporary advantage and it is not permanent by any means. It would be rather extraordinary if in Australia all our industries had to be bonused, and the people concerned were to shoulder the responsibility of finding nothing for themselves. Under such circumstances, I can imagine that in a very short time the country would be eating itself out. In the special circumstances of to-day we must have the bonus as a means of temporary relief. At the same time I do not think much of the attitude of the Federal Government. Without wishing to cause any undue friction, I am surprised at the attitude of members of the Federal Parliament. I can throw my mind back 12 months and remember the hue and cry that pursued the Scullin Government with a demand for a tax on flour and a bonus on wheat. In those days the demand was for a bonus of 4s. a bushel. The Press and Country Party and Nationalist members joined in the demand upon the Scullin Government and, in fact, I heard J. W. Diver stress the necessity for a bonus of 5s. a bushel.

The Minister for Lands: He asked for a fair amount in the hope of getting a little.

Hon. M. F. TROY: He said it did not matter how the money was obtained, and I suppose inflation would have been suggested again. Members of the Federal Parliament are strangely silent these days, and we do not hear anything of Bertie Johnston.

The Minister for Works: The Bill has to come before Parliament yet.

Hon. M. F. TROY: But in those days they pursued the Scullin Government every day.

The Minister for Lands: The Government will not tell us even now what they propose to do.

Hon. M. F. TROY: Those who support the present Federal Government are strangely silent because their party is in power.

The Minister for Lands: You will hear from them all right.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The Scullin Government did give a bonus of 4½d. per bushel on all wheat sold in this country. That bonus was very beneficial. The method by which the Federal Government propose to apply the present bonus is, in my opinion, extraordinary. They propose in the first place to pay a bonus on superphosphate. The money will be paid to the superphosphate companies for the provision of superphosphate to the farmers. That will be a good thing for the companies: they will get a cash payment, but the farmer will get his superphosphate. He got it last year through the merchants.

The Minister for Lands: It will not help the farmer to pay his debts this current year.

Hon. M. F. TROY: No. If he gets the cash, however, it is some encouragement to him, even is he has to part with it the next day. The superphosphate supplies can be financed for the year, so there is no urgent necessity to pay for superphosphate. I do not deny that a bonus to bring down the cost of superphosphate would be very helpful. Another method is to provide an amount to pay for freight.

The Minister for Lands: No. The probability is that the State will have to pay that.

Hon. M. F. TROY: That is a matter for the State Government. I do not propose to embarrass the Government by asking a question like that. The last suggestion is that the balance should be expended to meet necessitous cases.

The Minister for Lands: Who is going to determine what is a necessitous case?

Hon. M. F. TROY: The man who can tell the most lies, the man who can make out the worst case.

The Minister for Lands: Probably not the most deserving.

Hon. M. F. TROY: The most deserving will not humble himself in that way if he can possibly avoid it. The last thing he would do would be to go down on his knees and beg and say that his is a necessitous case. I think it is ridiculous that, in order for the farmer to obtain the balance, he should have to prove that his position is such

that it warrants the granting of relief. An applicant for a pension under the Old Age Pensions Act has to show that his relatives are not in a position to help him; he has to show his banking account, if he has one; he has to prove he has no assets or relatives able to assist him. In New South Wales and Victoria legislation is being introduced to provide that in every case where the Government grant assistance, applicants have to produce the same proofs. One can readily understand what the Federal Government will do in this case when one has regard to what that Government is doing with respect to the Old Age Pensions Amendment Act. I think they are facing the position in an utterly puerile way. Whilst I regret the necessity for a bounty, there is no doubt that if wheat remains at its present price, it is impossible for the farmer in this country to carry on without some assistance. Wheat-growing is a very valuable industry to Australia and it must be remembered that the land cannot be applied to any other purpose. Therefore, the farmers might just as well be kept at producing wheat as at any other kind of work. I am not prepared to say how the present problem is to be solved. The Minister for Agriculture spoke of the necessity for encouraging the production of pork and bacon. That can be overdone. He pointed out that one wheatgrower, by feeding his pigs on wheat, was able to get about 4s. a bushel for it. Don't encourage all the wheat-growers to do that; otherwise there will be so much pork and bacon produced that there will be no market for it.

Mr. Sleeman: Is there not an export demand for pork?

Hon. M. F. TROY: There is one country that draws upon all the markets in the world.

The Minister for Agriculture: They import £41,000,000 worth per annum.

Hon. M. F. TROY: They may import all that. We know, however, that there is a very desperate contest for markets for meat, wheat, butter, eggs and other commodities. There is very desperate competition. The worst feature of it is that the whole world is competing for that market. We must realise that Canada, America and Argentine know just what Great Britain imports. Our position is that we make provision for that market and we arrive there at the time when it is closed. That is the great danger with regard to this production of special commodities. The problem of markets is embarrassing, because now so many of the

countries of the world are endeavouring to become self-contained. That is the case in both France and England. The British representatives at the Ottawa conference laid down a policy to encourage the production of their own commodities; and in England Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has now stated, in connection with the unemployed problem, that the people of Britain must make further use of their land. Such policies are being energetically pursued in countries where we are seeking to sell our produce. It is a very valuable department, one whose activities are rarely noticed, but at the same time are of very great benefit to Western Australia.

MR. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [10.56]: I appreciate the remarks of the Minister regarding the tropical adviser and the good work he is doing for the North-West. He has revolutionised the growing of tropical fruits in the North. On several occasions have I had a look at that area, and I have been amazed at the success achieved. And by the introduction of many plants highly nutritious for stock, Mr. Wise has rendered invaluable service to the station owners. Frequently this officer is put to an expense for which he can get no recoup. For instance, wanting special tropical grasses, he has to get the seeds from Honolulu or some other distant place, and in order that they might arrive here at a suitable season it becomes necessary for him to send a cablegram to the Agricultural Department in that country where the seeds are to be found. The cost of that cable he pays out of his own pocket, and under the existing regulations he cannot claim a recoup. I strongly recommend to the Minister that he should find means of making that up to Mr. Wise. The department has never hampered Mr. Wise in any way, but has rather encouraged him, and I hope he will continue to have the same favourable treatment. There is one other point I would touch upon, namely, the pig industry referred to by the previous speaker. I do not agree that there is no necessity to encourage this industry. I know a spot in Kimberley that could be put to good use for this purpose, a place quite close to Wyndham. It is eminently suited for the growing of maize. The animals when ready for slaughtering could be treated at Wyndham for export. It seems to me there is every inducement to start this industry in that locality, and I hope

the Minister will take steps to encourage the establishment of the industry.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 10th November, 1932.

MR. ANGELO (Gascoyne) [11.0]: I also am glad that the Minister had something nice to say about our tropical adviser. I can personally endorse what the Minister has said. Several settlers on the Gascoyne who previously knew nothing whatever about the growing of tropical fruits, by carefully following the advice given to them by Mr. Wise have not only established their groves, but are now making good profits and a comfortable living. We are very lucky in having a man of Mr. Wise's experience, and I am sure there is valuable work in front of him when the real development of the Kimberleys begins. To develop the cattle industry we must have improved stock and improved foddere. It is in relation to improved foddere that the knowledge and skill of the tropical adviser will prove invaluable. I have seen some reports sent by this officer, not only to the State Government, but also to the Commonwealth Government, and those reports prove that he is indeed a very capable man. There is the complaint about the poor price for potatoes, voiced by the Minister and by the member for Murray-Wellington. I would remind them of the figures I quoted here a few weeks ago, showing that Malaya is importing 10,000 tons of potatoes and 20,000 tons of onions per annum and that less than two per cent. of their vegetables are from Australia. We have the State steamers running to Malaya, so why cannot the local producers send a representative up there and see if we cannot capture that market?

Vote put and passed.

Vote. College of Agriculture, £7,057—agreed to.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 11.5 p.m.

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Return: Motor license fees	1731
Bill: Financial Emergency Tax Assessment, Com.	1732

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

RETURN—MOTOR LICENSE FEES.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I move—

That a return be laid on the Table showing the—1, Total number of private cars licensed in the metropolitan area? 2, Total amount of license fees collected on same? 3, Number of motor trucks licensed in metropolitan area? 4, Fees paid on 1-ton, 30-cwt., 2-ton trucks in metropolitan area? 5, Extra amount collected on such class of truck for carrier's licenses? 6, Total amount of fees collected for trucks in metropolitan area? 7, Total number of private cars licensed in country or outside metropolitan area? 8, Total amount of license fees collected on same? 9, Total number of motor trucks licensed outside metropolitan area? 10, Fees paid on 1-ton, 30-cwt., 2-ton trucks? 11, Total fees collected on trucks outside metropolitan area? 12, Extra fees imposed on 1-ton, 30-cwt., 2-ton truck owners plying for hire which necessitates their using main roads? 13, Total amount collected from such owners? 14, Total amount collected from drivers' licenses as issued by the police? 15, Total amount collected for bus and taxi licenses?

Hon. H. SEDDON: I understood from the Chief Secretary yesterday that the information required by the hon. member would cost a considerable amount to prepare. In view of that I think the hon. member should give reasons in support of his motion.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It struck me yesterday when the hon. member gave notice of his proposed motion that it was very much involved and that less than due consideration had been given to the framing of it. I agree with Mr. Seddon that since the collection of this information will involve inquiries all over the State it must cost considerable money and time. Mr. Thomson has not intimated whether this information is to supply a public need or merely his own need.

Hon. A. THOMSON: On the understanding that this motion was to be treated formally I did not consider it necessary to