

struction, but the landholder is liable for the eradication of rabbits. Under the Act the power is reserved to the Chief Inspector to certify regarding fences. Under this amendment all a vermin board would have to do would be to declare a fence not rabbit proof, when the land would immediately become chargeable with the rate. I do not know whether there is any appeal in such a case. The matter is a very serious one.

Hon. J. EWING: That is why I asked the question.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Would the decision of the board be final, or would there be a right of appeal?

The HONORARY MINISTER: The amendment is clear enough. The owner may at his discretion approach either the board or the Chief Inspector for a certificate. He can approach the Chief Inspector after he has approached the board.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have compared the amendment with the section in the Act, and I can see that the point raised by Mr. Holmes is of considerable importance. However, I should like to hear some further debate on the subject.

Hon. H. STEWART: I also have compared the amendment with the original section. I cannot see that there is any difficulty. It simply makes provision that either the board or the chief inspector may say whether a certain fence, not in accordance with the schedule is still, to all intents and purposes, a vermin-proof fence. The board is not likely to give an opinion prejudicial to the owner. It is simply an enabling provision affording opportunity for avoiding inconvenience and expense.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I do not object to the local authority having power to inspect a fence and report upon it, but I do object to the possibility of the local authority, anxious to obtain rates, certifying that the fence is not rabbit-proof, and as a result rendering the owner liable. I think the responsibility should be on the chief inspector. It is a dangerous weapon to put in the hands of the local authority. If the Minister presses his amendment I will vote against it.

The HONORARY MINISTER: It is optional with the owner whether the board or the chief inspector inspects the fence. I do not think there will be any difficulty about it.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I know what is going on in connection with the fences. If the board condemns his fence, has the owner still the right of appeal to the chief inspector?

The HONORARY MINISTER: I see there might be a difficulty there. If the owner appeals to the board, I do not see how he can appeal to the chief inspector.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: Probably the board will not wait to be appealed to, but will condemn the fence in order to extract rates from the owner. He should have the right of appeal to the chief inspector.

Hon. H. STEWART: If the board did condemn the fence and the owner had not asked for an opinion under the clause, he would be entitled to appeal to the chief inspector. Even if he had asked the board, this clause does not specifically prevent him from then applying to the chief inspector.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: Mr. Holmes wants it both ways. He wants to be able to appeal to the board and then appeal to the chief inspector.

Hon. J. J. HOLMES: I am merely aiming at protecting the land owner who does not know the law and who starts out by dealing with the local authority. Will he then have any right of appeal to the chief inspector?

The HONORARY MINISTER: There is no direction here. The direction simply is that either the chief inspector or the board may be appealed to. I do not want to mislead hon. members. As there seems to be some doubt about the point, I will agree to report progress.

[The President resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.42 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 13th November, 1919.

	Page
Questions: State hotel, Dwellingup additions ...	1430
Murray River bridge, reconstruction ...	1431
Woolgl lands, financial adjustments ...	1431
Butter, Standard quality ...	1431
War Service homes, designs ...	1431
Stevedores' strike ...	1431
Butter production and imports ...	1431
Annual Estimates: Votes and items discussed ...	1431
Bills: Traffic, returned ...	1459
Mining Act Amendment, returned ...	1459

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

QUESTION—STATE HOTEL, DWELLINGUP, ADDITION.

Hon. W. C. ANGWYN (for Mr. O'Loughlin) asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is he aware that owing to the recent fire at Dwellingup State Hotel the manager and staff have to put up with impossible conditions? 2, Will the proposed additions be carried out by contract or day work, and when? 3, Will he see that greater speed is exercised in carrying out this work?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, I am aware of the conditions at present existing at Dwellingup. 2, By contract, as soon as possible. 3, The work is being expedited.

QUESTION—MURRAY RIVER BRIDGE, RECONSTRUCTION.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (for Mr. O'Loughlin) asked the Minister for Works: In view of the restarting of Nanga Brook Mills, will he reconstruct Dum's bridge over the Murray River?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: Inquiry has been made from Messrs. Millars' Co., and I am informed there is no probability of restarting these mills at the present time.

QUESTION—WODGIL LANDS, FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENTS.

Mr. HARRISON (for Mr. Griffiths) asked the Premier: Has anything been done to finalise the question of the adjustment of agricultural bank mortgages and industries assistance board allowances on wodgil lands?

The PREMIER replied: The Department are prepared to deal with each case on its merits.

QUESTION—BUTTER, STANDARD QUALITY.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: Will he state what steps are being taken by the Department of Agriculture towards standardising the quality of butter manufactured in this State?

The PREMIER replied: The matter will receive consideration.

QUESTION—WAR SERVICE HOMES DESIGNS.

Mr. MALEY (for Mr. Thomson) asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that the Federal authorities are having all plans for the war service homes in this State prepared by the firm of J. and H. C. Kirkpatrick, of Sydney? 2, In view of the fact that architects of this State have served at the Front at great personal sacrifice, and also possess greater knowledge of local conditions, will he make representations to the Federal Government that the work should be performed in this State entirely under the control of local professional men?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Yes.

QUESTION—STEVEDORES' STRIKE.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (for Mr. Jones) asked the Premier: 1, Are the Government aware that some Fremantle stevedores are on strike against paying the retrospective in-

crease of pay ordered by the Federal Arbitration Court? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to call for national volunteers to take over the work of these disloyal strikers?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—BUTTER, PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS.

Mr. PICKERING (without notice) asked the Premier: In view of the impasse in the butter business of the State so far as the sale of the Western Australian product is concerned, and in view of the apparent combination of importers of Eastern States butter to block the sale of Western Australian butter, thus giving rise to the occasion for cold storage of the local product, which already amounts to between 700 and 800 cases in addition to a like quantity held by local factories, and increasing the price of the local product, will the Premier state what steps the Government are taking to combat this unfavourable position?

The PREMIER replied: The question of the sale of locally manufactured butter has been brought under the notice of the Government and we are moving in the matter. Such steps as are necessary to bring about the sale of our butter in this State will be taken.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1919-20.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Stubbs in the Chair.

Department of Attorney General (Hon. T. P. Draper, Minister).

Vote—Attorney General, £67,577:

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [4.38]: The Attorney General's Department is not one upon which lies the duty to produce revenue. Still, for the purpose of considering the Estimates and comparing them with previous years, I may be allowed to point out that the revenue we expect this year is in excess of the revenue we obtained last year. A certain amount of extra expenditure is estimated for the present year and it can be taken as an axiom generally that, where we have increased revenue, we also expect some additional expenditure. Members will notice at the foot of page 75, a note that the estimated revenue is £91,000. That sum is in excess of the revenue we received last year and the grounds upon which the increase has been estimated have so far been shown to be justified and we may expect with confidence to realise that sum. I do not propose to say more upon this.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Your probate duties are likely to be fairly high this year.

Mr. Maley: Very high indeed.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: We have not anticipated this in our Estimates. Turning to the Estimates of expenditure the vote passed last year for expenditure for all sub-departments was £60,374 and the actual expenditure for the year was £59,069. The estimate for the present year is £67,577. This represents an increase of £3,508, and is made up really under two heads—one an estimate of £4,632 for salaries and the balance £3,876 for contingencies. The £4,632 seems rather a large amount for increases in salaries but it consists very largely of the following:—increments approved by the Government without any vote being passed and paid by the Treasury from the 1st January to the 30th June, £264; increments approved by the Government amounting to £348 representing the exact amount of grade increases approved for the staff; automatic increases £384, and £134 for increments on promotion. The increments of £134 are made up by an increase of £102 to the Crown Solicitor and £32 to the Registrar of Titles on the re-assessment of his position. Then there is a sum of £384 additional on the appointment of juniors. Members will be aware that as each junior qualifies by passing the examination and obtaining a junior appointment, he is transferred from the temporary to the permanent staff. Then there are items amounting to £510 for new appointments. These include an appointment of £204 in the Solicitor General's office which was previously paid out of the temporary vote. There was a special reason why this officer could not be placed on the permanent staff, but he has now gone and an officer has been placed on the permanent staff, thus effecting an increase to the permanent and a decrease to the temporary staff. Again there is a sum of £217 for the chief clerk in the Curator's office. This position has not been filled during the absence of officers at the war. It will now be filled. The balance of £89 is made up by a new appointment of clerk of courts at Merredin, £40, and other expenditure of £49. Then we have a heading which may be classed as vacant offices, representing £1,076. This is really not an increase in the Estimates at all, but is due to non-expenditure of money provided last year: so that for every pound which was saved off the Estimates during the currency of last year, there will be an apparent increase of the like amount in the present year's Estimates. Then there is a small item of £8 for messengers, representing adjustments of messengers' salaries; and there is £106, being the estimated expenditure for leave to members of the A.L.F. The Government approved of all officers at the Front receiving during their absence annual leave in the same way as if they were at work, and the £106 is involved in this respect for the current year. Again, this year we have to show on the Estimates £638 which previously used to be refunded by other departments and was charged in their Estimates. As a recent matter of administration—I think, before the

present Government took office—it was decided that the system of inter-departmental debits and credits should be abolished. The result is that instead of receiving £638 from other departments for this expenditure, we shall have to pay it ourselves, though all the work is not done for the Attorney General's department. Next there is a sum of £1,328 which becomes payable this year by way of leave on the retirement of officers; and, in addition to that, there is a sum of £5,627 which is shown on this year's Estimates in respect of the return of soldiers who were officers of the Attorney General's department. That gives a total increase of £10,807, but against that amount there are decreases. For instance, as against the item of £5,627 for returned officers, there is a decrease in the temporary staff to the extent of £3,112. Then there is a decrease as regards messengers, and a decrease as regards A.I.F. leave, and also a decrease as regards the amount previously refunded. Further, there is a decrease as regards the amount of £2,739 for retired officers, against which can be set the leave on retirement and other matters. The total of the decreases is £6,175, which leaves, therefore, a net increase on salaries and other matters of £4,632. When the proper deductions are made, the annual increase in salaries amounts to only £2,336. That deals with one heading of the increased expenditure. The second heading is an item of £3,876 for contingencies. This is due principally to elections. On this year's Estimates we have provided £4,050 for elections. Last year I think only £200 was spent. This year, of course, we have the elections for the Legislative Council. I desire to give hon. members some information on items concerning which they may feel disposed to ask questions. On referring to items 11, 18, and 24, they will see that there is apparently a large increase in the number of clerks this year as against the number last year. For instance, item 11 shows 12 clerks last year and 23 this year; item 18 shows 28 clerks last year and 36 this year; item 24 shows 32 last year and 43 this year. There is really, however, no actual increase in the number of officers. Owing to the number of men returning, and from other causes, there are broken periods. Whereas in normal times a clerk may fill a certain post for 12 months, we may have had one man holding the position for three months and another holding it for nine months. There is really no increase in that respect. I thought that hon. members on reaching those items would at once ask the reason for the apparently enormous increases in the number of clerks; and I have endeavoured to anticipate such questions.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Williams-Narrogin) [4.54]: I would like to ask the Attorney General whether he has given any consideration to the question of affording our resident magistrates better tenure of office than they have at the present time. From the practice of his profession the Attorney

General will be aware of the changes which have been made in the magistracy, such as the retirement of Mr. Roe, a retirement that to many people seemed at the time quite unnecessary.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Mr. Roe was over 65 years of age.

Mr. JOHNSTON: That is so, but we have in the service any number of officials who are nearly 70 years of age.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But that is the law.

Mr. JOHNSTON: I mention Mr. Roe's case only by way of illustration. The Attorney General is no doubt aware that, under the Federal law, the powers given to county court judges in the Eastern States are vested in our resident magistrates. As we know, we are living in times of great disturbances in the community. Every day our magistrates are called upon to adjudicate on delicate matters. We as British people have the utmost confidence in the judiciary, including the magistrates. Our magistrates are called upon to deal with subjects that vitally affect the feeling of the entire population. Only to-day we are faced with the problem of the disturbances at Kalgoorlie, in which the whole of the goldfields and the community generally are closely interested. A few months ago there were the severe disturbances on the Fremantle wharf, and prior to those episodes we had the conscription troubles. We have had magistrates sitting as Royal Commissioners in matters arising out of disturbances over the conscription issue, and also to allot compensation as the result of a phase of the Fremantle struggle. On top of that there have been cases of considerable importance respecting street processions—the Labour and the St. Patrick's day processions—with regard to which feeling ran so high that one magistrate asked to be permitted not to take the case relative to St. Patrick's day procession, but that another magistrate might hear it. I venture to say that no magistrate would make such a request if he had a proper tenure of office.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: A magistrate has, under the Public Service Act, security of tenure until he reaches the age of 65 years, unless the office is abolished. What more do you want?

Mr. JOHNSTON: We want for our magistrates the same tenure of office as county court judges have in the Eastern States. I observe, too, that in the matter of increases of salaries our magistrates, as compared with departmental officers, seem to have been altogether overlooked. The Commissioner of Police is on the Estimates for an increase of £78 a year, while 14 magistrates between them are to receive increases amounting to a grand total of only £55. It seems to me that the magistracy is starved as compared with those at the top of the tree in other Government departments, some of whom are receiving very large increases. I may draw attention to the fact

that all the magistrates recently appointed are professional men—I think they are trained lawyers without exception. The Attorney General might well give to the magistrates the same security of tenure in their positions as is given to county court judges in other States. I repeat, under the Federal law our magistrates are entrusted with the same duties as are entrusted to county court judges in States where these exist, and the magistrates' salaries should be increased accordingly.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [4.59]: I really do not know what more the last speaker requires. Does he desire that magistrates should have security of tenure beyond the day of their death? A magistrate has a permanency up to the age of 65 years. I am getting on to that age, and I should like the same permanency in my job.

Mr. Duff: You are there for good, right enough.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I suppose the member for Williams-Narrogin is looking towards some particular friend who, at some time or other, summed up in the direction required, and who is coming near the age of retirement, and would like to have special pension rights on the same scale as a Supreme Court judge. The magistrates surely have permanency enough under the Public Service Act. In fact, members of this Chamber have raised objection to the security of tenure given by the Public Service Act to a number of officers in the State service. Under our present system almost any person can issue summonses for debt. I think this should be confined, wherever possible, to the officers of the court. In many of our towns to-day debt collectors—not in any way attached to the court carry on business privately. I have known a case of a debtor being induced to enter into an arrangement to pay up back debts by weekly instalments; and because the debtor, through having to pay for the children's school books, fell 1s. behind, he was immediately summoned for the full amount. I advised the debtor to appear in court, not because he wanted to dispute the claim, but in order to point out the unfair treatment to which he had been subjected in having to pay the court charges merely because he had been 1s. short in the weekly payment. For every summons issued, the debt collector claims 3s. for delivery, thus increasing his commission. Then, too, immediately judgment is given he can hold a rod over the debtor by threatening that if the payments are not promptly made he will sell under distress. I think this sort of thing should be left to the officers of the court. I have interviewed a resident magistrate in regard to it, but he could do nothing. And so, although there was sickness in the family, the costs had to be paid. The system should be abolished. At one time the police used to do the work, and the fees went

into the police benefit fund. In other districts where the work was carried out by bailiffs attached to the court, the fees were paid to them. To-day the debt collector does the work and, I honestly believe, issues summonses for no better reason than that he will be able to claim 3s. for delivery. Another point to which I wish to draw attention is the relatively heavy cost for the clerk of courts at Moora. I referred to this 12 months ago. I have been informed that the police could carry out the duties there, as they do in other towns. Certainly it cannot be claimed that Moora is a large town. Yet at Moora an agent unattached to the Public Service holds the position of clerk of courts, and is paid four times as much as is generally paid to police officials for carrying out the work.

Mr. Johnston: He is not paid half as much as is paid to ordinary local court clerks.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: More money is paid there for the work than at Northam, and I am assured that the police could do the work equally well.

Mr. Duff: At Merredin the police do it, and Merredin is just as big as Moora.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Largely through the death of one of our old residents, the Minister will receive his estimated revenue this year. In that respect the Government have had a windfall. It is the only reason I can see for increasing the estimate by £11,000. There are increases in every sub-department, but no doubt the Minister expects a considerable increase in the volume of business.

This concluded the general debate on the Estimates of the Attorney General's Department. Items were discussed as follow:—

Item, Crown Solicitor and Assistant Parliamentary Draftsman, £756:

Mr. CHESSON: This represents an increase of £102. Will the Attorney General please explain?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The position has been reclassified. On the vacancy occurring in the Mastership, it was suggested that the Crown Solicitor be appointed Master of the Supreme Court, and that a Crown Prosecutor should be appointed. It occurred before I went to the department. However, on looking into the question I could see no justification for the appointment of a Crown Prosecutor. The position of Crown Solicitor is one of growing importance, and the Public Service Commissioner reclassified the office, with the result that we were able to give the Crown Solicitor the increase which is shown. The new office is well worth the increase, and Dr. Stow is filling that office with credit to himself and advantage to the State.

Item, Clerks, £3,571:

Mr. DAVIES: I should like some explanation of the abnormal increase in the number of clerks.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I have already given that information. Really, there is no such increase as is indicated here. The

apparent increase has been brought about by changes made in the department.

Item, Clerks of courts, £9,447:

Mr. JOHNSTON: The member for North-East Fremantle had something to say about the clerk of courts at Moora. I have had considerable business up there recently, and I can testify not only to the ability of the clerk of courts stationed there, but also to the volume of work he has to do.

Item, Ushers, £631:

Mr. CHESSON: Here is a decrease. I should like to hear the Attorney General's justification for decreasing the salary of these men.

Mr. Wilson: They are the bottom dogs.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: One of the ushers was recently retired, and this change has occasioned the decrease. On a point of explanation, I should like to refer to the position in respect of the clerk of courts at Moora. The difficulty arose in this respect: We have had great difficulty by reason of the development in the district in getting the assistance of the police there. If we could employ an officer of the Police Department on this work we would get it done for very much less. We have been in communication with the Commissioner of Police but have been unable to obtain assistance in that direction. We cannot appoint an ordinary civil servant to take on the position of clerk of the local court at this place. If we did so we would have to pay a larger salary than appears on the Estimates. We have had to make private arrangements with a man named Pearson, but he would not do the work for less than the sum put down. If we could get the work done by the police we should be able to save this amount, which is more than is justified in the circumstances, but we are unable to get the work done for anything less. If there is any chance of cutting this item down I will take the opportunity of doing so.

Mr. Foley: There are clerks of courts on the Goldfields who have never had a chance of getting into these areas, but who would be very glad of the opportunity of doing so. They have been in the back blocks all their lives.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: If a man was appointed clerk of courts in the ordinary way under the Public Service Act he would have to be paid a minimum salary of £215.

Mr. CHESSON: The item "Ushers" is misleading. One usher has retired, which only leaves three, and yet four ushers are shown here. I should like some explanation on this.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: There is a decrease on this item of £16. The senior usher Mr. Bonner, left last year. He was also entitled to a certain amount of leave. During that leave Mr. Ord was put on to take his place and for that period he received £39. Mr. Ord now receives £157. The decrease is accounted for owing to Mr. Bonner's leave, and to the necessity for putting someone else on during that time. The salaries paid at present are, senior usher £100 and for the three ushers £157.

Item, Curator of Intestate Estates, £300:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There is a fairly big increase set down here for the running of the

office with clerks. Perhaps that is the office which Mr. Duncan is administering? I will make inquiries about this later.

Item, Clerks £1,042 :

Mr. CHESSON : I find that this works out at £148 7s. for each clerk. This is only a pittance to pay these men. I must protest against such a miserable salary being given to men who hold such responsible positions. They should be entitled to at least a living wage.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : Several of them may be girls.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : There has been no increase in the staff. One officer left during the year and two juniors were put on.

Item—Court houses, £25 :

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : I wish to make some remarks regarding the distribution of summonses. I have had several experiences brought under my notice in connection with country districts. People are summoned for failure to comply with the income tax regulations or through not having had their names placed on the roll. Although there is a policeman on the spot in the case that I have in mind, who could deliver the summons without great cost, a policeman is sent on horseback from Pinjarra, a distance of 18 miles, and 18s. is added to the expense of the summons. It is an unnecessary tax on the people who are unfortunate enough to come within the purview of the law. The local constable in any district should be empowered to serve a summons rather than that horseflesh should be utilised to carry a summons a distance of 18 miles. This amounts to an extraction of revenue to serve no particular purpose.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : The service fee for a summons is regulated by schedule. The police sometimes are available and sometimes they are not. In this case I understand a policeman was available and was entitled to charge that fee. It may be a matter which requires consideration.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : I suggest that a summons which is issued at Pinjarra should be sent on to the constable at Dwellingup for him to serve. There are dozens of cases of this kind.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : That might be done.

Item, Law reporting, £200 :

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : Does this cover the reporting of Royal Commissions?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : It is not the particular item concerning Royal Commissions.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : Any Royal Commission that is appointed has to be provided for on the Estimates. My grievance is that the Government have appointed the Nationalist Royal Commission and provided counsel to act in connection therewith. A request was made by the Nationalist Royal Commissioner that counsel addresses should be reported. This necessitated the employment of reporters as well as four typists. Apart from the £250 which is provided by the Government for the reporting of Royal Commissions Mr. Lazarus has requested that counsel's addresses should also be published. In order to report them it has been necessary to utilise the services of efficient men and four typists. There is no greater scandal in the country than this Commission. The cost is enough and the proceedings are farcical enough.

This is the first time that I have known of a Royal Commission being unable to keep within the bounds allowed by Parliament for reporting. To do this particular work there have had to be employed skilled journalists to take the addresses down, and four typists to type them off. This is a matter which is cause for comment. If the Attorney General desires to effect economies in connection with law reports and matters arising out of Royal Commissions, or the engaging of counsel, this is not the way in which to do it. I do not know if the Government intended that these addresses should be taken down and typed in this way.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : Was the address of one counsel only taken and not that of the opposition counsel?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : I do not know. I am sure, however, that the request did not come from the Government nominee.

Hon. W. C. Angwin : The sooner it is closed down the better.

The Premier : Is that a threat?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : The Government have set down a sum of £250 for reporting Royal Commissions.

The Attorney General : This item is not in connection with reporting Royal Commissions.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : No?

The Attorney General : You do not blame us for having had the Royal Commission reported.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : No, it would have been a calamity if during the first few days at all events it had not been reported, but the reporting of these addresses was wrong. Mr. Lazarus has gone out of his way to do something which no other Commissioner has, to my knowledge, ever done, and the Attorney General might afford some explanation. Royal Commissions are going to run amok and cast a lot of discredit on the Government which stand behind them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN : In connection with the reporting of the Royal Commission referred to by the member for Forrest, I would point out the trouble there was in the orders of the House being carried out owing to the difficulty of obtaining reporters. The "Hansard" staff are supposed to do the work. They have been employed for nearly 24 hours a day during the past six or seven weeks. Owing to the fact that this Royal Commission has taken up their whole time select committees of the House have been unable to carry out their work in the manner that is desired. This Commission has gone on long enough. If the address of the solicitor representing Messrs. Haynes, Robinson, & Cox (Mr. Jackson) is to be published then that of Mr. Downing, who represents the Crown, should also be published.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL : This item has nothing to do with the reporting of Royal Commissions. The money is being expended economically. The Royal Commissioner has control over all the proceedings which take place under him. So far as I am aware there is no reason why either of the addresses of counsel should be published. I can perhaps understand that the Royal Commissioner as a layman desired that counsel's arguments should be typed so that he might subsequently weigh them.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN : He wanted to surround the whole circus with an atmosphere of importance.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The hon. member is not in the position of the Royal Commissioner.

Mr. O'Loughlen: One O.B.E. sticking up for another.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: As regards the printing of these reports I will make inquiries.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Education Department, Hon. H. P. Colebatch, Minister: (Hon. J. Scaddan, Minister for Mines, in charge of the Votes.)

Vote—Salaries, £336,881:

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Scaddan—Albany) [5:5]: Hon. members know that the Education Department as well as the Medical and Health Departments are controlled by Mr. Colebatch who sits in the Legislative Council, and therefore the main discussion in regard to these departments will emanate from that hon. gentleman in another place.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They never discuss the Estimates there at all.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Minister always makes some remarks in regard to his own department when the Estimates are there.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I was there once and I saw the whole lot go through in three minutes.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: These days are past. In any case my task is that merely of introducing the Estimates of expenditure of the Education Department without having much to say with regard to the administration of the department during the past 12 months. It will be seen that the total estimated expenditure for the year is £389,485, which is £23,431 more than the actual expenditure of last year. While we have at various times given a good deal of attention to the expenditure of the Education Department and particularly to the annual increase of the expenditure of the department, it is fair to claim that such an increase is natural in a community such as that of Western Australia. The increase is due in some cases to the number of scholars being taught at the various schools, primary, secondary, and technical schools and continuation classes. Another reason for the increased cost is that all requirements have advanced in price. Again, the additional number of scholars require the employment of many more teachers, and quite justly able too, increases in salaries have been allotted to teachers. One of our proud boasts as a democracy is that our system of education is free and compulsory and most liberal. I would like to make reference to an incident that occurred on my way back from England in 1913. I was passing through Canada and by request I addressed a meeting of what was known as the Canadian Club, which was made up principally of business men and also representatives of different callings in the city of Winnipeg. At that particular time there was a good deal of heart-burning on the question as to whether Canada should, as proposed by the late Sir Wilfred Laurier, make a contribution to the Imperial Government or should establish its own navy, and almost as soon as I put my foot into Canada I was asked, as a Premier representing an Australian State, to express an opinion as to the desirability of Canada

doing one or the other of these things. The answer I gave at the moment was that I happened to be a globe trotter and I knew nothing of Canada, and that unless I knew something of Canadian conditions the problem was one about which I would not be able to offer any advice. I said that I was not like the globe trotter who went to a place and having been there for half an hour proceeded immediately to write a book about it. But I told them that if they desired me to give them any information about Australia in general and Western Australia in particular, I would be very willing to impart that information. Next day a luncheon was held. I had become a little bit notorious at the time for many reasons, some of which I need not explain here. At any rate, at that luncheon dealing with matters affecting Australia, I referred to our educational system and I noticed that every time I made a reference to what we were doing in Western Australia in order to give every child an opportunity of obtaining the best possible education, there was a great deal of applause, even to the extent of crockery flying off the table. The Lieutenant Governor, the Minister for Education and four other Ministers representing the province of Manitoba were present. I told them that education was compulsory to the age of 14, that we had continuation classes, which were free and that we had free secondary and technical schools and that we were then on the point of establishing a free university. My remarks were accepted with outward expression of unanimous approval and seeing that that was the case, I went into some detail about what we did for the children. I referred to the assistance given by the railway department in picking up children going to distant schools and other facilities in the way of providing sustenance even for the children. When I left the room the Lieutenant Governor said to me, "You are a bit hard on my Ministers," and I replied that I had not the slightest intention of being hard. He then explained to me that three of the Ministers were on an electioneering tour and that the main plank of the platform of the Government had been the introduction of free and compulsory education in the State of Manitoba, and he added that just before I had appeared on the scene the Premier had gone south and announced that for financial and other reasons the Government would not be able to carry out that plank, and, he added, "Now you tell us that in a small community like Western Australia with only 300,000 people you do all these things." It is a proud boast, and though our expenditure is high we have to place side by side with that expenditure the results which are achieved, and I declare that there is no place in the world where the education system can compare favourably with ours.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: By way of expense?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, actual results. Here it is possible for a child to enter a kindergarten school and proceed right through to the university.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some children.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Our system of education is more liberal than that of any other part of the world. If we are to continue that, we have to realise that with increasing population and particularly an increase in the number of children, primary schools and continuation

classes must also be increased, and with those increases our expenditure must also rise. All that I ask is whether it is desirable that we should curtail the expenditure in this direction and prevent those who desire—and who after all are entitled to it—to get the best education it is possible to give them, from receiving that education.

Hon. J. Gardiner: Are you certain you are giving them the best?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not in a position to say that. I am not in control of the department. I have considered this matter just as the member for Irwin considered it when he was Colonial Treasurer, and when he was trying to reduce the cost of the department without impairing its efficiency. The question whether there is efficiency in the department, considering the expenditure which is involved, is one that we must rely upon the Minister for Education to answer. I discussed with the member for Kanowna times out of number the question whether we should effect economies in the Education Department.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You had to pull him occasionally too.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: On one or two occasions we differed on the methods which were being employed. The most the Treasurer can do is to say that he will allow a certain amount of money and ask that the best results be shown from the expenditure of that money.

Hon. J. Gardiner: The people want to know whether you are giving the best.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In my humble opinion we are getting excellent results, but I am not satisfied that the expenditure is sufficient to enable the students to finish off in Western Australia. The member for Kanowna and I differed on that point. After all, our system is not for the purpose of enabling those who attend our schools to say things nicely. The object of the primary schools should be to turn out children as good citizens with a good education and ability to earn a decent livelihood. The point which should be borne in mind is the importance of the future life of the child. I am afraid we pay rather too much attention to the tender years instead of to the years when the child is on the point of going out to earn a livelihood. The member for Kanowna (Mr. Walker) knows well that I have strongly objected to the primary schools accepting children under the age of six years. I have no hesitation in saying that, in times of stress, it would be infinitely preferable to keep 100 children away from school until they attained the age of eight than to turn one child out of school before it reached the age of 14. That, however, is a matter of opinion. While certain things are necessary and almost essential in normal times, there may still be opportunities to reduce expenditure, but I believe the expenditure on education is cut to the very bone, and I would prefer to increase the expenditure by another £23,000, if we could keep the children at school for another couple of years after they attained the compulsory age of 14. It is almost useless to keep a child at school from six to 14 years of age and then turn it out under conditions which have prevailed in this State, probably for a couple of years to kick about the street corners or attend picture shows and prac-

tically lose all it has been taught. There has been a waste of effort and of money in this respect. I would prefer to keep a child at school for another couple of years but, if we adopted this principle, we must increase our expenditure and it becomes a matter of opinion whether that would be justified. I could give instances of children who have not attended school until they attained the age of eight, while others have started as little toddlers not four years of age, and yet after a couple of years the child who started later in life was far ahead of the other. There is a possibility of a child tiring at school. Not until a child attains the age of 10 does it appreciate the object of attending school. It does not appreciate that it is sent to school for its own good, and for its future benefit so that it will become a valued citizen of the State. The younger child regards school as a routine duty and there is no proper appreciation of the object. If there is any suggestion of economy, let us cut the expenditure off the end of the system where it will not affect the child so much, and put it on to the end so that the child will be able to have that finishing off which is so essential. The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) knows it would be useless for a man to walk through a chemist's shop for 10 or 12 years; unless he finalised his education as a chemist, he could not be accepted as such. The member for Kanowna knows how much the finishing off counts in a barrister's training. It enables him to practice at the bar where otherwise he would have to be content to remain a lawyer's clerk. There is room for an honest difference of opinion regarding the education system, but we cannot get results by saying it is the duty of the Minister to reduce his expenditure by £100,000 a year. The question of efficiency devolves upon the Minister in charge of the department.

Mr. Gardiner: The question is, are we getting our worth and are the children getting their worth?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I believe they are. I left school at the age of 13, just before attaining the compulsory age, and I received a certificate to say that I was sufficiently educated. That was the method employed at that time, and it is not so long ago, either. In tuition, a child to-day is easily two years ahead of what a child of the same age was in my time. If that is not evidence of results, what is? If the member for Irwin (Mr. Gardiner) would visit the schools, particularly those with children who are about the age of 14, and who are continuing their education, he would find undoubted evidence of results.

Mr. Gardiner: All the world is making an examination into the education system.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Quite so, and that will continue. It will be a sorry day when we are satisfied with our education system. It would be to our advantage if we had a man in the department to do nothing else but travel around the world and supply us with the latest information.

Mr. Pilkington: Do you suggest it would do a child good to attend school five hours a day from the age of six to eight?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) probably holds a different view of that question.

Mr. Pilkington: I agree it is worse than useless.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If we found that owing to stress we must reduce our expenditure on education, we could easily decide at which end of the system the reduction should be made. The department are already taking action in this direction by not permitting children under the age of six to attend school.

Mr. Hickmott: Some children have a capacity for learning and some have not. You cannot make a rigid rule.

Mr. Pilkington: But you must adopt some age.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. Under our State school system, the little children were taught to march in and out and sit on little chairs and finally take a mat on the floor and go to sleep until it was time to return home to their mothers. The schools were made nurseries. That sort of thing had nothing to do with education. It is the responsibility of the parents to see that the child learns to walk; yet we were practically teaching them that in our schools. All this has been cut out. It is a question how far we should go, but I maintain it would be better to cut out 100 children of the lower age than one at the finishing age, because that is the actual test of the results of our expenditure. When I was Treasurer, I urged economy but this always resolves itself into a question of efficiency which must be left to the Minister. I do not say there is not room for criticism. There is room for a good deal of difference of opinion, especially when we find a difference of opinion among the inspectors-general in the different States in Australia. Most of these inspectors-general have different methods, and there are some cracks on the Montessori system and some on the kindergarten system. I do not pay much attention to them. I think any loss in earlier years can be picked up in the later years of a child's education. During the war period, a time of stress for the State, it would have been better to have closed the schools against children under the age of 10 and allowed them in normal times to remain a year or two longer, even if we had had to pay towards their upkeep while finishing off their education.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is the only way you could do it.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We cannot achieve the best results if we have overcrowded schools, and unfortunately, we have overcrowded schools. The expenditure for new schools is great every year but we have temporised with this matter for the last four or five years. We have built schoolrooms in districts where we know permanent accommodation should have been provided. We had to do that because of the demands on the Treasury. It should be realised that the number of school children in the metropolitan area will probably double within the next few years and it is a question whether it would not be much better, even in times of stress, to provide permanent accommodation straight out. We cannot obtain the best results from overcrowded classes or from underpaid teachers. If we devoted attention to giving a living wage to our teachers, instead of extending privileges to public servants, it would be better for all concerned. The privileges to public servants cost us a tremendous amount

every year and it is questionable whether they are of much real advantage.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They cost £400,000 a year.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes, pretty well that amount, and we got no return for it. It would be better to turn that money into actual cash and make it available to our public servants, so that they could dress decently and live more comfortably. The privileges in themselves are really of very little value to individuals. In connection with expenditure, I should like to point out that while the rolls in England doubled, the expenditure increased 16 times. Yet in Western Australia, while the rolls doubled, the cost has only increased 2½ times.

Mr. Gardiner: Can you make a comparison with South Australia and Queensland?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No. It depends on how far the State undertakes the responsibility of educating the children.

Mr. Pilkington: All these comparisons must be misleading.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes. If we admit children of four years of age to our schools, our cost will be more than a State which admits them at the age of six. If we have continuation classes, and encourage children to remain at school after attaining the age of 14, and then send them on to technical schools, our costs must be higher than a State which does not undertake the advanced training.

Mr. Gardiner: During the war, every other State increased in technical schools and we decreased.

Mr. Pickering: That is so.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is unfortunate.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is the weak spot in our education system—the children lost between the primary and the continuation and technical schools.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Of course we cannot do everything at once. We have to consider whether we are getting the results for our expenditure. The expenditure in Western Australia is enormous in comparison with the population.

Mr. Pilkington: What test do you apply to find results?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The number of children remaining in our secondary and technical schools and going on to the University is a good guide.

Mr. Pilkington: A very rough basis.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is the nearest I can suggest. If our primary schools were not satisfactory, I am satisfied we should not have the same percentage of children going on to the continuation schools and secondary and technical schools and University. The percentage of such children in comparison with the number entering our schools is increasing. In our technical schools there is no age limit. The ages of the students range from 18 to 30 years, and the same applies to the University and the School of Mines. Quite likely a number of these students left the schools and went to the war. From my experience of other countries which I have visited, I am of opinion that our children on reaching their teens are as far advanced as children in any other part of the world. But the question remains whether by our system

we are not giving insufficient attention to their education at that age, and thus wasting expenditure. Merely to be able to read and write is not in itself of much value. The test comes when the child reaches the teens. The test is whether at that age he has acquired such a grounding as entitles us to continue his training through the technical schools and the university? Taking a number of young men, and also a number of young women who have to fill the positions vacated by young men in consequence of going to the war, I think it will be admitted that our system of education has increased their efficiency at the age of 16 to 18 years.

Mr. Pilkington: That is just the brighter child. The real test of a school is how the slow children, who are the vast majority, get on.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The value of our educational system does not consist merely in picking out a bright child and applying ourselves to making him a genius.

Mr. Pilkington: He is all right anyhow. We need not worry about him.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: We all know that in every community there are men who, though they have received no tuition, or perhaps because they have received no tuition, make their mark as inventors and otherwise. There are many cases of unlettered genius. Let us rather apply our attention to the slower child than to the bright child. The test of our educational system is, what proportion of our children, when they begin to realise the value of education, continue through the secondary schools and the University? I really think that in this respect Western Australia is further advanced than other communities. I think our percentages in this connection can compare with those of any other Australian State, or perhaps with those of any other country.

Mr. Lutey: The slow child may prove the best in the long run.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Quite so. By reason of our free and compulsory system of education, and of the general change during recent years in the methods of teaching our children, we have quite a number of children who are fitted to go through the secondary schools and the University. They are enabled to do so simply by our scholarships system, where as under the old conditions they would have passed out at the age of 14. Only last week I met a boy who had held a three-years scholarship at the University. Without that scholarship, the boy would not have had a possible chance of spending three years at the University. The question now is whether we can increase the number of scholarships at our University and our technical schools. Still, Western Australia is doing as much in that direction as any other State. I urge hon. members not to regard the Education vote purely from a pounds, shillings, and pence standpoint, but in the light of a free educational system which includes methods to enable a bright child to continue its education through the secondary schools and the University, instead of being compelled by unfortunate pecuniary circumstances to earn his livelihood as soon as he receives a certificate of competency. I myself was compelled to leave school immediately upon receiving that certificate, and that has been the case with the vast majority of children. As regards learning, the years between 12 and 20

represent the most productive period in a person's life. That fact is illustrated in the history of the war. When it came to selecting, by examination, officers in the A.I.F., almost without exception it was the young men between 18 and 20 years who succeeded. At that age the brains are quickest, though of course it is only after one has passed the age of 30 that one begins to realise the serious side of life. Another cause of the increased expenditure is the extension of settlement, additional schools being required for the children in newly developed districts. Indeed, I do not know that we are doing sufficient in that direction. I do not know, either, that the providing of schools to which the children have to journey distances of six or eight miles, is always desirable. Methods of tuition by correspondence have been introduced to meet this difficulty, and the advisableness of providing travelling vans is also under consideration.

Mr. Griffiths: The consolidated school idea is also worthy of attention.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Another difficulty in connection with country schools is the supply of suitable teachers. While it is not hard to get a teacher who can apply himself to the teaching of one particular standard, it is by no means a simple matter to secure a teacher who can apply himself to the teaching of children of all ages, from the child just entering school to the child just on the point of leaving school. Special training is required to that end, and the member for Kanowna is entitled to credit for introducing a system by which that special training is imparted to teachers intended for small country schools. I am not speaking entirely on behalf of the Minister for Education in connection with these Estimates. Let me point out that caution is necessary in suggesting economies in connection with the State's educational system. I have not the slightest objection, nor do I think the Minister for Education has, to an inquiry whether there are adequate results from this expenditure. But more to get a pen and scratch £100,000 off the vote is not economy. It is not economy to rob our children of the opportunity of getting the best possible chance in life, the same chance as is given to children in other parts of the world. We cannot afford, even in times of stress and trouble, to reduce our expenditure on education, which represents the future welfare of the State.

Mr. GRIFFITHS (York) [6.10]: There are a few matters which I desire to bring before the Chamber at this stage, when there is a better chance of their securing attention than at two or three o'clock in the morning. The phases I intend to touch upon are, firstly, what is familiar to us as "too old at forty," the urging in some quarters of more inspection, particularly of city schools, to which I am entirely opposed, the rents paid by the Education Department, rural schools, agricultural education, and the responsibility that rests upon the Federal authorities, who are demanding efficient and capable citizens from the States, to assume some share of the educational burden by grants supplementary to State expenditure on education, in the same way as obtains in other parts of the

world. On the first phase of the question, the "too old at forty" idea, I join issue with the Minister for Education as regards an administrative act. At the same time I bear testimony to the feeling of country members generally that in the present Minister the Education Department has a sympathetic administrator, and one who keeps abreast with educational progress and endeavours to do all in his power for the back country children. Having uttered that note of appreciation, I shall now turn to the other side of the subject. Owing to the regrettable death of Mr. Wheeler, inspector for the South-West, a vacancy occurred in the inspectorial staff of the department; and on the 30th June applications were called for the position. By interrogation in this House I learnt that an appointment was made on the 21st July. However, on the 1st August the filling of the vacancy was announced, and a letter was written which I believe is the cause of the discontent and ill-feeling existing among head teachers to-day. Had it not been for that unfortunate letter, the appointment of the inspector would, I believe have gone practically unquestioned.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MR. GRIFFITHS: Before tea I remarked that I was actuated only by a sense of fair play in regard to the action of the Minister. I joined issue with him on this point, but at the same time I intimated that I had nothing but appreciation for the administration of his department in outback localities. "Too old at forty" has become a familiar phrase. Newspaper articles have to some degree familiarised members with the circumstances out of which the phrase originated. Let me briefly recapitulate those circumstances. On the 13th June, owing to the death of the late Mr. Wheeler, inspector for the South-West, a vacancy occurred in the inspectorial staff and applications were called for. On the 21st July I learned that the appointment of an inspector had been made. On the 1st August it was publicly announced, and a circular letter was sent by the Director to the 10 unsuccessful applicants for the position. The letter was unfortunate in that it caused a dissension and created a good deal of discontent in the department. Had the letter not been published, the staff generally would have taken it that the best officer had been picked and that no age qualification had been imposed. The letter reads as follows:—

Sir,—In the selection of an inspector to fill the place of the late Mr. Wheeler, the department has decided to revert to the practice, from which only two departures have been made in the past, and not appoint a man who is over forty years of age. The district inspector has a life of almost constant travelling, with a considerable amount of discomfort and hardship in outback country. This does not matter so much to a young man, if there is a good

prospect of his gaining a more settled position after a time. There is, however, very little chance, so far as can be seen, of an inspector appointed now reaching such a position within 15 years. A man of 45 appointed now would probably reach the age of 60 while still in one of the large scattered districts. The group of men who are now between 40 and 50 have already had six inspectors selected from among them while they were between the ages of 30 and 40. The group of men who are now between 30 and 40 may now claim to be considered. In making this appointment the department wishes you to understand the reasons upon which the decision has been based, so that the senior men may feel assured that their competence is not in any way questioned. The Minister has had before him the assurance that the senior men on the list would make thoroughly competent inspectors, but has considered it wiser to select for the position a younger man.

Discontent and heart-burning was caused among the teachers by that letter. The discontent did not really arise among the men most affected. It is noteworthy that the first protests that went into the teachers' union was from those teachers in the second class, or those below the age of 40 years. When a first class teacher is appointed inspector, it means that a second class teacher is elevated to the ranks of the first-class, and so quite a number of men are affected in the appointment as made in the ordinary way. The letter aroused a storm of criticism, and I deemed it my duty to ask, on the 20th August, the following questions:—

1, When was the decision to limit the appointment to the recent inspectorship in the Education Department to men under 40 years of age made, and by whom? 2, Why was this dominating factor not announced in the advertisement calling for applications for the position? 3, How many applications for the position were received—(a) from men under 40 years of age; (b) from men over 40 years of age? 4, What were the names, date of appointment, ages on appointment, and positions held immediately before appointment by men appointed as inspectors in the Education Department during the past five years? The answers given by the Minister were as follows:—

1, The recommendation to appoint a man under 40 years was made by the Public Service Commissioner, with the concurrence of the Minister for Education and the Director of Education, on 21st July. 2, It has not been laid down as an absolute condition of appointment that a man shall be under 40, but as there was a thoroughly suitable candidate under that age it was considered that the selection of such a candidate was preferable. 3, (a) One; (b) ten. 4, No inspectors have been appointed during the past five years. The Minister in his letter has admitted that there was no bar in the qualifications of the

men. When we remember that 18 out of 21 first class schools are controlled by men over 40 years of age and that more than half the men running second class schools are over that age, and that of those men 10 of the type controlling schools like Kalgoorlie, East Perth, Maylands, Fremantle and Boulder applied, and that eight of them were masters of schools and two were on the staff of the training college, it is surprising to learn that the one man, under 40, who got the appointment was a teacher of a second class school.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: No, he was acting master of the Fremantle Boys' School, a first class school.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No, he was promoted from one of the schools on the goldfields.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He was not.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Minister for Education, in his answer to the unsuccessful applicants, was not altogether happy. He started with camouflage, proceeded with unfortunate comparisons, and wound up by giving no satisfactory reason why members of the teaching staff over 40 years of age should not be appointed to the position of inspector.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I agree with you there, but do not attempt to detract from the man who got the position.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am not doing so. I do not even know who he is. The Minister in his answer in the Press stated—

The statement that the department considers men too old at 40 to inspect schools is, of course, quite incorrect and illogical. It is based upon an extraordinary confusion between the minimum and maximum ages, or the age of appointment and the age of retirement. The department is not proposing to retire inspectors at 40, but proposes that they should start their inspectorial work before reaching that age. The Melbourne University has just been advertising for a professor who is to be not less than 25 nor more than 35. This, of course, does not mean that it considers a professor too old to teach at 35. The maximum age for appointment to the clerical branch of the Public Service is 35, but this does not mean that it is held that a clerk is too old for clerical work at 35. The department has not laid it down as an absolute condition of appointment that a man should be under 40; but it considers that when there are many candidates, all thoroughly well qualified, the selection of the one who is under 40 is preferable.

The Minister is in error from the start. There is not any confusion in the minds of the critics about the minimum and the maximum age, nor is any absurd belief entertained by them that the department is opposed to inspectors at 40 years of age. The Minister cites the practice of the University of Melbourne and apparently believes that because no professor beyond the age of 35 is appointed it is solid support for his proposal regarding inspectors. The positions are in no way similar. Each professor has a distinct department which is not inspected by any other professor. If the new professors, ap-

pointed at 35 years, were made inspectors and critics of the work of others, or if high positions in the university were closed against professors over 35 and made available to those under 35, the position might be worth quoting by the Minister. The Minister goes on to say—

It would be easy to follow the line of least resistance and continue to appoint older and older men because of their seniority. It is always a most unpleasant task and one which an officer would gladly avoid if possible, to make an appointment which disappoints many good men whose work is highly valued by the department. But those who have to advise on such a matter are not justified in taking the easy course to avoid trouble; they are bound to consider what they believe to be the right course in the interest of the schools, and of the administration of the department.

It is not likely that a man of advanced years will want to be transferred from a settled school appointment to an inspectorship which would involve him in much travelling. There are men of 40 to 50 who naturally, and very worthily too, have aspirations of inspectorial promotion. To be too old at 40 for an intellectual inspectorship is too obvious an absurdity. The wonder is that the Minister has been able to make up his mind to endorse such a position. One wonders how he would view it if the rule were applied to appointments to Cabinet.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member reading his speech?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No, I am reading some extracts. The method of advertising those vacancies is most irregular. Applications were only called for in the "Government Gazette," a journal which I am assured by teachers is rarely read, if ever, by the people. The Government do not advertise in either the teachers' journal or the public Press.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you not think the editor of their own paper would read the "Government Gazette?"

Mr. GRIFFITHS: It may be so. The fact remains that advertisements were not put in the Press or in the teachers' journal, and no conditions were really attached to the position. After applications closed the conditions were made to govern the appointment. These conditions when applied produced the farcical position that only the successful applicant was really eligible for the post. Had it been known beforehand that other teachers were eligible to apply for the position they would undoubtedly have done so. Many have expressed that opinion since. I consider that the system is wrong. The Premier has stated, I understand, that it will not occur again. It should not have occurred at all on this particular occasion. The appointment should be cancelled and fresh applications invited.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Then you would make one man suffer for the bad administra-

tion of the Director of Education and the Minister?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The position is wrong as it exists to-day. I have heard a good deal of argument on the part of certain people who take an interest in education, that there should be some more inspection of schools. So far as the inspection of city schools is concerned I consider it is ample; in fact, almost too much. The men who are controlling the schools in the big centres of population must be highly qualified men in order to get the positions. They are the men to the ranks of whom we look to get possible inspectors for the future, and they must be under 40 according to the new rule. I know that in the metropolitan district there is a certain rivalry existing between different school centres. That rivalry will cause these different men to keep well up to the mark if only to maintain a high standard in their schools. That is why I say that so far as the city, metropolitan, or urban schools are concerned, they do not require so much inspection as they now receive. Many of these inspectors, with their intelligence, their well trained intellects, and with the knowledge they have of departmental methods, are the men we want to see in the country districts. I give the department credit for the inclination I believe they possess to do something in this respect. Inspector Clubb has informed me that he intends to make periodical visits to many of the centres in my district and in other parts of the State, with a view to advising the teachers upon many points, and stimulating interest in agricultural education. That is a good idea. It is a further argument against the appointment of more city inspectors. I do not say that we want a lot more inspectors in the country. Perhaps in some parts there might be a little more inspection. The appointment to the position of inspector is generally given to a man of city experience. A certain amount of country experience should, however, be necessary before such an appointment is made. With regard to the question of rents in connection with the Education Department, I have heard that the offices are to be removed from the premises known as "Gladwyn" in St. George's-terrace. I have spoken before about what I consider is a waste of £550 a year which is paid for these quarters. There are something like one hundred rents in the return that I have here, but I believe many of these are necessary. It may be that the exigencies of the finances and the circumstances generally have made it impossible for the Public Works Department to erect buildings so that the department may have their own quarters. In the city we have the Fisheries Department, the Charities Department (which I am pleased to hear is about to be removed)——

The Minister for Works: It will soon be removed to new quarters.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: And we have also the A.M.P. buildings.

The Minister for Works: The Wheat Scheme is there, but the Agricultural Department and the Industries Assistance Board have been removed for two months.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There is a big set of offices still in occupation in that building.

The Minister for Works: It has nothing to do with me.

The CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the Education Vote, and I must ask the hon. member to confine himself to that.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: So far as these rents are concerned, there are some 59 of them paid for by the Education Department. Many of these may be necessary, as I have already pointed out. I hope that the "Gladwyn" establishment will be cut out.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How do you arrive at the figure 59?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There are schools and quarters all over the country.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You cannot help that.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The whole question of rents requires revision.

The Minister for Works: Many of them may not now be going on.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am glad to hear that some steps have been taken to reduce these rents, and I commend the Minister for his action, if that is what his interjection means.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In the country it is necessary to pay rents, otherwise the people will get no schools.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Something should be done in the matter of housing the public servants. At present we find them housed in all kinds of hovels and cottages that are rented from the owners, and this constitutes a reproach upon our business men and our methods of carrying on the affairs of State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: When we proposed an amalgamation of offices in central quarters Parliament voted against the proposal.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: One reason why our country areas are abandoned by young men who have been reared to rural work is that they have experienced only the drudgery side of the life, and have therefore turned to the city for relaxation and novelty. To many of those, farming, instead of being attractive and a profitable occupation, has been one of drudgery. Even before they leave school they are set tasks which are not attractive to them and offer no inducement to them to continue on the land. There has been nothing to stimulate their imagination, or to delight their senses or to reward them for their efforts. With a view to encouraging children to remain in a rural district to study agricultural subjects, and in order to supply an incentive to them to do so, what is known as the home produce system has been introduced in Maffra, Victoria. This is on a par with the clubs that have been introduced into the schools in the States

and in Canada. These schools are conducted on similar lines to the Maffra project. I believe the Maffra project is the outcome of a visit by Mr. Richardson, the head of the Education Department of Victoria, to the States and Canada not long ago. From the commercial point of view the scholars at these schools have a system of competition. Prizes are awarded for the best samples that the children produce. At another centre a pig club has also been started in connection with the schools. At this pig club a boy is not only taught how to feed and attend to the pigs, but he is also taught how to keep the accounts in connection therewith. One boy, in a paper that he wrote, showed that he had made a profit of £1 8s. 7d. in six weeks. Such a boy would be much better pleased with a project of this kind than if he had done this class of work on an ordinary farm under present conditions. He had made a profit, he had studied all the points, he had laid before him all the profitable sides of the venture, and had gained a considerable amount of knowledge of the work connected with pig raising. When I was speaking on this subject an hon. member was inclined to treat what I was saying as being so much piffle. It is far from being piffle, when one finds that hard-headed people like the Yankees and the Canadians see behind this boy and girl school club movement so many dollars. If they did not see success in view they would not take up the idea. The figures that have been produced are very astonishing. Nature study has been recognised in elementary schools as being absolutely necessary for the development of powers of observation. Agricultural education is another nature study, plus utility with a commercial significance and stimulation to industry. So far as the matter of these club schools is concerned, it is in the countries I refer to a matter of co-operation between the Agricultural Department and the Education Department. The work they do is not interfering with the school studies at all. It is a home project. The things that they take under their wing are all of an eminently practical nature. These children get a training which gives them a love, a liking and an interest in their immediate surroundings. At one time farmers had no faith at all in science. The people said that it was no good. But what has it done for us? The more up to date people are beginning to recognise that there is more in it than meets the eye, and the most up to date men are the first to realise that and take up with anything in that direction which will help to improve conditions generally. So far as agricultural education in America is concerned, there are over 100,000 schools where agriculture is taught. Sentiment demands it and in some States they really force it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Don't forget they have a population of over 100 millions.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I know. It is not that we want to blindly copy everything that is done elsewhere, but if we can see that good can be got by following in the footsteps of those countries, we should not hesitate to do

so, especially if we can embark on rural education without materially adding to the cost. It is recognised that it would be unwise to make agricultural education compulsory unless we have the teachers. But of course there are agricultural colleges right throughout America. We have started in Australia to try to teach agriculture, and many already recognise the benefits that are to be derived from the lessons to be learned. In the early days those who set out to teach it, however, did not have the proper qualifications, but they placed whatever resources they had at the disposal of the people and they were able in many cases to get results which in those days were quite satisfactory. The parents were able to learn something from the children. Now, feeling is changing in regard to that. The nation demands that we have to be efficient, that we have to turn out capable citizens. A nation has to take some share of the responsibility in regard to that. We have Mr. Hughes and other prominent men preaching the gospel of work and of greater efficiency, and that we must produce and produce, and that in that production lies our salvation, yet we get no help in a vocational way to make the citizens capable and efficient. The Minister for Mines referred to his visit to Canada. I think they must have progressed since the days he was there. I know that a certain amount of taxation is levied there for agricultural education, but further than that, apart from what the State does, the Federal Parliament recognises that they have a responsibility and they call upon the people to turn out capable citizens. If the nation wants a miner, a farmer, or an artisan to become expert, we must teach them that they have to shoulder some of the white man's burden. I have with me some newspaper cuttings of the speeches made by the Minister for Mines when he was in Canada. I am not, however, going to read them. It is only to-day that I picked up the Minister's speech in Canada in which he referred to our system of land settlement and our Agricultural Bank. In November, 1916, Canada passed the Agricultural Instruction Act. They took the lead in that direction. The United States followed in the next year with what was called the Smith-Hughes Act. That was on similar lines, but more generous even than the Agricultural Instruction Act of Canada. The American Act allocated certain sums of money and provided for the expenditure of that money in seven different directions—the payment of district representatives, the encouragement and organising of boys and girls school clubs, short course school, home economics, agricultural libraries, general extension lectures and in lantern lectures. All these come under the extension services of the various agricultural colleges. The district representatives are men who were appointed to take a sort of rural leadership in the country districts. They have to organise these boys' and girls' school clubs and the logical outcome of them is the annual fairs which are held. There are about

20 different functions that the district representatives have under their management. They have also to be not only practical agriculturists but they must have scientific qualifications, and they have to be men of good organising ability. Under their particular aegis the boys' and girls' school club movement is organised. This movement has become very popular and is spreading very rapidly. I hope members are listening attentively to what I am saying. I can assure them it is not piffle.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Do not look at me; I did not suggest it.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: In Manitoba over 7,000 boys and girls have been supplied with a dozen eggs each for hatching purposes. Hon. members may laugh.

The Minister for Mines: Was there an election on?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No. Those eggs were from a prize strain of poultry. See what that meant to the poultry industry. There was in consequence an enormous increase in the export of poultry in that country. Those 7,000 children are distributed throughout the great province of Manitoba, and the effect of the distribution of such a great number of eggs has had a remarkable effect on the poultry industry. The increase has been enormous.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The "Sunday Times" ought to start an egg club; they have a pig club.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The "Sunday Times" has done a great deal of good. My idea about the schoolboy movement is, that if we could get it organised, there would be found to be bigger things in it than members imagine. I have something here that will surprise hon. members. In Ontario in 1912 they had what they called school fairs. There were 25 of them. The school fair is the logical outcome of the school club—8, 10 or 12 schools. In three years from that time, namely 1915, there 234 of these fairs, embracing 2,291 schools. The children had 6,868 sittings of prize eggs and in the aggregate the result was 75,000 eggs. If a proportion of that number of eggs was distributed throughout the length and breadth of Ontario, see what it would mean. In addition 48,336 of these young children drew prize grain which was supplied to them from 51,000 experimental plots. There were 116,000 entries in that one line in these school fairs and the attendance numbered 72,000 children and 84,000 adults.

Mr. O'Loughlen: While they were doing that their education in other respects was neglected.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No, it was done in their own time at home. The idea is to give children a little farm of their own, and that is where the benefit comes in, because they have to write essays on what they have been doing. It does not interfere with the school studies, and to show that these children are taught to become practical I may mention that there are stock judging competitions for them. A horse may be put in front of a

boy and he is asked to give an opinion on the points of that particular animal. There are also vegetable, fruit and flour competitions. There is also a competition for boys to draw a plan of a farm which, of course to a certain extent is educational. There are competitions also in public speaking and the children give members of Parliament a good run in that country.

Mr. O'Loughlen: One advantage is that none are on the I.A.B.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There are also carpentering competitions, and such things as milking stools and hens' nests have to be made, while the boy with a knife can make a piece of wood makes clothes pegs. These are elementary matters but educational at the same time. There are driving competitions for boys and girls, sewing, cooking, making jams and preserves etc. Everything is of a practical nature. They must feel that there is a future in agriculture, for they get these young people so interested. All the children are better for having taken part in the competition. There is so much more that one can say but I just want to conclude with a few more remarks. I give the Education Department of Western Australia the credit that they are doing very good work at Toodyay and at Narrogin, and magnificent work at the training college which, I understand from the member for North-East Fremantle, was the idea of the member for Knowlton (Mr. Walker). It would be well if members representing agricultural districts visited the school and saw for themselves what the Education Department are doing for the training teachers to go into the country districts. They take an ordinary class of eight, ten or twelve children of varying ages, and the teacher, Mr. Hill, demonstrates to the students exactly how the class should be conducted.

The Minister for Mines: Where is the

Mr. GRIFFITHS: At Claremont.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Do not be led off the track take your time.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I am too old a hand to be led off the track in that way. At the Training College, very good work is being done. They have a class there, just such a class as I have been clamouring for ever since have been in Parliament. We want a better class of teacher for the back country. One time it was considered that anything was good enough for the back country. I want to give the Training College credit for the splendid work they are doing. I have been there on several occasions lately, and have been interested in and more than satisfied with what they are doing. The school, however, needs to be extended. I have a suggestion which I hope the Minister will convey to his colleague. If not, I shall cut it out "Hansard."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are lucky if you can get copies of "Hansard"; I cannot.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I shall cut it out of my own copy. Mr. Rooney, who is contr

ling the Training College, is very enthusiastic about the work, and the same applies to Mr. Milligan, who has control of the agricultural education. There are two officers who are about to take a trip abroad, and it would be well if the Minister arranged to utilise their services. Inspector Miles and Mr. Milligan are about to take their long service leave, and are going to take a 'busman's holiday.

The Minister for Mines: A Busselton holiday?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: A 'busman's holiday. In London when a 'busman wants a holiday, he gets on to another 'bus and drives around with his cobbler.

The CHAIRMAN: But we are talking about education!

Mr. GRIFFITHS: It is educational, and members will receive more instruction from my remarks than they have had for some time.

The Minister for Mines: It is very interesting.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I know the Minister wishes to get his Estimates through, but I shall not worry him on the details. I am doing my bit now, and I think I can claim that whenever I get up, I have something to say. I know Mr. Milligan is going to address various educational centres in the United States and Canada. He intends to visit Britain, Norway, Sweden, Holland, and I believe, Switzerland and France, and to spend the whole of his leave going around the various educational centres. Inspector Miles, I believe, is going to spend the whole of his leave in America. The Minister should get hold of these gentlemen before they go. They are going to better themselves, and all credit to them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Are you sure they are coming back?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I think they are. If they are going away to pick up the latest ideas, we should enlist their services, particularly those of Mr. Milligan, who is going to lecture. He should be supplied with lantern slides so that he may tell the people he meets about this great country. I could keep going for another hour on this subject.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Keep going; you will never get an audience like this again.

Mr. Brown: That is unkind.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I have nothing to gain so far as these two gentlemen are concerned.

Mr. Pickering: No one is imputing that.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I say in all seriousness that we should get the best we can out of these gentlemen and endeavour to better our system of agricultural education and vocational training. In conclusion I wish to tell the Minister what the Federal Act provides.

The Minister for Mines: You read only what you have in red ink.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: There is a good deal in red ink, and if I read the lot the Minister would be wearied. I have emphasised that the Federal authorities should bear a share of the educational burden of Australia. The

Federal Act of the United States provides that all these high schools which are to benefit by the Act must give the boy who is taking a vocational course in agriculture a project which will occupy six months' practical work, either on a piece of land rented by the boy from his father or from the school. Three hours' practical work daily must be spent on this project work on a commercially productive basis. They must give each pupil three hours daily, or an equivalent amount of time, to work in school in (1) rural science, (2) rural mathematics, (3) rural English, to supplement the practical work. The practical work must be conducted under the direct supervision of a teacher holding a special certificate in agriculture, or a vocational certificate in agriculture. I have had my little say.

Mr. O'Loughlen: A very formidable speech.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I hope the Minister will remember what I have said in regard to the two gentlemen who are going away, and will avail himself of their services.

Mr. GARDINER (Irwin) [8.24]: When we come to the question of education, it is quite a pleasure to be able to approach it from other than the standpoint of an impecunious Treasurer. The experience of the Minister for Mines and myself is much the same. When we criticised the expenditure in any other department, we were faced with the remark, "Oh, look at the increase you are giving to education." I must compliment the Minister for Mines on the speech he made to-night. That makes it possible to criticise our education system without being considered a reactionary. The thoughtful man sees very clearly that education in the future is going to be a nation's strength or a nation's weakness. The supremacy of the world, so far as we can see, is going to be the industrial supremacy and, if we are going to have that industrial supremacy, it behoves us to see that our sons and daughters by education are fitted to hold their own in the competition. The more one looks at the position of education in this State, the more one is convinced of the fact that it is very hard to select a man with a dual capability to criticise our education system scholastically and to criticise it administratively so far as public expenditure is concerned. With the present Minister for Education, let one make the slightest comment on education and he sits down and exhausts the English language in writing platitudes. Ask him to support anything in administration from the monetary standpoint, and he does not want the whole of the English language; the alphabet is sufficient, and in fact three letters of it would just about express what he could do when it comes to monetary administration. Under such monetary administration as this, it is small wonder that the head of the department thinks that all he requires is a fountain pen and a cheque book. That is where we have got to. Let anyone say we are expending too much

money on education, and we hear just what the Minister for Mines gave us to-night, "Look what they are expending in England." In this Australia of ours, every individual State of it is as anxious to have its children as well educated as are the children of Western Australia. I take it that when it comes to educational methods, the other States are just as likely, perhaps more so, to be as up to date as we are. When we come to criticise the financial expenditure and make comparisons, it brings us down to this question: Are we getting full value for our money and are the children getting full value for the expenditure of that money? I do not want to weary the House by any reiteration of a speech I made a little while ago, but I wish to compare Queensland and South Australia with Western Australia, for those States do bear some comparison to this State.

Mr. Brown: You have Ryan over there.

Mr. Lutey: He will do.

Mr. GARDINER: We have someone worse than Ryan when it comes to spending money. These figures are from Knibbs, 1918. Queensland, with 1,479 schools, has 4,017 teachers, 106,373 scholars, and the cost is £484,000 or an average of £5 14s. per child. South Australia has 851 schools with 1,976 teachers and 66,982 children, costing £268,399 or an average of £5 2s. 4d. per child. In the case of Western Australia the figures are 604 schools with 1,613 teachers and 46,049 scholars; the cost given being £305,130, but it is a long way more now. These figures show that Queensland educates 40,000 children more than we have at a cost £179,000 greater than ours, and that South Australia educates 20,000 more children than we do for £33,000 less than our cost. I do not care what comparison is made, it must come home to this Committee that on the score of financial administration there is every room for inquiry. The Minister for Mines made a strong point of how we should judge education, and I agree with him. But I think we must be convinced of one fact, that we are absolutely wasting money at one end of the system while possibly we are skimping the other end. That is why I want an inquiry into our educational system. I am not content to see the State's money being spent on a system of education which in my honest belief is not giving us value, and not giving the child value. "Test," says the Minister for Mines; and I agree with him, because the sublime test ought to be this: When we have finished educating a boy or girl, does that education fit him or her to enter that avocation of life, probably technical, where the child intends to earn a living? Perhaps I have been unfortunate in the evidence that has come under my notice of the results of this system of ours. Every boy I have taken into my office I have had to re-educate; and I do not think my experience is singular in that respect. Surely there ought to be a school of commercial training which can turn a boy out so that when he enters an office he is to

some extent trained. Let me refer to the figures of training colleges. In Queensland the enrolments since 1912 have increased from 7,851 to 8,644 in the technical schools, and in South Australia from 4,760 to 5,335. In Western Australia during the same period enrolments have decreased from 5,090 to 3,757. It is idle to tell me that the war has had a great effect upon our figures, seeing that there are the two comparisons to go by. The majority of our technical schools, if they were not being used by grey-headed men, would be used by the boy or the girl who has finished his or her primary education. It seems to me that education takes two phases. One phase says, "You shall take that boy and give him a primary education." Let us go back to the old description of it, the three r's. If we give a boy a good primary education, we fit his mind to tackle technical education; but the tendency of primary education at this day is to give a boy a smattering of a whole lot of things but nothing that is a real educational asset to him. That is my feeling. Now when I look at what the world is doing, it makes me tired to think that every year we are content to pass the Education Estimates, it makes me tired to think that it takes only a column in the newspapers by the Minister for Education to make people satisfied, it makes me tired to think that we are looking upon our Director of Education as the Alpha and Omega of everything in educational methods, as the last word in education. To look at a journal like the "Christian Science Monitor," which deals with the education questions of the world, makes one feel astounded and even ashamed to think that we are content to stand in this passive way on such a big question. There is not a nation that at the present juncture is not having inquiry made into its educational system. Take France; take Switzerland, that prided itself on its system of education; take Canada or the United States. Not one of those countries is content to accept the say-so of any education dictator. Everyone of those countries is having its educational system inquired into right down to bedrock. With what object? To see whether the education that is being given makes for the eventual advancement and strength of the country. Not to see that the system is turning out pupils with smatterings, but to see that it is turning out pupils with a fair education that will be of assistance to them in the industrial world.

The Minister for Mines: The finished article.

Mr. GARDINER: We have nothing that is finished in our educational system. We have men in the educational system of this State who are as convinced as I am that we are not getting value for our expenditure. Are we satisfied that the inspectors should spend more time in visiting schools which have high-class teachers than they do in going out to bring the less fortunate schools up to the same standard? Are we satisfied that it is advisable to spend all our money on technical schools and none in educating

our teachers at the University? Are we satisfied with a lot of these things? I have looked in order to try and find the bottom of these things, and I am not satisfied by a very long chalk. It is only right that I, having gathered that experience, should say to this Committee exactly what I feel on the question. It is beginning to be recognised throughout the world that the salaries of teachers, instead of being pretty well the lowest in the world, ought to be very nearly the highest. What the Minister says as to the difficulty of getting teachers is quite true. It is quite right that we should not be able to obtain teachers, in view of the salaries that we offer them. We ask these people to prepare material for the foundation of our nation's greatness, and yet we begrudge them enough to keep them in clothes even. Expenditure on teachers' salaries would be one of the things we would have no right to complain about if we were getting value for our money. The Minister in charge of the Estimates said—I do not know how his colleague will take this—that he was only too glad to have an inquiry into the educational system. I do not think there is a province in America but has an educational committee of inquiry; and for that purpose they do not select "high-brows." The Minister for Mines has enough common sense to know that those are the last people we should select for such a purpose. What we want for such an inquiry is practical men. In America they select a teacher, a lawyer—what on earth they want a lawyer for I do not know—and a newspaper editor—one of the fellows who always write "we" and think that ends it. But they go past that. They take a good commercial man and also a good labour man. They say, "If you take that combination, you are going to get the different views of all sections." The members of such a committee may be like some members of this House—more particularly myself—who have had no education. Such men may not be qualified to express scholastic views on the curriculum. But they may be able to express a lot of common sense on that which is going to enable the recipient of an education to become a decent citizen and to become a success in that avocation of life which he takes up. I ask the Minister for Mines to ask his colleague to redeem that promise, and give us a committee of inquiry, so that the next time we discuss these Estimates there will be a hard-head to say whether or not the State is receiving value for its money commercially and a keen analytical mind to say whether we are getting value for it educationally. I want to see every child on reaching the twelfth or thirteenth or fourteenth year in a position to know that in this State there is a chance for him to follow any avocation that is the bent of his mind. Let us take this House as a criterion. There are not two minds in this House that run in exactly the same groove. Yet our educational system is too apt to say, that all minds must run in the same groove. When a boy has reached the

stage where he knows his own mind and his own application, we should be able to say to him, "You want to be an engineer, or an electrician, or a lawyer, or a skilled artisan; here is your chance to reach the highest rank in your profession or avocation." We should be prepared to tell the boy, "The State is willing to spend the money necessary to give you that education, knowing that no expenditure will return an asset of more lasting value to the community." We should all approach this question as the Minister for Mines approached it to-night, giving us all the opportunity to differ from him in opinion, but to differ sincerely, to differ only on the point of methods to attain the same end. When all of us consider the education problem in that spirit, some of the absurdities of our present system of education will speedily disappear.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.44]: I was pleased to hear the Minister for Mines say, in introducing these Estimates, that the Government have no objection to, and indeed welcome, inquiry into the State's educational system.

The Minister for Mines: I said that if inquiry was desired on certain points, we would make the inquiries.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In my opinion, one of the best things the Government could do would be to appoint a Royal Commission to examine into our entire system of education.

The Minister for Mines: Until recently, you were the strongest opponent of Royal Commissions that I ever met.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have served on one or two—without pay, I may add; but I would not accept a seat on a Royal Commission to inquire into the Education Department. We want professional men, who thoroughly understand the question to say whether some improvement cannot be brought about in the way of decreasing the cost without impairing the existing facilities. Many phases of our system overlap considerably, and I believe that an improvement could be effected by the teachers, who look at the matter from the point of view of assisting the child; they could devise a system under which much of the overlapping would be removed. The waste of money that goes on in consequence of children being lost between the primary and the continuation schools and between the continuation and the technical schools is astounding. When a child is educationally lost, the money expended on its early education is largely wasted, and the State loses through the child not having been properly educated. Another system of the Education Department accounts for many scholars being turned from the technical school: A boy wishing to learn the theoretical side of his trade at the technical school has to take English or some other subject also. That system should be altered. It should be the object of the technical school to turn

out the boys and girls better workmen and workwomen than they would have been had they not attended the school. To-day the average boy has to attend his military training, has to attend the technical school one night a week to learn the theory of his trade, and is then compelled to spend another night at the school on English or some other subject. The position is impracticable, and in consequence many of the boys leave the school altogether. If, after attending school for six months a boy stays away for the remaining part of the year, it is a loss to the State and leaves the boy but little advanced if at all. The member for York dealt with the famous departmental letter which gave rise to the phrase "Too old at 40." I was looking round the Chamber at the time and I thought "It would be God help us all if the same principle were applied to members of Parliament." There are not more than one or two of us who could come in under the age. Yet if the system is to be applied to the teacher, who has no opportunity for promotion until he is 40 or thereabouts, surely it might well be applied to members of Parliament; because in most instances, before a man tries to get into Parliament he is very nearly 40.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct. The best men in Parliament are young.

Mr. Gardiner: We might well have a technical school course for members of Parliament.

Mr. Lutey: For God's sake do not teach them any more points!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A member of Parliament has to take his training from the hard roads of his early life. After coming here he tries to legislate in the direction of smoothing those roads for future generations.

The Minister for Mines: My trouble is how to take the hard roads of the future.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not believe the teachers' association would desire that a man appointed to the position should be removed in consequence of a blunder made by the Education Department. I think it was Mr. Gee, resident magistrate of Geraldton, who once had to give a casting vote in a Parliamentary election. He gave that vote to the Labour candidate, and when asked by some of his friends why he had done so he said, "A good decision is often spoilt by the giving of a bad reason." That might be applied to the famous appointment of the inspector. The Minister and the departmental authorities may have given a good decision, but in any case they certainly gave a very bad reason. The members for York feared that the same thing might happen again, but he told us that the Premier had promised that it would not occur again. I am prepared to take the Premier's word in that respect. I think the Minister for Education and the department generally have had so much criticism on this occasion that they will see to it the

thing does not occur again. I have been looking over the salaries paid to teachers. I find in the Estimates that 11 of the principal officers of the department receive increases aggregating approximately £500 per annum. Of that number 10 receive increases aggregating £354, while the Director receives an increase of £102. Is it any wonder that the teachers, knowing this, are dissatisfied when they read the annual report and find that the only increase given to the average adult teacher between 1914 and 1918 amounted to about 10s. per annum. The average head teacher's salary as between 1914 and 1918 rose from £172 19s. 1d. to £173 5s. 9d. while the salary of the average assistant teacher, which in 1914 was £149 10s. 6d., was in 1917-18 exactly £140 8s. 7d., a material reduction. Presumably the high cost of living does not affect the teachers.

The Minister for Mines: You are accepting the Estimates?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am referring to the Director's report.

The Minister for Mines: They are not provided for here at all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier promised a deputation that he would bring all under £150 up to that amount. I am using the Director's report. Surely the Director would not report that the average pay is less than it actually is! This report is dated 31st December, 1918.

The Minister for Mines: There have been two rises since then.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Very small rises, to the lower paid officers. I believe that if a Royal Commission were appointed, comprising a representative of the teachers' union, it would be found possible to save out of the present system sufficient to pay the teachers better salaries than they get to-day.

Mr. Foley: How is it that all you ex-Ministers are so anxious, after you leave office, that all public servants should have consideration?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We did raise the teachers' salaries, but they are getting less to-day than then.

Mr. Foley: No, they are not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They are getting less to-day than when the Labour party were in office, less, that is to say, having regard to the increased cost of living. Some of the teachers cannot afford to get their boots mended. One who waited on the Premier as a member of a deputation invited the Premier to inspect the seat of his pants. If some alteration is not made, they will have to do without boots. Indeed it is a good job that a lot of them live in the country, for they could not afford to buy clothes decent enough for the city. Owing to the increased cost of living they are receiving to-day less than they got in 1911.

Mr. Foley: Will you say they were getting a fair wage in 1911?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, I say they have never been properly paid.

Mr. Foley: Why did you not remedy it when you could?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We did remedy the matter as far as we could.

Mr. Foley: You did not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We raised the salaries from £80 to £120. At that time the value of a pound was 20s., but we have to spend 38s. to-day to get the value of a pound.

Mr. Foley: I grant the hon. member that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: A man cannot live under the same conditions to-day as he could then.

The Minister for Works: None of us can.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is one of the objections I have to the small salaries paid to teachers. There is a rumour going about that members of Parliament are looking for an increase for themselves, and the teachers are complaining about it. I do not care how much they get if the State can afford it.

The Minister for Mines: It is human nature to want more.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Here is the return contained in the report by the Director of Education.

Mr. Johnston: And the Minister, too.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is the latest report of the department.

The Minister for Mines: It is up to the end of 1918. We have made a lot of progress since then.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The salaried officers have had no increases. The increases which have been made will add very little to the amount I have stated. The average salary of teachers in 1913-14 was £160 19s. 10d. The average adult teacher in 1917-18 received £161 7s. 2d., and yet the member for Leonora (Mr. Foley) asks why we did not rectify the matter in 1913-14. He says that the salaries are proportionate to-day to what they were in 1913-14.

Mr. Foley: Private members wanted to given an increase, but every member of the Ministry stopped it, and you were a member of that Ministry.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It was through the action of the Ministry of which I was a member that hon. members subsequently raised the salaries. The conditions which exist now did not exist then. I could live better in 1911 on £200 a year than I can to-day on £300 a year.

The Minister for Works: So could we all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I could do better in 1915 on £1,300 a year than I could do now.

The Minister for Mines: That would not be possible.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, it would be. I did not feel the effects of the increased cost of living then. It is all very well for the Minister for Works to say that it affects us all. While he is getting £1,300 a year he does not feel the effects of the increased cost of living.

The CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing the salaries of members.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I was trying to make a comparison between the cost of living in 1914 and the cost to-day. If I was only earning £149 10s. 6d. a year the position would affect me very considerably.

The Minister for Mines: It is not fair to say that this is all they are earning.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If I am not correct in what I say then the Minister did not tell us what the amount really was. I see that the report is dated April, 1919. Since that date the salaries of teachers have not been increased.

The Minister for Mines: Yes, they have, by about £18,000 in all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister will be able to tell us directly in what way the average salaries have been brought up beyond what is stated here. In my opinion the average will be a very small one indeed. The average of the assistant teacher, according to the report, has been reduced from £149 10s. 6d. in 1913-14 to £149 8s. 7d. in 1917-18. These are the director's own figures. We were told that there was going to be a large increase in the teachers' salaries. We do not know how this is made up. In the case of the public servants we can see what salaries they were drawing and are able to say what grades they are in.

Mr. Foley: The hon. member can get the information at the office.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: One cannot go there in five minutes and look over the salaries of 2,000 teachers. This year the Government schools, including forage, lighting, district, cleaning, retiring allowances, and proportion of leave and war bonuses make up a considerable proportion of the amount the Minister said was going to be paid to the teachers by way of an increase this year. When all these items have been deducted the increase amounts to only £13,387.

The Minister for Mines: There will have to be supplementary Estimates provided for these increases as they do not appear on these Estimates.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I can only be guided by these Estimates. I do not know what Ministers intend to do. I only know what they say they are going to do.

The Minister for Mines: What we have done.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What did they do?

The Minister for Mines: It has been done.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Estimates say that the Government schools, forage, lighting, district, cleaning, and retiring allowances and proportion of leave and war bonuses last year accounted for £261,048, and £274,435 this year, an increase of £13,387. How is any large increase to come out of that?

The Minister for Mines: The increase will have to be made up on supplementary Estimates.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is customary to tell hon. members what the amount will be.

The Minister for Mines: I suppose the increases have been granted since these Estimates were printed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am glad to hear it. Only yesterday, or the day before, circulars were left with hon. members drawing attention to the unfair attitude adopted so far as the service was concerned. It was signed by the various associations connected with the Public Service.

The Minister for Mines: Where did they come from?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They were distributed in the boxes and every hon. member had one.

The Minister for Mines: I did not get one.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Mr. Blair signed it as one of the teachers. Probably the Government may be very keen on giving the teachers something but do not know what it is. I hope, at all events, it will be large enough to allow them to live decently.

The Minister for Mines: It is too bad that they should get paid for getting married. That is what is done in the department.

Mr. Johnston: They make women resign from the department when they get married.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: When a female teacher is employed by the department she is employed under certain conditions, but these conditions are wrong. A female teacher can be in the department for many years, but if she is taken ill and has to leave, she has no claim upon the department.

Mr. Pickering: Why?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If she marries she draws so much in proportion to her annual salary.

Mr. Johnston: They make her resign.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Quite right, but she gets a total sum according to her years of service. This is a part of the system of engagement and she is entitled to the money.

Mr. Pickering: Another sop to the farmers!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The amounts are small because they do not draw very much. Most of them are married young.

The Minister for Mines: It costs a bit to train them to become teachers.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that, but when the teachers go out to work they only get a small salary to start at.

Mr. Johnston: The money is spent on them but the department may lose them in a year or two.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We cannot do without them. I want the Minister to alter the name of the technical school. In any technical school, and that every other technical school, it is not stated that it is a State technical school but that it is the Perth technical school, and that every other tech-

nical school in the State is a branch of the Perth technical school.

Mr. Pickering: Move to strike out the word "Perth" and insert the word "Fremantle."

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not suggest that, but I do say that the Boulder technical school should not be a branch of the Perth technical school but of the State technical system. The technical school at Narrogin should not be a branch of the Perth school but of the State system. Every year at the Royal Show prizes are offered for work that is done at the technical school. Placards are placed about but in every case it is shown that this is the work of the Perth technical school. As a matter of fact, the greater proportion of the work is done at other technical schools in and around Perth, but only the Perth technical school gets the credit. This is not fair to the teachers of the technical schools outside Perth.

The Minister for Mines: Does not the greater embrace the lesser?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Let it be called the State technical school and not the Perth technical school. That is a misnomer and should not be allowed. The teachers of the branch schools should have the credit for the work they do, and no one else is entitled to it. There is also a wrong system in connection with our continuation schools. Our continuation schoolmasters are paid according to the number of children who attend. They should have nothing to do with the number of children who are in the school. The school should be classified in the first place, and instead of being paid a percentage as they are now the teachers should have a fixed salary for their services at the school. During the last few weeks, when we had an epidemic of influenza in the State, and owing to the falling off at the continuation schools, the percentage of attendances dropped very considerably. The teachers had to go there night after night just the same as if the class had been full. The full number of children were attending the school, but his salary was reduced on account of the influenza epidemic. It was not the teacher's fault. I know that an application has been made to have the full salary paid, but these salaries are paid in accordance with the percentage of the attendances. They are of no value to the teacher. He cannot help it, if the children do not attend the school. That system of payment is wrong, and should be altered as early as possible. I have nothing more to say, but I trust the Minister will appoint a commission and invite the teachers to select a representative for a seat on that commission, to go into the education system. If they will do that, we shall have a system which will be cheaper than at present, and from which we shall get better results.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [8.48]: I approach this subject with great diffidence, because I do not pose as an authority on education. There is a great divergence in the manner of the submission of the reports of

the various departments. We have the report of the Public Service Commissioner which is signed by the Commissioner and is addressed to the Governor, the Mines Department report is signed by the under secretary and addressed to the Minister, the report of the Forest department is signed by the Conservator, while the report of the Education department is signed by the Minister and the Director of Education. I regret that members have not given more credit to the gentleman who has been responsible for compiling this report which contains a great deal of informative matter.

Mr. O'Loughlen: He has not much else to do; the officers under him do all the work.

Mr. PICKERING: We learn from the report of the progress that has been made during the year in the Education Department, and when the report is considered calmly, we must be satisfied with what has been done. I listened to the Minister's introductory remarks with interest, and I can assure him that I am in sympathy with many of the matters to which he referred, particularly the age at which a child shall start school studies and the age at which he shall cease. The Director strongly advocates the extension of the period at which a child shall begin to attend school, but I impress on the Minister that one reason why the country members object to that is that it will have the effect of cutting down the number of schools which exist in the country districts. That would be serious for us because unless there is a certain number of scholars, it will be impossible to have a school. For that reason we, who represent country districts, must oppose any alteration in that direction unless we likewise alter the provision in regard to the number of scholars which will be required in order to establish a school. Take the district I represent. There are schools there, ten, twenty, and even forty miles apart. How would it be possible to concentrate the scholars attending those in one large school? The only way would be by a system of motor conveyances to assist the children to get to the school, and the State cannot afford that kind of thing.

The Minister for Mines: We spend £11,000 a year now in conveying children to school.

Mr. PICKERING: This, together with the increase to teachers, accounts for the increase in the Estimates. The member for Irwin (Mr. Gardiner) in the course of his remarks in advocating economy was fair enough to say that he considered the salaries paid to the teachers were inadequate, and he emphasised the fact that it was the one profession that should be better remunerated than any other. The staff directing the education system of the State are too poorly paid. Comparisons have been made between the various States of the Commonwealth. On reading the Director's report, we find comparisons are given between the system of this State and those of Canada and the United States, and it is shown clearly that

education can be carried on in those countries at a much lower per capita rate. It is unjust to expect the Education Department of Western Australia to carry on its work at a rate similar to that of the other countries mentioned and give the same efficiency. I am strongly opposed to any reduction in these Estimates unless it be on lines which will not interfere with the system. There is one direction in which I do not consider the system efficient, and it is that of technical education. I am glad to notice that there is an improvement in the efficiency of the teachers who are now available for country schools, and I am pleased to note that the percentage of unclassified teachers has been reduced from 34.9 to 31.5. I hope the time will arrive when we shall have none but classified teachers engaged in our schools. Hitherto any kind of teacher was good enough for a country school.

Mr. O'Loughlen: In some country schools there are only half a dozen children.

Mr. PICKERING: Are they not entitled to the same consideration as others who attend in greater numbers? There is another aspect which is worthy of consideration, and it is the question of the health of the children and the inspection that should be made. On that subject the report states—

The system of medical inspection has remained unaltered, and until all the doctors who went to the Front have returned there will no doubt be great difficulty in securing any expansion. It was pointed out last year that Western Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth that has not a staff of medical officers attached to the Education Department. The Public Health Department has one medical officer for schools, who carried out full inspections in nine large schools in the metropolitan district during 1918, besides making numbers of special inquiries.

The Minister for Mines: That has nothing to do with the Education Department; it is a health matter.

Mr. PICKERING: Health is a vital matter in connection with the training of children. I have contended before that the period of education should be extended to the age of 16, and that the extra period should be devoted to a course of technical instruction. There should be an inspectorial staff similar to that which exists in Switzerland to-day, and efforts should be made to direct the training of children towards those avocations that they are likely to follow in later years. Too many children after leaving school at the age of 14 drift into channels of usefulness, and unless we do something in the direction which I suggest we shall neglect to make good citizens of those children who consider, that having left school, their general education is completed. So far as the training of children for farm work is concerned, the point is made in the Director's report that there should be provided in connection with the town schools something in the nature of an agricultural course. There is any amount

of room in the country, as has been shown by the member for York. Steps in this direction have been taken by other countries with the very best results, and every inducement should be held out in this State in the direction of attracting children to farm life. I am going to advance a claim for the extension of technical education. I have here a newspaper, "The W.A. Mining, Building, and Engineering Journal," from which I desire to read an extract on the subject of building and the supply of artisans. It reads—

The supply of artisans for the building industry in the future is of the utmost importance, and no time should be lost in evolving some scheme by which the men necessary for carrying out the large amount of work that will have to be executed in the future are to be obtained. The question is also an urgent one in the Eastern States, as the scarcity of men there is very pronounced. In past years it was usual for men to migrate from one place to another, as generally the trade was not simultaneously brisk in all the States. Every State now, however, can employ all the men available, so the supply cannot be looked for from outside, as in England and elsewhere there will be probably sufficient work to employ all the tradesmen. At the present time there are practically no apprentices in the building industry, not only in this State but in other States, so it can be plainly seen that the matter must be considered at once, and by men who are cognisant of the position and capable of deciding on some way out of the difficulty, for the present artisans will not be able to work on for ever, and unless something is done the State will be faced with a serious difficulty in its building operations.

I can endorse that by reason of the accurate knowledge which I possess of the position. I know there is a great scarcity of skilled artisans in Western Australia.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Whose fault is that; they have been migrating from here for months.

Mr. PICKERING: I do not know where they have gone, because there is plenty of work for skilled artisans in this State.

Mr. O'Loghlen: They get work in the East.

Mr. PICKERING: In this State they get the Arbitration Court rate and sometimes better. I have been paying bricklayers 1s. or so better than the award of the court.

Mr. Wilson: But you cannot get bricks.

Mr. PICKERING: We are getting bricks to-day. There is no doubt about it, that we are having quite a boom in the building trade.

The CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing bricks or the building trade. The hon. member must confine his remarks to the Education Vote.

Mr. PICKERING: I am anxious to impress upon hon. members the necessity for technical education. I have been in communication with the officer in charge of the technical

college, and he tells me that they have not accommodation in the Perth school for all the students who want to come along at night. He states, however, that there would be enough accommodation provided we had an Act in force similar to that which exists in England, which compels all youths up to a certain age to attend technical schools for a certain number of hours during the day. It would be wise for us to pass similar legislation so that we could be sure of getting skilled artisans for the work which has to be done in the State. This should be made compulsory in Western Australia. Members may not be as interested in this aspect as I am, but it must be evident to all that it is essential to the best interests of the State that mechanics should be well and carefully trained. So much capital of the State is invested in bricks and mortar; so much of the health and life of the community is concerned with bricks and mortar, and so much of the business of the community is concerned with bricks and mortar.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Bricks and mortar are the only things that have a vote for the Upper House.

Mr. PICKERING: We are putting up soldiers' homes and workers' homes and we cannot find the necessary mechanics nor the material to do the work. It is a matter of the greatest difficulty to get competent men to do the work required. Every man who has a home built wants it built in a substantial way and true to specification and detail and, if we have not skilled mechanics, we cannot get the work done as it should be. The State should certainly endeavour to train its own youths so that they will be able to fill these positions. The more highly they are trained, the greater will be their pride in their work. It is too common a practice to despise mechanics, but I regard a well trained mechanic as good as anyone on God's earth. The department should instil the idea that it is an honour and a privilege to work in any trade so long as the work is done honestly and faithfully. I hope the Minister will pass on to his colleague controlling this department a strong recommendation for the extension of the technical training system and a lengthening of the period of education from 14 to 16 years.

[Mr. Foley took the Chair.]

Mr. LUTEY (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [9.32]: I consider this is the most important department we have to deal with but, as a layman, I shall not have much to say because I consider it a matter for experts. A question has been asked whether we are getting value for the expenditure in this department. I have come into contact with people who left Western Australia to live in New South Wales and Victoria and they have spoken very highly of the Western Australian education system and have said it is far ahead of the systems in either of those States. When the Minister was speaking,

the member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) interjected regarding the age of school children being raised from six to eight. Last year on the Estimates, he made reference to increasing the age from four to six and now he has gone up another two years. Last year he suggested that the scholars should have to pay for technical training and one member stated that money was being wasted at one end. I am afraid the member for Perth desires to save money at both ends because he advocates the raising of the school going age from six to eight and the imposition of a charge for technical education. While I think four years is too young for a child to start schooling, there may be instances in some parts of the country where it is necessary to send the younger children in order to make up the number requisite to retain a school in the district. It is often said of farmers that they are whales on socialism so long as it is for their benefit. In listening to the member for Irwin, I could not help thinking that the schools should turn out the children sufficiently finished in education so that they might be assimilated into business straight away. My experience is that insurance companies want the finished article at a sweated rate, and we even find there are clerks in the Public Service whose salaries are scarcely sufficient to clothe them. A lot of the big business people employ lads from our primary and technical schools and thus gain the benefit of this socialistic training. Like the farmer, they want a lot for nix.

Mr. Harrison: Will you give some instances.

Mr. O'Loghlen: There are so many: we will write out some.

The Minister for Mines: I would remind the member for Avon that I am in charge of these Estimates and I do not want any more information.

Mr. LUTEY: When in Melbourne, I made it my business to inquire into the condition of employes in the insurance companies, and I found there were hundreds of girls employed as typists and so forth, travelling from the suburbs and receiving 10s. a week. That is an absolute shame. Public opinion should be aroused against the sweating of employes in that way. We have only to look through the Estimates to find that the Government are guilty of paying young clerks what I consider are sweated wages.

Mr. Smith: What would you pay them?

Mr. LUTEY: A number of them cannot be receiving more than £1 a week, though we cannot ascertain the actual amount, because the figures are not itemised as they should be.

Mr. Smith: If we had to pay them £1 a week, a lot of them would never get into an office.

Mr. O'Loghlen: So much the worse for our boasted commerce.

Mr. LUTEY: The Minister discussed the question of the test of education results and suggested that the number who went for higher technical education would be a good

guide. Large numbers of parents are not in a position to keep their children at school for higher education, owing to the high cost of living. Immediately the children can work, they have to help to keep the home going.

The Minister for Mines: And a few parents are very anxious for their children to earn a bob or two for pin money, and they are a menace to those who require to earn a living.

Mr. LUTEY: A number of people are forced to do it in order to make ends meet.

The Minister for Mines: And those who are not forced to do it are making pin money at under rates and are a menace to others.

Mr. LUTEY: The people themselves are not so much to blame as those who take advantage of them. Public opinion should be aroused to see that decent wages are paid, and that people are not employed at low rates as at present. I hope the Department of Education will get all the kindly consideration possible from the House.

General debate concluded; Votes and Items discussed as follows:—

Item, Director of Education and Under Secretary, £852:

Mr. O' LOGHLEN: This item shows a substantial increase and I intend to move for a reduction as a protest.

The Minister for Mines: Only a protest? You do not mean it.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do mean it. This is the only way in which we can protest, but the Minister probably will take no notice of it. Anyhow, members will have an opportunity to express an opinion as to whether all is well with the Department. There is a disparity between items 1 and 2 which I consider is unjustified. We have a highly paid director, who appears to have got more plums out of the pie than those lower down, and I have yet to learn that the Director of Education is the genius he is represented in some quarters to be. I recognise it is the Minister's duty to defend any officer who is the subject of discussion.

The Minister for Mines: I do not take it as a duty.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister has been in office so long and has had to rise from his chair on numerous occasions to defend officers when he knew there was no defence.

The Minister for Mines: Never!

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I did not sit behind the Minister for five years without knowing his private opinion in regard to some of the officers he was obliged to defend.

The Minister for Mines: I hope you did not give it away.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No, I am merely explaining the hypocrisy which surrounds Ministerial office on many occasions.

The Minister for Mines: I am serious this time.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The other evening we heard laudatory comments of an officer, and lo and behold, a couple of days later, he was

transferred to a subordinate position in another department.

The Minister for Mines: That is evidence of initiative.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Not on the part of the officer or he would not be going out on his pink car.

The CHAIRMAN: Did he leave the Education Department?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: No. The Director has received a handsome increase from £750 to £852.

The Minister for Mines: I shall give you an official explanation.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I know what that will be—the same old story. If the Minister is anxious to give the explanation, I shall give way to him and speak again later.

The Minister for Mines: I do not want you to speak twice on the one subject.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I shall speak half a dozen times if it suits me. The second in command of the department, I believe, does the bulk of the work, and this opinion is shared by a large number of members of the Committee. The Chief Inspector of Schools gets £576 as compared with the Director, £852. The grade for this particular officer has not been fixed. All that was accomplished in 1912 was that his seniority was protected. When the Deputy Public Service Commissioner adjusted the various salaries, this officer received no increase. He went to the appeal board, and it appears to me and to others in this House that he was victimised on that account. We find now that he is getting a paltry £24 in excess of three senior inspectors under him. That difference is no credit to the Department. Three senior inspectors who are obliged to report to him are receiving just 10s. a week less than the Chief Inspector.

Mr. Smith: He is lucky they are not drawing more.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Possibly he is, considering the way Government institutions are run.

The Minister for Mines: He is the Chief Inspector.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister for Mines would not live on honour. If there was only honour attached to his position here, he would be grinding flour at East Perth.

The Minister for Mines: That is an unnecessary observation.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Then why bring it up? Honour will not fill the cupboard.

The Minister for Mines: He is getting more than the others because he is chief.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: We pay the Chief Inspector, who has the supervision of 667 schools, a salary of £576.

The Minister for Mines: I would go to Honolulu if they would make me a chief.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Minister would be right at home among the dusky maidens there. There are 2,040 teachers and 667 schools under the supervision of the Chief Inspector. I am convinced the Chief Inspector is doing the volume of work at the head office.

The Minister for Mines: That is not right. He is doing his own work and doing it well.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: If he is doing it well, why does he not get recognition?

The Minister for Mines: He is getting a grade rise of £12.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I intend to move to reduce the salary of the Director. I have no desire that officers of keen intellect and great organising ability should be penalised, but I take the broad view, that in the Education Department there are scores of teachers who are not getting adequate wages for their services. During the last day or two the teachers in the Education Department appear to have had an increase. They have been pressing for this and have been talking of taking extraordinary measures, such as coming to the bar of Parliament House. Whether that will come about or not I do not know. All I am interested in is that these officers should get a fair deal, in comparison with the treatment that is being meted out to the Director of Education. The cost of living does not apply to the Director in the same way as it does to the man in receipt of £250 or £300 a year. A man who is drawing £852 a year does not have the same struggle for existence.

The Minister for Works: Does he run a motor car?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do not know. He is directing a department in which sweating is rampant. In 1912 the Seaddan Government, of which I was a supporter, did something for the teachers. There were six unclassified teachers in my electorate in charge of children, each drawing less than £100 a year. The Government raised their salaries to £110 a year. To-day, the entire teaching profession is being inadequately paid, and this is recognised. If that is the case, why apply so much financial succour to the gentleman at the top of the tree? I have no desire to say anything disparaging about him. He may be a very effective and good officer. I have called at the department several times to see him, but he has never been there. I think he attends a number of board meetings and does a lot of Government business in other directions. I have had conversations with him on the telephone, and found that he has a magnificent accent. He has the real typical, cultured style, and can give one the information one wants, and everything else that is desired on the point. I do not think the Director is doing so much work as to justify this large increase. The officer who had the courage of his convictions and came into conflict with the Public Service Commissioner should not be penalised for all time for what he did. His grade increase this year amounted to practically nothing.

The Minister for Mines: Who is that?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am referring to the Chief Inspector of Schools.

The Minister for Mines: He gets an increase of £24 a year.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: It is not £24 this year.

The Minister for Mines: Yes, it is.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I am talking about the Estimates as they appear here.

The Minister for Mines: The expenditure last year was £12 more than was voted.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I realise that.

The Minister for Mines: And he gets £24 a year rise as from the 1st January last.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That brings him up to about £576 a year. That is his maximum to-day.

The Minister for Mines: That is what he is receiving.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: He is chief inspector, and has 667 schools and 2,046 teachers to supervise. The comparison between the salary of this officer and that of the Director is as striking as it would be if the Minister carried out his responsibilities at a salary slightly larger than that of the Government Whip.

The Minister for Mines: The controlling officer is getting twice as much as I am getting.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: And yet the Minister is asking for an increase for these officers.

The Minister for Mines: No.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The highly paid men seem to have secured the ear of Ministers.

The Minister for Mines: That is not so.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: That, at all events, is the appearance of the case. Last night I spoke about an officer who had been in the Colonial Secretary's Department for 22 years, and for the last five years he has been secretary of the department. But he has never during those five years had an increase in salary. Under the Public Service Commissioner's classification it is impossible for him to get one. The only way that a man like that can be assisted is by way of a bonus. This is most unsatisfactory for the reason that it does not count in the retiring allowance, and does not give him the privileges attached to other public servants who get an increase. An officer would rather have an increase in salary than have a bonus equivalent to such increase. It is clear to me that we are not encouraging the service to be a contented service. We are not encouraging them to show that initiative which we expect of them, and are not enabling them to improve their positions and render better service to the State. If those highly paid officers, who are more closely in contact with Ministers, are entitled to receive large increases, which are a prominent feature of the Estimates, then I think the lower paid officials should also receive consideration. I am prepared to take the Premier's assurance which he has given to me on this point.

The Premier: I did not give you anything of the kind.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Premier has been discussing with me the increases that he is desirous of making in every branch of the public service, particularly in the Education Department. The teachers of the Education Department have been particularly active. At the last conference they discussed the methods and workings of the Education Department, and the remunerations they received, and this was the finest conference of its kind ever held in the State. They have approached the Government,

and are taking different action from what has been taken in other parts of the world, which has brought home to the people of the country the necessity for providing for this branch of the service. I know that the Government are short of funds, but I am not going to lend my support to highly salaried officers already drawing over £500 a year being put down for increases when lower paid officers get little or nothing. At a later stage I intend to move that the item be reduced by £10.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I propose to move in the direction of reducing the item "Director and Under Secretary" by £50.

Mr. Smith: Make it £100.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: To please the hon. member, I will move—

That the item be reduced by £100.

Mr. SMITH: I have no desire to speak disparagingly of the Director of Education. He may be the best educational expert in Australia. My grievance is that he is the head of the department drawing a handsome salary and yet the Government propose to increase that by £102. The teachers themselves are doing all the drudgery work of the department, and are being treated with scant consideration. I had the honour, if not the pleasure, of introducing a large deputation of teachers to the Premier. It was hardly a pleasure to introduce such a deputation of educated men, who were going cap in hand to ask him for justice. Such a state of affairs should not have arisen. On that occasion the teachers put forward a good case, but the reply given by the Premier was that they ought to wear one pair of pants a year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was the time when he told them he had no seat to his own.

Mr. SMITH: It was not a proper way to reply to their reasonable requests. If we want to get the best brains to direct the education of our children the only way we can do it is by paying decent salaries. At present our teachers in many cases are drawing less money than the man who sweeps the streets. This is an absolute disgrace to Australia. The paltry increase that is to be given does not meet the case. The Minister says that nothing will satisfy them.

The Minister for Mines: I said one would not expect them to be satisfied.

Mr. SMITH: My experience of teachers is quite the opposite. They have been very reasonable and patient. The Government have no reason to assume that they would be asking anything that is unreasonable. Whilst the lower paid men in the service are not receiving that consideration which I maintain they should get, I am not going to be a party to increasing the salary of those at the top of the tree. I have just received by a recent mail from England a newspaper containing a reference to the manner in which the teachers have been treated in Scotland. A national committee was appointed to go into the question of paying an increased salary to the teachers. As a result, the following scale has been fixed:—The minimum for all recognised teachers is now £130 for women, and £150 for men. The women will rise to a maximum of £150, and the men to £200. That is the lowest salary paid under the scheme. Elementary teachers with a degree, certificated and recognised as trained, after four years, begin at

£180 and rise to £300 in the case of men, and in the case of women begin at £160 and rise to £230. This has taken place in a country which has in the past only paid small salaries.

The Minister for Mines: They do not get quarters there.

Mr. SMITH: I have seen the quarters there, and they are very much superior to the quarters here. In the metropolitan area our teachers are allowed certain quarters. In one case of which I have knowledge it was not convenient for the teacher to occupy the quarters, because the unfortunate man had an invalid mother and an invalid wife. Accordingly, he took a more suitable house. The department then let the premises that they intended the teacher to occupy. He very reasonably asked that he should receive the rent which the Government were obtaining for the premises. The department absolutely refused to allow him that rent. After about 12 months' negotiation the Minister for the time being recognised the reasonableness of the claim, and agreed that the teacher should receive the rent being paid to the Government for the premises. The teacher thought that was all right, and waited patiently until the end of the month to collect the cheque. Then he was informed by the Government, "We do not receive any rent from the tenant, and therefore we cannot pay you any."

The Minister for Mines: They ought to have called upon him to collect the rent.

Mr. SMITH: They absolutely would not allow him to let the premises. The teacher was done out of the rent of the premises for about 12 months. It would be better policy if the department did away with school quarters and allowed the teachers to make their own housing arrangements.

Mr. Johnston: That would not be practicable in the country.

Mr. SMITH: I am speaking of conditions in the metropolitan area. There is another instance I could quote in this connection. At a metropolitan school the quarters were condemned by the health authorities, and yet the teacher was compelled to live in them, and his family suffered ill health. It was only after considerable pressure that the department allowed him to remove to other premises. With regard to the Director of Education, I wish to make a reference to the stupid letter issued regarding the school inspectorship—"Too old at forty." A Director of Education who will issue such a silly letter as that, which made our Education Department a laughing stock throughout Australia, is not fit to be at the head of that department.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Probably both the member for Forrest and the member for North Perth consider that they made out an excellent case for the reduction of this item, but I think that on reflection they will agree with me that we shall not progress by attempting to pull back every man who has risen. I hope the Public Service will not take too much notice of the remarks of those hon. members. The question is whether the salary provided on those Estimates is commensurate with the importance of the office. I do not think the member for North Perth will contend that a salary of £852 is too much for the position of Director of Education.

Mr. Smith: I did not say so.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I think it is a wrong policy to be continually complaining about some officer getting what is admittedly due to him, merely on the ground that some other officer is not getting all that is due to him. The member for Forrest and the member for North Perth might reasonably urge that the treatment accorded to the Director of Education should be also extended to the lower paid teachers. The suggestion of those hon. members is, apparently, that we should adopt a policy of levelling down instead of one of levelling up. We have lost many good officers on account of the feeling that one man ought not to be given the salary to which his office entitles him, because to do so would make some other officer discontented. The Government are certainly not anxious to keep public officers underpaid.

Mr. Smith: Why pick at the teachers?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The Government are not doing anything of the kind. The same thing applies throughout the Public Service of Australia, and in fact of the world. We shall not advance matters, however, by constantly picking at a man in a high position who is getting an adequate salary, merely on the ground that lower paid public servants are not receiving salaries commensurate with their positions. If this position were vacant to-morrow, would the member for Forrest ask for a Director of Education at £852 a year? I would not do so. South Australia only recently appointed a Director of Education at £1,000 a year, the starting salary. The £852 we are now paying our Director of Education is less than we were paying to the holder of the position 17 years ago, when the department was not half the size it is to-day.

Mr. Smith: What does South Australia pay its teachers?

The Minister for Mines: I do not know. I am taking fences as I come to them.

Mr. O'Loughlin: In the present circumstances a rise of £100 is too much.

The Minister for Mines: It is not a question of an increase at all. In 1911 and 1919 all the teachers in the department received increments, but the Director of Education received none whatever.

Mr. O'Loughlin: What did those increments amount to?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: They amounted to something. Had the Director of Education been granted his increments when due, he would have received between 1911 and this date £400 more than he actually was paid. It is a question of whether the position of Director of Education in Western Australia is worth £852, and in view of the fact that the minimum in South Australia is £1,000, I do not think the salary paid here is too much.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Minister is fully aware that the Public Service Act provides that certain classified officers shall receive increments each year.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Well it is a regulation.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is not a regulation either.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Director of Education is not a classified officer and it is surprising

that every unclassified officer has had his salary increased.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: They have all been classified.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Public Service list for 1919 shows that the Director of Education is unclassified.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: Classifications were made for the information of Cabinet. They were not statutory classifications.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am quoting from the Public Service list. Is it correct or is it not? That is the point. A few weeks ago statements were made that certain officers had their salaries increased and on the following day another statement was published that such was not the case, that they were only classifications. It appears then that they were classified, and they were given the salaries which they are receiving to-day. The contradiction which was made was most misleading. I do not think the Director of Education is getting too high a salary for the position, but every time the lower paid members of the Service approach the Government for increases they are told that the Government have no money. If the Government are going to keep on increasing the salaries of the higher paid officers, they will never have enough money to increase the salaries of the others. This year we find that almost every officer in receipt of a higher salary has had increments of from £50 to £100.

The Minister for Mines: There have been grade increases.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Public Service list shows the Chief Inspector of Schools to be receiving £576, his present salary, and the Director of Education £750, while the Estimates provide £852 for the latter and the Public Service Commissioner states that the Director of Education is not a classified officer.

The Minister for Mines: He is not classified under the Act.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not being classified under the Act the Government say that they have power to deal with him and they increase his salary by £102 per annum.

The Minister for Mines: That is not correct.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Is it any wonder that there is dissatisfaction in the Service?

The Minister for Mines: Do you know that teachers are getting increases?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: What I have quoted shows the inconsistency of the Government.

Mr. NAIRN: Unfortunately I was not present earlier in the day when the general debate was taking place on the Education Vote, but I would like to seize the present opportunity of protesting against the action of the Chief Inspector of Schools in relation to the age limit for inspectors. On the 1st August applications were called to fill the vacant position of inspector. An advertisement was inserted in the "Government Gazette" which in itself did not give much publicity. There was another method by which the vacancy could have been made generally known, and it was by publication of the advertisement in the journal issued by the department, and which is read by all the teachers. In the advertisement there was no mention whatever made of the age limit being fixed at 40 years. No indication was given that it was the intention of the Director to impose

any such consideration. Only on the day that applications closed did it become known to the officers of the department that such was the Director's intention. I wish to emphatically protest against that. Out of the total number of applicants, there was only one under the age of 40. It is clear that, had the restriction been known, there would have been many applicants under the prescribed age. I want to know whether it is the intention of the Minister to support that action of the Director. The Minister in control of the department is not in this House.

Mr. Mullany: He should be.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Premier is reported to have said that it will not occur again.

Mr. NAIRN: That is not sufficient for me. I want to know what the Minister for Education thinks. The reasons given for the age limitation were perfectly absurd. Not until a man has reached 40 is his judgment mature. To state that a man of 40 or 50 years of age is physically incapable of travelling the country in the exercise of his duties is a miserable subterfuge.

Mr. Johnston: It is a bad advertisement for a good appointment.

Mr. NAIRN: That is so. It must have a very bad effect upon the officers of the department. The letter written by the Director contains this—

The Minister has had before him the assurance that the senior men on the list would make thoroughly competent inspectors. but he has considered it wiser to appoint a younger man.

Here the Director lays the onus of the principle on the Minister. Does the Minister himself approve of the principle? I require to know that, and, moreover, I require an assurance that this letter will be withdrawn, that it will not be permitted to stand there as a precedent to be followed by some other Minister. It is without rhyme, reason or sense, and I want an assurance from the Minister that he will have the letter withdrawn.

Mr. PICKERING: Amongst the items not fixed by us, the Director of Education gets an increase of £102, while the Commissioner of Taxation gets an increase of £100. In all other cases the increases are grade rises. I cannot understand the Minister saying that the Director's rise is a grade rise.

The Minister for Mines: You misunderstood me. I said it was a great rise.

Mr. PICKERING: I understand that the Commissioner of Taxation has been transferred to another department, and I should like to know whether he is to carry that increase with him. In view of the tone of the debate, it seems remarkable that there should be such support for the increase to the Director.

Mr. Smith: There is no support.

Mr. PICKERING: The burden of the Minister's address was not altogether in favour of the administration of the department. The speech of the member for Irwin was anything but complimentary either to the department or to the gentleman controlling it. Yet there is this increase to the Director. I do not think it is warranted.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: I regret that I am not in a position to give the assurances asked for by the member for Swan (Mr. Nairn.) I do not control the department. If the Premier is

desirous of giving the assurance, of course he can do so.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Well, wake him up and ask him.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not going to give any such assurance on behalf of my colleague in another House. If the hon. member desires to know definitely whether his request will be acceded to, he can give notice of question.

Mr. Nairn: I want it now.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If the hon. member submits such a question on notice, the Premier doubtless will answer it. I should like to tell the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) that if he had £102 cut off his salary every time he said something to which people disagreed, he would have lost the lot long ago. All that he could say in favour of the proposed reduction was that the Director had published a letter with which hon. members did not agree. It is absurd to argue on that basis, and I am surprised at a professional man doing so.

Mr. Smith: There is no age limit in his profession.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That saves him; there seems to be no other qualification either. It is possible to make amends.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: By withdrawing the letter.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But the appointment should not be cancelled.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: No, we should not do one man an injury merely to meet the wishes of members of the House. I do not know the pros and cons of the case, and cannot say whether the attitude adopted was right or wrong. I ask the members for Sussex and North Perth to consider whether the salary is commensurate with the position. They should lose sight of the individual.

Mr. Smith: That is not the point.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: It is. If the hon. member has a protest to make, he should make it in the proper way. I know the Director well enough to say that if someone found the money, he would be quite ready to give every man an increase of £102.

Mr. Smith: Has he put that up against the small salaries paid in the department?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Yes.

Mr. Smith: He has refused times out of number.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: In his comments, he refers to the fact that the average salaries paid to the teachers have not been increased to the extent he desired.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Would you expect anything else from him?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: What is the use of quibbling about this sort of thing?

Mr. O'Loughlen: Would he give some of this rise to a deserving teacher?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: That is absurd. The hon. member is not serious in that attitude. Members should make their protests in a proper way, and not reduce the salary below a fair thing for the office. Recently a director of education was appointed in South Australia at a commencing salary of £1,000.

Mr. Smith: How about the men below?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member should apply some common sense and not always be picking at somebody.

Mr. Smith: Level them up; start at the bottom.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: The hon. member is tearing down instead of levelling up. If he is not satisfied, let him move for a small reduction by way of protest. The attack should not be made on an individual.

Mr. O'Loughlen: In what way do you suggest a protest should be entered?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: What a nice advertisement it would be, in the event of a vacancy occurring, for it to go forth that if the Director made a statement with which members disagreed, they would cut £102 off his salary.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Smith: It was a blithering idiotic statement to make.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: If an hon. member was equally penalised for every idiotic statement he made, he would be paying £300 a year to sit here. In the aggregate, the Director of Education has done excellent work, and it would be absurd to talk of reducing his salary.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is it not absurd to give him such a big rise?

The MINISTER FOR MINES: With that rise, his salary is less than the salary paid 17 years ago. Does the hon. member say the position was overpaid?

Mr. O'Loughlen: I am dealing with the increase in comparison with other increases.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Would the hon. member argue on those lines in the Arbitration Court?

Mr. O'Loughlen: But you bolt at one item, and jib at the others.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: Two increments have been granted since the Director received a rise, and his salary is still less than it was 17 years ago, when the department was half its present size. He is not overpaid for the responsibility he carries.

Mr. NAIRN: I have a copy of the letter of the Director before me, and I wish to make sure that it appears in "Hansard."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It has been read.

The Minister for Mines: That is so.

Mr. NAIRN: May I take it the Minister has given an assurance that the letter will be withdrawn?

The Minister for Mines: No, I shall make representations to the Minister, who is the only one who can give that assurance.

Mr. NAIRN: Then I should like to know from the Premier that the Director's letter will be withdrawn. A letter was written to the Premier by the secretary of the State School Teachers' Union, asking, not for the withdrawal of the letter, but other questions connected with that point. Up to the present the union have had no reply. I understand that part of the letter contained a request for the cancellation of the appointment. I believe a mistake has been made, but that no good purpose would be served by cancelling the appointment. I gather from the teachers that the qualifications of the official concerned are good and that there is no objection to him. The methods employed in the appointment are, however, entirely disapproved of. Will the Premier give an assur-

ance that the context of the letter, at all events, will be withdrawn where it refers to the limit of 40 years?

The PREMIER: It is a simple request. I have discussed the matter with the Minister for Education. There is no reason for it. I do not think the principle will hold good in any future appointment that is made.

Motion put and negatived.

Item, Chief Inspector of Schools, £576:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I intend to move for a reduction of this amount as a protest against the treatment meted out to this officer in comparison with that meted out to the officer we have just dealt with.

The Minister for Mines: He is getting a grade rise of £24.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Those officers who come in close contact with Ministers appear to have more notice taken of them than others. They seem to run the show. The Minister has put up more special pleading to-night in the case of the officer we have just dealt with than ever before in his history. As a protest I shall move for a reduction of the item.

The Minister for Mines: You must have been visiting the Mikado.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I do not see the point of the interjection. This officer has fought his case before the appeal court and has been unduly kept back.

The Premier: What ought his salary to be?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I think he should get another £25, so that his salary may compare more favourably with that of the Director.

The Premier: We will consider the matter.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The Government are always considering matters. This officer has to do the largest volume of work in the department.

The Minister for Mines: He is aspiring to the position of Director of Education.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The three senior inspectors are to be brought within £24 of him. If the director's salary had been increased by £50 and a better proportion between the two salaries maintained, I would not have raised so much objection. There are many talented men in the department who have not been adequately recompensed for their years of service. This state of things will lead them to preach the gospel of discontent. The chief inspector has to deal with all the reports submitted by all the other inspectors and has to do the bulk of the work of the department. He also has to deal with the 2,046 teachers and the 667 schools. As a protest against this small increase, I move—

That the item be reduced by £1.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister himself has argued that in order to keep a good officer we should pay him well.

The Premier: I do not know what has come over this Committee lately.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Does not the Premier agree that the staff of the Education Department from the monitor right to the top should be more highly paid, in accordance with the increased salary granted to the Director of Education? The Chief Inspector of Schools has been set because he stuck up for his rights.

The Minister for Mines: He is getting an increment of £24.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The increase this year is only £12. The Minister himself has said that the officer was given a £12 increase last year.

The Premier: You know all about what has taken place.

Amendment put and negatived.

Item, Furniture, books, sale stock, etc., £10,000:

Mr. CHESSON: Has anything been done to fulfil the promise given last session to the member for Geraldton, that inquiries would be made with a view to having the school books used by our children printed in this State? The books should be written by Australians, and printed in Australia, and supplied to the scholars at cost price.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I cannot answer the hon. member immediately, but I will make inquiries as to what has been done. Three or four years ago, when in South Australia, I obtained some information regarding the printing of the school paper there, which is an admirable institution. My own view is that it would be better policy to print our school books in Australia.

Item, University exhibitions, £1,723:

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: There has been some controversy over the money provided for the University. The senate of that institution find themselves reluctantly compelled to reduce considerably the number of students for the ensuing term. The University is hampered by want of funds.

The Premier: The subsidy has not been reduced.

Mr. Smith: Why do not the University authorities sell the land that was given to them?

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: Those with whom I have conversed say it is an absolute impossibility. They receive only £600 a year rent from their endowment lands.

The Minister for Mines: What about the block opposite the Claremont Show Grounds, right alongside the road? That is one of the most valuable blocks in the State.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I have been assured by one of the most conscientious members of the senate that everything possible has been done to obtain revenue. The University cannot sell its land, but can only lease it; and not much revenue is to be derived from leasing.

Vote put and passed.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED FROM THE COUNCIL.

1, Traffic.

With amendments.

2, Mining Act Amendment.

Without amendment.

House adjourned at 11.15 p.m.