

believe we have a great future ahead of our huge territory which possesses so much unknown wealth. I hope to see in two or three years time that we have not only stopped the financial drift, but commenced to place the affairs of this State on a highly satisfactory basis.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 7.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 24th August, 1921.

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

QUESTION—TRAMWAY EXTENSION, SOUTH PERTH-COMO.

Captain CARTER asked the Minister for Railways: 1, When was the material for the proposed South Perth-Como tramway extension ordered? 2, When was the specified date of delivery, if any? 3, Has the material been shipped yet? If so, on what boat or boats? 4, When is the material expected to arrive?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Preparation for ordering necessary material to commence extensions of the metropolitan tramway system was made soon after the passing of the Loan Estimates last year, and definite orders for rails and fastenings were made in May last, balance of the material at subsequent dates. 2, Approximately three to three and a half months from date of placing orders. 3, No definite advice available. 4, Towards end of September or early in October.

QUESTION—PERTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Shed Hands and Union Tickets.

Mr. A. THOMSON asked the Premier: 1, Is it a fact that the following notice was exhibited in the Technical School: "Wool-classing: (i.) Intending shed hands should take out union tickets before they leave the metropolitan district. (ii.) Students should follow the 'Advice to Students' dated 21/6/21, posted in the classrooms, and before finalising their arrangements should interview either the Director or the Secretary"? 2, If so, who is responsible? 3, Is it the policy of the Education Department to compel students at the Technical School to join trade unions?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Director of Technical Education. 3, No.

QUESTION—FREE PASSES FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Mr. WILSON asked the Premier: 1, Have the Federal Government recouped the Railway Department of Western Australia for the moneys expended in granting free railway and tramway passes over the Government railways and tramways to ex-members of the A.I.F. who are (a) blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated; (b) inmates of or attending for treatment at military hospitals, sanatoriums, convalescent homes, and hostels; (c) eligible for full membership in the Maimed and Limbless Men's Association; (d) eligible for full membership of the Tubercular Sailors and Soldiers' Association of W.A.? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to carry out the above provisions until finality has been reached with the Federal Government?

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

QUESTION—EDUCATION, INTER-CHANGE OF TEACHERS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD asked the Premier: 1, Has he read the following paragraph in the latest issue of the "Sunday Times":—"Miss Jessie Horton, of the Education Department, who is one of the teachers from Western Australia sent on an observation tour to England, and with her mother, Mrs. J. Horton, of Queen's Park, is now settled in London. Miss Horton, under directions from the London County Council of Education, is observing in different schools each week. Between times they enjoy sight-seeing in London"? 2, Are the statements contained therein substantially correct? 3, How many teachers have been sent on observation tours, and at what cost to the Department?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Miss Horton was granted twelve months' leave of absence without pay under the scheme of the League of the Empire for the interchange of teachers with the London County

Council. 3, No teachers have been sent on observation tours. Two teachers have been sent under the League of Empire scheme without cost to the Department.

QUESTION—RAILWAY BUFFET CARS.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Railways: 1, In regard to the profit of £30 17s. 10d. alleged to have been made on the Wyalkatchem buffet car, and the losses made on the Kellerberrin and Caron buffet cars, has the cost to the Railway Department of hauling the cars been taken into account? 2, Is it his intention to lay on the Table of the House a balance sheet showing how balance of profit and loss mentioned by him in Parliament on the 17th August was arrived at? 3, If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. 2, No. 3, Because the House has not directed by resolutions that such papers should be laid on the Table, and it is quite unusual to produce balance of profit and loss on each detailed operation of the service.

QUESTION—BUSSELTON JETTY.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Minister for Works: 1, What was the total cost of the latest alterations and additions to the Busselton jetty? 2, What conditions were imposed on the Kauri Timber Company before such expenditure was approved? 3, What is the position so far as the guarantee by that company is concerned?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, £39,000 (from 1907 to 1912), which includes, besides extension and strengthening of jetty, dredging to maintain depth of 23 feet at the jetty. 2, Company agreed to guarantee £2,000 per annum minimum payment for dues and fees including wharfage charges, payable in respect of vessels loading for the company, and of timber and other goods shipped by the company at the jetty, for a term of 10 years, provided that any surplus over £2,000 paid by the company in any one year would be credited to the succeeding years. 3, Company is £1,071 in arrears to May, 1920, and the Premier has given it until May, 1922, to pay, charging current rate of interest on money outstanding. The company is meeting its liability in respect of this interest. This information has been supplied by Railway Department which controls the jetty.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CARRIAGE LIGHTING.

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that for a considerable time some of the second-class passenger coaches have left Perth for Midland Junction at night in semi-darkness? 2, If so, will he endeavour to have the lighting improved?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No, although such is quite possible. 2, The only improvement which can be effected is to electrically light all coaches, which would entail considerable expenditure. The fitting up of 36 additional coaches with the electric light has already been authorised, and the work is in hand.

QUESTION—CATTLE, FREIGHTS.

Mr. ANGELO asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that cattle for slaughter are being brought into this State from South Australia at the following cost:—Freight, Port Augusta to Kalgoorlie (a distance of 1,050 miles), 27s.; Kalgoorlie to Midland Junction, 28s.; total, 55s. per head; whilst this State's own producers in the Kimberleys are compelled to pay the following charges before their cattle can be sold in the metropolitan market:—Freight, Derby to Fremantle, £5 10s.; wharfage, feed, etc., £1 16s.; total cost, £7 6s. from West Kimberley; freight, Wyndham to Fremantle, £9 10s.; wharfage, feed, etc., £1 3s.; total cost, £10 18s. from East Kimberley? 2, Is there any way whereby our own pastoralists can be assisted to place their products on our own markets on terms that will enable them to compete against South Australian growers?

The PREMIER replied: 1, We are aware that cattle are being imported from South Australia, and understand the charges are as follow:—Per bogie truck, Augusta to Kalgoorlie (approximately 18 head), £40; Kalgoorlie to Midland Junction, per truck, £20 15s. Shipping rates chartered from Wyndham: freight, £8 10s.; wharfage, 2s. per head, plus 20 per cent. surcharge; harbour improvements, 4d. per head, plus 20 per cent. surcharge. Shipping rates chartered from Derby: freight, £6 10s.; wharfage and harbour improvements, as for Wyndham. 2, I do not know of any way at present.

QUESTION—CATTLE TICK.

Mr. ANGELO asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is he aware that a farmer at Manjimup recently lost a number of valuable dairy cattle through tick? 2, Has he heard it reported that tick have been found on cattle at Bridgetown? 3, What steps are being taken to prevent the spread and to eradicate this serious pest?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Losses were reported. 2, Yes. 3, Owing to representations made some time ago by the members for the districts concerned, this matter was thoroughly investigated, and a further investigation was carried out as requested by the South-West agricultural conference recently. There is no evidence of tick being present in these districts now, and measures are being taken to prevent further outbreaks.

QUESTION—TRAFFIC ACT, FINES.

Mr. LATHAM asked the Minister for Works: When does he intend to carry out the resolution which was carried by last Parliament relating to payment of fines under the Traffic Act?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: Due respectful consideration has been given to the resolutions passed by the House on the 17th November 1920. The Attorney General pointed out at the time that without an amendment of the Traffic Act the resolution would be inoperative. No such amendment has been made.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Tenth day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. WILSON (Collicie) [4.42]: In common with other members who have spoken and from my own personal feelings I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on the high office to which you have been again elected. I also wish to compliment the Premier on once more holding the reins of Government. May I also extend a very hearty welcome to the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan). I am sure that her career here will be a useful one and may I express the hope that it will be a long one. I listened very carefully to the Speech which His Excellency the Governor delivered to members of both Houses, since which I have read the Speech perhaps a dozen times from beginning to end, and amid all the wordy camouflage that describes the activities of the Government, I have succeeded in finding very little that is calculated to inspire a feeling of satisfaction among members of the community.

The Premier: What about Collicie coal?

Mr. WILSON: I will come to that by and by. Whether advisedly or otherwise, the Government failed to include in the Speech reference to one of the two items which have been of material assistance to the State. I refer to coal and timber, which industries have formed the only silver lining to the deficit. The figures relating to revenue and expenditure and the deficit only reveal a confession of the Government's inability to deal with the question and show how imperative it is that the Government should endeavour to grapple with the financial situation of the State.

The Premier: What about the price of Collicie coal.

Mr. WILSON: I intend to deal with the question of the price of coal just the same as I intend to deal with other items, and perhaps I shall be able to make some revelations with regard to the question of prices. Last night in another place Mr. Hickey asked a question of the Minister for Education. In reply to that question the Minister said—

So far as departments in the Public Service are concerned, every effort is being

made to reduce administration expenses, but no general scheme of retrenchment has been considered. Some retrenchment has taken place in the Railways through fall of trade. Whether this will continue or cease depends entirely upon trade conditions. No date or numbers can be determined, as the numbers employed will be affected continuously by the revival or fall in trade.

That is a peculiar statement to make in the light of the report for last year on the question of transport and the number of men employed in the railways. In 1921 the total tonnage carried in the case of livestock and goods was 3,015,704 tons. In 1920 the railways carried 3,070,936 tons. For the year 1921 they employed 8,043 men and last year they employed 7,669 men. We have thus over 400 more men employed in the railways this year for 36,000 tons less than was carried over the railways last year.

The Minister for Mines: That includes the workshops, which are doing work they never did previously.

Mr. WILSON: We are asked to produce, produce. I am going to show that the railways have not produced as they should, while the Collicie miners have produced more than their quota. I also desire to compare the lack of production on the railways with the production that has been shown at Collicie. A statement appears in the "Sunday Times" on the question of economy, dealing more particularly with the Old Men's Home. The statement is an illuminating one. It shows that in 1918-19 the expenditure on that institution was £2,981 and that this year it was £6,752, this being an extra burden for the people to carry of £3,771, notwithstanding the fact that there are 120 fewer inmates than there were in the previous year quoted. I would not care if this meant that the old men in the institution received extra luxuries. There must be something wrong in the State of Denmark when a position like this arises. It is certainly time the Government effected some economy in the administration of this institution. Still more striking is the position at the Duntroon College. This serves as an illustration of the danger that we may expect from the brass hat section. At the Duntroon College there are 81 students and the staff employed numbers 170. There are, therefore, practically two teachers to instruct every soldier how to turn and salute by number. The following extract from the "Age" of July 14 throws some light upon the subject:—

To all suggestions that a Government department is overmanned Ministers always give a most indignant denial. Quite innocently yesterday the Assistant Minister for Defence fell into a little trap set for him by Mr. Blakeley (N.S.W.), who wanted to know how many persons were employed at Duntroon Military College on the instructional staff and in other capacities, and what was the number of attending students. The Minister furnished a long return, which

showed that the instructional and other staff at the college numbered 170, and the students only 81.

The Premier: We are not responsible for that.

Mr. WILSON: No; but I desire to show that the Federal and State Governments should practice what they preach. We are told by the Federal Government to produce and to study economy, but the Federal people are the biggest spendthrifts of all. In my opinion it is not so much a question of economy as a question of care being exercised by departmental heads, and of Ministers seeing that sufficient judgment is exercised so that the best deal is always made for the State. Buyers and sellers are always out for the best bargains they can get. That should be the object of the Government. I should like to give an illustration of what happened during the time when the Labour Government were in office, in order to show that that Government at all events adhered to that principle. After the Labour Government assumed office war broke out in 1914. I was a member of the Timber Hewers' Society and was asked by that society and by the State Sawmills to endeavour to get some concession with regard to ships to take our produce to South Africa. I was instrumental in getting a reduction of something like 10s. per ton on the Federal charges. I may say that the Federal Government desired to charge 20s. per ton above what was a fair thing. Having returned to the State I was informed that I could go back once more and endeavour to obtain a charter of the vessel named the "Susanne Vinnen" and to look after all details in making it ready to go to sea with our timber. I refused to go unless I received full power to act, and this power was given to me by the Labour Government. The Fisher Government wanted £500 per month for the "Susanne Vinnen." The then Premier, who is now Minister for Mines, was able to effect a reduction of this charge to £300 per month, and I was sent across to see if I could get a further reduction. I went to the Federal department concerned and obtained that ship for £100 less than our departmental heads were able to get it for. I was also able to obtain another concession in the shape of the free use of the vessel for the first seven and half months, which was of considerable value to the State. The departmental heads have not always the knowledge necessary to deal with matters concerning coal and other material. I went to Newcastle to find that the ship was full of Newcastle coal. The coal was owned by Mr. John Brown of Prince Foote and Wallace Isinglass race-horse fame. He is one of the crustiest Tories in the Commonwealth and one of the worst owners that ever coal miners worked under. I asked him what he wanted for his coal. He replied he wanted 11s. per ton. I said, "You cannot get it." He replied, "I will get it." I said again, "You cannot get it." He replied that he had a telegram

from Western Australia accepting 11s. on behalf of the Government. I replied, "You will not get it because I hold full authority to deal with that matter." I also said that when I was working on his mine in Newcastle he would not pay me for such shandy coal. He asked me whether I ever worked in Newcastle and I said "Yes, I bought that coal for 10s." If the departmental heads would put some vim into their work they could do the same thing. As it was, an ordinary private member of this Chamber was able to secure these benefits. The Governor's Speech finishes a political dirge with the statement that there are going to be 19 Bills submitted for our consideration and that we are left to the blessings of Providence and to our labours. It will take more than the blessings of Providence to get us out of our troubles. God only helps those who help themselves. I am disappointed that certain Bills which would bring revenue to the State are not going to be submitted to Parliament. There are such questions as State banking, State insurance, State lotteries and other matters, which might well have been dealt with. We have whittled away nearly all our privileges. We have given away the Taxation Department and the Immigration Department, for instance. I do not know any people who put up with as much as do the people in Western Australia. I am not sure that the system of immigration proposed is a sound one. I have known in the Old Country of artisans, clerks and persons other than farmers coming out here as farmers by means of a little subterfuge. If a man has been on a farm for a couple of days he is said to be a farmer. The man has only to say he wants to go to Western Australia or to Queensland, as was the case in 1886, and to spend a couple of days on a farm, for it to be sufficient to pass him out as a farmer. I know that hundreds of persons have come out to Australia as farmers under these conditions, although they hardly knew the difference between a cow and a bull. The same thing is going on now. In the Old Country there are fee fairs at which all the best plough lads and farm hands are engaged a month in advance for the next six months.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is that carried on still?

Mr. WILSON: Yes. We want practical men who will attend these fee fairs and get the practical ploughmen and farm hands to come out here after their next six months' engagement is over. That is the only way we can get good farmers to this State.

The Minister for Mines: Then they have to learn their work all over again when they get here.

Mr. WILSON: It is easier for a ploughman who has done the work for six or seven years in the Old Country to adapt himself to conditions here than it is for a man who has worked in coal mines or other artisans to learn farming. A ploughman can plough and harrow the land and knows a good deal about certain grains that should be put in.

The collier and mechanic, however, only know about coal or steamships. By this means we can bring healthy farmers and farmers' sons and plough lads here who should prove to be ideal farmers for Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We can't get them now.

The Minister for Mines: That is the complaint.

Mr. WILSON: There is no such word as "can't." The farmers in England certainly do pay higher wages than heretofore, but there are many young men in the Old Country who have a certain enthusiasm about Australia, who would come out here and make good and, of course, there are others who possibly do not care to come out here while they think things will remain good in the Old Country. I know that farmers could get hands for about 12s. a week in the old days. The conditions are better now, but these good times will not continue indefinitely. With regard to the State Savings Bank, the primary producers passed a wise motion opposing the handing over to the Commonwealth of the State Savings Bank. That was a good move on their part. The Commonwealth Bank has shown us the lead in the way in which they have conducted their institution. We have about nine banks, all doing well. They are housed in palatial buildings. Side by side with them we have only a State Savings Bank. In it, however, we have the nucleus of funds for a fine organisation, and the probability of good profits to assist in reducing the deficit. The member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) gave a clear exposition last session upon the question of State insurance. He showed that it would mean increasing the compensation given to workers and reducing the premiums paid by employers. Above all, it would mean putting £56,000 into the pockets of the State. I say advisedly that much-maligned Queensland has given us some idea of how to reduce our deficit, and we ought to take some leaves out of their statute-books in order to help us here. In regard to State lotteries, some people think that because I am a Presbyterian I should not support them. I may say, however, that I am a Presbyterian with an elastic conscience, and that that conscience is elastic enough to convince me that we should raise as much money as we possibly can in any way to help the poor and the needy, and more particularly widows and little children. We see placarded in the shops about Perth advertisements for the Golden Casket of Queensland, and Tattersall's in Tasmania, and now I believe the New South Wales people also intend to start a lottery for their "motherhood scheme," and we shall be asked to subscribe to that. I have no doubt that we shall do so because our people are born gamblers. Just let me show the pious hypocrisy of the Federal Government in connection with lotteries and also the hypocrisy of the State

Government in connection with gambling generally. The State Government collect on every betting ticket a certain amount, and they also collect on totalisator dividends. In connection with Tattersall's sweeps, we find that the Tasmanian Government charge 4d. for every 5s. ticket that is sold, and in connection with those sweeps the Federal Government say to the people "You shall not gamble; you shall not buy lottery tickets." But they salve their conscience by taking 14 per cent. of the prize money.

Mr. A. Thomson: Apparently you have never won anything.

Mr. A. WILSON: I would not mind losing that 14 per cent. if I won a first prize. On the one hand, they prohibit by law this form of gambling, and on the other, they come along and take what amounts to a dividend from the prizes won by the subscribers. If we can get some money through a source of this description, we should certainly do so, and in that way meet the needs of charity. The Government intend to introduce some 19 Bills, some of which will meet with my support. I am glad to see that it is proposed to introduce a measure to deal with the hospitals. That measure is urgently needed. In Collie we have had a considerable amount of trouble in this direction. The old idea was that the medical officer in a town where there was a Government Hospital, was supreme, and that another doctor could not follow his patients into the hospital. Faith is a good thing either in religion or illness. If I want to go to Heaven as a Presbyterian I am not going to call in a Church of England parson to help me to get there. And so it is with a person who is ill; he wants the doctor in whom he has faith to attend to him. If a person who is ill has no faith in the doctor who is in attendance, it is a difficult matter for that person to recover. Therefore, if there are, say, a dozen doctors in a town, a patient should be allowed to have his choice of medical skill, and I contend that that should always be at the command of those people who are ill. In Collie this kind of thing has been denied to the people. Mr. Colebatch met us to some extent, and now a member of a union at Collie can secure the services of any doctor he pleases. When the Bill is introduced I trust there will be a provision in it which will enable a doctor to follow his patients into any Government Hospital. I notice it is also intended to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration of land agents. I do not propose to say much on this subject at the present time because I shall have an opportunity of referring to the matter at a later stage. The proposed legislation should be just and should be in the direction of permitting a man to make a fair living, as well as giving his clients a fair deal. The man who is profiteering should be put to the wall. Profiteering has been rampant for the past five years and no one has suffered from the evil more than the soldier of the A.I.F. Flag-flapping land agents and others have deliberately taken the

soldiers down for their money. I intend to deal with this matter by a motion that I intend to bring before the House shortly. I shall also be able to show that no Bill is more urgently needed than the measure it is proposed to submit to deal with the regulation of coal mines. The Minister for Mines has promised to submit this Bill and I can assure the House that its introduction is not before it is wanted. The Act in existence was passed in 1902 and has done good service, but it has outlived its usefulness. The amending Bill should be on the lines of the English Act which is one of the finest extant. I should like to see included in the Bill a special provision for the relief of those who are injured, and for those who are suffering as the result of accidents or distress incidental to mines. There are certain occupations which are dangerous to follow, and included in these may be mentioned mining, timber working and sewerage working. All those trades should assist in the direction of establishing a fund which would have for its object the payment of more than the usual compensation allowed under the Act. When a man is injured he should have the best attention. Instead of that, these unfortunate people at the present time only receive half wages. A good deal has been said about arbitration and I desire to compliment the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) on the eloquent speech he made, and his references to this subject. I agree that the Arbitration Court has not been a success, but I will not deny that it has given assistance in many cases. The Deputy Leader of the Country Party twitted us with not going into the highways and byways for the purpose of telling the worker he is doing wrong in ceasing to work under all circumstances. He practically inferred that the secretaries are the originators of strikes. Many a strike has occurred and the secretary did not know of it until the men were out. The secretary then set to work to make the best terms for the men to resume work. Mr. McCallum has often done that. I would support any proposal to make the arbitration court appointments permanent, and I would also advocate the appointment of assessors. I have known instances in connection with our own Arbitration Court where, after an award had been given, it was found necessary to go down in a coal mine to see exactly what a certain thing meant. If there had been an assessor on the Court present a good deal of expense and inconvenience would have been saved.

Mr. J. Thomson: Would not wages boards be better?

Mr. WILSON: They take the line of least resistance and go with the boss. I was a great agitator for arbitration. Many years ago, in 1902, before I came to this State I was general secretary of the Coal Miners' Union in Gippsland. Early in 1903 I received a communication from the employers to the effect that after the 14th January the men would have to submit to a

reduction in their wages of 2s. 6d. per day, while there would also be a reduction in regard to piece work, and we were also informed that we would have to work under certain other conditions which were such that no blackfellow would have dreamt of agreeing to. I have heard the name of Baillieu who is an M.L.C. in Victoria mentioned in this Chamber. He was one of the gentlemen who was responsible for the issuing of the instruction. I asked him to submit the case to arbitration, and the union did everything in their power to try to bring that about, but failed. At the end of sixty weeks some gentlemen in Melbourne decided that the thing had gone far enough. Archibishop Carr, Professor Rentoul and a few others tried to get the parties to the dispute together, and so end the lock-out. I was sent for. I went to Melbourne and the time happened to be show week. I got into a train which was full of farmers going to the show, and when passing Korumburra Show Ground, one of the farmers said, "There will not be much of a show this year; this strike has settled the whole thing." One man said he could settle the matter, and I asked him how he could do it when others had tried and failed. He said, "I would take that little Wilson out, shoot him and then drop him into a creek." All this time I was in the corner of the compartment. I was astounded. This is no tale; it is the truth. I then took a hand in the conversation, and I explained to the men what I understood the position to be. I told the farmer that I understood when these coal miners were given employment they were asked by a certain land syndicate connected with the coal companies to take up blocks of land on which to build houses. The coal miners bought the land under the time purchase system and built houses. When the land was about paid off the notice for the reduction of wages was given to the miners. That was where the thunderbolt came in. The companies' intention was to buy the whole thing again for nothing. The farmer who first spoke said to me, "Young fellow"—I was younger then than I am now—"If what you say is true, I think the miners did right. But who are you?" I replied that I was the little Wilson he was going to shoot. May I say here that the farmers took the thing in good part, and they were very fair to the miners afterwards. I am satisfied that the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) has saved this country a good deal more than we can estimate. The Primary Producers show no judgment when they agree to the action of their mouth-piece. I want to show where they err. A few days ago seven gentlemen representing the Employers' Federation, the Chamber of Mines, the Primary Producers' Association, and other bodies waited on the Premier and made various recommendations which they asked should be embodied in any amendment that was introduced to the Arbitration Act. One of the recommendations they made was that the Court should be under the con-

trol of a president who would be removable on a resolution by both Houses. When I came here and took over the reins of the Collie Miners' Union, the first thing I had to do was to fight a case in the Arbitration Court. I appeared for the miners, and the late hon. Frank Wilson represented the mine owners. Mr. Justice Parker was on the bench. With a view to showing what it cost a man to live, I produced the evidence of several young fellows who said they were paying 25s. weekly, exclusive of their washing. Then I produced a married man who had a wife and seven children. Mr. Justice Parker said, "Mr. Wilson, that will do. We know exactly what it costs a man to live, namely 25s. weekly." I pointed out that it would be a very different figure for a man with a wife and family, whereupon Mr. Justice Parker said he could not take into consideration a man's wife and family when assessing a day's wages. I said that coal miners had proverbially large families and that if those children died through starvation the parents would be taken before some other judge. The judge said, "Very well, I may take one or two into consideration in assessing a day's wage." The court then adjourned to Perth. In Perth I had a breeze with His Honour, and finally he said, "You can get no sympathy from me." I said I did not want his sympathy, I wanted fair play, which I had not been able to get in the court. At that he jumped up in his seat, and if a look could have killed me I should have been gone, and I would not have been the member for Collie to-day. He was so passionate that he could not articulate anything but "I adjourn the court." Just imagine a man like that being placed as sole judge in the Arbitration Court! and just imagine a man like that being removed by this House with its present personnel. In the Press afterwards I called him the Judge Jeffrey of arbitration, and so he was. I say a judge like that is not fit for a position in the Arbitration Court. This deputation then asked that no cognizance should be taken of private arbitration. May I say that more good has been done by private arbitration than by the court. This body of gentlemen to whom I referred asked that industrial matters relating to wages, conditions, etc., shall not be submitted to private arbitration. In my opinion that is not the feeling of the members of the Primary Producers' Party who sit in the House. During the war there was less depression of trade in Western Australia than in any other part of the Commonwealth and most of our industrial matters were settled by talks around the table. Yet we are told that these matters should not be referred to private arbitrators. I hope that when the time arrives to amend the Arbitration Act it will be amended on the lines I have indicated or on lines submitted by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum). On the question of secondary industries, I regret that the Government have not done anything to help us to arrive at some

conclusion. We are entitled to say that secondary industries shall be established here. The Government brought out Mr. Riddel, an English woollen mill expert, and while here he went through a number of centres with a view to determining the best site for a woollen mill. In one of the most important centres, Collie, he spent about five hours, so hon. members will judge of how much he was able to do in that time.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Do you not think that his mind was already made up?

Mr. WILSON: Yes. I begin to think that was so. He recommended that the mill should be established at Albany. I do not think any better spot could be found for getting a lot of work done, but I do not agree that a seaport is the best place for a woollen mill. The whole history of the woollen trade goes to show that inland situations, as against seaports, are best for woollen mills. The delicate machinery used for teasing the wool, spinning the wool and weaving the threads suffers considerably from salt air. I am speaking as a man with seven years' experience of the industry. I was a spinner and weaver, and so I know my subject pretty well. No one with any knowledge will tell me that the delicate machinery in a woollen mill is not prejudicially affected by the salt air.

Mr. J. Thomson: Yet they have woollen mills at Geelong.

Mr. WILSON: Yes, it is easy enough to find mills close to the water. In New Zealand the Mosgiel mill, where very fine tweeds are produced, is 30 miles distant from the coast, and at Kaipoi, Christchurch, there is a mill 50 miles from the coast. On the other hand there is a mill at Petronie, in the corner of Wellington Bay, but that mill supplies only lower grade cloth and heavy rugs. For the production of less than the finest materials a mill could be set in any place; but out here in Australia, we do not want to wear a top of wool in summer. What is required at such a season is the very finest of material. Regarded as a port, no place could be better than Albany. But if the mill is to be established there it will be necessary to provide a special water supply, whereas at Collie we already have the finest water supply imaginable in the Minniepool, and in addition the Government have there some 2,000 or 3,000 acres of land available, and so it would not be necessary to repurchase any for the woollen mill. Wherever the mill may be established, it is highly desirable that we should have it as quickly as possible. Mr. Riddel said it would cost £250,000 to establish a mill. He has since reduced that to £200,000, which is still high above a reasonable estimate. Mr. Battye has said that a mill could be established for less than that amount. Mr. Hamer, a farmer, writes that he can assure us that a mill can be established for £10,000. I am not so sure of that, but I am certain that it can be established for less than £30,000. The mill in which I worked at Home developed from very small beginnings. Instead of sending a

man Home in a collar and tie to work in an office, what we require to do is to send Home someone with a knowledge of the industry who will buy a small mill and transplant it out here. The Labour Party would, I believe, help by the modification of labour conditions during a certain period of the infancy of the industry. The industry could be established with benefit to the whole State. I understand the Government are willing to assist in the erection of woollen mills. In my opinion three mills should be established, one each at Albany, Northam and Collie. However, I do not care where they may be put, provided we get a start. In regard to the much discussed search for oil, I desire to issue a warning. I am not a pessimist, but we require to be very careful. I remember when shale was supposed to have been found in Victoria. If anybody who knows anything at all about shale cares to read an article in the "Business, Robbery" column of the "Bulletin," he will find there something worth considering—something about the Joudja Shale Works in New South Wales. I see that certain shale has been analysed at 90 per cent. oil. That percentage is too high, it is not reasonable. I have seen in Edinburgh the residue from the treated shale in a mound higher than the Horseshoe dump. That was after the oil had been extracted from the shale, and the percentage of oil was not 90 per cent. I know that attempts have been made by certain men to get at this State. They have come along and shown samples of shale to the Government Geologist, who asked where it had been found, and was told that it had come from down Esperance way. When Mr. Maitland asked whether it was found in a horizontal or perpendicular formation, he was told that it was angled at about half-way between. Mr. Maitland led his man on until finally he asked, "When did you send that other half to South Australia?" Whereupon the men with the shale declared that Mr. Maitland knew too much. Previous to that Mr. Maitland had been warned by other people to watch for this man, who would come over with shale. I know for a fact that last year, 15 or 16 months ago, shares were sold for £60. A few months ago, I was told there was indications of oil about Collie. A bona fide syndicate spent their money and did not attempt to take any one down. One of the party told me that the oil was there, and he was going to give me a sample bottle. That sample of oil has not come yet. I think the indications were due to a poor bushie having dropped the vaseline bottle that he keeps to doctor any cuts. I do, however, believe that there is oil in the State. I am not pessimistic on that matter. Still, I wish to issue a word of warning. We do not want another Bullfinch or Hampton Plains farce. Another such episode as those, and we shall in future have great trouble in securing capital for bona fide things. I would not have spoken on the coal industry but for a reference to it made by the member for Claremont (Mr.

J. Thomson). I think one of the finest suggestions ever made in this Chamber was the suggestion of that hon. member that the Minister for Mines should go on a tour through the coal mining districts of this State and take myself with him. I am willing to go.

Mr. J. Thomson: You would do some good, too.

Mr. WILSON: Well, I am willing to be a patriot, and will sacrifice myself and go. I wish to congratulate the Government on the excellent finds of coal made at Wilga, Irwin, and Collie. Although our coal is not of the same value as Newcastle coal, still the huge body of coal at Collie is a most important asset to Western Australia. In these days of pulverised coal fuel almost any big measure of coal can be used profitably. Of course, if we discovered here coal of the quality of Newcastle coal, it would pay us to shut up Collie straight away.

The Minister for Works: There is room for both kinds of coal.

Mr. WILSON: Yes. Eight years ago, when I went to the North-West on that picnic, I saw there and brought back with me some shale which I believe is indicative of coal. I believe that coal of great value to Western Australia will be discovered in the North-West. Talking of the North-West the member for Roebourne the other night said there were no mosquitoes in the North-West. In that connection I might refer to the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Johnston) as to whether or not we found mosquitoes at Wyndham. We were compelled to take what was practically cheese-cloth bags as a protection against those mosquitoes. Now let me show what the Collie miners are doing—how their output, instead of decreasing has actually increased. In that respect the Collie miners stand alone—I say this advisedly—in the whole world. Their record is a world's record in the tonnage produced per man. The deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke with a certain degree of contempt regarding the wages paid at Collie, and made reference to the fact that the men at Collie were earning 30s. per day. Some piece-work miners earn as high as that but they average only four days per week. I admit that the wages of day men are something like £1 per day of seven hours. The Collie coal miners are the only miners in the Commonwealth who have the seven hours bank to bank. They have that through the generosity of the companies, and that generosity has not been any tax on the companies. Collie at present has about 250 unemployed, not because the Collie coal is going off but because the town of Collie has got the name of being a Utopia and consequently there was a rush to it. Anyone who cares to look up the reports of last week's proceedings in the Arbitration Court will see that that Court fined the companies for not giving the correct number of days per week to the workmen. The correct number is 4½ days

per week or nine days per fortnight or 27 days for every six weeks. Each company was fined because of failure to give the men $4\frac{1}{2}$ days per week. Even if a man is earning 30s. per day he has to find his own plant, tools and other things; and in the circumstances surely the wage is not too much for a man working in the bowels of the earth. Turning now to the increase in trade I remember that when I came to this State in 1904 the output of Collie was very small. In 1905 Collie produced 127,364 tons of a value of £55,000. This production employed 351 men whose output averaged 360 tons per year. For 1920 the output of Collie was 462,121 tons and the value as compared with that of £55,000 for 1905, amounted to £350,346. Let hon. members imagine a jump in 16 years from £55,000 to £350,000! The number of men now employed is 830 and here is where I want to show how the increased production comes in. In 1905 the output was 360 tons per man. In 1918 it was 545 tons per man and in 1919 553 tons; the eight hours system obtaining during those years. But in 1920, the first year of the seven hours bank to bank system, the average production per man was 560 tons. With fewer hours more coal was produced. Now Collie in my opinion is capable of supporting thousands of colliers and it is up to the Government—who I admit have done well by the Collie coal people—and up to all private consumers to take as much Collie coal as they possibly can, so that more men can be employed at Collie. The goldfields are asserted to be going back, but even if that be not so, there is the consideration that coal mining will afford a change to the man threatened with miners' complaint on the goldfields. It is a well known fact that the conditions of the two classes of mining are entirely different. In the case of gold mining the dust lies on the lungs, whereas in the case of coal mining the dust goes off the lungs. If private consumers and especially private companies would give Collie the same consideration as the Government have shown, then Collie would be a place of considerably greater importance to Western Australia. Now a few words on the methods adopted. We have the most primitive methods in the world for handling coal. I told the Premier that those methods were dated 50 B.C. Let hon. members go to the Perth railway yards and see the method of handling coal there. An engine comes along to take coal and a grab picks up a spoonful and drops it into the bin. The same method obtains at Fremantle. Previous Governments to this one adopted the two-ton trucks so that the cranes at Fremantle and Bunbury could pick up the whole truck and drop the coal into the hold of the ship. The Government have found the two-ton truck so handy for picking up and setting down that they use them considerably—sometimes to the detriment of the bunker trade.

The Fremantle Harbour Trust charge 7d. per ton for handling the boxes when a ship is being coaled with Collie coal. That is all right, but when the coal is sent down in open trucks and then shovelled into baskets, the cost is well over 3s. per ton. Thus the trade is penalised to that extent. At the same time let me point out that the Fremantle Harbour Trust controlling a harbour on which two millions of public money have been spent, allow the Browns, the coal kings of Newcastle, the use of the harbour in return for a payment of about £10 for a coal hulk per annum. We allow Newcastle coal to land here at about 1s. per ton to compete with our coal while a charge is levied on any provisions we bring from the East of 7s. or 8s. per ton. I suggest that the Government construct some bins at Fremantle—or three bins for the different qualities of Collie coal. If I had my way, certain of the Collie coals would never go into a ship at all. I raised that question years ago. I introduced a Bill into this House dealing with coal utilisation, but the Government of the day would not support it. Some coals are liable to spontaneous combustion and it is up to us to see that no such coal goes aboard a ship. Only those coals which will keep should be supplied to ships. I suggest that the Government build three bins of a capacity of 500 tons each, build them on solid ground adjacent to the Fremantle wharf or the Bunbury jetty, together with a tippler of sufficient strength to allow the whole wagon to be tipped over and brought back. The two-ton boxes could be used when required to coal the ship from the bins. It is no use tinkering with the business. Suppose a ship is advised as coming in tomorrow to take Collie coal, and suppose that stress of weather keeps that ship 24 hours or 48 hours behind. Meantime the coal is lying on the wharf and the Railway Department charge 10s. per truck or 1s. 8d. per ton every day or part of a day that that coal lies on the wharf.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You should do the same as the wheat fellows and the wool kings did—go on strike.

Mr. WILSON: We had a deputation to the Minister for Railways on this matter and he did help us and conceded us something. However, the wheat people got in ahead of us. If the bins were built as I suggest, then any ship that passes in the night could obtain coal for its bunkers.

Mr. Pickering: Do you know what they would cost?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some of the companies offered to assist the Government in connection with this work.

Mr. WILSON: I interviewed the Minister for Railways and the Premier on this matter. The representatives of the coal owners promised they would pay interest on the money involved. The Government were to find the money and the coal owners would pay the interest. Could anything more than that be desired? A ship coming in would not re-

quire to wait for days for the coal to come forward from Collie but, on the contrary, they could get their coal at once. Such a provision would amount to the salvation of the industry and help to employ a considerable number of men. So far as I am personally concerned, I am always prepared to help the Government in any fair and legitimate proposal. They are bringing forward a Redistribution of Seats Bill and I shall support that measure, and in saying that I add, may every man's seat be safe for himself.

Mr. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [5.47]: I had carefully prepared some notes for my speech during the last week or two, but I have been very interested in the speeches during the debate and so my notes have undergone a process of mutilation. I have cut out various matters that have been dealt with from time to time by the speakers, and consequently I will endeavour to make some material out of those which I have left. I was very interested in the speeches delivered by members sitting on the Opposition side. Those speeches were friendly and helpful, but they were characterised by a good many reservations.

Mr. Munsie: We want them at times.

Mr. TEESDALE: It would be quite permissible to call the attention of new members to the remarkable elasticity of those reservations. Before this session is finished, I venture to assert that the new members will wonder whether the speakers who have made the remarks I refer to, are the same persons they will listen to later on.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you prophesying?

Mr. TEESDALE: I was struck by the friendly feeling existing in the Chamber when I entered Parliament for the first time a few years ago, but I changed my mind before many months had elapsed. I believe that most of those hon. members meant what they said when they promised to assist the Government. I do not know whether congratulations are necessary in connection with some of the new members for they are old hands inasmuch as they have been trying to get into Parliament for many years past. There is no particular kudos attaching to their speeches because they have had a splendid experience outside and we expected a lot.

Mr. Munsie: And you were not disappointed.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am afraid, for instance, the member for Yilgarn (Mr. Corboy) may be affected by the atmosphere of the chair in which he is sitting, on account of the late member who occupied that seat. I would ask him to try to improve upon the last member and not allow himself to consider that he has a monopoly of various matters.

Mr. Corboy: He occupied the seat next to mine.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is possible that members sitting on the Government side of the

House have as much sympathy in connection with the matters he referred to as the member for Yilgarn has himself. I claim that is so for myself and I know of worse cases than those he mentioned. I know of men who are wanting food for themselves and their families and that is far worse than the question of a man working a few hours less than he is asked to work at the present time. Although I have been reflecting upon the late member for Fremantle, I would like to add that he was a likeable man in the corridor. On the other hand, he was a perfect Trotsky on the soap box. I hope the member for Yilgarn will not be affected by the atmosphere surrounding his chair. I do not think that sort of thing does much good, and I have never known it do any good during the 40 years I have been in Australia. There are a few men, not more than 15 or 20 perhaps, who, if they were taken gently by the back of the neck, and shot out of Australia, it would be better for the Commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You can shoot them, I suppose.

Mr. TEESDALE: They ought to be taken in charge by a paternal Government and shot out of here. Half the trouble caused in Australia is occasioned because of the cut throat foreigners—

The Minister for Works: Hear, hear! That is the position.

Mr. TEESDALE: And because of two or three renegade Englishmen. And then there are the fellows who the member for East Perth asked the other night should be invited to come here as immigrants, although they were the type of men who made trouble on the woodlines some months ago. They very nearly beat the A.L.P. Party on that occasion. They got out of hand, and they gave the A.L.P. Party all they knew to deal with them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: We can look after them all right.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am glad that the A.L.P. were equal to them on that occasion. I hope they will always be equal to outing these wasters and these foreigners.

Mr. Corboy: I am glad that you give us some credit sometimes.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It would be a good thing if we chucked out some of the employers who employ them.

Mr. TEESDALE: I need not apologise for referring to the fact that those sitting behind the Government have been sent back for another term with increased numbers. That shows that the public recognise that the Government had never had a straight-out chance. They realised that the Government had to shoulder the burdens caused by the war period and also that they were faced with industrial troubles practically every week. They realised that, in the circumstances, the Government had not been able to go ahead with legislation in the interests of the country, and had had little time to deal with mat-

ters other than those dealing with the troubles immediately confronting them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You are all right now.

Mr. TEESDALE: I think so. Parliament has lost one or two good men. I refer to the late members for West Perth and Perth.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear!

Mr. TEESDALE: I am sorry that those men are absent from the Chamber this session, but I trust the new members who are taking their places will be able to deliver the goods as per sample submitted to the electors.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Evidently the goods were not satisfactory to the electors because those men did not satisfy the electors and secure return.

Mr. TEESDALE: In the member for Subiaco (Mr. Richardson) we recognise that we have a man of great promise on the Government side of the House, but he is a little bit inclined to be too sympathetic with members sitting on the Opposition benches. If he is not too sympathetic with them, he will be an acquisition to our side of the Chamber. I think, however, he was inclined to agree too much with the Leader of the Opposition the other night.

Mr. Corboy: Just mention it to the Whip.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Yes, to the Tory Whip.

Mr. TEESDALE: At any rate I have great confidence in him.

Hon. T. Walker: That will help him. That is the style.

Mr. TEESDALE: There are one or two members who have been trying to get into the House for many years and they are at last here. It is a great problem to me as to how they did it. It must have been on account of the few National votes that came in at the last moment and that enabled them to succeed.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The problem is how some did not get returned.

Mr. Corboy: The problem also is how some of the old members stop here.

Mr. TEESDALE: New members will find that many of their gorgeous bubbles will be pricked and their illusions dispelled before they have been in this House many months. By now perhaps they have found that they have to pay for their own drinks and tucker and they realise that members are not to be found lying about the corridors in a drunken condition and that, generally speaking, they behave themselves like ordinary human beings.

Mrs. Cowan: Do members get drunk in the corridors?

Mr. TEESDALE: The fact that we conduct ourselves as ordinary human beings must have caused surprise to some who had heard that hon. members were accustomed to go to sleep in the corridors or get drunk when they should have been doing their duty to the country in this Chamber. My experience taught me that such stories about happenings in Parliament House constituted a great libel on members generally and no doubt other new members will have found the same thing. It

must have been a disagreeable surprise to some people to see many of us here, for they had hoped to see us shot out into oblivion. It seems that the public must have been very satisfied with the results of last session because, with very few exceptions, the House is practically the same as during the last Parliament. I know that members of Parliament have been very prominent lately in the Press. The "Primary Producer" has been waxing facetious at the expense of members of Parliament and even judges have furnished their brains and have been making brilliant sallies concerning members of this Chamber. Witnesses in the Arbitration Court and heads of departments have made brilliant remarks about members, and in fact every silly ass seems to be dealing with members about this time of the year. I suppose it is usual at this period.

Mr. Munsie: This is when the microbe bites.

Mr. TEESDALE: It is strange that these people who are so capable and are making such brilliant remarks about members of Parliament have not had the pluck to come along and face the electors. If they did so, they would be surprised at what would be ahead of them. They apparently prefer to run the country from the club and public bars and consume many pots in the operation. With regard to civil servants, I would like to record my opinion that the reclassification farce should stop immediately. I do not think that it will be a question of their classification that will trouble many of these civil servants in the future, but that their trouble will be to get food. I am sorry to think that the time will come when they will be glad to look back upon the salaries they are getting now as being very much preferable to what they will get in a few months' time.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is there any authority behind that threat?

Mr. TEESDALE: What sort of position is it when we find men receiving £400 or £500 per year bombarding the Government for increases in salaries at times like these when men are walking about the streets unable to get food to eat. Some of these men who are out of employment are capable of filling the position of these men who are now earning £400 or £500 a year. We have recently had an extraordinary spectacle in the Arbitration Court of heads of departments doing their best to get increases for their subordinates.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That means it follows on.

Mr. Pickering: The increases go higher up.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yes, they are trying to get increases for men who have in some instances admitted that they are perfectly satisfied with the salaries they are getting. In the same paper in which we read that, we are informed that the Premier proposed to call these heads of departments together to consider the practising of economy in the different departments. We can picture these heads, with their tongues in their cheeks, meeting the Premier to consider economies when the week before they were in the Arbi-

tration Court, boosting up civil servants who were quite satisfied with the salaries they were getting. During the three years I have been in the House, I have heard various Ministers deploring the fact that the heads of departments would not make any attempt to reduce their expenditure. It seems to me there is a time when this deploring must stop and when the Government must take action. If these men cannot reduce their expenditure, I would reduce them and give the next man in charge a chance. It is just about time these men were convinced that the Government are determined that the departments shall be run more economically than they are at the present time. If the present heads of departments cannot do this, let them get out, and let the second in charge see what he can do. The civil servants have received great consideration up to the present time. I have always been opposed to criticising the civil servants, because I have recognised that there is a big percentage in the service of whom it may be said that this is about the only thing they are capable of doing, some unfortunately from a health point of view and some from the point of view of experience; I am not reflecting on their intellectual capacity. I am only regretting that such a number of them have been brought up by thoughtless parents to follow those wretched clerical occupations which somehow or other unfit them for taking other positions where a little manual labour is necessary.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The clerical work has to be done.

Mr. TEESDALE: I would like to see two or three retired business men appointed as a committee. I will not say they should be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, because that would give great offence to the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin).

Mr. O'Loughlen: And to anybody with a fair mind.

Mr. TEESDALE: I do not see why exception should be taken to the appointment of such men. I have to specify retired business men, because I do not want the slightest chance of any motives coming in to influence their decisions. I have to say business men, because it is necessary that they should understand what they are taking in hand. Why any member should take exception to the appointment of such a committee, I cannot understand. Yet it seems to be to the Opposition like a red rag to a bull. I have not said anything about these men being blessed by the Almighty with particular brilliance. I have asked for them to be appointed because they might be expected to understand what they are tackling.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The Minister for Works is a business man.

Mr. TEESDALE: He is a Government official, and I would not have any Government official appointed to inquire into some of the delinquencies, perhaps of the Minister for Works himself. I do not want any Gov-

ernment official to be connected with the committee that I desire to see appointed. I do not know why the Premier should express astonishment at the report that the civil service was about to be reduced to five days per week. The Premier appeared to be very much upset about that report. I think it would be a very fine idea to work civil servants five days in the week on full salary, and the other day's pay should be given to some of the unfortunates walking about the streets and unable to find employment. Those men would be very glad indeed of even the one day's pay.

Mrs. Cowan: Should not members of Parliament suffer a reduction too?

Mr. TEESDALE: I would not have overtime worked during the next two years until things straighten themselves out. There are people in receipt of salaries who are allowed to earn additional money by working overtime, notwithstanding that there is so much unemployment.

The Minister for Works: How much overtime is being worked at present?

Mr. TEESDALE: I would not have any increase of salaries during the next two years under any consideration. I would have no increase of any sort, no matter what has been promised by the board which was appointed. I would give effect to our obligations to pay statutory increases, but I would not pay any other increase until the finances had been straightened up. To show the results of this bludgeoning for increases, we have the position of the railways to-day. Twelve months ago I was able to advertise the fact that there was no unemployment in Western Australia at that time, at any rate none that was apparent. Of course, there might have been a little, but it was not enough to cause trouble, and the unemployed were not sufficiently numerous to make any decided representation to the Government. To-day, unfortunately, we have quite a number of men who have been discharged from the railways and I am very sorry to think it has been necessary, but I do think that these men have themselves largely to blame. If they only look back to the time when they were getting at least sufficient money to keep things going—

Mr. O'Loughlen: How do you know they were?

Mr. TEESDALE: They were certainly not going back; they were just making ends meet. I claim to have as good an idea as any man in this House of what it costs for an ordinary family to live, and I think they were just making ends meet, perhaps with a little struggle and a little recourse to their savings, but is not that position fifty times better than to be walking about the streets, wondering what on earth one will be doing next week to keep things going? Surely it is preferable! It is to be regretted that these men had to leave the department, but surely it would have been far better for all the employees in the service to have undertaken to work half or three-quarter time in order that all might have retained their posi-

tions. To-day the civil service is trending in exactly the same direction. They are positively bludgeoning the Government into a black Wednesday. A black Wednesday will come as sure as we are here, and these men, instead of being able to make ends meet as they can do at present, will be in the same position as the employees of the Railway Department.

Mr. O'Loughlen: I suppose before you have finished you will say a few words about economy and the furnishing of the Agent General's house.

Mr. TEESDALE: The civil servants will have themselves to blame. I would like to impress on the member for Forrest that I am not blaming; I am only deploring. One can deplore without blaming, and one can regret without being venomous. I do not want anyone to lose his employment. I do not want to think that anyone is out of work. I have experienced quite as much unemployment as any man in this House. I know what it is to be unemployed. It is a wretched position, and I do not wish to see anyone placed in that position if it can be avoided. I think the civil service could avoid it if they would be reasonable and endeavour to tide over the present depression and give the authorities a little chance to straighten things up. The position of the civil service to-day is such that I would seriously inquire into the question of retaining the services of the married men with families, and discharging or transferring and finding employment for a lot of those lusty young fellows who have no right at all to be pen-pushing. These fine upstanding young fellows with big feet and hands should be out in the bush. When I first came to Australia, I was a thin bit of a stripling of about 8 stone 10 pounds, but I had an uncle who gave me the rounds of the kitchen in the first week. He said, "I am not going to keep you hanging about here; off you go to the country and get work." In 24 hours I was in a chaff mill bagging chaff. There I was working from 7.30 in the morning, and some of the good hefty Australians there thought it a good joke to poke borak at the new chum, but before the new chum had been there a month he could do the work as well as anybody. I am not asking these big hefty men in the service to do anything which I did not do. If they are big and strong men, let them do something in the line of production and not waste any more time here in jobs which could be well filled by men, perhaps in delicate health, and men with wives and children dependent on them.

Mr. O'Loughlen: To what part of the country should they go? Have you any proposal?

Mr. TEESDALE: I am pleased to find that some of the constituents of the Leader of the Opposition are men enough to seek work in the country. It is indeed creditable to them that they have done so, instead of

loafing and whining about being out of work. They intend to go out into the country and tackle something, and ten to one a big percentage of them will make a success of it, as did the Kununoppin crowd regarding whom the Premier was chafed so much. Those people who vilified the Premier with regard to the Kununoppin settlement should have been given something to go on with. Had I been in his place, I would have scored them and rubbed vitriol into them for their criticism. It is of no use talking to the Premier about retrenchment. I have had more trouble with the Premier over this than anything else. He will stand by the civil service. He says they are all loyal and that everyone is actuated by a desire to get the State out of its difficulties. I cannot agree with him. I often go into these nice offices with carpets on the floor and fires burning and think to myself that nobody there is making himself perspire over his work. When I enter an office I like to see the men engaged in doing something, instead of immediately making a dash at a file as if it was something novel. The member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) remarked about Ministers being always absent from their offices. I am not conversant with the movements of all Ministers, but I claim to have a pretty good knowledge of the work done by the Premier and his secretary. I can assure the member for South Fremantle that he would be astonished if he knew the hours the Premier puts in at his office. I have often seen the light there at one or two o'clock in the morning. I have been there at 5 o'clock at night and have seen him dealing with stacks of files that would break the heart of any ordinary man. Had I been Premier I would have left those files over till the following morning instead of tackling them that night.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TEESDALE: With regard to the London Agency, I am of opinion that the expenditure here can be reduced so far as the staff is concerned. Since the Federal Government took over a big proportion of our immigration system or its administration, it is now up to the Agent General to do a little more work and dispense with the services of Mr. Rushton, who could be sent back to Western Australia where something could be found for him in his own sphere in connection with railway work.

Mr. Underwood: I am doubtful about that.

Mr. TEESDALE: The time has now come when all the stores we require in this State for Government use should be purchased by the Agent General at the lowest possible price. There has been too much bought through local merchants. There must have been thousands of pounds that could have been saved, represented by the difference between purchasing direct from the manufac-

turer and purchasing through the local merchants.

The Minister for Works: Hear, hear!

Mr. TEESDALE: I am not reflecting upon those officers who purchase for the Tender Board. I have had sufficient business experience, however, to know that this sort of thing is rather rife. There is no incentive to the official to make himself perspire in getting the lowest price possible for the State. It is so easy for him in a lordly manner to run through the long list of requirements for the Government Departments without any thought that he might get some of them cheaper by going further down the street than he need otherwise go. I had a hard apprenticeship in the old country, where we had to buy to the farthing. The margin of profit was so small and competition so great, that every possible consideration had to be given to every transaction, and to every yard of material that was purchased. We have not in Western Australia that necessary close scrutiny of matters pertaining to the Stores Department that we should have, more especially at a time when we are so much to leeward in respect to our finances. There must be very large quantities of material bought here without any regard to the price paid for them, or to the position of the State. The Government are justified in buying in the cheapest market. There is no sentiment about helping the local trader to pay his way; that is a matter for the trader. If he cannot compete with others he must close down his business, and get out of it. It is no use asking the Government to assist the trader to keep going by unnecessarily buying goods locally: If his business is not worked in such a satisfactory way as to enable him to handle the requirements of the Government service at the lowest margin of profit, he must then rely upon the small retail trade, and confine himself to that. Our Agent General should do all the purchasing required for the Western Australian Government, with the exception of a few small lines, hand to mouth stuff, which can be reasonably bought from the local traders. Under ordinary conditions the Agent General should be able to do all the work that is required for an expenditure of £5,000 a year. It is unnecessary that our Agent General should be a Knight in order to be a successful representative of the State. This appears to be an expensive honour for Western Australia. I do not know that the fact of his holding that honour is of the slightest benefit to him or to the State, when he is making a big deal for rails or a few hundred tons of iron for the Midland Railway Workshops or the State Implement Works, or that his Knighthood would have any weight whatever with the merchants he is dealing with. I was personally opposed to the Agent General returning here, and said so in the House before he had actually arrived. I think it was totally unnecessary for him to come back here, as he carefully ex-

plained, to make himself conversant with the changes which had occurred during the three years he had been absent. No changes of any importance had occurred, with the exception that we were getting a great deal deeper into debt. If he took an interest in the matter he could read up by every mail the changes in the position, for, goodness knows, enough appears in the papers about it. The excuse that he came back to Western Australia in order to make himself conversant with the position falls very flat. I take exception to the fact that in the face of our being in such bad circumstances he took upon himself to make this expensive purchase of furniture. I do not wish him to live in a 6 by 8 tent, or a small flat, as mentioned by the member for East Perth. I do think, however, he could be reasonably satisfied with a house that would be consonant with his position, if the Knighthood were eliminated. There is no necessity for the expenditure of £3,000 on furniture. There is no kudos attached to the State because of the furniture having been bought from the most expensive firm in London.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Under normal conditions the cost would not have been half that.

Mr. TEESDALE: I know this to be one of the most expensive firms in England. Consider the position the State is in. He could surely have gone to—

Mr. Simons: A second-hand shop.

Mr. TEESDALE: A shop which would not have hit the State so hard as to charge £90 for a bedroom carpet. My support of the Ministry does not carry me to the extent of supporting an expenditure of £90 for a carpet for the Agent General. I do not want any bouquets to be thrown at me because I claim to be consistent and because I take exception to certain excesses so far as our Civil Service is concerned. I want hon. members opposite to remember that I also take exception to something which reflects upon our own side, and that is to the expenditure of a sum of money like this upon carpets for bedrooms.

Mr. Munsie: And £105 for a bedroom suite!

Mr. TEESDALE: I also take exception to the building of a motor garage. With all due respect to the member for East Perth, I do not see why our Agent General should be housed like a Rajah at a time like this. He could well hire the cars that are required for the actual and positive work of the Agency, not for ladies who are continually riding here, there, and everywhere. I admit it would be an expensive matter if cars had to be hired for them, but if they were hired for purely business purposes, I claim that this would be quite sufficient. The expenditure is totally uncalled for, and is calculated to have a bad effect upon those London financiers who are looking to us to practise economy, and at least to cut our garment according to our cloth. We have no right to display the position the State is in at present.

Mr. SIMONS: We should not display our poverty.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: You should not display Kendenup.

Mr. SIMONS: Some of your friends are there, and they are not white either.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: I would go so far as to sell the residence and the furniture and cut the loss, and let the Agent General take a first-class flat in one of the leading hotels, and his women folk could be returned to Western Australia or stay where they are, as they choose.

Mr. LATHAM: A bad advertisement for the State.

Mr. TEESDALE: I do not know that any particular kudos attaches to the State by reason of the Agent General having his women folk with him. I do not see why a man without a large family could not carry out his duties just as well. This Agent General business has been nothing more nor less than seizing an opportunity to take home a fairly large family of girls to get them educated. It is a strange thing that I have not seen any particular rush for the position on the part of single men, or men with wives but no families to rush home with. It would be interesting to find out how this expenditure was actually incurred in the face of the protest made by the Premier, and also to know how this sort of thing can be done. If it is done in direct violation of the Premier's instructions it seems to me that the Agent General's Department has got out of hand, like the Civil Service.

The Premier: The House passed a vote for £6,000.

Mr. TEESDALE: The House did not intend that the money should be spent in this way. I would not have voted for the item had I known. There appears to be a method of juggling up things so much that afterwards, when one has voted, one finds the money devoted to some entirely different purpose.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The house was cheap enough.

Mr. TEESDALE: If the hon. member calls that cheap he has an ambitious way of looking at things.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It means a saving of £150 a year.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am very glad to hear that expression of opinion on the part of our friends opposite. I shall not forget to remind them of this when they are taking exception to tin-pot expenditure that may be proposed from this side of the House.

Mr. MUNSIE: We do not all express that opinion on this side of the House. I think the furnishing of the house was a disgrace.

Mr. PICKERING: What about the champagne glasses?

Mr. MUNSIE: Disgraceful.

Mr. PICKERING: And the goose feather pillows.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: I am very glad to hear the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) express that view. I desire to give some attention to the question of industrial unrest. I know this is a matter which, when referred to, incites the venom of our friends opposite, at any rate when anyone on this side of the House dares to express an opinion as to the cause of that industrial unrest. I have been here long enough to be able to give a few crude conclusions as to the cause of industrial unrest. I am quite sure I shall offend hon. members opposite, but I am prepared to take the risk. The shearers' strike at the present time is a very deplorable state of affairs. There can be only one opinion, and it is that those men who are reasonable and fair minded will admit in their hearts that a big proportion of the shearers are totally opposed to the action of Beaufort-street in connection with this strike. I come into contact with perhaps as many shearers as any man in this House, and I have been able to ascertain that the strike is very unpopular with a big proportion of the men. The shearers who are reasonable recognise that when the 1920 rates were in existence there was a considerable difference in the position of the squatter compared to what it is at the present time. Many recognised that the payment of the 1920 rates would be a very fair thing, but there were those who tried to bludgeon the pastoralist into paying an increase in the face of a 50 per cent. drop in the price of wool, and of the fact also that the pastoralists had not even disposed of the previous year's clip.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Why did they not go to arbitration?

Mr. TEESDALE: At the 1920 rates the shearers could easily clear a tanner a week. It is damnable, therefore, to think that they should strike and lose so much in wages and have nothing to do but walk about the streets with their hands in their pockets. All this is due to the action of certain officials attached to the Trades Hall. We have a splendid illustration in the strike at Broken Hill of what this kind of thing leads to. I was working at the Barrier 33 years ago clearing lines for one of the Government surveyors and I was working very hard indeed. Now, to think that that place has been idle for two years through wretched, rotten strikes, is a positive disgrace to those who had anything to do with the business. For two years that splendid source of wealth at Broken Hill has been cut down and hundreds of thousands of pounds have been lost to the workmen, and their wives have been compelled to experience hardships that need not have been undergone.

Mr. LUTY: Some splendid lives have been lost there, too.

Mr. TEESDALE: Let me quote another illustration of the rottenness of strikes. I allude to the closing down of the Lancefield mine. How many efforts were made to try to bring about a settlement of that business? Even the member for Hannans will remember that two alternatives were given to the men, one to take the mine over themselves

on a paltry shilling a ton royalty, and the other that they should go back at the old rates of 17s. 4d. or 18s. 4d.—I forget which—per day. When we think that the men would not accede to either of these proposals we can only say that their action was to be deplored. That kind of thing, too, is a scandalous reflection on the State inasmuch as it is advertised in the Old Country, where we have the impudence to ask them to give us capital with which to develop the mining industry.

Mr. Munsie: If that is the best case you can advance you can give us more of them!

Mr. McCallum: What can we do to satisfy you?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: Capital will necessarily shy clear of the State if this kind of thing goes on.

Hon. P. Collier: Arbitration.

Mr. TEESDALE: There was no arbitration necessary in this case. It was either a shilling a ton royalty or go back at the old rates.

Mr. McCallum: They would do as they were told.

Mr. TEESDALE: And it is the gentlemen who tell them to do these things who are responsible for half the troubles.

Mr. McCallum: I said they should do as they were told; as you told them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! The member for South Fremantle must keep order.

Mr. TEESDALE: I was Home a couple of years ago—

Hon. P. Collier: Where is Home?

Mr. TEESDALE: It positively upsets me to have to mention the word "Home" without having to explain where it is. For the hon. member's benefit I will say "England." During the last month that I was there I was endeavouring to effect the sale of a large property in Western Australia. I was asked, "What about the labour troubles; we see that you have a tremendous lot of trouble there; what will be the position if we buy this claim; how shall we get on?"

Hon. P. Collier: We have not as much trouble here as they have in England.

Mr. TEESDALE: I tried to avoid the question as much as possible, because I knew I had a bad case. Unfortunately the position was pronounced, because of the references to it in the papers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Which papers? You never saw Australia mentioned in the English papers.

Hon. P. Collier: You are romancing, brother.

Mr. TEESDALE: I had only one eye, but I managed to battle through somehow.

Mr. Marshall: You took a one-eyed view, then.

Mr. TEESDALE: The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) spent most of his time in the bush of Cornwall and not in London and therefore did not see the newspapers. I was in London all the time and read everything that was published about Australia. There is not the slightest doubt about it that the confidence of London

capitalists in Australia has been considerably shaken during the last two years.

Mr. Simons: They have seen some of our members of Parliament.

Mr. TEESDALE: We cannot get away from the fact that they do not want to have very much to do with Australia. If anyone approaches them in connection with mining matters they set the dogs on to them.

Mr. Marshall: That is because of the Hampton Plains swindles.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TEESDALE: I hope moderate counsels will prevail and that hon. members opposite will carry out the professions to which they have given utterance during the last few evenings.

Hon. P. Collier: Your speech will not help.

Mr. TEESDALE: I do ask hon. members opposite to stand to us a little bit.

Hon. P. Collier: Not with the kind of speech that you are making.

Mr. Munsie: You wait; I will give you something to go on with.

Mr. TEESDALE: I would like to call attention to an action on the part of some officials in the Old Country in connection with strikes that are pending. What I propose to refer to is a matter in connection with a union expelling a man for elisting, which will give an idea of the wretched state of affairs which exists not in Western Australia alone but in other parts of the civilised world. Let me read something which will give hon. members an idea of what some men will descend to, and what some unions will descend to. My friends opposite may question things that have occurred at Gwalia but they will not question what I am going to read. Listen to this—

"It is difficult to imagine conduct more likely to cause disaffection," said Mr. Travers Humphreys, prosecuting at the South-Western police court yesterday when Frederick Newington, district secretary of the Wandsworth branch of the Electrical Trades Union, was accused under the Emergency Regulations of 1921 of causing disaffection among the forces. "Newington," said Mr. Travers Humphreys, "wrote to Mr. F. R. A. Freeman, a member of the Union, the following letter: 'It is with some considerable surprise that I learn you have taken the step of joining the Defence Force at such a critical time. I would advise you to reply immediately giving full and detailed reasons for taking a course so violently opposed to the traditions of trade unionism and the interests of our own class in general. I may add that a member has already been expelled for taking similar action.'

"There was no reply to this letter," continued Mr. Travers Humphreys, and afterwards Newington wrote again announcing that the committee had passed a resolution expelling Freeman from the union." Mr. Travers Humphreys explained that expulsion meant not only loss

of benefits due, but that the man concerned could not longer pursue his livelihood; he certainly could not obtain admission to any place where trade union men were employed.

If anyone who has trade unionism at heart does not feel sick and ashamed after hearing that, then all I can say is I am very much surprised.

Mr. Munsie: If he was enlisting as a special constable, I applaud the man who wrote the letter.

Mr. TEESDALE: There was no policeman about this matter at all. It was the splendid spontaneous rush of a million men when a call was made on them to join the Defence Force, and these men who perhaps had already served in the war were again ready to stand by in the event of necessity.

Mr. Simons: What has this to do with Australia?

Mr. TEESDALE: It is an extraordinary position when men who are prepared to work are bludgeoned into idleness by beggarly officials who do nothing but loaf about hotels and wear double watch chains across their bosoms, presenting a very different appearance from that when they were working in three-courses-for-one-shilling, whole-meal-for-a-bob hash foundries. Is it to be expected that a trusted leader will stand by and see his precious position swept away, as he knows it will be unless he keeps up this damnable unrest?

Hon. P. Collier: Now we shall have a harmonious session.

Mr. TEESDALE: These men from Liverpool, from Lime-street station, wrote to their member, Mr. Thomas, who is not very highly appreciated over there. This is what they wrote—

All grades railway men of Lime-street station, Liverpool, urge you to prevent the calling out of the railway men, and so avert a national disaster.

Think of that!

Mr. Lambert: Don't look at me; look at the Speaker.

Mr. TEESDALE: I am not looking at the hon. member, for if I did he would only make an insulting remark. The letter continues:—

We are convinced that the whole is a Bolshevik move to bring about revolution in the country by the agency of foreign emissaries.

Which the hon. member for East Perth would like to see introduced into this State, to carry unrest into the Middle Swan district. The letter continues:—

This is not trade unionism, and we will not support this move which will plunge our country into a state of anarchy, and is only strengthening and helping the Germans in evading just responsibilities. A ballot should be taken. The so-called mass meetings were an absolute farce, as they were packed with outsiders. Out of 17,000 railway men in Liverpool and district

under 400 attended, and approaching 200 left in disgust at Bolshevik attitude of the speakers. As British working men to a British working men's leader, we again urge you to take a stand against the extremists, and gain the whole-hearted support of the majority of the people.

Those are British working men speaking to a British working men's leader. I appeal to you members opposite as working men's leaders, to stop this rotten trouble which is caused here for no earthly purpose, and try to work with those who would prevent trouble in Western Australia by tiding over the present depression and allowing men to go to work instead of walking the streets with empty stomachs.

Mr. Munsie: Please sir, give me what you will.

Mr. McCallum: "A penny, please, for bread."

'THE SPEAKER': Order!

Hon. P. Collier: This is only the interval, while the hon. member consults his notes.

Mr. TEESDALE: I do not care a snap of the fingers for all the remarks from hon. members opposite. Indeed so callous have I grown that I can even stand the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert). I could not help thinking the other night, when consideration was asked for a new member making his maiden speech, how different was the reception accorded me. By Heavens! I did not get much consideration the first time I spoke here. I no sooner opened my mouth than the member for Coolgardie made the most insulting remark I ever heard in my life. Apparently my voice was in such marked contrast with that piping treble of his, that he could not help gibing at me. I have my friends opposite very cross.

Mr. Simons: You have us frightened.

Mr. TEESDALE: However I must say a few words in regard to the possibilities of the electorate I represent. The other night an hon. member said I represented only a handful of 100 people. However that may be, those 100 people are very important to me, and so I must break a lance now and then for people who appreciate my services as they do. I am not slopping over with enthusiasm about tropical culture in the North. We have now a Commissioner appointed, who is going to do something in that way. Before criticising the policy of the Government in respect of the North-West, we should give time to the officials to finalise arrangements. It is too early to take exception to what has been done. One member for the North-West was very ill-advised in taking notice of street gossip, to the effect that the new Commissioner was only to reside in the North for three months.

Mr. Angelo: It was not street gossip at all. I had it from a high official.

Mr. TEESDALE: I happen to know that it is the Minister's wish that the Commissioner shall reside in the North for 12

months, and make his home there, so that he may be easily accessible to different districts, and may be able to move quickly from one part to another. I am not going to criticise anything done in this respect, until there is occasion for criticism, when I shall be on the job as readily as anybody. I ask those responsible for creating the Department of the North-West, to be very careful in making selections. There is a great deal to be learnt about the climate and conditions of the North-West. People who have not had 34 years' experience, as I have had, up there refer to many industries as being suitable for the North. I can assure hon. members that some industries up there will never be successful. I would advocate experiments in cotton growing, and I would confine those experiments to inexpensive plots worked by native labour. At two or three townships along the coast numbers of indigent natives are being fed by the Government, and are not doing any work. Very few of them are incapable of carrying half a kerosene tinful of water a couple of hundred yards twice a day. At a place called La Grange there is an area of 50 miles of country over which water is accessible at a depth of from eight to 10 feet. That land is very suitable for cotton growing. I have had experiments carried out there, and have brought down to Perth splendid samples of cotton which are now being examined by cotton experts in England. I should also like experiments to be tried on a small scale with dates, pineapples, peanuts, tobacco, and coconuts. I am perfectly safe in asking that each of these be given a trial, inasmuch as I have seen splendid samples of all of them grown in the North. I have brought down from a station 220 miles inland, one of the finest samples of dates ever submitted to experts in Western Australia. They were grown with practically no attention whatever, the only water they had being confined to the overflow from a dam. Also from another tree, 300 miles from anywhere, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of dates have been taken. I climbed the tree myself and got a cupful of fruit. It was of splendid quality, but very small and, curiously enough, stoneless. That tree never had in all its life any water but the rain from Heaven. It shows what is possible with ordinary attention. I do not want any money expended on those experiments, more than is necessary for the feeding of the natives employed—and they have to be fed as it is—and a little supervision in the shape of two white warders to accompany the natives backwards and forwards to the experimental plots. There are in the North hundreds of natives incarcerated in gaol. It would be far better for them to have a little light employment, attending to these experimental plots. And when those plots prove successful I should ask private individuals to come along, take up the matter in earnest and grow those products commercially. A point has been made of taking over practically the whole control of engineering and other matters in the North-West.

Mr. J. Thomson: Who is your informant?

Mr. TEESDALE: I feel that the Government are at last carrying out the promise which to my knowledge has been made for the last three years. I think the Premier is really genuine, and meant what he said when he stated "I am determined to spend a sum of money in the North and give it a chance. I am determined to exploit the mining possibilities in the North in those parts which have hitherto not been tried. I am quite prepared to try experiments in tropical agriculture. I am determined to do everything possible to bring about a successful state of affairs in the North." I am going to give the Government every support until I find that these promises are not being fulfilled. I feel that the Government are at length determined to bring about an era of prosperity in the North. We ask only for fair treatment and fair rentals. At the present time the double rentals imposed by the Government are bearing very hard upon the pastoralists who have difficulty in disposing of their wool and who have very heavy overhead charges in comparison with what they used to have. When we take into consideration the isolated position of these people in the North, we must recognise that they are fairly philosophical and fairly well contented. We in Perth hear very little from them. When we remember that they are cut off from numbers of conditions that make life comfortable, we must admit that these people in the North give us very little trouble. The absence of trams, trains, telephones, theatres, pictures and 101 other advantages, together with the exacting climate and the very poor means of communication with the outside world, indicate a fairly lengthy list of grievances if these people chose to exert themselves to make grievances of these things. They are satisfied to go along and take a share of what is offering. They do not ask for anything unreasonable. They have not been notorious for whining; in fact there have been very few complaints from the North. The only complaint of any particular moment of which I am aware was when the strike occurred in the Kimberleys and they were short of food. The people in my district have dozens of times been much more short of food than those people were, and Perth knew little or nothing about it. I have great faith in the country and I believe that, with all our drawbacks, with all the hardships we are experiencing at the present time, and despite the black outlook, the State will yet pull herself together and will come out on top again, prosperous as it was some four or five years ago.

Mr. GIBSON (Fremantle) [8.19]: In rising to make my first effort on the floor of this House, I would like to extend my thanks to members of each of the parties represented here for the kind words of welcome they have offered to the new members, of whom I am fortunately one. Coming here, as some of us have done, almost entirely ignorant of the rules of parliamentary procedure

and the practice of the House, it is very satisfactory to know that one has only to ask of those who have been here so many years in order to receive all the information and advice he can wish. To you, Sir, I would like to offer my congratulations on your re-election to the position you have occupied with distinction for so many years. I also wish to congratulate the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) on the unique position she occupies in the parliamentary history of the Commonwealth. Should my remarks appear to be somewhat disjointed and halting, I trust members will cast their minds back to the occasion when they stood in the same position as I occupy to-night and extend to me that consideration of which they themselves felt in need. I have listened with a great deal of attention and interest to the addresses given from both sides of the House, particularly those of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. It was stated that they had given great attention to the financial position for the purpose of enlightening those members who had just been returned for the first time.

Mr. Pickering: For the purpose of confounding them.

Mr. GIBSON: I am afraid I feel somewhat like that ancient philosopher quoted by the Leader of the Opposition the other night, who, after listening to great argument, came out by the same door as in he went. It is impossible for me to come to any conclusion as to who is responsible for the financial position in which we find the State to-day, but I am convinced that no matter which party had been in power, whether the Labour Party had continued to administer the affairs of the country, or whether a National Government had been in office throughout, the financial position would have been the same. I think our position is due to circumstances over which no Government could have control. In connection with the deficit the Railway Department has been mentioned as being the principal factor in the particular losses shown. The discovery of gold, which has had such great effect on the settlement of Western Australia, made it necessary for lines to be constructed to connect these outposts of civilisation with the metropolitan area, and at the time the railways were constructed, I think the prospects justified the expenditure. Unfortunately, the ideas entertained regarding the future of the goldfields have not altogether materialised. We recognise what the discovery of gold meant for Western Australia, but, unfortunately, the deposits have not lasted so long as we could have wished, and as a result the traffic carried over these many miles of railway has fallen away considerably. The revenue derived from the railways has, of course, been greatly lessened, while the overhead expenses have continued and have to be met. We hope that in time a revival of the mining industry will occur, and that the railways will then be more fully occupied than they are at present. It does not matter how the State got into its

present financial position, or who was responsible for it. The question which should exercise the minds of members and of the electors at the present time is how to get out of it. Although I have listened attentively to the various speeches which have been delivered, I have not heard any concrete method suggested as to how we are going to bring about that desired result. Certainly hints have been thrown out, mostly by members of the Opposition, as to the necessity for retrenchment, and the Leader of the Opposition said that, no matter how drastic or how unpleasant the means adopted to bring about a more equal proportion between expenditure and revenue, the Government could depend upon the assistance of his party. I think that was a very generous offer, and I hope the Government will take full advantage of it. Last evening the Minister for Works directed our attention to a sheet that has been prepared by the Railway Department and of which he was justifiably proud, stating that it had been copied by all the Railway Departments of the world. I compliment him on being responsible for its introduction. The Minister, however, in his perusal of the list, did not go so far down it as I have done. I find that in 1917 we had 6,921 men working in the Railway Department. For the year ended 30th June, 1921, we had 8,213 men employed, an increase of just on 1,200. Going further up the list we find that our rolling stock is practically the same as it was in 1917, but that the tonnage carried over the lines has increased to a very slight extent. I cannot understand why it is necessary to have such a largely increased number of men working in the Railway Department, to handle practically the same traffic in 1921 as in 1917.

The Minister for Mines: We are manufacturing commodities more for the department which we did not handle before.

Mr. Pickering: Does that take 1,200 men?

Mr. GIBSON: Averaging the wages of 1,200 men at £200 a year, it represents an increased expenditure of nearly a quarter of a million. This is merely the increase of wages paid—and not any increase in wages—over what was necessary in 1917 to do the same amount of work. If this is so, there is certainly something wrong somewhere. I commend this matter to the Minister for inquiry to see whether some economies cannot be effected. If economies can be effected I suggest that the wages men should not be the only ones to suffer by it. If there is to be retrenchment, the men on the salaried staff should bear as great a proportion of the retrenchment as the men who do the hard graft outside. We are all very anxious to meet the present position of affairs and several means have been suggested, among them land settlement and immigration. It has been my privilege during the last 18 months to meet practically every shipload of immigrants who have arrived at Fremantle, in my capacity as mayor of that town and a member of the Ugly Men's Association. These immigrants have been handled more efficiently by the

Ugly Men's Association on their arrival in this State than they were under the administration of the Government, and the association is deserving of every credit for the way in which this problem has been dealt with. We have extended the hand of friendship to the new arrivals and have given them good advice. A member stated the other night that nine-tenths of the immigrants who had landed in Western Australia during the last two years had been left hanging about the cities. That statement is absolutely incorrect. Ninety per cent. of the men have been found positions in the country and not 10 per cent. have gone to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That applied in 1912, 1913 and 1914, when immigrants were coming here in thousands.

Mr. GIBSON: I believe it did. My only desire is to correct the mis-statement which was made the other evening. In my opinion it is necessary that we should have a bold policy of immigration, and I want immigrants who come from the right place, namely the home of our fathers. Those are the people we want; people of the same ideals, people who speak the same tongue as ourselves. I am not altogether in accord with the proposal of the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons). I think it is possible to get any number of people of the right type, men from the Old Country. The type of people who have come out here have, in the majority, been of the right type for agricultural work. Unfortunately, some who came out in the earlier contingents, before the Ugly Men's Association took the matter thoroughly in hand, were very disappointed at the conditions which they found on their arrival here. Pamphlets distributed at Home did not give an altogether true statement of what they found on arrival here, and on the application of the Ugly Men's Association the pamphlets were withdrawn and people were no longer misled as to what would happen when they arrived in Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That pamphlet was withdrawn in May last year.

Mr. GIBSON: It is absolutely ridiculous to go to the length of circulating pamphlets which do not contain statements of fact. We do not need anything of that kind here. Western Australia has sufficient to offer to its people without that. They should be advised properly as to the conditions which they may expect to find here. It would be advisable to send someone Home with the necessary practical experience to enable him to select the right type of immigrant. We do not want men from the industrial centres to swell the ranks of the industrial unemployed here. We want men from the agricultural centres, men who have been accustomed to farming.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We cannot get them.

Mr. GIBSON: I think so.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I am sure we cannot.

Mr. GIBSON: I understand the hon. member has stated that wages at Home are possibly better than they are here.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: So they are.

Mr. GIBSON: That may be the case. Under the conditions offered here, however, men can get 200 or 300 acres of land, which they cannot possibly do in the Old Country. I have sufficient faith in the people of the Old Country to believe that they are desirous of getting property for themselves and not of everlastingly working for someone else. If we could send a man Home to choose the right type of immigrants, and to tell them what they may expect to find when they get here, so that they will know exactly what they are coming to, I am sure it would be a step in the right direction. We should not lead people to believe that this is a land flowing with milk and honey. If people know the conditions of the country they will be saved from disappointments, such as many have suffered from through being misled before leaving England.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Not in regard to that matter.

Mr. GIBSON: I refer to the pamphlets dealing with the conditions that they might expect to find here.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was in regard to returned soldiers.

Mr. GIBSON: Some 18 months ago it was my privilege, shortly after the Government had secured the Peel estate on behalf of the Repatriation Department, to spend a day travelling over it, in company with the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale). The action of the Government had been adversely commented upon because of their purchase of this estate, and it was our desire to come into contact with the men who had been living in the district, and find out what they thought about it and its possibilities for the purpose for which it was purchased. The opinion was almost unanimous that it will be a very suitable place for the purpose. With the permission of the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum), in whose constituency a portion of this estate is, I should like to conduct a party of members over it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Premier will do that during the next week or two. It is all fixed up.

Mr. GIBSON: I am glad to hear it, though I have not yet received an invitation. It will certainly be an eye-opener to members, and will demonstrate to them what can be done with the coastal lands between here and Bunbury or here and Pinjarra.

Mr. Pickering: Between here and Albany.

Mr. GIBSON: Two or three months ago I was out on a block of land some four miles from Fremantle. It was a block of 10 acres, of which eight had been cultivated. This block provided a living and a reasonable income for two men, who were partners, and their families, and in addition for three labourers who were employed by them. There are thousands of blocks of that kind which can be obtained in the locality, and which will be suitable places for the settlement of immigrants. I was surprised to learn from the

Premier that practically all the first-class wheat land in the State had been alienated. One member of the Country Party contradicted the statement. If that is so, the Government of course cannot put people upon wheat land which is not first class. It was also stated by a member of the Country Party that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land in close proximity to existing railway lines, which are not being brought into a stage of production. These lands should be brought into productivity. I am prepared to support any Government measure which will bring about that result, so that people who are starving for land may have an opportunity of securing it. Other members have referred to the industrial unrest, which has existed more or less for the last four years, as being partly responsible for our present financial position. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that industrial unrest does exist. Some people seem to think that the responsibility for this attaches to one side only, while others say that it attaches to the other side. There is a little bit of trouble on both sides. I was pleased to hear the member for South Fremantle the other night offer the suggestion he did. It is quite possible that half the industrial disputes that occur could be settled if a little more amity was displayed between the parties concerned in the dispute. I do not think the Arbitration Court has outlived its usefulness. It is the best means we have at present for the settlement of industrial disputes, but its work should be speeded up. If one court is not sufficient another court should be appointed. It is unnecessary that the President should be a Judge of the Supreme Court. There are many men who are capable of settling industrial disputes who may never reach that position. Most of the disputes which have been settled by private arbitration have been settled by the intervention of men, who may have legal training, but who have never been appointed as Judges of the Supreme Court. The Act might be amended to permit of something of the kind being done. If that is brought about, I cannot see the necessity for a bench of three in the Arbitration Court. The advocates for the contending parties should do their advocating on the floor of the court. They are described as assessors, but I have yet to learn that a unanimous decision has ever been given in any dispute that has been brought before the court. The representative of the employers must necessarily take the side of the employers, and the same thing holds good so far as the representative of the employees is concerned. They must of necessity have a bias towards the parties who employ them.

The Minister for Mines: The Government are not represented there at all.

Mr. GIBSON: The Government have the employers' representative to act for them, because they are employers. It is always the judge whose decision is ultimately given. I should like the court to be made as free as possible and the procedure as wide as may

be necessary, but the court should speed up its work so that any dispute that comes before it shall be dealt with immediately.

Mr. Pickering: And make it as cheap as possible.

Mr. GIBSON: The member for South Fremantle suggested the creation of boards of industries. I should welcome such an institution. By discussions between those who are employers in certain industries and the men who are employed by them, it should be possible to get an interchange of views on the subjects about which the contending parties are well acquainted. In the Arbitration Court we have gentlemen on the bench who are experts in law, but who are dependent upon the expert advice that is given to the court. They are not able to enter into the soul of the case. They must be guided by the advice that is given to them. Boards of industries should tend towards reducing the amount of industrial unrest. A suggestion has been made that the workers should give their services for less wages because of the present position. The reverse should also hold good. When a business is prosperous the workmen should get a little of the increased profits accruing to the employer in return for the work that is given to him. Reference has been made to the wheat pool. I am in favour of a wheat pool for the coming harvest. I am not going to discuss what I think about the 9s. a bushel which is being charged at present. I would support the establishment of a wheat pool for the coming harvest on the understanding that the London parity is charged for wheat in this State, and that this parity is adjusted monthly. By London parity I mean the price in London less the cost of getting the wheat there. If the price in London is 10s. and it costs 3s. a bushel to get it there, the price in Western Australia should be 7s. Unless I receive an assurance to this effect, I shall not be prepared to support the establishment of another wheat pool in Western Australia. Dealing with matters affecting my own electorate, I have no desire to complain about the treatment accorded to Fremantle by the Government. They have done all they could, and had the financial position been less straitened I think they would have done considerably more. The member representing South Fremantle and the member representing North-East Fremantle have always acquainted the Government with the requirements of their electorates. That being so, there will be a corner in this House to see that the requirements of Fremantle and the neighbourhood are not neglected. The harbour should be extended as soon as possible. Only three or four months ago there were three ships waiting outside because all the berths in the harbour were occupied.

The Minister for Mines: Send them to Albany.

Mr. GIBSON: Let all the ports in the State get what trade they can.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The ships will go where the most trade is.

Mr. GIBSON: That will be Fremantle. I do not object to the other ports being given what they require, so long as we get what we want at Fremantle. The extension of the harbour would necessitate the removal of the two bridges across the river. Had the Labour Government remained in office, I believe this work would have been done. I do not say the subsequent Administration was responsible for the work not being done, because at the time they came into office the war broke out. I hope, however, that the work will be gone on with as soon as the financial position permits. In order to cope with the coming harvest, it is necessary that the railway on the south side of the river should be constructed. As our harvest increases in size, so does the congestion of traffic passing through the central station increase in intensity. All our wheat has to come through Perth, and this has led to great congestion.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If the railway was built on the south of the river the tramway would not be needed because it would run right through there.

Mr. GIBSON: That is so. This is the tramway to which the member for Leederville (Capt. Carter) has such an objection. The work is very urgent, and I commend it to the Government. While on the subject of wheat, I may refer to the suggestion that terminal elevators should be constructed at Fremantle in the near future. I do not know that I have yet made up my mind as to the advisability or otherwise of that step; but I would recommend the Government to hasten very slowly in the construction of elevators. Let the very best advice obtainable be first taken. I do not know whether I shall be doing something I should not do when I say that while in Sydney I was advised that if we in Western Australia did anything in the way of elevators we should not on any account have anything to do with Metcalf & Co. I believe Fremantle will in future be the San Francisco of Australia. Its unique situation as the first and last port of call for ships using the Suez Canal route ensures that. Fremantle is not dependent only on the prosperity of Western Australia; the prosperity of the Eastern States must also be reflected on the port. In future we shall have Fremantle a very large city. I hope that all the promises of support made by various members to the Ministry will be realised, and that our deliberations will prove to be for the benefit of the country.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [8.48]: I feel no vocation, as seems to have been felt by most members who have so far spoken, to offer congratulations all round. It seems to me that the sincerest congratulations one can get as a member of the House take the form of the confidence of the electors. That compliment applies in the case of the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) and of every other hon. member. As regards the representation of the northern portion of the State

in the Ministry, I take the opposite view to that expressed by the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons) and have to express my satisfaction. I am personally very pleased to be able to congratulate the new Minister for Agriculture, whose inclusion in the Ministry represents an act of justice to the North. In contradistinction to the member for East Perth, I am glad that the Ministry contains no city representatives. I think this State has been too long dominated by city interests.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. Angwin: All rot!

Mr. WILLCOCK: Anyhow, that great statesman, W. E. Gladstone, said that the place where Parliament sits does not want any members of Parliament at all, because there is sufficient influence exercised upon Parliament by the people in the immediate vicinity of its location.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You say that 100,000 people should not have any representation?

Mr. WILLCOCK: No.

Hon. P. Collier: We country members will look after them.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I trust that the constitution of a Ministry of country representatives wholly, will mean an era of development in the country districts. Too much time and money have been spent on the cities and towns already.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Every Government institution is centred in Perth. Where are trams being constructed?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The people pay for the trams.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) may not agree with me, but nevertheless I express the hope that the constitution of an entire Ministry from country members will mean that the Ministry will adopt a policy of developing the country districts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It does not make a fraction of difference.

Mr. WILLCOCK: In that case I am at a loss to understand why country members are included in the Ministry at all. Some disappointment was expressed on account of a particular member not getting into the Ministry, and to solace his wounded feelings it was said that his constituency was too close to that of the Minister for Mines. I hope, at any rate, that the construction of the present Ministry will be reflected in the development of the country districts. I think the Minister for Mines will agree that in the past his constituency has not had a fair deal; otherwise how shall we explain the manner in which Albany has gone down? If I ever happen to be in a Ministry, I shall see that my constituency receives at least a fair deal. Every member of a Ministry ought to see that not only his immediate constituency, but also the neighbouring districts, receive a fair deal. I had not intended to speak at all in this debate, and should not have done so but

for two or three matters which have cropped up in its course. I realise that if everyone of the 50 members of this House spoke for a couple of hours or so on the Address-in-reply the debate would occupy about 10 weeks. However, I desire to address myself for a few minutes to the question of immigration. It will be generally agreed that we want more population. Labour members have repeatedly been twitted with being up against immigration. I believe, however, that all members will agree that this State wants more population, and cannot progress without more population. I assert that the proper means of increasing the population is to create industrial development and employment. During the period that the population of Western Australia first expanded by leaps and bounds, there was no immigration policy at all. I refer to the time of the gold boom, between 1895 and 1906. In those ten years the population doubled itself. The knowledge that any amount of employment was offering in Western Australia caused people to flock here from every quarter of the globe. If we can now create an atmosphere similar to that of the gold boom, if we can cause it to become known all over the world that plenty of employment is offering here—and heaven knows there is plenty of unemployment all over the world; in America four million unemployed, in Great Britain two millions, and in our Eastern States up to fifty thousand—we would have no need to adopt an expensive immigration policy. That is where we have been lacking—in not starting a policy of industrial development. Reverting to the constituency of the Minister for Railways, I am aware that there was a proposal to establish a woollen mill at Albany, which was described as the most suitable site in Western Australia. Although we produce more wool in the vicinity of Geraldton than is produced in the Albany district, I never received any notification that an expert was coming to this State to report on the suitability of various sites for a woollen mill. I am almost sure that that expert never even visited Geraldton.

Mr. Johnston: He passed through Narrogin in the middle of the night.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I think the expert came here and was nobbled by someone to go to Albany, and so Albany was the only place he had anything to do with.

Mr. Pickering: He went to Bunbury as well. It is the humidity of the atmosphere that counts.

Mr. WILLCOCK: There is more humidity at Geraldton, especially during summer, than there is at any other place in Western Australia. Any wind that comes directly off the sea brings moisture, which is to say humidity. Without wishing to engage in a meteorological discussion, I may say that is self-evident.

The Minister for Mines: I do not know what your complaint is. The Government do not propose to give any financial assistance in the matter.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If an expert is brought to Western Australia, or subsidised in any way, or is shown around the place, he should at least be given the opportunity of viewing the possibilities of all available sites.

The Minister for Mines: Everybody knew he was here.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I did not know of it until he was on his way to Albany and Bunbury. If there had been any measure of publicity given to his visit, I would have invited him to go to Geraldton.

Mr. Pickering: The whole of his time was taken up in Albany.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes; and it was said that that was the only place for the establishment of woollen mills.

Mr. Pickering: I could not get the expert to come to Busselton.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If we were to create an atmosphere of plentiful employment here, we would get immigration without any costly policy. If I were to go to England, and someone there asked me whether there were opportunities for people in Western Australia, my reply would be, "Yes, certainly, for immigrants with capital." But if an artisan asked me as to the chances of getting employment here, I could not say there were such chances. Again, as regards agricultural land, I could not say that Western Australia has huge areas of land available for agricultural purposes, ready for anyone to go on. If there were plenty of such land here, the Government would not have been under the necessity of making costly resumptions in order to find land for our soldiers. During the repatriation period, instead of having recourse to Crown lands, we had to adopt a very expensive resumption policy. That proves conclusively, unless indeed the Government were lacking in administrative ability, that there is not the area of agricultural land available for settlement here that we are sometimes told there is.

Mr. Johnston: Of course the soldiers wished to settle in their home districts.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Yes; and the Geraldton soldiers wanted to do that, but there was no Crown land available for them in the Geraldton district. If intending immigrants asked the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Johnston) whether he could find them Crown land for settlement in his district, I do not think he could reply in the affirmative. No doubt there is plenty of land not being made the best use of in all the districts; but as for Crown lands available for settlement, I do not know where they are. I would be thankful if some member of the House would tell me where they can be found.

Mr. Pickering: Private land owners are asking very high prices.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I am not talking about prices; I am talking about settling the people on Crown lands. We do not want to settle people on land for which we have to pay a high price. We are not making the best possible use of the land we have

in this State. We have plenty of land in Western Australia used for depasturing sheep, large areas of which could be put to much better use from a productive point of view. At Geraldton we are starting a butter factory and the manager of that factory, after looking round the country, gave it as his opinion that for such land in close proximity to a butter factory, much greater prices are secured in Victoria and other States than here. Land which can be purchased for £5 or £8 an acre in Western Australia would cost from £15 to £20 an acre in the Eastern States. I found that such was the position when I was in the Eastern States recently. I made inquiries as to land values and I found that in Western Australia our land values are 50 per cent. less than is the case in Victoria and New South Wales, and, for that matter, in South Australia as well.

The Colonial Secretary: Why is that?

Mr. WILLCOCK: The reason I would advance is that the land was acquired cheaply in the first place.

Mr. Latham: That is right, too.

Mr. WILLCOCK: And our land has not reached its proper value yet. If one went through Victoria and tried to get similar land to that of the Beverley district, it could not be purchased for less than about £20 an acre.

The Colonial Secretary: That is quite so, and the average throughout is not better.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is true and not only is the average land no better, but the rainfall and results there are no better either. Implements do not cost any more in Victoria than they do here. I think that those agriculturists of Western Australia who look to the future with forebodings, have no cause for pessimism. If land costing £15 to £25 an acre can give returns, we have nothing to fear from competition with the Eastern States. Reverting to the question of immigration, however, I contend that we should have more industrial development. There are many possibilities of development in Western Australia that only require attention, and we should be able to absorb many more people. We know that some products of the world are down in price at the present time. The Government, however, have seen fit, in regard to the pearling industry, to afford assistance to keep the industry going. Something similar should be done in connection with our base metal industry. We have lead mines capable of producing high grade ores of high value but those mines are closed down because of the unsatisfactory prices at the present time. The Government should make some arrangements by which the mines can be kept working until the market price for lead is more favourable. I said I did not intend to make a long speech, but I want to refer to two or three matters which cropped up during the debate. Arising out of the speech by the member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) I said, by way of interjection, that that hon. member did not seem to understand the difference between socialism and syndicalism and

that he had a crude idea of the whole subject. He gave the House many quotations from all over the globe. He started with South Africa and went on to North America; then on to England; back to Queensland, and after coming to Western Australia, he finally went back to England. All these quotations, however, did not get us very much further. The whole of the hon. member's complaint was that the All-Australian Labour Conference advocated socialisation which he confused in his own mind with syndicalism. Socialisation means that the industry is managed by those people working in it, namely, the men, the management, and everyone else interested and that the product of that industry is to be used for the benefit of the general community, as distinct from syndicalism, which means that an industry is run by the individuals concerned in that industry for their own benefit without any thought of the community. I suggest that socialisation means that if people have control of an industry they have only one say with the people controlling 50 other industries in settling the price of the product of their labour, whereas the member for Guildford implied that the people engaged in the industry were able to settle the price for their labour, which is really syndicalism.

Mr. Davies: The railways of Great Britain for some time past have been jointly controlled by a number of men from the unions and a number of directors. Would you regard that as socialisation, syndicalism, or private ownership?

Mr. WILLCOCK: It would all depend upon what was actuating their policy. If it was in the interests of the general community, it was socialisation. If it was in the interests of those engaged in the industry alone, it was syndicalism. The same thing applies to the wheat pool, which is pure, unadulterated syndicalism. The Minister for Works referred last night to a speech by the Premier of Victoria, Mr. Lawson, who has no illusions about this matter. He said in the course of that speech that for pure unadulterated syndicalism they could commend him to the wheat pool.

Mr. Davies: I admitted that in my speech.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The hon. member said it was socialisation and tried to discredit us on that score.

Mr. Davies: Catts is repeating it in this week's "Worker."

Mr. WILLCOCK: Catts was not there, and if he says that he does not understand the position.

Mr. Davies: Catts said that he originated the conference.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If the truth must be known, the member for South-Fremantle, as a member of the Federal Executive, suggested the conference and that fact was publicly acknowledged during the proceedings of the conference in Melbourne.

Mr. Davies: He says it in this week's "Worker" at any rate.

Mr. WILLCOCK: If that is so, it is a mis-statement. It has been said during the discussion that the Labour Party stand for revolution. That seems to be the general doctrine accepted by members on the Government side, but it is not accepted by the Labour Party. I attended this conference in Melbourne and I think it may be stated that it represented, among others, the most extreme sections of labour. I never heard anyone seriously suggest revolution by armed force; no one in any responsible position in the Labour movement suggested any such thing. There may have been some wire-brained individual who mentioned it, but there was no support for anything of that description. We recognised at that conference that a social revolution must come eventually. Some people cannot recognise that fact and it is difficult to get that idea into their heads. The revolution when it comes will not come so far as the Labour Party are concerned, by means of bullets, as mentioned by the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons) last night, but through the ballot. It will come through citizenship, rather than by the sword. There is no responsible body of opinion in the Labour movement advocating revolution by means of armed force. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) made some references to the Wyndham meat works. I have looked up his speech in "Hansard" and it sets out there that he noted certain things that occurred in Wyndham. The "Daily News" in its report referred to the hon. member as saying that he had seen the incident himself. I am not prepared to say what he did say, but I am inclined to think that the member for Pilbara said that he saw it himself.

Mr. Mann: He said he saw it himself.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That was my impression. There is no one in the Labour movement who believed his statement at the time. I went to some trouble to make inquiries and I am satisfied that the statement was what one might call half truth and half lie. I do not suppose I can say it was a lie, but I will say it was seven-eighths a lie and one-eighth the truth, and that is as near as I can get to it. So far as the representative of the union at Wyndham is able to say, only one such incident occurred up there, unless there have been others during the last couple of months. The incident occurred on March 18, which would be about the time the member for Pilbara was in Wyndham in connection with his election campaign. On the authority of the representative of the union—and his word is as good to me as the word of the member for Pilbara—there was no stop-work meeting held on that occasion. I have a written statement from the union official. I am sorry the member for Pilbara is not here, for I would have preferred to tell him the facts myself. Not only was there no meeting, but the man did not receive pay as was suggested. As there was no meeting the men were not paid, nor could they have been paid for the time during the holding of the meeting. The man who was drunk never received any payment and the union

never asked for it. That particular man has been a disgrace to the union and has been recognised as such. No one had much time for him and even if they had had any time for him they would never have asked for pay in the circumstances. The man has shown what he really is by scabbing in connection with the shearers' trouble—that is the kind of man he is.

Mr. McCallum: I suppose he has some rosy job with the cockies now.

Mr. WILLCOCK: At any rate, he scabbed on the shearers. I want to refer to a couple of local matters regarding Geraldton before concluding. Geraldton has been rather unfortunate regarding its public works. We have had considerable difficulties in that respect. The water scheme, for instance, provided a series of disappointments, but the position is better at the present time. I hope the same series of disappointments will not occur in connection with the harbour works. We have had one already. A site for the quarry was surveyed; sheds were erected; an officer from the Works Department with all the plans necessary in connection with the resumption of land was there. After all these preliminaries, it was found that there was no stone there. I hope this will be the last disappointment in connection with the harbour works. I do not say that it is not capable of an explanation, but it is typical of and peculiar to Geraldton that there always seem to be some disappointments in connection with our public works.

Mr. Pickering: You are not the only pebble on the beach.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I hope that everything will go on satisfactorily in the future. I know that in other districts the people have to agitate in order to get the requirements of their districts attended to, but once the work is started it generally goes on to a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. Pickering: That is not the case everywhere.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It certainly was not the case at Geraldton. Before concluding I want to again impress upon the Government with reference to the immigration policy, that they should create an atmosphere of employment and let it be known that if a man comes to Western Australia, he can at least obtain employment. If that were done, there would be no necessity for an expensive immigration policy, for we would have people coming here from all over the world and assisting in the development of this great State.

Mr. DURACK (Kimberley) [9.15]: Last night I listened with considerable interest to the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons). The broadened views he gave us as the result of his contact with the people of other nations with whom he has rubbed shoulders, were to me very encouraging. It has been said by an eminent authority that the mentality of the average Australian politician is altogether out of proportion with the area of his continent; in other words, it is suggested that we are

narrow-visioned. Probably that is the case. If it is, it is due in great measure to our insular position, and to the fact that many of us have not had an opportunity for rubbing shoulders with the people of other nations as the member for East Perth has had. I am in accord with him when he suggests that we should encourage all the white races of Europe to come to Australia. I would give preference to people speaking our own language, but we have to remember that our geographical position is not so advantageous for the attraction of population as are those of Canada, America, and South Africa. Our position is remote from the centres of population, and therefore it is incumbent upon us that we should offer every encouragement to the white races of Europe, irrespective of nationality. Of course discretion should be exercised in seeing that we got people who would be satisfied to live under our social conditions. I turn now to the Minister for Works. Possibly it may be said that as a member sitting on this side of the House I owe some allegiance to the Minister for Works, as a Minister of the Crown. However, I may be pardoned for taking exception to his going out of his way, as he did last night, to cast reflections on members of the party with which I am associated. It seems incredible that a Minister of the Crown should be so blinded by his own vanity as not to be able to distinguish between true appreciation and that ironic applause with which he was greeted here last night. In a new member or even a private member such blindness might be pardonable, but it is unbecoming in a Minister of the Crown. Surely it is not the province of a Minister of the Crown to deal in innuendoes and personalities such as we had from the Minister for Works last night! As for his reflecting on leading private citizens, I do not propose to say anything, for they are well able to defend themselves; but I take exception to his reflections on members of this side, reflections made not directly but rather by innuendo. Surely the hon. member does not think that because he has held his seat for a number of years it therefore belongs to him by right. Surely he does not suggest that the politics of this country are to be ruled by sentiment.

The Minister for Works: They are not going to be dictated by you or any other beef buccaneer.

Mr. DURACK: I have listened carefully to the debate, and I must admit I am not sure that any members see too clearly a way out of the financial morass into which we appear to be drifting. I am again reminded of the old Persian sage who, over 800 years ago, in speculating on the mystery and uncertainties of the hereafter, is quoted as having used these words—

. . . . heard great argument

About it and about; but evermore

. Came out by the same door as in I went.

So it is with many of us. We have listened to suggestions as to what the Government should do, but evermore we come out by the same door as in we went. We go on, trusting that the winter of our depression may by some fortuitous stroke be turned into the spring of prosperity or that, as the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) said the other night, we may strike oil.

The Minister for Mines: Where?

Mr. DURACK: I congratulate the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) on being the first lady to sit in an Australian Parliament. Her distinction is the more remarkable when we remember that for many years the Federal Parliament has been open to women, and that among the candidates for that House have been women of great ability, as for instance Miss Vida Goldstein. The hon. member's distinction is the more remarkable in that she secured her seat so soon after the enabling Bill went through. The Member for Boulder (Hon. P. Collier) took a certain amount of credit to his party for having for the last 25 years advocated the enfranchisement of women. I think the Premier also may take some credit on the score that he is supported by the first woman to be elected to an Australian Parliament. For my part I, with the great majority of members, welcome her. The Premier suggested the other night that in speaking to the debate we might well confine ourselves to questions relating to our own electorates. Nevertheless I may be pardoned for advertising to the financial position. I have as much faith in the State as has the Premier or the member for East Perth, and I believe that the old hackneyed phrase "Potentialities beyond the dreams of Avarice" might be more justly applied to this State than to any other State in the Commonwealth. Yet I think that every Minister should be held responsible for his job, and that as the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) remarked to-night, if he does not keep within his estimates he should get the sack. There may be exceptional circumstances, but no Minister should be allowed to exceed the expenditure set down for him on the annual Estimates without the full concurrence of Cabinet. I voted against the amount set down on last year's Estimates for tramway extension. The item was only carried on the casting vote of the Chairman. Now we understand that another £14,000 is to be allocated to the extension of our tramways. And we are told that the first extension will be that to Como. Possibly if we were in funds the expenditure might be justified, but in view of our financial position, most certainly it is not justified. Something has been said about the expenditure on a residence for the Agent General. I agree with the member for East Perth that our Agent General should be as well established in London as any other Australian Agent General. However, this is scarcely the time for any unnecessary expenditure. The

amount involved is not very high, but on the other hand, it is not essential that the Agent General should take to his private residence visitors whom he wishes to entertain. Usually that sort of thing is done at the Trocadero, or some other big hotel. I suppose my electorate has a greater variety of resources than any other in Australia. Also probably it is the largest Assembly electorate in the Commonwealth. It has an area of some 161,400 square miles, or more than twice that of Victoria. It has a coast line of over 800 miles, extending from this side of Broome to the other side of Wyndham. The waters along that coast abound in a variety of products, fish, turtle, both hawksbill and edible, porpoise, dugong, trepang, pearls and pearlshells, all profitable products. Thus far the pearling industry is almost the only one to be exploited as a business proposition. The shell of the hawksbill turtle was selling last year at from £15 to £20 per lb. That was a somewhat exceptional price, given for picked shell. The shell from the West Indies averages from £5 to £8 per lb. I am told by the officer controlling the Fisheries Department that our hawksbill shell is quite equal to that of the West Indies. Unfortunately, we have no regular market for it, and I think that probably its worth is somewhat damaged by the fact that some shell of inferior quality is picked up and put on the market with better shell, which, of course, to some extent discounts the whole. We have trepang which was exported from our northern shores centuries ago. We have evidence that 300 years ago it was taken away by Malays to the adjoining islands. We have a record of it by Commander King, who in 1819 visited the coast from Sydney. Some 80 or 100 years ago a lot of attention was paid to this particular part of the coast between Broome and Derby. He tells us in one of his works that while there he met in the region of Prince Regent Harbour about 200 men taking away this trepang. In Le Freycenet's history of Australia we have a record that 120 years ago trepang was taken away from our coast. The amount of money represented by the trepang which has left our shores might probably be represented in Millions. The dugong is a very valuable flesh. I had an opportunity of sampling some in Broome a few months ago and for a time I could not be persuaded that it was dugong. It was like a first class sample of corned beef. Sponges are found on the coast and are a very valuable product. The whaling industry has been carried on with success further south, but I believe it is likely to be extended northward. Crocodile skin is a marketable product. I have a sample of work in crocodile skin taken from a reptile caught in the Ord River and tanned in Adelaide. I do not suppose there is another sample of this kind in Australia. There are imitations of crocodile skin, but they do not compare with the genuine article which is particularly strong and impervious to water. I have also in my home some chairs with seats of croco-

dile leather. Pearling and pearlshell constitute one of the important industries of the North. Unfortunately, the pearlers of Broome have been hit very hard in connection with the sale of their shell just as many others engaged in primary production have been hit. I might here remark that the pearlers and those associated with the industry are very grateful to the Government for their action in helping them as they have done in the past. Although the advance made by the Government this year is £100 a ton, that does not altogether meet their requirements. Still it has been a great help in getting them out of their difficulties. Something like £60,000 or £70,000 has been guaranteed in this way, but the Government have not been called upon for any of the money. I suppose that if the price of shell fell considerably, the Government might be called upon to find the money, but that is not likely. At the sales which took place some little time ago, the shell brought £150 to £160 a ton and the latest advice from New York is that the market looked hopeful and that German and New York buyers were coming in. With respect to pearls I daresay the Premier had an opportunity to see some of them when he was in Broome. I have seen pearls, the common blister, ranging from a value of 10s. to the beautiful pear drop gem which reaches as high a price as £4,000, £5,000, and £6,000. Members of the Ministerial party who visited Broome last year had an opportunity to see some of these gems in the banks. It is believed that we are not getting from the pearling industry the full value to which we are entitled. The business has to some extent got into the hands of the Japanese, and it is feared that a number of pearls of great value are not reaching the hands of their rightful owners. I believe it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill in order to meet this difficulty. At some little distance out of Wyndham there is a magnificent cypress pine forest. I have a pamphlet containing photographs of some of the timber. They are very fine trees, and judging by the reports, the timber is apparently a marketable product. About 10 or 12 years ago an English company endeavoured to start operations in connection with this pine forest. It is the only timber in the North or in any part of Australia, so far as I know, which resists the white ant. I have seen timber which has been in use for 30 years, and which has effectively resisted the depredations of the white ants. Powellised timber has been tried in the North, and I have seen it riddled. It was explained that this timber possibly had not been properly powellised. I took three samples from the Public Works Department two or three years ago and had them tested outside. One lot was riddled through, and it was returned to the department. The other two lots were not attacked to the same extent.

The Minister for Works: On the Port Hedland Railway, the Railway Department found

that the powellising process was of great good. I myself never believed in it.

Mr. DURACK: In Darwin two years ago I was informed that some powellised sleepers had been riddled by the white ants. Of course it is possible that the timber had escaped proper treatment, but I do not believe that powellised timber will resist white ants. However, I would stake my trust on cypress pine long before any other timber I have seen up there.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In connection with the Darwin sleepers, the ants just touched the fringe and cleared out.

Mr. DURACK: I understand that a company is prepared to take on this timber proposition, and I would suggest that the Government facilitate the company entering into this business. Every year great quantities of the timber are destroyed by bush fires. If some company took it in hand, no doubt it would protect the timber against the bush fires. If a company is willing to undertake the business, it might reasonably be allowed to do so under protective conditions such as carrying out certain work within a certain period and any safeguards that might be considered necessary.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What is the approximate area or quantity?

The Minister for Mines: It was inspected by a company and turned down.

Mr. O'Loughlen: There is a lot of ambiguity about the whole thing.

The Minister for Mines: We are getting an inspection made, anyhow.

Mr. DURACK: I understand that an investigation was made when the Labour Government were in power.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Twelve years ago.

Mr. DURACK: One reason given for the company not going on with the business was that there was some trouble over the housing or accommodation conditions. The company imported a 10-ton engine which was landed at Fremantle. After it was landed, it was found that the facilities at Wyndham did not permit of the engine being taken off there. That was another reason alleged for the company turning down the business. I understand that a company is now prepared to go on with it. If so, it would be the means of employing a number of people and that is what we want in the North, people to settle there.

The Minister for Mines: You would not ask me to be a party to any ramp.

Mr. DURACK: It is a question of promoting an industry. If a company is prepared to carry on, why not let it?

Mr. O'Loughlen: You do not appear to know much about it.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. DURACK: I am prepared to accept the opinions of men who have been there. Coming to minerals, we have in the North gold, silver, tin, copper, lead, iron, wolfram, mica, coal, and perhaps oil. I suppose the Kimberley goldfields may be said to be the father of the goldfields of Western Australia. I remember, as some members here do, in 1886 there was a rush to Kim-

berley. Mining was carried on for some two or three years. We had the usual excitement about the wonderful yields which were being obtained, but unfortunately, they did not continue as it was hoped they would. This was due in a great measure to the unfavourable conditions under which the men had to work in those early days. It was really before there was any settlement and the miners had considerable difficulty in getting supplies. After leaving those fields, the miners worked down through Hall's Creek and Pilbara and eventually reached Coolgardie, and so I say the Kimberley goldfields may be said to be the father of the Western Australian goldfields. Many of the old prospectors of considerable experience believe that Kimberley will yet produce great wealth of gold. There are some old prospectors up there now who have been on the Hall's Creek field for the last 25 or 30 years. They are continuing their work with a certain amount of luck periodically, but with the undying hope that they will some day strike an eldorado, and I cannot help sharing the same blind faith that even yet Kimberley will produce great wealth of gold for this country. Wolfram, a very valuable product, was exported from Derby to the extent of 27 tons nine or 10 years ago. It was not followed up, but this shipment is sufficient to show that the mineral is there. The mining journals issued under the authority of the Minister for Mines will confirm the statement I have made regarding the presence of the other minerals I have mentioned. We have at Yampi Sound what is considered to be the richest iron field in the world. A sample of six or seven tests put through showed no less than 69 per cent. of metallic ore. I understand that England is depending at the present time upon Newfoundland for her principal supplies. The average content of this ore is 52 per cent. In America the highest is 60 per cent. and it runs down to as low as 45 per cent. The Iron Knob, which is said to be a wonderful proposition, contains 51·70 of metallic iron. The iron deposit at Yampi Sound may prove of great value to this State. We have copper universally distributed all over the Kimberleys. Samples have been sent down and found to contain from 10 to 50 per cent. of copper. Some of them have been shown to contain from 12 to 14 ounces of silver and a certain percentage of gold. We have coal just outside Derby. I will read what the Geological Department has to say with respect to this coal find:—

In the Kimberley Division in the far-north of Western Australia a seam of hydrous bituminous non-caking coal somewhat similar in character to the type prevailing at Collie, has been found in a well on Lower Liveringa Station, some distance to the south of Derby, in the valley of the Fitzroy River. The seam, which proved to be 12 feet thick, was met with at a depth of 50 feet from the surface in strata which there seem geological reasons for believing to be of upper carboniferous age. An analysis of a sample of this coal, made in the Geological Survey Laboratory, showed its composition to be as follows:—Moisture 8·87 per cent., volatile hydrocarbons 29·73 per cent., fixed carbon 33·99 per cent., ash 27·41 per cent.; total 100·00 per cent.; calorific value B.T.U.—7722. Having regard to the very large area covered by the carboniferous

rocks in Kimberley, there seem good reasons for believing that other seams than that exposed in the well at Liveringa exist.

The importance of this discovery as regards the working of our iron deposits is immeasurable. I come now to the most important product of oil, one which we have every hope will be found in the North, and that is oil. Although it is probably too early to say how far our hopes may be justified, from the reports we have had I think we have every reason for optimism. Last year I brought down samples from a deposit 150 miles south of Wyndham. These were assayed by the Government Chemist in Perth and shown to contain a percentage of oil. I took the samples to New South Wales, and submitted them to the head of the Geological Department in Sydney. They were putting through a test for me, but when I took in the assay report of Dr. Simpson they told me they were quite prepared to accept his judgment, that Dr. Simpson was well known as a Sydney University man, and that anything they did in connection with a test would only be confirmatory of what Dr. Simpson had said. The head of the Geological Department in Sydney said the discovery was a very interesting one and would probably prove of great value to Australia. He further remarked that as far as he knew, last November, it was the only seepage found on the mainland of Australia. Seepages have been found in New Guinea, but the finding of a seepage does not necessarily mean that oil will also be found. At the same time the results are encouraging. The seepage is from an asphaltum bed. This is an indication that at one period of Australia's history petroleum existed there, but whether it exists to-day depends largely upon the structural formation of the country. Some members may have seen the telegram published the other day from an oil expert I met up there, who has been in the locality south of Wyndham. He says that the bitumen is undoubtedly petroliferous, and that the structural formations are favourable. The Assistant Geologist of Western Australia is now in the district, and we all await with a good deal of interest what he will have to say. From the evidence we have before us I think there is every reason to hope oil will be found. Scientific people tell us there is very little chance of oil being found in Australia, but their remarks are confined rather to those areas which they have already examined. As the north of Australia has not received much in the way of examination from the geological point of view they say it is possible, seeing that it is within the Sumatra zone, that oil may be found there. I come now to our grievances and our requirements in the North. The East and West Kimberleys, with the exception of the pearling industry which is carried on in Broome, are essentially cattle districts. A certain number of sheep are carried in the West Kimberleys, but I regret to say that of recent years the numbers have rather decreased than otherwise. I believe the sheep raising industry is carried on too close to the coast, and that if it was extended farther inland it would meet with better success. The chief difficulty confronting the sheep raising industry, however, is the cost of getting the wool into port. The position in the East Kimberleys, which is essentially a cattle raising centre, is much worse than it was 12 or

15 years ago. At that time we were able to sell our cattle. The price was certainly low, but we knew exactly where we were with a certain degree of accuracy. To-day we sell, and we do not sell. Last year we sold our cattle to the Government, hoping to get rid of about 25,000 head. My own firm and other producers had started to get their cattle in and other mobs were on the way, when we got notice to say that the Government were not able to accept them. The position was therefore very unsatisfactory. If the Government enter into competition with other enterprises they should take the same responsibility as a private individual does. Buyers for the meat works in Queensland have bought cattle from us and, although unable to operate, they have paid for them. This is not so with us; the position is a very unsatisfactory one.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Did the Government buy your cattle?

Mr. DURACK: They did.

Hon. P. Collier: Have they paid for them?

Mr. DURACK: The Government have paid an advance for the cattle, but when we take into consideration the loss we incurred by holding as well as the expense, the accommodation will cost us 15 or 20 per cent. Up to April last we believed that our cattle would be taken. The Government, however, did not take them, and by that time all other avenues for sale were closed to us, it being too late then to send them elsewhere. During the last four or five years very little stock has been shipped out of the East Kimberleys. We have at different times appealed to the State Steamship service to allow us to ship cattle to the metropolitan market. Some two or three years ago cattle were at a high price, as high as £25 and £30 per head. We asked to be afforded an opportunity of taking advantage of this market, but we were told to content ourselves in peace, and that the Government would take all the cattle we had, indeed more than we could supply.

The Minister for Works: Was it not a question of tick and tick infection?

Mr. DURACK: No. We were told that the Government had their meat works at Wyndham and that we would be all right. We did content ourselves in peace and quietness. In 1919 the Government offered us 20s. 10d. per 100lbs. for our cattle. We protested at this price, pointing out that at Townsville they were giving as high as 40s. per 100lbs.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is different to the £3 10s. they were giving previously.

Mr. DURACK: The management of the Wyndham Freezing Works said we might consider the fact that they were opening up the industry. We did take this into consideration, and persisted no longer in our request for a larger price. In 1919 there were only 9,000 odd head of cattle put through instead of 20,000. In 1920 we again offered our cattle to the Government, who offered us a slightly increased price of 25s. We protested that this was not a fair price, as compared with the Townsville price of 40s. The meat works at Wyndham were getting the same price, 4½d. per lb, as the Townsville people were getting. The Imperial Government were sending boats and we could not understand this discrimination, or why we should have to accept the difference between

25s. and 40s., representing £4 15s. per animal. However, we had to take the offer or leave it, and we accepted. In 1920 some 18,000 cattle were put through the works. We were told by the management not to worry, that this was only a preliminary canter, and that they would take next year more cattle than we had to supply. We waited patiently until 1921 when we found there was no sale for the cattle at all. The producers in East Kimberley and contingent border are to-day left with 40,000 to 50,000 head of fat cattle, which we do not know what to do with. There has been a tremendous slump in the meat trade. Tallow has fallen from £100 to as low as £25 per ton, and hides have fallen from 1s. 6d. per lb. to 3d. or 4d. Shipping difficulties occurred, and on top of it all there were certain labour demands. I do not altogether blame the Government for not operating during this year. I would not be a party to asking the Government to do so under such conditions, which would mean that the State would be saddled with a loss of £90,000.

The Minister for Works: If you had given us the bullocks this year we should have lost money.

Mr. DURACK: What to do with the Wyndham Freezing Works is a concern that must exercise the mind of every taxpayer in the State.

Mr. O'Loghlen: Will it be better next year?

Mr. DURACK: I have seen all the principal meat works in Australia, and can safely say that the Wyndham works compare most favourably with any of them. I also think that the Wyndham Meat Works are just as capable of treating cattle as are the Darwin works, despite the fact that those in charge of the Darwin works have had more experience in their management.

The Minister for Works: Vestey Bros. manager told me that our works were better than theirs, but that ours could not treat such a large number of cattle.

Mr. DURACK: It appears to me we must pay for our ideal of a White Australia, and I see no other way of operating the works except by means of a subsidy. The producers of the Kimberleys are just as much entitled to ask for a subsidy from the State or the Commonwealth as are the sugar producers of Queensland. I understand the sugar industry has cost Australia between 25 and 30 millions of money. It is not going to cost Australia anything like that to subsidise these meat works in the North. A subsidy seems to be the only hope. Failing that, I would say, "Lease the works to the producers under a co-operative system." Probably it would be necessary for the Government to write down the works considerably in order to lease them. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) suggested that it might be possible to run the Wyndham works in conjunction with the Carnarvon works, where the operating season is from September to April, whereas in the North we operate from April to September. That would give an opportunity of offering continuous work to those engaged in the industry. I understand that one of the reasons which Labour considers justifies it in making demands for high pay in the meat industry is the intermittent character of the work. When men go up to Wyndham to work, it is for only five or six months, and that fact seems to be accepted

by Labour as a reason for requiring payment on a scale which will enable a year's subsistence to be earned in the five or six months. Probably that financial difficulty would be overcome by working Wyndham in conjunction with Carnarvon; in such circumstances Labour would probably be content with lower rates of pay. I presume Labour is as much concerned in the welfare of the country as any member on this side of the House. Probably if a few members from the Opposition side got together with a few members on this side, an agreement in the matter would be arrived at. If neither of those suggestions which I have mentioned can be adopted, the only thing I see for it is to sell the works outright to the highest bidder—lock, stock, and barrel. Some provision might be made by the Government to protect the State against any monopoly. The Kimberleys are very good country, and their possibilities are unbounded. They offer full scope for development. If we had more money in the North, we have room there for carrying four times the present number of stock. This year we entered into negotiations for the erection of 50 miles of fencing. Immediately afterwards, we received notice that no sales could be effected, and so we had to cancel all improvements. We, like all other producers in the Kimberleys, have had to cut down, and are now working on bedrock. A survey party has been out examining the country between Derby and Wyndham, looking for a port to be established about midway between Derby and Broome. If a port can be found in that neighbourhood—and I believe it can—there is a big opportunity for developing a great deal of very fine country, country which will be within reach of the Wyndham works. Only yesterday I received from a member of the survey party a letter speaking very highly of the country so far passed through. I may say they have covered a very large portion of the area. The letter confirms a report already made by a Royal Commission appointed by the Premier to inquire into the possibilities of development in that country. The great disadvantage from which the Wyndham works suffer just now, is want of sufficient cold storage. Until we expand their storage capacity, they will be of no use to anybody. I urge the Government earnestly to go on with the extension of the works as early as possible. This construction work should not be carried on at the same time as the operating work. Therefore, irrespective of whether the works are to be started next year or not, I consider that the construction works should go on promptly. The present storage capacity is equal to only about 4,000 head. Assuming that the daily operation is 250 head—I believe the works are capable of dealing with up to 350 head—it would mean the killing in one week of 1,500 head, which again would mean that three weeks' killing would fill the stores. To get a vessel to call at Wyndham every three weeks is practically out of the question. Therefore the construction work should go on as speedily as possible.

The Minister for Works: But a lot of the meat goes into cans.

Mr. DURACK: I understand there is no sale whatever for canned meats.

The Minister for Works: The works must can a lot, because they cannot keep it otherwise.

Mr. DURACK: If there is no sale for the canned product, it would be better to freeze all possible. Eighty per cent. of the carcasses would be fit for freezing.

The Minister for Works: But even then there is a lot of stuff that must be canned.

Mr. DURACK: Assuming that the works can eight on 10 per cent., still they would be filled in four or five weeks.

The Minister for Works: The additional storage means £120,000 expenditure.

Mr. Pickering: And then it will have to be written down 50 per cent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The works have not cost as much as the Derby works.

Mr. DURACK: Every day's delay means a big loss to the North. The development of the meat industry will help the North to develop in other directions. Some men left over there, have gone out prospecting. Their efforts in that direction may probably be attended with success. That brings me to the State Trading Concerns. The Minister for Works last night was very emphatic in telling us that he did not favour the State Trading Concerns, but I think the zeal with which he presented their case was somewhat noticeable. He presented that case in the most favourable light.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He is the Minister in charge of them.

The Minister for Works: Does the member for Kimberley doubt my word?

Mr. DURACK: I merely mentioned that the Minister was very emphatic in stating that he was opposed to State Trading Concerns, but was also very emphatic in putting forward their justification.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes; because he is the Minister.

Mr. DURACK: I am not very much concerned about whether a few individual items among the State Trading Concerns pay or not. I am concerned with the general principle of the thing.

Mr. Lambert: Just now you were not very emphatic against the Wyndham Meat Works.

Mr. DURACK: The member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) told us the other night that the State Trading Concerns had contributed to the Consolidated Revenue of Western Australia something like £276,000. That statement prompted me to ask a question as to the amount of money the "Kangaroo" had contributed towards that sum. The reply to my question showed that she had contributed £275,000 odd. That is to say, the "Kangaroo" accounted for practically the whole lot. Three years ago I spoke in this House against the State Trading Concerns.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you never raised your voice against the Wyndham Meat Works.

Mr. DURACK: My remarks were directed more particularly against the State Steamship Service. It is not the function of the Government to enter into trading concerns. In doing so they stifle competition.

Mr. Lambert: Did they stifle competition at Wyndham?

Mr. DURACK: The function of the Government is to administer and regulate.

The Minister for Works: Hear, hear!

Mr. DURACK: But not to take on trading concerns.

The Minister for Works: I agree with you there, but we have got the trading concerns.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DURACK: It has often been said that the State Steamship Service protects us against high freights. I say that is merely a supposititious statement, which may or may not be correct. If we could only measure in pounds, shillings, and pence the losses which this State has sustained in consequence of the haphazard, happy-go-lucky, go-as-you-please service, in which we never knew when a boat would arrive or when she would leave, we would find those losses to be enormous, and the proper development of the North in conveyance greatly retarded.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: If it had not been for the State, you would not have had a ship on that coast.

Mr. DURACK: That, again, is supposititious.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Everyone of the private ships was sent away.

Mr. DURACK: It always seems strange to me that the people who are the strongest advocates of State enterprise, and the State shipping more particularly, are people who have nothing to ship. The people who support our State Trading Concerns are people whose passages are invariably paid, and who have nothing to lose. To me it is too patent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have had the cheapest freights in the world, and then you are not satisfied.

Mr. DURACK: I am just making the comparison. When we were shipping under the Adelaide Steamship Company, which was then said to be a monopoly, the freight we paid on the "Junea," on a shipment of 600 cattle—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In pre-war times.

Mr. DURACK: I allow that—was £2 8s. 9d. to £2 10s., without fodder. What do we pay to-day? I do not know positively, but I think the freight is £8 10s. to £9.

Mr. Lambert: And were you getting £20 a head for bullocks in those earlier days?

Mr. DURACK: Bullocks were sold the other day in the market at £7 per head.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You used to sell at £3 per head.

Mr. DURACK: We are told again, that the State trading concerns are very good because, although we may not make much out of them, they act as policemen. I would say that the State Steamship Service is perhaps not the chief burglar along the North-West coast, but that undoubtedly it is participating in the burglaries. I suppose every other member of the House was, like myself, under the impression that land freight could never compete against water freight; but what do we find? As a result of a question asked by the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) it was elicited that to get a beast from Port Augusta to Midland Junction costs £2 15s. to £3 approximately. That is over a distance of 1,440 miles.

Mr. Lambert: And what was the cost?

Mr. DURACK: To get cattle from Derby would cost about £8 and from Wyndham, say £10; that is, including selling and all other charges. Surely there is something wrong in a comparison like that. What hope is there for the producers in the North in the face of such exorbitant charges?

The Minister for Works: You voted for Federation, so what are you growling about?

Mr. DURACK: I say that the private shipping companies are justifying themselves on the ground that the Government are also participating in this, what I call, burglary. The private companies are not concerned when they have the Government supporting such a proposition as this. They are doing very well out of it. We should get rid of these trading concerns and thus bring credit to this State. If we did do that, it would give to enterprise and capital the opportunity so necessary in the development of this State. The North is very badly in need of shipping. It is unnecessary for me to point out that aspect. The members representing northern constituencies know too well what those difficulties mean. I consider there is very little hope of any improvement while the present State steamers remain on the coast. I was informed by one of the leading shipping companies in the East that they have no intention of operating along the coast but that if the Government went out of the business, they would do so. The Government should give six or eight months notice of their intention to go out of the shipping business. If that were done, I believe it would be possible for some of the private companies to embark upon our coastal trade. Some provision, of course, could be made to protect ourselves.

Mr. Corboy: You would be able to crowd out the small man from his little bit of space.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And you could buy his cattle for 30s. in summer.

The Minister for Mines: There is another side to that question too.

Mr. Willcock: Why not shut up the railways too?

Mr. DURACK: Regarding the railways, I understand there are certain concessions in connection with fares enabling women and children to get from the outback districts to the metropolitan area at reduced rates. I ask the Minister controlling the shipping services to extend the same consideration to the women in the North. The amount of the fares down the coast is very high and I ask that the same concessions should be allowed by steamer, as by rail.

The Minister for Mines: We cannot get sufficient accommodation at the present fares.

Mr. Angelo: From every steamer passengers have to be shut out.

Mr. DURACK: Mention is made in the Governor's Speech of the appointment of a Commissioner for the North-West. I believe that appointment was the outcome of the action by the Minister for the North-West in calling North-West members together last year. Four members of the Legislative Assembly and three members of the Legislative Council met on that occasion. The Minister said it was his intention to call the members representing the northern districts together at different times, when questions in connection with the North cropped up for discussion. Since that occasion we have not been called together. It was somewhat of a surprise to me when I reached Broome the other day to learn that a Commissioner had been appointed. I am not going to say very much about it now as the Commissioner has been appointed. I understand that he is a

young man of about 35 years of age. We are told in a paragraph appearing in the "West Australian" that he is a highly qualified engineer. If he is a highly qualified engineer, I am at a loss to understand why, after he returned from the war, he was not taken back into the Works Department. I should think that there was room for a highly qualified engineer in the Public Works Department. We find, however, that he was given an appointment in the Forestry Department and, as a result of a visit to China, he furnished a valuable report to the Government. After that he received his appointment as Commissioner for the North-West. How far the connection of this officer with the Forestry Department, or his report of his trip to China, justified his appointment as Commissioner for the North-West, is not clear to me.

Mr. Angelo: He understands something about sandalwood.

Mr. DURACK: Probably that is so. I understand the appointment does not carry a high salary. I understand the salary is about £804 per year. When it is considered that, as far as I can learn, the administration in the North covers an area from Carnarvon right up to Wyndham, and that that area is fully two-thirds of the area of Western Australia: when we consider that the Port Hedland railway and many public buildings under the control of the Public Works Department, and representing millions of money—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not forget that—millions of money. You will object to that later on.

Mr. DURACK: When all these things are considered, and that the new Commissioner is accepting the responsibility of his office for such an amount, I think that man is certainly discrediting and discrediting his own ability.

Mr. Angelo: He may know what work he has to do.

Mr. DURACK: If the position is as I judge, namely, that he is a Commissioner only in name, I think this is a matter which had just as well be left alone. It is of no use to people in the North.

Mr. Johnston: What are his powers?

Mr. DURACK: The new Commissioner may be a most excellent man but I think he will be entirely guided by the advice of senior officers in the Public Works Department and the Harbours and Lights Department. I hope he will be able to fill the position satisfactorily. The Government have referred to cultivation in the North. I consider the Government should proceed warily in this direction. We do not want a repetition of the reckless expenditure of money incurred by the Federal Government in the development of tropical agriculture in the Northern Territory. Probably something might be done in connection with tropical agriculture in the Gascoyne or at Onslow, but beyond that I would say: "No." Tropical products will not stand exporting as other fruits will; they are too soft. We must have a local population before we can hope to achieve good results from tropical agriculture, and thus offer inducements to people to embark upon that industry.

Mr. Lambert: Do you suggest you do not want tropical agriculture up there?

Mr. DURACK: I do not think men will succeed unless there is a local population. Exporting the fruit would be out of the question.

Mr. Lambert: With bananas at 2s. per dozen?

Mr. DURACK: I say that at Onslow and in part of the Carnarvon area, we may succeed.

Mr. Angelo: We will succeed.

Mr. DURACK: So far, tropical cultivation in the North has shown that the country will grow anything under irrigation. When I say that I must add that it will grow anything, but at a price. There are many difficulties to contend with in the Northern parts of Western Australia, much more so than on the eastern side of the continent. In that category white ants have to be considered. I have seen attempts made to grow fruit trees and they may thrive for two, or three, or even six years, but in the end the white ant comes along and the trees are eaten out. The same thing applies to vegetables grown under irrigation. I see very little hope for tropical cultivation under our present White Australian policy. With the exception of the pearling industry, and our marine products, which I have already spoken of, and which, however, mean the expenditure of capital, the Kimberley areas at the present time are essentially pastoral, and they will remain pastoral until we get the northern railway system, which the Railway Development League is advocating, whereby we will be linked up with the railway system in the Eastern States. Then it will be possible to carry on dairy farming to some extent. Furthermore, when we get that railway the wonderful and very rich mineral resources of the North will be exploited.

Mr. J. H. Smith: What about oil?

Mr. DURACK: I would suggest to the Government that before undertaking any great expense in connection with the North they might seek information from the Commonwealth as to the results of their efforts in connection with tropical agriculture in the Northern Territory. The Commonwealth will doubtless supply information without the State going to the expense which would be incurred in practical experiments in tropical agriculture. It was fittingly remarked by the member for Boulder (Hon. P. Collier) that a great proportion of our difficulty arises from the paucity of our population. We have a third of the area of Australia and only one-sixteenth of the population. When we realise those facts, we appreciate the difficulties we are up against. It does not seem a fair proposition. The Premier himself suggested that we have a good claim on the Commonwealth in that direction. We are not developing Western Australia for Western Australia alone but for the whole of Australia and those who elect to live under our laws and conditions. It is not a fair proposition to ask one-sixteenth of the population of Australia to develop one-third of the continent. The difficulties arise, too, owing to the climatic conditions and isolation. It suggests to some extent, separation. That is a question which will probably come up for review in the future. Separation into a northern adminis-

tration more applicable to the circumstances and conditions in which we live, will have to receive attention. When that question comes up for review, I hope it will be from the viewpoint of the bigger Australian rather than from that of the parochial or provincial politician. The problems of the future are great and many. As a consequence of the war we are confronted with many problems. We must work together as a united people. Labour and capital are co-relative and dependent one upon the other. Capital can no more do without organisation and labour than labour can do without organisation and capital. It is no good expressing sentiments of good-will in the Chamber if they are not to be acted upon. To me it seems a case of "we all feel good when the organ blows." Inside the four walls of this Chamber we are full of lofty aspirations, but I am afraid when we go outside again we relapse into the ordinary mundane frailties of the hour.

Mr. Lambert: You speak for yourself.

Mr. DURACK: I would like to see more tangible evidence of members living up to their expressions of goodwill in this Chamber, when they go outside. Particularly would I like to see them give evidence of their sincerity when they speak of their desire to avoid industrial strife.

Mr. McCallum: What about giving the shearers a bit more?

Mr. DURACK: Quite possibly it is on our side as well.

Mr. McCallum: Well, start there.

Mr. DURACK: I will refrain from referring at length to either the shearing strike or the industrial trouble at the Esplanade Hotel. I am pleased to see by this morning's paper that the disgraceful trouble with respect to the picketing at the Esplanade Hotel has been settled at last. Let me explain my position in the Country Party. In the last Parliament I sat as a Nationalist. At the time I entered Parliament, this State was passing through its greatest crisis. The safety of our nation and empire was in jeopardy. It was, I thought, a time when all party issues should be cast aside. When the war was over, I felt that the term "Nationalist," although embracing everything that meant the preservation of our nation and empire, did not quite fit the bill, and there did not appear to be any further need for it. We wanted something more to galvanise our people, some more stimulating force that would drive us into action. That stimulant was already in existence in the Country Party. Taking the broad interpretation of the term "Nationalist," that is "Nation and Empire," we are all "Nationalists," my friends opposite as well as those on this side, both Country Party and Independents. Ever since our entry into Parliament, all the members for the North have felt very much in sympathy with the Country Party. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) and I were amongst the first to discuss the position with the Leader of the Country Party. We said that if that party could see their way clear to throw over

some of their platform planks which to us appeared parochial, and to alter the name of their association, we saw no reason why we should not join up. The Farmers' and Settlers' Association acted accordingly last year. Hence our membership of that party to-day. Although the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) in his allegiance to his old chief, and the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) in his allegiance to the Underwood party, are not with us in the Country Party, yet I feel they are very much with us in sentiment, in thought and in desire.

Mr. Lambert: They could not be stampeded.

Mr. DURACK: I have been told that the Country Party think only in terms of wheat. That may have been the case in the old days, under the Farmers' and Settlers' Association; but, finding their existence threatened, they deemed it necessary to bring in new members to protect their own interests. They have grown since then, and to-day probably they are the most representative party in the State. The field of their representation extends from Wyndham to Albany, and the party represent all the primary industries of the State, agricultural, pastoral, mining, pearling, and to some extent, forestry. I hope that as a party we shall be able to bring to bear on the questions to come before us that breadth and broadness of vision which is characteristic of the extent of the areas we represent. We claim to be freer from party prejudices than any other party in the House; we claim to be representative of both capital and labour; we realise that both sides should get a fair deal. Some of us by our energy and perseverance may have acquired a certain degree of independence, but not to any degree the amount we are often credited with.

Mr. Teesdale: You have had to work for it.

Mr. DURACK: That is so.

Mr. Teesdale: Work that would stiffen some of those opposite.

Mr. DURACK: We realise that capital should be protected, and enjoy without fear of disturbance that little which may come to its share. Every member of the party knows the difficulties of the man on the land. Probably all of us have been on the land, and know what has to be suffered and endured there. As a pioneer, I know what the pioneers of this State and of Queensland have suffered. Can it be said that we have no feeling for the men on the lower rung of the ladder when, in point of fact, we know from personal experience what they have to endure. We may differ in our opinions at times, and probably we shall make mistakes, as all parties do. While endeavouring to serve our constituents to the best of our ability, we hope, when the bigger issues come before us, to sink any parochial views which we may possess, keeping always in mind the best interests of our State, our Commonwealth, and

that Empire to which we have the proud honour to belong.

On motion by Mr. Mullany debate adjourned.

BILL SUPPLY (No. 1) £1,640,320.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.37 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 25th August, 1921.

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

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, What was the amount of capital expended on the Wyndham Meat Works prior to 30th July, 1916? 2, What amount has been expended from 1st August, 1916, to 30th June, 1921?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied. 1, The amount of capital expended on the Wyndham Meat Works to the 30th July, 1916, was £148,065 ls. 6d., but in addition there were at that date commitments to the amount of £230,000. 2, The amount expended from 1st August, 1916, to the 30th June, 1921, was £592,790 5s. 11d., including the above £230,000.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS

Motion Expunged.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.33]: I have a motion on the Notice Paper, the debate on which was adjourned from the 2nd August, reading—

That there be laid upon the Table of the House the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts of all State trading concerns and State enterprises to the 30th June last, irrespective of whether the audits of same have been completed or not.

In view of the fact that these balance sheets have now been laid on the Table, I suggest