

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 9th October, 1919.

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

QUESTION—STATE HOTEL, DWELLINGUP.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is he aware that portion of the Dwellingup State hotel was recently burned down? 2, When is it proposed to rebuild the premises, and thus provide the conveniences required? 3, Is he aware that 15s. a dozen is charged at the Dwellingup State hotel for bottled ale? 4, Do the Government intend to prevent this profiteering in foodstuffs?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Yes. 2, Plans have been prepared and approved, and it is proposed to put the work in hand at an early date. 3, Yes. 4, No undue profit is made by selling at this rate.

QUESTION—FRENCH AND BELGIAN TRENCHES, RENTAL.

Mr. ROCKE asked the Premier: 1, Will he inquire into the accuracy of a statement, reported in the Press to have been made on the 1st inst. in the Federal Parliament by the Assistant Minister for Defence (Mr. Wise), to the effect that the French and Belgian Governments have charged the Commonwealth Government a rental of 5s. per man per year, for the use of the trenches occupied by Australian soldiers in the defence of those countries? 2, If the statement was made and is based on fact, will the Government protest against the paying out of Western Australian money for such a purpose? 3, Will the Premier inquire of the Federal Government if it is the intention of foreign Governments to charge rent for the graves in which lie Australia's dead?

The PREMIER replied: 1-3, Inquiry will be made and the honourable member will be advised of the result.

QUESTION—RESERVE, COCKBURN SOUND.

Mr. ROCKE asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Has Reserve 255, part of Location 704, late 244, Cockburn Sound, been leased or let to any person? 2, If so, to whom, and upon what conditions? 3, What is the area leased or let?

The HONORARY MINISTER replied: 1, There is no information available in the Lands Department, the Commonwealth having resumed this land in connection with the naval base. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTION—WORKERS' HOMES, FEE SIMPLE.

Mr. VERYARD asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that a large number of the occupiers of workers' homes on the leasehold principle have long been urging the request that they should have the option of purchasing the fee simple of the land occupied by them? 2, Is he aware that in reply to a similar question asked during the last session of Parliament the then Premier (Sir H. B. Lefroy) stated that "A draft amending Bill is now under consideration"? 3, Is that draft amending Bill still under consideration? 4, Will the Premier, having in view this long delayed legislation, have the amending Bill introduced this session?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Yes. 3, No. 4, The matter is receiving consideration.

QUESTION—RAILWAYS AND CHINESE TRADERS.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Is he aware that the whole of goods supplied to the Railway Department for men working on washaways in the Murchison district were supplied by Chinese? 2, Is this the policy of the department? 3, If not, will he issue instructions that quotations be obtained from white traders, or give the white traders an opportunity of supplying any goods required?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No, but inquiries are being made. 2, No. 3, Yes.

QUESTION—HOSPITALS, FREE TREATMENT.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Has his attention been drawn to an advertisement in last Saturday's "West Australian" by "The Life Insurance Co. of Australia, Ltd., Thos. Roach, Manager," that one of the advantages gained by insuring in that society is "free hospital treatment in any public hospital in the State at no increase whatever in the premium"? 2, Has any arrangement been made with the Government and the insur-

ance company for free treatment in the public hospitals? 3, If not, will the Government take steps to prohibit such advertisements? The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, No. 3, The Government have no power to prevent such advertisements.

MOTION—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PRECEDENCE.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [4.37]: I move—

That on Wednesday, 22nd October, and each alternate Wednesday thereafter, Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day as well as on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (East Fremantle) [4.38]: It is rather early in the session to be cutting out private members' day. We have had very little private members' business thus far. There is but little Government business on the Notice Paper, and the few Bills there will not take a great deal of time. It is true we have the Roads Bill to come down, but if the session is to be so short that there will be no further time for private members' business, it will be too short altogether for us to consider the Roads Bill, which will run into some hundreds of clauses. The Premier could easily have waited another month before moving this motion. We lost one private members' day yesterday, and we lost another when we went to the wheat belt. Private members are to have no opportunity of bringing in private business.

Mr. Underwood: You have next Wednesday.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That will be the only opportunity left to us. It is not fair to members to have this motion brought down so early. We want something more than Government business to discuss. Private members desire to introduce legislation, but the moving of the motion by the Premier will cut out all opportunity for the introduction of such legislation. It has become a practice with members to say to their constituents, "It is useless for us to introduce legislation unless we can get the Government to back it."

The Minister for Mines: You introduced a Bill this session.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the motion is carried I shall not have much opportunity for getting it through. I desire to see this privilege retained for private members. We should not be brought here merely to approve or disapprove of Government measures. There is much legislation which the Government prefer should be brought in by private members. If the motion is carried we shall have no opportunity for getting private members' business through. We might as well wipe out private members' day altogether. A month later would have been quite early enough for this motion. I hope the motion will not be agreed to.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN (Forrest) [4.45]: The privileges of hon. members of this House should be conserved. In looking through the Notice Paper I can find really nothing of any great importance from the point of view of the Government, apart from the Road Districts Bill. There are certain enabling Bills which are annual affairs, and have to be dealt with by the House, and there is a multitude of twopenny-halfpenny measures which are already partially through. We shall see how important these measures are once the Estimates are finished with. There is no doubt at all that once the Estimates go through many of these Bills will go into the waste-paper basket, where they have been put before. What concerns me most is the Road Districts Bill. For several years past we have had no Minister for Works come to tackle such a big proposition. It contains about 350 clauses. If I get the assurance of the Premier that the Minister for Works will be afforded ample opportunity of piloting the Bill through I am not going to offer any opposition to this motion. Congratulations have been showered upon the Minister for Works throughout the State for the manner in which he piloted through the Traffic Bill, and I am sure if he is given a similar opportunity with the Road Districts Bill, which is of great volume and contains many technicalities, that with the experience and knowledge he possesses the Minister for Works will be able to make an equal success of that. I am going to stand by the member for North-East Fremantle in opposing the proposition of the Premier to eliminate private members' day. Several private members have important business on the Notice Paper, and they will not have any opportunity of discussing it before the session closes. We can only judge in these matters by past experience. When the Estimates are through the Premier will drop all these things from the Notice Paper, because it will not matter to the Government whether half of them are passed or not. In my opinion he will be able to dispose of the business well before Christmas.

The Minister for Mines: We want to do so, too.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: The month of November should clear up the whole of the Notice Paper, the Estimates included.

The Minister for Works: Let us get on with the business.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN: I think I am justified in making a protest on behalf of my colleagues, who have business on the Notice Paper which requires the attention of the House. If the Premier will give us his assurance that the Minister for Works will have ample opportunity of piloting through the Bill to which I have referred, I am prepared to reconsider my determination.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam—in reply) [4.47]: The only private members' business of any consequence is the Bill which has been introduced by the member for North-East Fremantle.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Oh no; we have to remove the Agricultural Bank from Government control.

The PREMIER: We have such items, under the heading of private members' business, as the motion dealing with the guaranteeing of a minimum price to wheat growers, another dealing with the immigration officer in London, another dealing with the State smelting works at Phillips River, another in connection with the Marriage Act Amendment Bill, a further one dealing with the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board, and we also have the Constitution Act Amendment Bill and the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill. The business of private members on the Notice Paper can be cleaned up, in my opinion, next Wednesday.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Will you guarantee that my Bill will be dealt with next Wednesday?

The PREMIER: I am willing to guarantee that it will be fully discussed by the House. The member for Forrest asks that ample opportunity should be given to the Minister for Works to introduce the Road Districts Bill. I promise that he will be afforded that opportunity. It is not unusual to ask that Government business should be considered first on each alternate Wednesday. I hope the session will close by the end of November, and I see no reason why it should not do so, especially if the House will accept the advice of the member for North-East Fremantle, when he says that it is useless to discuss Government proposals. If that advice is followed we shall get through very much earlier. I hope the House will agree to the motion.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Electoral Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Attorney General.
- 2, Government Railways Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for Mines

MOTION—HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, INQUIRY.

Extension of Scope.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [4.50]: I move—

That the select committee appointed to inquire into the conditions existing in and the administration of the Hospital for the Insane be empowered to make inquiries into the administration of the mental ward, Perth Public Hospital; mental ward, Kalgoorlie Hospital; Whitby Falls Hospital for the Insane, and to adjourn from place to place.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING.

- 1, Traffic.
- 2, Wheat Marketing.
- 3, Anzac Day.
- 4, Slaughter of Calves Restriction.

Transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL—MENTAL TREATMENT ACT AMENDMENT.

Read a third time and passed.

BILL—ROAD DISTRICTS.

Second Reading.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.58] in moving the second reading said: The member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) a few moments ago referred to the Bill which I have the honour of presenting to the House, and for which I ask the consideration and assistance of hon. members. I do not propose to take any particular credit to myself for introducing the Bill, because the necessity for a new Act has been recognised for many years by all Ministers who have occupied the portfolio I now hold. As hon. members know, the pressure of Parliamentary business year after year has prevented the earlier introduction of the present Bill. The Act of 1911 has for years past been recognised as inadequate and one that requires considerable improvement. The importance of a Bill like the Road Districts Bill can be gauged by hon. members from the fact that the rates raised by road boards in Western Australia now reach the respectable total of about £100,000 per annum. I think it was in 1897 or 1898 that the first road board rate was struck, by one of the South-Western boards; and from that small beginning the development to which I have referred has come about. Hon. members will, I think, agree with me that we owe a great deal to the members of these road boards. Their work is voluntary and gratuitous, although I believe there is an arrangement by which members residing at a distance are reimbursed their expenses. Beyond that, however, road board members receive nothing except the thanks which a grateful or ungrateful public may bestow or withhold. The meetings of road boards have to be held once a month, and we know that the members of those boards are very energetic in carrying out their duties. I do not propose to introduce payment of road board members in this Bill, because I am pleased to say there are men still left in Western Australia who are prepared to do public work without receiving payment from public funds. The various road boards every three years hold what is known as the road board conference. These conferences last three or four days, and occasionally even longer; and they are regarded, and rightly regarded, as being of great importance and usefulness. At such conferences the experiences of members of

boards in the various districts of the State are brought together and matters of common interest are debated and pros and cons stated; and from such discussions great good undoubtedly results. The existing Act had its genesis in a special committee appointed on the 4th November, 1910, comprising Mr. Harry Brown, then member for Perth, the present member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Angwin), and Mr. Layman and Mr. Male. The committee went very carefully into the subject in the light of all the information available to them. They brought about two innovations. One of these was the principle of rating on the unimproved value of land for general purposes, subject to a proviso that in special cases the annual value might be taken in small towns and centres, at the option of the road board. The other innovation, which I consider a specially justifiable one, was the rating of the owner instead of the occupier of the property. Personally I have always held strong views on that point, and I was very pleased to see the new principle carried into law. So far as I can learn, Western Australia was the first Australian State to introduce that principle, which has since been adopted by all the Australian States. One matter which had to be dealt with was the absentee vote, its use and its misuse. There has been a great deal of complaint on that score, and the present Bill contains a provision that on no account except that of illness or infirmity may a postal vote be taken away from the office of the justice itself. Thus we shall do away with the hawking about of ballot papers to persons who are well able to record their votes at the polling place. The existing Act was carried in 1911 on the recommendation of the committee which I have mentioned; but there was a feeling at the time that further consideration of the subject was required, and therefore the measure was enacted only for a period of 12 months, Section 337 providing that the duration of the Act should be only until the 31st December, 1912. Consequently it has been necessary each year for the Minister for Works to ask Parliament to extend the Roads Act for a further 12 months. It is hoped that when this Bill has been passed with the same intelligent assistance as hon. members have extended to me in connection with the Traffic Bill, there will be no necessity to bring up the measure for annual re-enactment. The 1911 measure, although imperfect, was recognised as a great advance on such legislation as we had before; and the officers and others who have had to do with the compiling of the present Bill are sanguine that this new measure will be found to be an equally great advance on existing legislation. The present Act contains a provision under which small road boards may be merged or amalgamated, or even a small road board may be joined on to a municipality. Several changes of that character have taken place, and, so far as we are able to judge, have proved satisfactory to all concerned. After the passing of the 1911 Act, and in fulfil-

ment of a promise that consideration should be given to the effecting of further improvements, a committee of officials was appointed, comprising Mr. Stenberg, the Chief Electoral Officer; Mr. Lambert, of the Road Board Association executive; and Mr. Sanderson, the Local Government Officer. Many suggestions came before the committee, and were thoroughly analysed and investigated; and those which were approved have been included in this Bill. It has been felt that there is need for giving more power to the road boards and a wider scope to their operations. New townships are continually springing up, and amalgamation with other boards or with municipalities has become necessary. The enthusiastic manner in which the various road boards have taken up their duties proves that the policy of decentralisation, which has been talked about a good deal, is one which, if it is to be fully carried out, involves the granting of further powers to the road boards. I say this in reference to the providing of public utilities, such as electric light and power, gas, water, sanitary matters, and so forth. For those purposes the boards require much more extensive powers than the present Act confers upon them. To carry out such works as I have mentioned money will be needed and loans will have to be raised. Hon. members will find that in the Bill provision is made by which loans can be raised subject to a vote of the ratepayers, a simple majority of the resident property owners in the district deciding the matter. Clause 23 is one upon which I anticipate there will be considerable debate, as it provides, for the first time I believe, that every adult shall be eligible for membership of a road board. That is to say, any man or any woman finding favour in the eyes of the ratepayers will be eligible for membership of a road board. The step is one which has been advocated, and also deprecated, throughout the country. The present Bill will afford hon. members an opportunity of expressing by their votes their views on that important question. Provision is made for rotation of members of road boards, a certain number to retire each year. The duration of membership will, of course, be three years. Then provision is made that there shall be an election of a chairman each year. The chairman will be elected from amongst the members. The retiring chairman will be eligible for re-election. The object in providing for the annual change is that each ward may in turn have an opportunity of fairly strong representation on the board. A matter which has been pressed by various road board conferences is that the chairman of a road board shall become a justice of the peace by virtue of his office, the idea possibly being to invest him with a certain degree of dignity.

Mr. Duff: Do you mean that the chairman of a road board cannot continue in office for two years in succession?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Bill provides that there shall be an election of

a chairman each year. With regard to the chairman becoming a justice of the peace, I have not heard that proposal advocated by members of this House, who no doubt are restrained by a feeling that they must exercise great care in dealing with such matters. Another point which the Bill touches on is the subdivision of estates. Since 1911 it has been necessary to submit subdivisional plans to the local authorities for approval. However, the necessity has arisen for making a new provision in this regard, as people have been known to purchase a comparatively small area of land and then further subdivide it, with the result that the habitations built on such allotments are approximating to the character of slums. Under this Bill no further subdivision can be made unless approved by the local authority. That is to say, those who have agreed to the first subdivision must be asked for their concurrence before any further subdivision can be made. In this respect the Bill provides for a right of appeal to the Minister under proper restrictions. There have been a number of amalgamations with the object of bringing about economy and better work, and it has made larger districts than before. To meet that, provision has been made for the maximum number of members of a board, instead of being 11 as heretofore, to be increased to 13. An alteration has been made also with regard to polling day. Polling day has usually been the second Wednesday in April, but it has been felt that the second Saturday in April would be more convenient to all concerned, both in the neighbourhood of the metropolitan area and in the country. I have referred to the road board conferences which have been held every third year, and I wish to refer to them again to say that the recommendations made at these conferences have been very fairly and fully considered. Any decisions of the courts in connection with road board matters have been carefully noted and weighed and, in addition, our road board auditors' reports have been very fully considered. During the discussion on the Traffic Bill there seemed to be not a full appreciation among members of the scope of the audit, or the reports of those men. I may tell hon. members that these auditors are not mere clerical men taken out of an office, but almost invariably are men who have been accustomed to the supervision of works in addition to being trained for auditing accounts and, consequently, when they visit any district, they do not merely satisfy themselves by balancing the books and counting the cash, important as that might be. They have to report, not only on the expenditure of any special grant made, but on the other work and the manner in which it has been carried out. They also investigate the valuations of road boards to see that they have been made upon a basis which is equitable to all concerned, and they have to report on the administration as well.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How do they investigate—by looking at the books?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I think they do more than that. I have greater faith in them than the hon. member appears to have. I think he knows that these gentlemen go thoroughly into these matters.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It would be a matter of impossibility to give thorough valuations.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not say they make a thorough investigation in every case, but I have seen the reports—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have two auditors for the whole State, and how can they do it?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Being men of experience, if they feel it necessary to make investigations, they can, from what they see and hear, form a very fair idea whether the valuations are correct or otherwise.

Mr. Harrison: An opportunity for nice motor trips in the country.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am quite satisfied the hon. member does not wish to place it as low as that. Although a motor car trip might be very nice, and might be appreciated by members of Parliament as well as officials, still we should give them credit that they do not take these trips for pleasure, but to do their duty. Let us hope there exists a better spirit than that among our officials; otherwise it would be a bad recommendation for Western Australia.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you knocking out the road board members as a failure?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I shall be glad of the hon. member's assistance in Committee. The whole of the suggestions from the different quarters I have mentioned have been carefully weighed and considered and, where approved, have been embodied in the Bill. If members desire, I shall be prepared to let them know what suggestions have been made and not adopted, and the reason for their non-adoption.

Hon. P. Collier: I think we should be able to go straight on with the second reading tonight.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I should not object to that.

Mr. Thomson: Are you in favour of a select committee to consider this Bill?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I shall be glad to hear suggestions from the hon. member at the proper time. I want members to understand that every precaution that experience can give us has been taken to frame a decent Bill. The notes of those suggestions have been submitted to the executive of the road boards in Perth and approved by them. The executive meet quarterly, and they have put in a considerable amount of work on this Bill.

Mr. Underwood: Why not let them pass it altogether and not bother us?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I do not know what is the matter with the hon. member?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I thought the hon. member was ill.

Mr. Underwood: Why bother us? Let them pass it altogether if there is nothing original in the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Ninety per cent. of the requests from these road boards are embodied in the Bill, and I give that as evidence of the care which has been exercised in trying to get a Bill which will meet the needs of the country, and surely it cannot be wrong for us to endeavour to make the Bill satisfactory to those who have to administer it.

Mr. Underwood: Why cut out the 10 per cent. of recommendations?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Care has been taken also to protect the smaller road boards where necessary. There may be by-laws and regulations brought forward suitable to one portion of Western Australia, but which might have to be carefully regarded in their application to districts where they are not so adaptable. I had hoped to be able to bring down a measure for the proper consideration of a scheme to deal with main roads, but I have not been able to do so and I am afraid it will not be possible this session. This Bill will enable us to frame by-laws which will be uniform throughout the State, and I think that must be considered as being a good step in the progress of local government. There is a special provision under which by-laws, which might be needed to deal with particular matters not applicable to the whole of the districts, may be attended to. The Bill is a long one. It contains 356 clauses, of which 163 clauses are in the existing Act. These have not been altered. There are 171 clauses which have been taken from the existing Act, and have been redrafted in order to make their meaning clearer. Therefore, in connection with 334 clauses out of the 356 clauses, I do not think there will be much scope for debate in the House. I think the House can be fairly expected to receive the greater portion of the Bill without much discussion. There are 22 clauses which are new and contain matters to which I think members' attention should be directed. The Bill consists of nine parts. Part I., comprising Clauses 1 to 7, deals with the interpretation. Part II., comprising Clauses 8 to 19, refers to the constitution of districts. Part III., Clauses 20 to 122, deals with the constitution of road boards and with the election of road boards. This is one portion to which I should like members to devote considerable attention because I think there are matters which, even now, might be improved. Part IV., comprising Clauses 123 to 143, deals with the proceedings of road boards. Part V., comprising Clauses 144 to 208, deals with the boards' powers and their duties. Part VI., comprising Clauses 209 to 272, deals with the revenue, rates, valuations, recoveries and special powers. Part VII., comprising Clauses 273 to 304, deals with the raising of money by loan, and on that portion also I should like members to give the benefit of their experience and their

views. Part VIII., Clauses 305 to 326, deals with the accounts and audit. Part IX., Clauses 327 to 356, deals with offences and miscellaneous. The first Schedule deals with the repeal of Acts, the second schedule with building regulations which apply to towns or declared residence areas, and the third schedule with sales of land for arrears of rates. The numbers of the new clauses are Nos. 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 58, 71, 144, 155, 156, 161, 162, 163, 203, 215, 253, 255, 267, 268, 341, 351, 356. I have said the Bill consists of a large portion of the present Act and have given information with regard to it. Although I think the House could fairly be expected to deal with this Bill, large though it appears to be in the ordinary course, I have for some time had the idea that, in connection with a Bill of this sort, we might perhaps adopt a different course. It might be possible to choose from among members six or eight who have had special experience in connection with road board matters, and those members could be formed into a committee to confer with the Minister, the officers of the department, and an officer of the Crown Law Department for the purpose of going through the Bill and marking such clauses as, in their judgment, might be considered non-controversial. The House could well accept the views of the committee that might be appointed with regard to such clauses which might be considered as controversial. I am not anxious to in any way take from the House any of its privileges or rights, but it seems to me possible that we could get the assistance from the House of a number of members who have had experience in road board matters. In that way we may be able to arrive at something which will have the effect of shortening the subsequent discussion in the House. The Bill is regarded by the road boards executive and by the road boards in the State as being one of vital importance. There are matters in it which have been questions of controversy for many years, and if we are to utilise to the fullest extent the experience and judgment and skill of those men who constitute the road boards, we must endeavour at the earliest moment to give them an Act which will not conflict one section with another. We must give them year after year the greater powers which they require to enable them to carry on their important duties, because, I am satisfied that with the trend of political life throughout Australia, the local bodies will have to bear a bigger share of the responsibility of the government of their districts than they have had before. The Bill is very important and I think it should pass this session. I earnestly hope it will pass this session, otherwise we shall have to re-enact the 1911 statute and for another year muddle along as best we can. I thank hon. members for the attentive hearing they have given me. I feel sure that I can call upon them to give me the same intelligent assistance that they accorded me on the Traffic Bill. If they do that we shall not only get

the Bill through this session, but we shall earn and deserve the gratitude of the road boards and the people of Western Australia. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

BILL—FIREARMS.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [5.35] in moving the second reading of the Bill said: The object of this Bill is to repeal an Act which has certainly outlived its usefulness and is not now adapted to the conditions which exist in the State. The present Gun Licensing Act was passed in 1885 and since that time the population of Western Australia has increased tenfold. Since 1885 the use of firearms has become more general and, further than that, firearms in the nature of toys have also become numerous—I refer particularly to the pea rifle. We constantly hear of accidents happening with pea rifles and we read frequently in the newspapers that sometimes they prove fatal and that generally a recommendation is made by the Coroner's jury that the accident has been caused by the use of a pea rifle by somebody who ought not to have been in possession of it. There can be no doubt that the present Act should be altered, and the best way to alter it is to repeal it and re-enact some of the provisions which it contains and add fresh ones. The definition of "gun" as it appears in the old Act has not been materially altered in the present Bill. Under the old Act also we only require a license to carry firearms within any municipality or within five miles of the boundary of a municipality. In that respect the Act is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Licenses will be required generally throughout the State irrespective of whether it be in a municipality or any distance from a municipality. Under the old Act, too, licenses were not granted to anybody under the age of 16 years. That age is rather high, and under the Bill the age limit is reduced to 14 years. One clause to which I would like hon. members to pay particular attention is Clause 5. This contains the exceptions, that is to say, it shows the persons not required to have a license to carry a gun. Clause 5 differs slightly from Section 7 of the Act. Hon. members should note the difference because it is material. It is not necessary to make a long speech on this Bill. It requires that licenses shall be applied for all over the State. The exemptions are slightly different and the age is altered. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier debate adjourned.

BILL—INEBRIATES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. T. P. Draper—West Perth) [5.40]: This Bill has for its object the amendment of the Inebriates Act 1912. Under that Act Government institutions were authorised to be maintained for the reception, care, control, and treatment of inebriates. An inebriate means any person who habitually uses intoxicating liquor to excess. The Act also provided that any inebriate could be sent by a magistrate to one of these institutions for a period not exceeding 12 months and a provision was also made that the magistrate who made an order of that kind could vary or rescind his order. The position of the inebriate was also safeguarded, in that, in addition to the magistrate having power to vary and rescind his order, the judge of the Supreme Court could order release. So that the interests of the inebriate in that respect as regards being confined in an institution unjustly or unfairly were amply protected. The Bill provides that in addition to any Government institution the Governor in Council may approve of any buildings or establishment which is conducted or carried on by any person or body of persons, as an institution for the purposes of the Act. Any approved institution will be in exactly the same position as a Government institution, and an inebriate can be sent for treatment to an approved institution in the same way as to a Government institution.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are going to apply private enterprise to the treatment of inebriates.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I do not know that it should be looked at quite in that light. The approved institution must comply with certain conditions. First of all plans must be submitted to the Inspector General under the principal Act and approved.

Mr. Rooke: Who is meant by the Inspector General?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The Inspector General of institutions for the treatment of inebriates, as defined in the existing Act.

Hon. P. Collier: The Inspector General of the Insane.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: Also the management of such an institution must meet with the approval of the Inspector General, and the institution must be open at all times to inspection. The Inspector General is at liberty to make full inquiries and examine witnesses on oath in regard to what takes place there. So, ample provision is made for the protection of inebriates in regard to their treatment and to the suitability of the buildings. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Hon. W. C. Angwin, debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 5.48 to 7.30. p.m.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1919-20, and recommending Appropriation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1919-20.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply for receiving the Annual Financial Statement, Mr. Stubbs in the Chair,

THE PREMIER AND COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam) [7.33]: It is not my intention to deal very much with the past. The past cannot be retrieved, but the future is ours, and we ought to make the best possible use of it. I propose to-night to suggest in what way we should endeavour to make use of our opportunities. I realise that no Treasurer can face this subject without some proposal to deal with the financial position, as disclosed by the deficit. After all it is the deficit that most concerns the people of the State at the present moment. This growing deficit is a very serious matter, and, furthermore, the best part of it is an annual deficit. I do not propose to ask Parliament to approve of additional taxation. The war is over. We must all admit, of course, that the world for the moment is in a very unsettled condition. It may be that this unsettled condition will last for a very long time. The position of the State is vastly different from that of the older countries of the world, especially of those countries near to the seat of the great conflict which has just been concluded. Western Australia is a new country. It has great opportunities, but very few people in it. I believe that we shall in this State very soon enjoy a revival of trade. I believe there will be a general expansion in industry, such as few of us have ever anticipated. During the debate I shall endeavour to show what the effect of increased trade will be upon our finances.

A Bright Outlook.

I would point out, because I should like hon. members to bear it in mind, that the outlook all over the State is particularly bright. I believe it is bright for all those who are engaged in agriculture. I believe it is bright for all those who are engaged in our pastoral industry. We all hope there is a particularly bright outlook for our mining industry. We know that the timber industry, in which the member for Forrest takes such an interest, and about which he knows so much, has a very promising outlook. There is a considerable demand for our timbers at prices which have never been realised before.

Mr. O'Loghlin: Then why sell the State saw mills?

The PREMIER: The pearling industry and the coal mining industry, in fact all our industries, show great promise of future development. There is a great and growing demand for land in our pastoral and agricultural areas. Anything that means anything to us looks like developing in a way hitherto unexpected. The usual budget of printed returns has been distributed amongst hon. members. There are 14 returns. Some of these are altogether new, and others have been altered somewhat in order that hon. members may have fuller and clearer information placed before them. Other returns are similar to those presented in previous years. I propose to refer to these returns from time to time. I call attention to them specially because I believe they will be found to contain a good deal of very useful information.

Estimated Revenue and Expenditure.

The estimated revenue last year was £4,883,177, and the expenditure £5,519,212, representing an estimated deficit of £636,035. The revenue actually exceeded the estimate by some £61,000, and the expenditure was in excess of the estimate, reaching a total of £5,596,865. The actual deficit last year was £652,014. If hon. members will turn to return No. 1 they will find the figures in detail showing how this deficit is made up. The increased deficit was due to increased expenditure. Last year the revenue increased by £61,674, and the expenditure by £77,653. It is never possible to give a correct estimate in these matters, and in this case the additional expenditure was quite unavoidable. It was brought about largely by the unforeseen expenditure due to the outbreak of influenza, and to the increased cost of commodities. We spent £31,959 more on hospitals and charities, whilst on our railways we spent £68,763 more. Against this there were some savings, as hon. members will find in the returns. The accumulated deficit to the 30th June, 1918, was £3,418,480. The details, if hon. members desire to have them, will be found in return No. 12. For the present year I estimate that the deficit will be £593,349. I propose to ask hon. members to pass a Bill to authorise the contribution to the sinking fund in connection with the Kalgoorlie Water Scheme to be reduced by a sum of £65,000 less than the amount of the sinking fund at present paid. The reason for this I will explain later. In addition, I propose to ask hon. members to agree that the purchasers of conditional purchase land shall be permitted to pay off the balance of their purchase money, after they fulfil the necessary conditions and make the necessary improvements, and after holding the land for five years, less a discount. At present if the conditional purchase holder wishes to secure his freehold title he has to pay the full amount set out in the lease. I think hon. members will agree that this is not necessary. If we have to pay for money it

would be as well, if hon. members agree, to allow the C.P. holder to pay off the balance of his purchase money subject to a discount.

Mr. O'Loughlen: How much do you estimate to get in by this means?

The PREMIER: These two amounts make up a sum of £95,000 and enable me to say that the estimated net deficit will be £593,349. It is true that the printed Estimates show a deficit higher than that, for the reason that the Bills I have referred to have not passed through the hands of hon. members, and the amounts involved could not be included in the new Estimates.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You cannot call that revenue. It is not yet an asset.

Estimated Gross Deficit.

The PREMIER: The estimated deficit according to the printed figures is £688,349. If hon. members agree to the proposals I have mentioned, our deficit will be £58,666 less than it was last year, due, of course, to the fact that we shall not pay as much in sinking fund, and to the fact also that we shall be allowing our C.P. holders to pay off the balance of their purchase money. I do not know that this will reduce the revenue in the future. We are paying interest on the money, and we shall have to continue to do so, and any money borrowed will probably cost the Treasurer what the C.P. rents would mean to him if they were paid year by year. It is unfortunate that the deficit to the 30th June, 1920, is expected to amount to £4,011,829. This is the estimate after allowing for the £95,000 to which I have referred. I would point out that the gross revenue last year was £4,944,850, against an estimated gross revenue for this year of £5,302,768, or an increase of £357,917. This sum is made up principally of the items I have mentioned. We expect from taxation to receive a sum of £61,264. From land and timber we expect to receive a further £28,578. We expect the additional interest from trading concerns to amount to £16,548, and our additional earnings from railways to amount to £221,247. Tramways and electricity are expected to return £50,778 more than they did last year, the Fremantle Harbour Trust £18,573 more, and the Commonwealth revenue £9,754. These items total a sum of £406,742. There are some decreases. The State batteries will give us £5,376 less, and the Goldfields Water Supply, due principally to the unfortunate strike on the Goldfields, will return us £12,429 less than last year. The State trading concerns will return £34,143 less than last year. This is due to the fact that our steamers are not earning as much as they did. If we take £51,948, the total of these decreases, from the total of £406,742, it will be seen that the increased revenue will be £357,900. The Committee will need to bear in mind that this includes revenue from the increased earnings of our business undertakings, and that these increased earnings are obtained only at considerable expense. Our timber

revenue is expected to total £44,500, being an increase of £17,682 over last year. Of this revenue, £11,883 will be needed to meet the expenditure of the Forestry Department; and in addition there will be £876 which is provided under a special Act for the salary of the Conservator. We expect to set aside £20,000 from the revenue of the department to a special account, as provided by the Forests Act of last year. Hon. members will recognise that this affects the revenue considerably. The money is, of course, not lost, but set aside to be spent on forestry. The Forests Act provides that three-fifths of the departmental revenue, after deduction of working expenses, is to be set aside for that purpose. For the six months of the financial year ended on the 30th June, 1919, £14,228 was transferred to the special account in question. It will be observed that the increased revenue is satisfactory, but I must point out that the amount to be devoted to forestry work this year will be £6,000 more than last year.

Estimated Expenditure.

On the expenditure side the Estimates show that last year the disbursements totalled £5,596,865 as against an estimated total of £5,991,117 for this year, being an increase of £394,252. This increase is made up of the following items:—Special Acts, being expenditure over which we have no control at all, require for interest an additional £72,614, for sinking fund an additional £841, for the appropriation of revenue under the Forests Act £20,876, and for sundries £5,994. In Lands and Repatriation there is an increase of £5,019 for Lands and Surveys, less a decrease of £2,881 in connection with the Industries Assistance Board, leaving a net increase of £2,338. This increase is due to extended land settlement, which in its turn is due to the activities consequent on the return of our soldiers. In the Colonial Treasurer's Department there are the following increases:—Treasury £508, Audit £807, Government Stores £955, Taxation £2,815, and miscellaneous £3,558; or a total of £8,643, which is reduced by a decrease of £896 in respect of Compassionate Allowances; leaving a net increase of £7,747. The increase under the head of Taxation is, of course, due to the Acts passed last year. In what I may term the domestic departments the following increases in expenditure are shown:—Education £23,431, Public Health and Medical £7,324, Police £8,190, Gaols £2,719, Lunacy £5,522, and State Children and outdoor relief £3,193; a total of £50,385. In the Mines Department there is an increase of £2,690, in Woods and Forests £1,015, Public Works £10,385, and in the Attorney General's Department £8,508; making, with what I have termed the domestic departments, a total increase of £183,393. Turning now to the business undertakings, there are the following increases in expenditure:—Railways £174,404, Tramways £18,197, Electricity Supply £11,365, Goldfields Water Supply £3,687,

Metropolitan Water Supply £5,723, State trading concerns, loss on cattle from North-West £8,443, making, with sundries, £1,632, a total of £228,461. Deducting from that total sundry items of general decreases in expenditure, we find a net increase in expenditure of £394,252, whilst the net increase of revenue is only £357,917, the net increase in expenditure thus exceeding the net increase in revenue by £36,335, exclusive, of course, of the £95,000 which I expect to raise if Parliament passes the measures which I have mentioned.

Estimated Revenue.

An analysis of revenue and expenditure for 1919-20 reveals the fact that we expect this year to get from taxation £690,000, from the Commonwealth £595,422, and from departmental revenue, £920,538; a total of £2,205,960. From our business undertakings we expect to receive £2,958,608, and from trading concerns £138,200; or a total of £3,096,808. The grand total of anticipated revenue is thus £5,302,768. As regards the expenditure, under special Acts over which Parliament has no control the expenditure is estimated to be £2,212,433, and the expenditure on business undertakings £2,293,873; a total of £4,506,306, leaving for our ordinary expenditure of government £1,484,811. When we discuss our revenue as one of £5,300,000, we are apt to forget that a great deal of it is really not revenue at all, but money earned because of this enormous investment of capital against which, unfortunately, we have a debt greater than the amount of the revenue.

Loans and Interest Obligations.

Our Loan borrowings are costing us in interest and sinking fund £2,057,157, representing a capital of £43,637,000. Of this amount we have invested in the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board £4,473,981, in workers' homes £553,244, and in developmental and deficit £6,689,530; a total of £11,716,705. Interest and sinking fund on this sum will approximate £525,000. Taking this sum from the total amount of interest paid, it will be seen that our business undertakings and trading concerns are responsible for interest totalling £1,532,157. This is the cost of Loan moneys sunk in our business undertakings and trading concerns. The expenditure provided on these Estimates for the working of business undertakings is £2,293,873. So that the total expenditure from our revenue on business undertakings and trading concerns is £3,826,030. Now, the gross revenue provided by our business undertakings is £2,958,608, and the gross revenue from trading concerns £138,200, or a total of £3,096,808. So that the estimated loss in interest and sinking fund for the current financial year on these business undertakings and trading concerns is £729,222.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Loss!

The PREMIER: Yes, loss; that is to say, the revenue from business undertakings and trading concerns will be £729,222 less than the cost of working them plus interest and sinking fund.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How much will the loss on the Railway Department account for out of that amount?

The PREMIER: I think the hon. member is somewhat concerned about his State trading concerns. They show a loss of £138,000. I have shown that interest, apart from the money invested in business undertakings and trading concerns, accounts for £525,000. Added to this is the expenditure under special Acts of £155,276. In this connection, therefore, we have to provide £1,409,498. We draw from our ordinary revenue of £2,205,960 this amount of £1,409,498, and the remaining revenue is £796,462. That is the amount available to meet an expenditure in connection with the other functions of government of £1,484,811. Of course, if it were not for the loss on the invested money, we should be able to carry on very comfortably and provide for all the legitimate functions of government. I must admit, however, that, owing to the war, these investments could not be expected to pay. When one-half of our workmen are away fighting, there is no one to provide the traffic necessary to make the railways, for instance, payable. If the railways had been privately owned, they would have shown the same loss; it is unavoidable.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But they have shown huge profits in the past.

The PREMIER: Yes; but it was quite impossible for them to pay during the war: the want of shipping alone deprived them of a large proportion of their traffic.

Details of Expenditure.

It may interest hon. members to learn how the balance of £1,484,811 is expended. It is made up of salaries £369,829, incidental £68,986, and other expenditure £545,996. Of the salaries, the following amounts represent distinctly special work for which there can be little direct return: Education £326,881, hospitals £13,420, Wooroloo £8,809, homes for old men and women £6,500, lunacy £36,727, State children £5,091, police force £113,244, gaols £14,342; a total of £535,014. This leaves a salary expenditure of only £334,815 to carry on the main essentials of government work. The item "Other Expenditure" comprises such provision as grants £81,109, revenue-earning departments £24,387, Education £21,923, medical, hospitals, charity, etc., £236,044, police and gaols £29,793, works and buildings £101,800, Legislative Council election £4,450. The item "Works and buildings" refers to the renovation of many public buildings throughout this State, which have been neglected for years and which the Minister for Works is now restoring to order. Members will realise from these figures the difficult position

in which the State finances at present stand. Hon. members will see that the position is unavoidable. It is impossible to carry on the affairs of the country without spending money in scattered places such as exist here. There has been expenditure, too, over which we have had no control. Everybody in the State knows that this to a great extent has been brought about by the increased cost of living. We have also on that account been obliged to increase salaries. The increase in ordinary expenditure was £65,466, and it includes the following items: increases of wages under arbitration awards £1,463; losses on trading concerns incurred in previous years (meat distribution) £8,443; statutory and grade increases to civil servants £3,800; statutory increases to teachers in the Education Department £1,800. At the Taxation Department the staff has been increased consequent upon the passing of the amending taxation: Bills last session, and due also to the fact that many people are evading the payment of taxation. That is on account of the department being understaffed. We have therefore agreed to spend an additional £3,000 in salaries there.

Increased Cost of Commodities.

As it is with the people, so it is with the Government, that the increased cost of commodities has been responsible for the increased cost of working some of our departments. For instance, the additional cost of provisions for the Lunacy Department came to £3,079, for the State Children Department £2,432, and for the Medical, Public Health and Charities Department £6,500. The expansion of the Education Department has involved extra expenditure to the extent of £21,500. Provision has been made for a contribution to the Police Benefit Fund to the amount of £1,250. This item is non-recurring and represents short payment of last year. As I have already stated, the Legislative Council elections next May will involve an expenditure of £4,450. The total of these items runs into £57,717. The whole of the items making up that total are governed by statutory provisions or regulations over which the Government have no control. To the total of £57,717 additional items, representing increases must be added the following:—Industrial relief £8,000; increase in salaries to officers of the Police Department £10,233; grade increases to civil servants generally £2,650, making a total of £20,883. This, with the previous total of £57,717, gives a grand total of £78,600.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: These are increases over last year.

The PREMIER: Over this year.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Is the £21,000 for the Education Department an increase over last year?

The PREMIER: Yes. It is not possible to avoid that increased expenditure in the

Government service any more than it is in private life.

Mr. Hudson: You said it was due to the increased cost of commodities.

The PREMIER: To some extent.

Business Undertakings and Trading Concerns.

I would like to refer again to the figures relating to the business undertakings and trading concerns. The revenue shows an increase of £243,448, whilst the expenditure shows an increase of £228,461. We have there a net increase in revenue of £14,987. Hon. members will probably wonder why the increase in expenditure, particularly in connection with the railways, is so near to the increased revenue. It is explained, not by increased wages or increased overhead charges, but largely by the increased cost of commodities. Coal will cost £31,000 more this year than it did last year. It does not seem right that it should cost £174,000 more to earn £221,000 more in connection with the railways, but the cost of coal and oil and other commodities used by the railways is mainly responsible for that fact. I would like hon. members to refer to Returns 2 and 3, which have been compiled for comparative purposes. They show at a glance the rise and fall in the revenue during the past five years, and also the estimate for the present year. Sub-totals have been inserted to enable an analysis to be made of the figures of past years on a similar basis to that adopted by me to-night in regard to the current year's figures. Return No. 3 has been compiled on the present basis of the disposition of departments and branches as far as possible. On this account the return cannot conveniently be reconciled with other published figures. The totals of the columns in these two returns represent the total revenue and expenditure for each year. Before leaving finance, I desire to say a few words with regard to the present position. We have a little cash in hand. It is usual when presenting a Budget to refer to this. On the 1st October we had in hand £255,286, and we had wheat certificates of the value of £224,796. This gives us a total of £480,082. The wheat certificates carry interest. We have cash at call—balance of loan money due by the Commonwealth—£335,000; and repayment of advances to soldiers £155,000. There are also advances available on account of sinking fund at the London and County Bank of £100,000. This gives us a total of cash at call of £590,00, making the cash in hand altogether £1,070,082. The late Treasurer made arrangements with the London and Westminster Bank for an overdraft to meet sinking fund payments at 4½ per cent. a reasonable rate of interest. With the amount available, therefore, there is sufficient cash in hand and in sight to finance the State's operations until February or March of next year.

Loan Expenditure.

The loan expenditure last year was £1,049,736. This includes the soldiers' settlement scheme £283,319, and working capital for the Wyndham freezing works, £100,000, making a total of £383,319, and leaving £666,417 for ordinary loan works. I have already pointed out what the loan indebtedness is. The loan authorisations to the 30th June, 1919, totalled £46,665,173, and the actual flotations came to £44,405,851, leaving an amount available for flotation of £2,259,322. Hon. members are aware that of recent years all moneys have been raised by the Commonwealth Government. The agreement with the Commonwealth Government will expire in December next. The amount we owe the Commonwealth Government to-day on account of money raised for us is £7,250,500. A portion of this money was raised at $4\frac{1}{2}$, and some at $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., a satisfactory rate, though, of course, that was some time ago. Most of it is carrying interest at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. After the end of the present year, we shall be compelled to go on the London market for our borrowings. I would like to inform members that we have been in communication with the Agent General, who states that our requests have been satisfactorily received by our financial agents, the London and Westminster Bank, who will finance our requirements until the market is favourable. I mention this because it is a fair indication of the attitude towards Western Australia. It shows that in London they are satisfied in regard to our stability and as to the value of our securities. Our indebtedness at the present time is £116 7s. per head. This is fairly large, but I have already pointed out, and I hope clearly, that our borrowed money for the most part has been very well invested, especially when we remember that our country is one of wide stretches and scattered population.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The amount has been increased by £9 per head since 1916, and there have been no big loans since then.

The PREMIER: The hon. member probably realises that the increase is due to the yearly deficit, and to the expenditure necessary to carry out works of importance which had previously been put in hand. The hon. member would not have us stop works at the stage at which he left them. Then the deficit, which has had to be funded, has increased the indebtedness per head of the population. If it is any comfort to the hon. member to know it, I will tell him that our loan money, in my opinion, has been wisely spent.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I would point out that the amount of £36,947,546 has been invested and is capable of earning interest.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This is the first time you have ever admitted that the Labour Government spent money wisely.

Full value for loan Expenditure.

The PREMIER: I never mentioned the Labour Government; I said the Governments which had gone before had spent loan money wisely. I believe that we have had full value for that expenditure—I have in mind particularly the railways and tramways—£19,501,360. The sum of £4,573,335 has been spent on the goldfields and other water schemes. This has been money well invested, and when we remember the large amount which has been set aside as sinking fund to cover this indebtedness, we must recognise that in a few years' time we shall have the goldfields water scheme paid for, and the profit will then go to the Treasury. I believe the £4,473,931 spent in connection with the Agricultural Bank and the Industries Assistance Board represents money well spent. The result has more than justified that expenditure. The country would not be in the position it is to-day but for that expenditure. We have spent £2,229,241 on Fremantle Harbour Works, again money well spent. Abattoirs, cool storage, etc., represent £932,000. I am not sure that that has been so well spent, but we have had considerable value from it. We have spent £306,488 on State batteries with good results, while in workers' homes through the controlling board we have invested £553,224.

Mr. Lutey: And it is showing a profit.

The PREMIER: Yes. On State trading concerns we have expended £682,401. All these investments are capable of paying working expenses and interest, while the capital is safe. Capital sunk in works not earning interest represents £6,689,530, including development on goldfields, agricultural areas, the North-West, and the funding of the deficit.

Mr. Underwood: Not much money has been spent in the North-West.

The PREMIER: Perhaps not enough, and certainly not as much as will be spent when the time is opportune. Against the expenditure I have enumerated we can set a sinking fund of £6,139,008 which is earning interest, and £800,000 owing to us by the Commonwealth Government for transferred properties. If hon. members will turn to return No. 8,* they will find a tabular statement showing the amount of loan expenditure by the department for the last eight years. The main points to note in connection with loan expenditure is the reduction effected in recent years, the rate of expenditure each year per head of population, and the departments in which the money was spent. Loan expenditure up to £1,250,000 per annum is perfectly safe.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You have been handling money returned from previous borrowings and spending it as revenue.

The PREMIER: No. The House reappropriates all moneys returned.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: But you did not want loan moneys and all the other as well. However, you had nothing to do with that.

The PREMIER: No, if loan moneys are authorised but not spent they are reappropriated by Parliament. It would be possible for this State to carry on all development work, exclusive of that required by returned soldiers, indeed all that is necessary to the State, on a loan expenditure of one and a quarter million per year. Probably that sum will not be required after a few years. It is true there are some works to be completed, a few short railways to be built, some harbours, principally that at Geraldton, to be extended, deepened and improved, but the loan expenditure of the immediate future need not be very great.

The balance sheet.

I have here a statement in regard to the Trust Account. Hon. members will find that return No. 4 is a synopsis of the State's balance sheet as at the 30th June last, and represents my liability as Treasurer to the State, totalling £15,143,128. When I included this return in those supplied to members, I certainly expected to also lay on the Table of the House the Public Accounts for the year ended 30th June last, containing full details of the condensed figures referred to. Unfortunately, owing to a legal decision as the result of an objection raised by the Auditor General in regard to the form of one of the returns, a very considerable amount of work is necessary to adjust the return in question. The publication will be laid on the Table at the earliest possible date. On the debit side we have the London County and Westminster Bank £106,215. That represents an advance against sinking fund contributions. The Commonwealth Government item of £53,934 is a contra account under the soldier settlement scheme advances. The sinking fund has already been explained. We owe the Government of Victoria £250,000, representing liability for money advanced in London for the convenience of both States. It was a temporary advance to us by the Victorian Government, which had the money lying in London, where we required it. Depositors' balances at the Government Savings Bank on the 30th June last totalled £5,504,059. This figure is subject to slight adjustment to reconcile it with the Savings Bank return. At the 30th June of last year the deposits totalled £5,035,333. This shows a very substantial increase for the year. It is a significant sign, for it represents a very substantial increase in small savings, especially when we remember that we have the Commonwealth bank operating here.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Are you going to amalgamate them?

The PREMIER: Very many of us would like to see consummated such an arrangement as the hon. member suggests. Altogether the Savings Bank customers have invested a million in war loans, their contribution to the last loan being £200,000. Naturally, this has seriously affected the balance in the bank.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you been investing the Savings Bank funds in war loans?

The PREMIER: Of course not, but depositors have withdrawn their deposits and so invested them for themselves. If prosperity can be judged at all by the accumulation of these small savings, I think the position is not quite as bad as some people imagine.

Hon. P. Collier: It is recognised that savings bank deposits increase in bad times, because there are then no attractive investments.

The PREMIER: I have known them decrease in bad times. If the hon. member turns to the results year after year he will see that generally the deposits increase in prosperous times.

Hon. P. Collier: Every writer on economics says that they fall in prosperous times.

Mr. Pilkington: The world over, the deposits in banks have gone up recently.

The PREMIER: Even so, local sympathy in a world movement would scarcely affect our savings bank deposits to the extent here set out. I regard it as an indication of a more widespread prosperity than most people imagine.

The Per Capita Return.

I do not propose to deal with the financial agreement to-night, because we shall have an opportunity of fully considering it when, in a few days, a resolution comes along from another place. But I should like to remind hon. members that on the 30th June next the present agreement will expire and, unless the States are very watchful, we shall find the per capita return from the Commonwealth considerably decreased. I hope the promised convention will deal thoroughly with this matter and that justice will be done to the States. The mere suggestion of a reduction in the per capita return is resented by all the people of this State. The positions of the several States and the interests of the several States on this question are not identical. It means that the smaller States will have to put up a strenuous fight in their own interests. We are having the necessary information compiled now, and I hope it will be available before the end of the session. We are watching this question very closely. I believe we shall have the unanimous support of every member in any protest we may make against a proposed reduction. When the Federal compact was entered upon it was understood that we should get some return from Customs revenue; yet not only have the Commonwealth Government taken the whole of the Customs revenue, but they are dipping into taxation in every possible direction. However, I shall provide hon. members with full information in connection with this matter, information which is being acquired by the Taxation Commissioner. I believe that when that information is complete we shall be able

to put up a very strong case against the proposal for a reduction of the per capita return. The member for North-East Fremantle just now raised a point in regard to the return of unexpended loan moneys. I should like to explain that the Sale of Government Property Trust Account, which is shown on pages 107-8 of the Estimates, is an account that covers those items to which the hon. member referred. Since the inception of the fund in 1904 to the 30th June last the receipts have totalled £1,003,802. Of this sum, £191,415 was received during the last financial year. The position of the fund now stands as follows: balance at 30th June, 1918, £143,569; receipts during last year, £191,415—that is the amount to which the hon. member referred—making a total of £334,985; less payments during the year, £113,399; leaving a balance unexpended of £221,585 to the credit of the account. We expect this year also that the further payments to this fund will total £33,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will have all the cost of house connections and sewerage.

The PREMIER: Yes, all loan moneys unexpended and returned. Every penny of money advanced to individuals for any purpose and returned to the Government is paid into this account.

Mr. O'Loughlin: The Industries Assistance Board ought to get some good contributions after this harvest.

The PREMIER: Yes, but it cannot be spent unless it is re-appropriated by this House. I propose to ask members to agree to an expenditure from this fund of £231,616. It would be quite wrong if it were possible to expend loan moneys after they were returned and paid into revenue. For the last 14 years, of course, this has not been possible.

Comparison of Sinking Fund and Deficit.

When we consider the amount of the deficit, we should pay some regard to our sinking fund. We are under an obligation to keep this fund good. We are under an obligation to pay year by year the amount represented by sinking fund under our Loan Acts. The establishment of the sinking fund was a far sighted policy. Certainly it has proved to be absolutely sound. The investment for the purchase of State stock is also sound, and has resulted in considerable profit! These purchases are made at a discount, and it is because of this that I am able to ask the House to reduce the sinking fund in connection with the goldfields water scheme loan. The present deficit commenced in the year 1911. The sinking fund on the 30th June, 1911, stood at £2,544,811. Since then the contributions in cash from the revenue amount to £2,155,247. The interest invested and discounts, less redemptions £69,355, amount to £1,438,950, so that the total sinking fund on the 31st March, 1919, was £6,139,008. If we compare those figures off the sinking fund with the deficit, we find that our sinking fund contributions since

the 1st July, 1911, have increased by £245,071 more than the deficit. It is perfectly true that the sinking fund does not pay the deficit; it is likewise true that the deficit has to be faced. Not only has the ledger to be squared for the year, but the total amount of the accumulated deficit has sooner or later to be wiped out. In return No. 12, will be found the details in connection with the sinking fund figures.

Sinking funds of other States.

I would point out that the rate of interest on borrowed money paid by this State is lower than the average rate of interest paid by any other State, and probably this is due to the fact that in all the other States the sinking fund does not amount to very much. The total amount of the sinking fund of all the other States 12 months ago was £5,402,473 against borrowings of £350,236, 160. At that time the sinking fund of Western Australia amounted to £5,570,851, against our total borrowings of £42,304,001, so that the comparison is all in favour of Western Australia. I venture to say that, if all the States had paid sinking fund at the rate we in Western Australia have paid, their financial results year by year would have been vastly different. I doubt whether any single State would have shown a credit balance on any year's operations since the war began.

Goldfields Water Supply Loan.

I have already pointed out that the big loan for the construction of the Goldfields Water Supply, amounting to £2,500,000, matures in 1927. The interest on this loan is 3 per cent. I suppose the loan was obtained at 3 per cent partly because money was cheap at that time, but largely because a sinking fund of 3 per cent was set against that loan. We are paying into the sinking fund against that loan a sum of £75,000 yearly, and the sinking fund contributions up to the 31st March, 1919, stood at £1,894,404. If we continue our contributions to the fund on the present basis, we shall have over £3,000,000 with which to redeem that loan in 1927, or £500,000 more than will be necessary. Therefore, I intend to ask the House to agree to a reduction. Return No. 9 contains information regarding the public debt, the list of individual loans, the rate of contribution to the sinking fund on each loan, and the amount of sinking fund built up against each loan. The increase in sinking fund for the year amounted to £573,406, whereas the deficit for last year was £652,014. Return No. 10 is a new one designed to show clearly how this fund is made up. The figures I have already given, but the return also indicates the nature of the investments made by our trustees. The investments in Western Australian stock amount to £4,686,094; Western Australian Treasury bills £318,105; Crown agents £557,936; Imperial National war bonds £565,000, and other investments £27,570; but

Pastoral leases and Agricultural land.

In connection with our pastoral leases, we have received considerably increased revenue. Members will recollect that we passed a Bill two years ago to increase the rents. Prior to the passing of that Bill, the rents paid totalled £72,116, whereas last year the rents totalled £125,665. When we remember that these rents come from 241,697,000 acres of pastoral lands which have been leased, and when I mention that the new area leased during 1918-19 totalled 39,016,700 acres, members will realise that there is every prospect of a very great increase in revenue from our pastoral lands.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You may have to refund some of that.

The PREMIER: Not very much.

Mr. Underwood: There will be some increases as well.

The PREMIER: If we have to refund some, we shall get a little more from others and it will average out pretty well. I have temporarily reserved all land from leasing, except to returned soldiers, because I hold that the question of the leasing of lands held by the State should be looked into. I suppose there are 200,000,000 acres of land still to be leased, and we have reserved it temporarily pending inquiries, except in the case of returned soldiers.

Mr. Underwood: Does that reserving apply to returned soldiers?

The PREMIER: No.

Mr. Underwood: Many people think it does.

The PREMIER: We are looking into the question of settling the Kimberleys. We have invested a large sum in the meat works, and we hope to increase the herds in that part of the State. We have asked a committee consisting of Messrs. Holmes, Durack, Blythe, and Hutton to look into the question and to advise us how to deal with this area. We have also a soldiers' pastoral area committee to give us the benefit of their advice in connection with the settlement of returned soldiers in this part of the State. Members will recollect that a classification of this country was ordered under the Act. This classification is now being made and I hope it will soon be completed. There is a demand for ordinary agricultural land. Of the 100,000,000 acres, the area alienated is 21,788,626 acres. The area selected last year was 547,310 acres. The arrears of land rents amount to £247,500, and it is hoped that, with the prospect of a good season, some of those arrears will be paid off. The Lands Department is showing greatly increased activities, due to soldier settlement and to the increase in applications for conditional purchase lands, and there is a promise of increased revenue from this source in the near future. The future of this country depends largely upon the Survey Department. I believe we can look forward with confidence to a very considerable in-

crease in settlement during the near future. I have heard members speak disparagingly of the Department of Agriculture but I believe the vote is fully justified. I am of opinion that additional sums will be necessary to properly staff this department. It is important that the Department of Agriculture should not only administer the many Acts designed to protect the agriculturists, but that it should supply expert and useful advice to all who are settled and to those who intend to settle on the land.

Agricultural Bank and Industries Assistance Board.

I have already mentioned the amount invested by the Agricultural Bank for the purpose of assistance. We have outstanding advances by the Agricultural Bank to the extent of £2,809,759. This money has been very wisely spent. Bank advances have been made to pay off liabilities for settlers to the amount of £277,203. We have purchased stock for them to the value of £403,231. We have made improvements to the value of over £3,000,000. We have assisted 12,500 farmers, and the average amount of principal and interest owing per farmer assisted is £340. The Industries Assistance Board had outstanding on the 31st March, 1919, advances to the amount of £1,617,878, less proceeds in hand and not credited against advance £403,867, or a net total of advances outstanding of £1,209,011. Against this we have wheat certificates against future dividends which represent about £300,000, so that the net indebtedness on the 31st March last was about £909,000. This amount is divided amongst 1,742 settlers. The amount of advances last year was £661,908, and the estimated area under crop for the present season is 520,000 acres. This money has been well invested. There will be losses but, without the Industries Assistance Board, there would have been a considerably reduced area put under crop. As a matter of fact, these 1,742 settlers have cropped one-third of the area seeded in the State. The total area of crop seeded by board clients during the last five seasons is 2,768,000 acres and they have produced during the four years 13,841,823 bushels of wheat, so that, from every point of view, the expenditure by the board has been fully justified. At any rate, we can be certain that the development of agriculture would not have been possible but for the aid of these institutions. Our agricultural industry has been developed under very great difficulties owing to the limited experience of our settlers, and certainly with very little money. There is a disturbing feature in connection with our agricultural industry that the area cropped in 1916 was 2,189,456 acres against 1,606,493 acres last year, a falling off of 582,963 acres. This is a serious matter which reflects upon the earnings of our railways and harbours and, indeed affects the revenue in very many directions. I hope that, in the very near future,

the larger area of former years will again be brought under production. It is possible to exceed those higher figures, for this year there is an area of 4,367,784 acres of cleared land in the State.

Improved prospects.

I would point out that the improved prospects are due in a large measure to the recent beneficent rains. Hon. members will be pleased to learn that our area under cultivation has increased this year. Our wheat area is now 1,285,126 acres. Our area under oats is 293,189 acres, which is the largest area yet seen in the State, and the area under barley is 12,874 acres, a total of 1,591,189 acres. The price of wheat will be 5s. at siding. Apart from that there is the encouraging fact that owing to the misfortunes of the Eastern States we shall probably get a satisfactory price, not only for our oats, but for our chaff in that direction. A good deal of development on the goldfields was done on chaff brought from the Eastern States. To-day we are sending them chaff. A few years ago we could not produce enough for ourselves, and now we are producing enough to export. I am advised from New South Wales that hay will probably be required there in considerable quantities. I wish I could say the same for our potato crop. The area we have under crop is looking well, but it is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the people. I hope before long we shall see this area very much increased. One point has struck me as being worth mentioning in connection with our wool clip, and it is that the number of lbs. of wool has increased by double the amount between 1914 and 1918. The wool in 1914 totalled 23,156,000 lbs., and in 1918 it had increased to 45,317,271 lbs., valued at £2,784,000. I think that is a remarkable increase. It is due to the increase in the number of sheep in the various parts of the State, and to the improved quantity of wool cut from each sheep. We ought to feel fairly well satisfied with that development. I think it only remains to multiply the area under crop and the number of stock carried to enable us to see the end of our troubles. If we could double our wool clip during the next four years it would be a useful adjunct to the wealth of the State. I propose to do all that is possible to develop the land between Perth and Albany during the coming summer. I am asking hon. members to vote money to encourage production in this area. During the next six months I hope to see very considerable settlement there, and in a short time to have every good acre settled between those two centres. There are very few areas left in the wheat belt, and in the aggregate there cannot be many hundreds of thousands of acres still to settle.

Mr. Munsie: There is any amount of land at Esperance.

The PREMIER: All we have to do is to induce hon. members to authorise the construction of the necessary railways. There is

some land at Esperance, and I hope those who have advocated the settlement of that part of the State will become farmers there at once.

Mr. Munsie: I hope that those who have promised the railway for so long will get to work and build it at once, and we shall soon have settlement there.

Mr. Troy: Why do you settle farmers in the dry areas?

The PREMIER: We have no dry areas in the State. I am endeavouring to convince hon. members that there still are opportunities in Western Australia. In the South-West we have the New Zealand of Western Australia. We know its disadvantages. Hon. members will be asked to vote money for the land to be cleared. I ask them to make a start. We know that clearing is costly and that drainage is necessary, and that certain short railways are also needed. We have reports in connection with harbours there, and the member for Forrest knows that we have a good rainfall in that area. It is a well watered country and a safe investment if it is properly developed. If, in addition to all the other things we produce, we could have an abundance of cheese and apples and those other commodities that man needs, I suppose we shall have cheaper living in this State than we have to-day.

Settlement of Returned Soldiers.

I should like to refer to the settlement of returned soldiers on the land. Hon. members, I believe, desire that everything that is possible should be done for our returned soldiers. So far as I have the opportunity I mean to do that which I am sure hon. members would have me do. We wish to settle the soldiers, and give them just and proper assistance under adequate supervision. Up to date we have had applications from 3,325 soldiers, 1,963 of whom have qualified, and the board has said that these may become farmers. We have settled just under 1,100 returned men, and the average number now is 55 per week. The total loans approved to soldiers amounts to £774,700. The amount approved for soldiers during the last three months amounted to £509,525. The average loan to settlers is £712. The total advances made up to date amount to £348,802. The amount for the last three months was £204,713. We have purchased 27 estates containing 93,273 acres, at a cost of £258,420. We have 298 blocks of Crown land available now, representing 117,139 acres.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Why did you not settle the Crown lands before you repurchased estates?

The PREMIER: I thought the hon. member would ask that question. We are anxious that the returned soldiers should take them, but they prefer improved, or partially improved, estates.

Mr. O'Loughlen: How much of these estates have they taken up?

The PREMIER: Practically every block.

Mr. Pickering: Of the improved land.

The PREMIER: Of the partially improved land. We expect to settle an additional 123 soldiers on the estates that have been repurchased, but it takes some time to subdivide them and throw them open under our method. Delays in connection with the work are unavoidable. We hear complaints from day to day. I have heard them myself, but I know that the delays are unavoidable.

Mr. Pickering: That did not apply to the late Premier.

The PREMIER: The hon. member does not know anything about the troubles that are met with in this matter. We have placed upon the land over 700 men during the last five months, and 360 were placed on the land during the previous two years. I think, therefore, we have been getting on a little bit.

Advances by Federal Government.

The Federal loans agreed to amount to £3,375,625. That is the amount the Federal Government have agreed to find for this State for the purpose of settling our soldiers. This amount will have to be increased because the numbers have increased. These figures refer in some part to 1,500 soldiers and in another part to 2,000 men. Application is being made for assistance for 4,000 settlers. I think we should make provision for that number of men if they desire to settle on the land. Repatriation generally is the responsibility of the Federal Government, and the State's responsibility is in connection with land settlement only. We have no other opportunity of assisting returned soldiers, because the money that we get from the Federal Government is limited to land settlement purposes. The Federal Government have set up men in other walks of life; that is their responsibility. Soldiers have been set up as pearlers, and in connection with our timber industry, in the making of axe handles, at Bunbury. They have also been set up in other occupations. We have had no responsibility in connection with the establishment of returned soldiers in any of these occupations, the Federal Government having reserved that work to themselves.

Mr. O'Loughlen: It is recognised.

The PREMIER: I hope it always will be recognised. We can, of course, help our soldiers in the Government departments. We do provide for them as far as we can in that direction, and have issued instructions that soldiers are to be given preference and to be employed. The men who went to the war are to be restored to their former positions. We shall see as far as we can that justice is done to the men who fought for us. I am sure that is the wish of every hon. member.

Homes for Soldiers.

I have already stated that we have invested £596,000 in workers' homes. If we had been allowed to continue in the work of building homes for returned soldiers we should have

been saved some considerable expenditure in the running of that department. We have had to keep moving, and invest the money repaid from month to month. I believe we could have built these homes for the Federal Government for our returned soldiers very much more cheaply and expeditiously than the Federal Government will be able to do. It is to be regretted that so much money is being wasted in this direction. The Federal Government have established a Workers' Homes Board of their own. We already have our own Workers' Homes Board established, and all the machinery necessary in good going order. The people of Australia, and of this State, will really have to bear the expense of two boards, when one would have been quite sufficient.

Mr. O'Loughlen: We also see a duplication in the Electoral Departments and in the Savings Banks.

The Minister for Mines: The Federal Government practically made an agreement that we should do the work, but they dropped out of it.

The PREMIER: An agreement was actually sent over here but was withdrawn by telegram.

Gold-mining Industry.

I am not going to say much about the Mines Department but will leave that to the Minister in charge, who will deal with the industry when he comes to the Estimates. I would like to point out that we have in this, as in other directions, something to hope for. The discovery at Hampton Plains is, I believe, a very promising one. It is not a goldfield yet, I suppose, but I believe it is one in the making. I believe, too, that the discovery will have a very important bearing on the future life of this State. I believe the gold is there.

Mr. Munsie: I hope it is.

The PREMIER: That is all we can say about it at present. I hope before long it will be a very active field, providing employment for thousands of people, and requiring great activity on the coast in order to supply their wants.

Mr. Munsie: This is another justification for the building of the Esperance railway. Let them get their supplies from their natural port.

The PREMIER: I do not know that the hon. member would regard Esperance as the natural port. I think it would be better to call Fremantle the natural port. The total gold production for last year was worth £3,723,183. For the last seven months the yield was valued at £2,285,664. These are splendid figures, but they are not as good as they used to be, and not as good as they will be, I hope, if the Hampton Plains is what we think it is.

Mr. Lutey: There are other places besides Hampton Plains to be thought of.

The PREMIER: Yes. I notice that the people on the goldfields are striking out in all directions, and making new discoveries.

Let them keep on with the good work. That is what we want for this State. If we can double our gold production we shall be doing something that will be for the lasting good of the entire community. The Minister for Mines will tell us all about the value of the mines and the prospects of the recent discoveries.

Education.

I do not propose at this stage to say much about education. Hon. members will see from the Estimates there is an increase in the expenditure. There always will be, because the facilities afforded to one centre must be afforded to every other centre similarly situated. Children must be educated, and with increased settlement and development there must be more schools. It is fortunate, by the way, that to some extent this expenditure spreads far and wide through the State just as our industries throughout the States are all looking well.

Pearling Industry.

Our pearl shell is bringing almost a record price. Passing from Kalgoorlie to Broome, we see prosperity. During 1918 a total of 218 ships were licensed under the provisions of the Pearling Act, giving employment to 1,720 men—mostly coloured, unfortunately. The take of shell for the year was 1,203 tons, valued at £180,310, besides pearls of a stated value of £46,116. I suppose the price our pearl shell is bringing to-day, £215 per ton, has never been exceeded. It is very cheering to know that the pearling industry too is looking particularly bright. The indications are that the value of pearl shell will continue high for some time.

Public Service.

Hon. members will, I suppose, as usual criticise items in connection with the public service salaried staff. I am as concerned as anyone can be about this expenditure. I want to see methods improved and results improved. I believe that reform is needed, but I believe that the officers are not altogether to blame. If the management of the affairs of this country could be placed more in the hands of the permanent heads, the result would be very different. No one can say that the pay of any of the public servants is excessive, but nevertheless it is a fact that we are expending on this service all that we ought to expend on it. I think we should be able to increase our activities at the present cost of the public service. We should pay our public servants better, and service methods should be improved, and the public servants remaining should receive much better pay than they receive now, particularly in the lower grades. Of course it is impossible to satisfy any man, and I suppose the civil service will never be satisfied. I have devoted more time to the public service since I took office

than, I believe, any other Minister in the same period. I have done my very best for the civil service in very difficult times. I realise, and I hope the Committee realise, that we have a responsibility to the public service; and in time I trust we shall be able to live up to every ounce of that responsibility.

State Trading Concerns.

I suppose I should hardly be in order in discussing the State trading concerns at any length to-night; but I wish to refer to them very briefly. The cost of the civil service has been largely increased by reason of the fact that the State trading concerns have spread about the various Government departments. We find, for instance, the Agricultural Department in control of the Wyndham Freezing Works, in which an enormous amount of money is invested, and which has a huge turnover year by year. The general costs of government are increased by the scattering of the trading concerns about the various departments.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And so are the costs of the trading concerns. The trading concerns do not gain anything by the arrangement. I believe the gain is the other way.

The PREMIER: That may be so. However, we shall be able to discuss the matter at length when the votes for the State trading concerns are before the Committee. I have already told hon. members that this year we expect less revenue from the State Steamship Service. These steamers have been responsible for nearly all the profits made on State trading concerns. Last year's consolidated revenue has benefited to the tune of £122,000 from the steamers, due to high freights, which in turn are due to the unfortunate war. Of course, the steamers have paid interest and sinking fund in addition to the £122,000. I acknowledge that the State would not have had the steamers if I had had a chance to speak; they were bought before I knew of the intention to purchase.

Mr. Lutey: We want more of them.

The PREMIER: It is anticipated that they will earn very much less revenue this year, owing to the fall in freights.

Immigration.

I believe that Western Australia can now embark on an immigration policy. We have been negotiating with the British Government, and the idea is to bring out ex-service men to this State at the expense of the British Government. However, the negotiations are not yet finalised. It is suggested that the British Government should provide £500 for each man to enable him to settle on the land. It is expected that this money will be lent at a comparatively low rate of interest. In addition it will be necessary to find money for the development work required, and it is hoped that this money will be obtainable at pre-war rates. We have informed the Agent General that the State

can take 1,000 men per month, beginning some time next year—probably about the middle of the year. We have made it quite clear, however, that we must have the right to draw on the British Government for sufficient money to keep the men employed. We must see that work is provided for them and that they are able to earn wages, and we shall arrange that if necessary the British Government will permit us to draw on them for that purpose. We have no desire that the men should come here to flood the labour market, and I do not think that that is possible to-day. I believe that if we had 4,000 farm hands available to-day, all of them would be employed.

Hon. P. Collier: What about the couple of hundred farm hands that have been coming up to this House during these past few weeks?

The PREMIER: Unfortunately, they have had a taste of Parliamentary life now, and I do not suppose they will consent to go into the country.

Hon. P. Collier: Surely the farmers do not believe in victimisation.

The PREMIER: No; the farmers would be quite willing to give any of them work. I believe that Western Australia can safely embark on an immigration policy and absorb a great many men, and that very soon. Four months ago it looked as if we could not find work for men, but in the meantime thousands of our soldiers have come back, and there is any amount of work; and that has been the case for some time. The immigrants I have in view will receive all the advantages that obtain in connection with the settlement of our soldiers as regards price of land. We have offered, too, to look after the souls of men with money. If a soldier wishes to send a son here and to send money with him, we will protect the son. We have told the Agent General that we propose to appoint a board, probably of men outside the Government service, to see that in the purchase of land the man from the old country is protected. In the past, I am afraid, men who have brought money here from the old country have lost it because they did not invest it wisely. We shall obviate that trouble by appointing a board to look after such immigrants. We have told Mr. Connolly to inform these British men that they can come here with safety. Finally, I am quite alive to the financial position. I know that we cannot go on increasing the deficit. I have shown that the estimated clear revenue, after providing funds necessary to meet obligations incidental to our loan indebtedness and payment of interest and sinking fund is only £796,462. I have shown that departmental expenditure, apart altogether from business undertakings and trading concerns, is £1,484,811. I have shown that there is a shortage in revenue of £593,349. I know that the position is far from being a comfortable one, and I know that we cannot go

on year after year making a substantial increase in the deficit.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is that shortage based on the past four months?

Hon. P. Collier: You are over that now, are you not?

The PREMIER: No.

Hon. P. Collier: Very near it.

The PREMIER: Nothing near it. I believe we shall get through the year without a deficit larger than I have estimated. Members are of course entitled to ask when the ledger will balance. It is quite obvious that increased taxation might do something, but I venture to say that at this moment increased taxation would do more harm than good. The deficit, it must be remembered, is equal to the revenue derived from taxation. I believe that we shall achieve something by improved management in connection with the public service. I am not asking for increased taxation, because I believe the country will speedily return to prosperity. I believe we are on the verge of more prosperous times than we have yet known in this State.

Hon. P. Collier: It is easy for troubles to disappear when you get to the Treasury.

The PREMIER: We must remember that the war which lasted over four years absorbed a great portion of our manhood and it is easy now to feel that with the return of a great number of those who went away, our troubles will disappear. There are prospects of the development of a new gold-field.

Mr. O'Loughlen: And we have had good rains.

The PREMIER: Yes, and it is consequently easy to feel as I do feel and believe that we are in for brighter times than we have had in recent years. I do not say the present Government are entirely responsible for the improved outlook, but I think they are responsible for 95 per cent. of it.

Generally improved Prospects.

There is an improvement anticipated in connection with the railway earnings. The loss last year was £359,794, as against a profit of £128,160 in 1914, the first year of the war. Our goods, tonnage is 800,000 tons less than in 1914. Our timber traffic will be restored and should increase the earnings to the pre-war figures representing an increased revenue of between £175,000 and £200,000. We can export a considerable amount of timber to Eastern Australia, and as soon as we can get tonnage we shall export timber to various parts of the world. Then I believe we will have 200,000 tons additional freight from our agricultural lines. Therefore I am justified in asking the House to let us attempt to square some portion of this deficit by the natural improvement of things during the current year. If I did not think there would be a very substantial improvement in connection with the railways and other concerns, I would most assuredly ask the House to agree to increase taxation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: As everything is so bright, why not drop some taxation?

The PREMIER: I do not know that we can do that. With regard to the railways, I have had return No. 13 prepared to show exactly what the work of the railways has been during the past few years. Hon. members will see that I am justified in expecting that there will be increased returns. We are settling many soldiers on the land and they will help to produce increased freights. The early return to an active immigration policy will also help to increase production. That policy can be carried out without the risk of disturbing anyone in employment. In all departments there will be increased earnings; there will be a revival in gold mining, and there will be a demand for our raw products which will command a high price. I believe that shipping will become easier and that we will get greater tonnage. Best of all, our soldiers have returned from the war. Forty per cent. of our effective manhood have been away serving their country, and it is not difficult to understand what their work as producers will mean to the State. From my experience of them I consider they will make good use of the opportunities which have been afforded them. We have just distributed in wheat dividends upwards of half a million sterling. Our grain now growing should realise in cash before March next £3,000,000, and I hope that further dividends will follow as our surplus grain should now be quickly shipped. Our wool proceeds should realise £2,500,000. We shall be spending £1,500,000 on soldier settlement, so that it will be seen that a considerable sum of money will be in circulation in this State. This is not loan money either, except that which is required for soldier settlement.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some of the wheat money is loan money.

The PREMIER: The Government are not responsible for any of this money. The farmers may be responsible for the return of some of it.

Confidence in the future.

My desire is to show to the House that in three items there are £7,000,000, and that a million and a half will be soldiers' money.

The total I have given will be available in the near future. Never at any one time in the history of the State have we had such a large sum of money in view, and it is a great thing to be able to say that it is the result of the State's production. It is impossible to distribute so large a sum of money amongst the people without doing a great deal of good. All these things which I have quoted will mean a speedy return to prosperity and a considerable increase in the revenue of the State. I am not including the sums we get month by month by way of timber revenue, from fisheries, and from the sale of meat—and by the way we shall export £150,000 worth of meat from Wyndham this year. Am I not justified therefore in asking the House to let us at least try to see what can be done during the coming year in the direction of straightening out the affairs of the State without imposing additional taxation? If the task cannot be carried into effect, the situation will have to be faced. I believe, however, that we are ripe for very much increased production all along the line. I believe that our produce for some years to come will command a high price. I believe we could sell to half a dozen countries to-day if we had the wheat, meat, and wool to dispose of.

Mr. Troy: The Prime Minister says there is only one market.

The PREMIER: I view the future with absolute confidence. We have all the elements that are necessary for success and we have the people ready and willing to do all the work that is necessary. In the South-West we shall establish the dairying industry and save those hundreds of thousands of pounds that are sent out of the State each year for the purchase of dairy produce. In every direction the outlook is bright and our industries show magnificent prospects. I have much pleasure in moving the first item.

Legislative Council, 2854;

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 9.27. p.m.

APPENDIX TABLES, Nos. 1 to 14, referred to in the Treasurer's Financial Statement :—

[Return No. 1.]

Revenue and Expenditure, 1918-19, compared with the Estimate.

REVENUE.				£	£
The actual amount received was	...	...	...	4,944,850	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	4,893,177	
Or a total net under-estimate of	...	...	...		61,673
EXPENDITURE.				£	£
The actual amount expended was	...	...	...	5,596,865	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	...	...	...	5,519,212	
Or a net under-estimate of	...	...	...		77,653

DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.
TAXATION—	£	£	£	£
Land Tax	818	...	...	...
Licenses	...	326	...	...
Income Tax	...	28,561	...	...
Dividend Duty	1,938	...	...	...
Totalisator Tax	...	7,499	...	...
Stamp Duty	...	17,104	...	...
Probate Duty	...	329	...	...
Commonwealth	...	1,458	...	...
TERRITORIAL, ETC.—	...	...	...	...
Land Revenue	...	16,204	...	...
Mining	1,272	...	...	...
Timber	7,782	...	...	...
Law Courts	1,275	...	...	...
DEPARTMENTAL—	...	...	...	...
Premier	...	...	...	4,747
Colonial Treasurer	...	9,140	...	10,698
Minister for Lands	...	1,868	1,286	...
Minister for Mines—Mines	...	...	3,340	...
Minister for Mines—Woods and Forests	...	...	2,400	...
Minister for Education	...	...	7,471	...
Minister for Agriculture	...	...	...	...
Agricultural Bank	...	3,311	1,805	...
Attorney General	...	7,945	...	31,959
Colonial Secretary	...	4,779	5,385	...
Minister for Works	...	1,276	...	861
Residue	...	...	...	...
TRADING AND BUSINESS—	...	...	...	...
Railways	...	18,753	...	68,763
Tramways	20,942	...	3,165	...
Fremantle Harbour Trust	...	9,487	...	...
Bunbury Harbour Board	...	...	...	...
State Batteries	5,494	...	12,636	...
Water Supply and Sewerage	...	6,615	2,021	...
State Trading Concerns	36,117	...	...	...
State Dairy Farm	...	...	...	...
Shipment of Cattle from North-West	...	...	...	...
Yandanooka Estate	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc.	...	...	...	...
Royal Mint	...	993	...	...
Tourists, Cave Houses, etc.	...	...	...	1,978
Residue	...	3,663	3,754	...
Butter and Bacon Factories	...	...	...	1,912
Totals	75,638	137,311	43,263	120,916
Net under-estimates	61,673		77,653	

[Return No. 2.]

REVENUE.

Statement of Receipts from 1914-15 and Estimate for 1918-20.

Heads.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Estimated, 1919-20.
TAXATION.						
Dividend Duty ...	£ 93,916	£ 103,585	£ 105,554	£ 109,482	£ 133,082	£ 135,000
Stamp Duty ...	64,398	64,858	67,035	80,719	112,104	115,000
Land Tax ...	36,433	47,711	42,431	63,388	34,182	50,000
Income Tax ...	80,646	91,630	90,667	98,501	228,560	260,000
Totalisator Tax ...	12,125	12,442	14,775	18,773	42,499	45,000
Probate Duty ...	40,156	44,284	40,963	38,710	40,329	45,000
Licenses ...	44,288	43,448	40,912	39,963	40,325	40,000
Total ...	371,962	407,958	402,337	449,456	629,061	690,000
DEPARTMENTAL.						
Land ...	296,606	322,670	282,223	257,368	300,604	311,500
Mining ...	56,935	23,408	20,547	19,291	17,643	13,510
Royal Mint ...	28,389	29,215	30,616	30,213	30,992	28,000
Timber ...	43,003	35,367	27,379	39,248	26,818	44,500
Departmental Fees, etc. ...	334,421	395,546	431,608	418,537	453,938	472,158
Law Courts ...	23,140	21,217	21,279	20,754	19,724	20,500
Harbour Dues ...	36,952	34,564	37,384	31,705	32,930	32,000
Commonwealth ...	631,287	616,104	594,467	599,239	585,668	595,422
Total ...	819,446	861,987	851,036	817,116	882,649	927,168
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.						
Harbour Boards ...	115,739	102,234	87,355	85,168	106,287	126,000
Railways ...	2,049,762	2,098,304	1,878,434	1,828,853	1,878,753	2,100,000
Tramways ...	114,028	118,946	125,714	141,480	134,058	170,000
Batteries ...	39,562	70,014	61,200	69,355	67,876	52,500
Avondale, Harvey, and Yandooka Estates ...	17,545	28,279	26,675	29,346	19,529	17,028
Water Supply and Sewerage ...	404,501	414,580	404,737	379,925	371,615	363,500
State Dairy Farm ...	3,108	2,700	2,924	2,576	3,476	2,900
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	15,668	20,377	30,651	27,542	28,726	29,650
Tourist ...	...	10,414	8,653	6,493	8,457	9,000
Electric Works ...	...	...	10,007	32,580	47,164	62,000
Butter and Bacon Factories ...	...	...	...	15,771	19,189	19,400
Total ...	2,759,913	2,865,848	2,635,750	2,619,059	2,675,130	2,951,978
TRADING CONCERNS:						
Ferries ...	5,385	5,609	93,417	137,666	172,343	138,200
Hotels ...	28,511	27,061				
Steamships ...	101,919	158,167				
State Fish Supply ...	4,899	10,555				
Saw Mills ...	303,118	236,818				
Shipment of Nor-West Cattle ...	...	26,835	93,417	137,666	172,343	138,200
Brickworks ...	991	10,220				
Quarries ...	10,306	11,101				
Meat Stalls ...	29,275	30,272				
Implement Works ...	73,713	88,453				
Total ...	£5,140,725	5,356,978	4,677,007	4,622,536	4,944,851	5,302,768

[Return No. 8.]

Statement of Expenditure from 1914-15 to 1918-19, and Estimate for 1919-1920.

Head.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Estimate, 1919-20.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts	1,700,641	1,821,169	1,910,901	2,012,927	2,112,108	2,212,433
His Excellency the Governor Parliamentary and Executive Council	1,523	1,540	2,094	1,549	1,807	1,812
Premier's Office	12,101	12,198	12,329	11,597	9,520	9,456
Treasury	1,430	1,326	1,488	1,744	1,796	a 4,933
Audit	9,325	11,803	12,587	11,150	9,946	10,454
Compassionate Allowances ...	8,871	8,269	8,847	8,946	9,023	9,830
Government Motor Cars ...	1,792	3,002	8,700	4,882	4,167	3,271
Government Savings Bank ...	3,770	2,699	2,366	1,868	4,459	4,216
Government Stores	22,067	21,240	21,752	21,515	22,428	24,607
Literary and Scientific ...	10,087	15,368	13,359	10,980	12,172	13,127
London Agency	11,130	9,353	10,597	10,442	8,280	8,280
Public Service Commissioner	9,748	7,933	8,472	7,871	8,210	7,526
Taxation	2,513	1,766	1,853	1,555	1,192	1,226
Workers' Homes	12,351	14,305	17,861	18,001	21,040	23,855
Miscellaneous and Refunds ...	4,934	4,554	3,556	3,112	3,230	3,381
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	45,246	47,784	b 90,203	48,717	47,338	46,179
Woods and Forests	59,940	62,694	64,698	60,030	57,302	59,992
Lands and Surveys	10,458	8,565	10,086	11,220	10,873	11,888
Land Settlement for Soldiers	62,093	45,565	46,286	46,326	44,703	49,722
Agriculture ... ..	...	...	...	...	2,860	17,000
Rabbits and Vermin	26,891	46,275	57,600	54,438	62,455	57,201
Stock	15,940					
Agricultural Bank and I. A. Board	6,031	30,736	22,341	38,394	41,130	44,176
Crown Law and Branches ...	11,372	74,527	68,615	69,597	69,060	67,577
Education	77,216	317,656	334,132	353,793	366,054	389,485
Office of Colonial Secretary ...	312,299	30,252	31,189	32,297	27,322	27,362
Aborigines	c 26,934	8,449	9,710	9,422	12,447	5,268
Charities and State Children	10,259	87,545	86,575	88,411	90,486	96,191
Fisheries	85,767	4,106	4,464	4,726	6,277	5,222
Gaols	3,725	22,295	20,765	20,126	21,596	24,315
Harbour and Light and Jetties	21,658	23,758	26,247	27,087	19,587	19,802
Lithographic	28,198	5,279	5,742	4,718	4,885	5,600
Lunacy	5,279	59,197	62,770	60,533	64,578	70,100
Medical and Health	50,585	118,898	131,087	129,922	155,673	160,484
Police	109,692	126,699	120,560	130,568	132,157	140,362
Printing	130,428	46,937	44,484	36,085	38,216	38,985
Public Works	42,703	86,505	107,161	98,702	104,616	115,000
Total Departmental ...	132,780	1,387,136	1,369,061	1,470,556	1,440,324	1,486,892
BUSINESS, UNDERTAKINGS.						
Railways	1,508,317	1,515,613	1,455,879	1,454,650	1,572,107	1,746,521
Tramways	75,237	81,244	90,571	104,931	107,705	125,902
State Batteries	49,756	71,839	83,367	71,642	59,574	60,327
Water Supply	222,701	234,172	248,208	220,112	227,232	241,642
Yandanooka	29,248	33,022	26,771	8,281	10,041	12,223
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	11,548	15,780	21,364	19,078	19,099	19,061
Avondale and Harvey Estates	1,481	4,519	3,796	3,768	3,376	1,850
Tourists	8,895	11,957	10,231	6,415	8,476	9,753
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	5,153	4,426	4,962	5,610	5,219	6,079
Electric Works ... ..	...	...	8,254	20,486	28,297	39,662
State Dairy Farm	3,548	3,152	3,141	2,776	6,066	3,151
Butter and Bacon Factories	...	...	...	16,666	20,537	19,259
Total Business	1,915,884	1,975,724	1,956,544	1,934,415	2,064,729	2,285,430

a Includes £3,251 transferred from Miscellaneous, less £204 now included under Government Motor Cars. b Includes £45,071 for Loans on operations Royal Commission Control of Trade. c Includes Public Gardens, Registry, Friendly Societies, Immigration, Messenger's Exchange, and Observatory.

[Return No. 3.]—Statement of Expenditure, etc.—continued.

Head.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	Estimate, 1919-20.
TRADING CONCERNS.	£	£	£	£	£	£
State Steamers	109,117	139,592	...	...	...	...
State Brickworks	2,754	9,927	...	1,430	...	...
State Implement Works	142,300	150,875	...	...	...	...
State Quarries	11,384	8,884	...	1,450	...	...
State Saw Mills	411,994	231,862	...	...	...	...
State Hotels	26,472	26,497	...	...	...	...
State Fish Supplies	6,255	14,702	...	...	...	...
State Meat Stalls	30,229	26,215	...	3,200	...	...
Shipment of Nor'-West Cattle ... ..	...	...	...	34,489	...	8,443
	5,744,166	5,774,498	5,338,001	5,428,235	5,663,729	6,084,180
Less Rebates, etc.	37,624	69,297	61,237	99,956	66,864	93,063
Totals£	5,706,542	5,705,201	5,276,764	5,328,279	5,596,865	5,991,117

[Return No. 4.]

Synopsis of Balance Sheet at 30th June, 1919.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
London County Westminster and Parr's Bank...	108,215	0	3
Commonwealth Government	53,934	1	11
Sinking Fund	6,157,257	17	6
Treasurer's Advance	19,326	7	11
General Loan Fund	227,519	0	3
Government of Victoria	250,000	0	0
Savings Bank	5,504,059	2	1
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits	195,000	0	0
Trust and Deposit Accounts generally	2,629,817	6	5
	£15,143,128	16	4
Cr.			
Soldiers' Settlement, Advances by Commonwealth Gov- ernment	53,934	1	11
Investments	12,499,632	10	8
Stores on hand	519,693	8	2
Cash in hand—			
Treasury	7,898	0	7
Wheat Certificates	723,349	9	11
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits	5,000	0	0
General Account	191,029	9	5
Government Savings Bank Account	274,835	8	4
Fixed Deposits with Bank	10,000	0	0
Eastern States	85,369	6	6
London	114,260	8	6
Remittances and Drafts in transit	2,465	14	10
Consolidated Revenue Fund	662,014	9	11
Government Savings Bank, Sundry Debtors, etc.	3,446	7	7
	£15,143,128	16	4

[Return No. 5.]

Statement showing Receipts from Commonwealth from 1909-10 to 1918-19.

Year.					Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Total.
					£	£	£	£
1909-10	...	...	...	...	703,723 <i>a</i>	...	<i>Nil</i>	703,723
1910-11	...	...	...	...	569,578 <i>a</i>	...	<i>Nil</i>	569,578
1911-12	...	...	...	...	365,614	232,265	40,648	638,527
1912-13	...	...	...	...	382,591	222,554	30,465	635,610
1913-14	...	...	...	...	400,855	212,751	27,358	640,964
1914-15	...	...	...	...	403,772	203,127	24,388	631,287
1915-16	...	...	...	...	398,076	193,544	24,485	616,105
1916-17	...	...	...	...	386,008	183,974	24,485	594,467
1917-18	...	...	...	...	386,779	174,350	38,110	599,239
1918-19	...	...	...	...	391,809	164,696	29,163	585,668
Totals	...	...	...	£	4,388,805	1,587,261	239,102	6,215,168

a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 6.]

Loan Authorisations and Flotations.

	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1918	44,290,173	
Do. for 1918-19	2,375,000	
Total Authorisations		46,665,173
Flotations—		
General Loans	27,078,253	
Local Debentures	1,096,355	
Local Inscribed Stock	7,782,548	
Treasury Bills	5,554,990	
Treasury Bonds	2,893,505	
		44,405,65
Balance available for Flotation		2,259,52
Actual Loan Indebtedness—		
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1918	42,304,001	
Flotation during year—		
Local Treasury Bills	380,500	
Local Debentures	36,545	
Local Inscribed Stock	141,250	
Treasury Bonds	1,425,930	
	44,288,226	
Less "Commonwealth Advances" in previous year, now included under "Treasury Bonds"	635,000	
		43,653,22
Less—Redemptions—		
Bonds Loans, 1878, 1881-4	8,400	
Treasury Bills	7,750	
		16,15
		43,637,07
Less—		
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)		6,139,00
Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1919		37,498,06

	£	s.	d.
Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1919	116	7	0
Do. do. do. do. 1918	118	0	8
Do. do. do. do. 1917	116	5	5
Do. do. do. do. 1916	109	19	9
Do. do. do. do. 1915	101	12	10
Do. do. do. do. 1914	94	4	11
Do. do. do. do. 1913	85	17	2

[Return No. 7.]

Loan Flotations, Debt, and Expenditure on 30th June, 1919.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways and Tramways (including Electric Power Station)	19,501,360	19,118,221	18,367,430
Harbours and Rivers...	3,911,621	3,853,852	3,711,344
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,901,828	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally	1,559,377	1,558,786	1,140,678
Sewerage	1,270,604	1,270,604	1,101,362
Erection of State Batteries	306,488	306,488	283,000
Development of Goldfields	1,553,883	1,536,257	1,461,731
Development of Agriculture...	3,774,869	3,772,106	4,617,493
Telegraphs	276,721	228,225	269,308
Roads and Bridges	508,149	482,407	365,893
Public Buildings	860,423	852,729	818,633
Immigration	63,314	62,752	56,392 ^a
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels	58,090	58,090	53,717
State Steamships	254,609	254,609	247,381
State Saw Mills	206,191	206,191	199,900
Agricultural Bank	1,547,761	1,547,761	1,402,506
State Implement Works	88,160	88,160	80,069
South Perth Ferries	13,467	13,467	12,967
State Milk Supply	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards	26,691	26,691	28,070
State Quarries	4,282	4,282	4,175
State Fish Supply	3,962	3,962	3,162
Crawley and Dalkoith Estates, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, and purchase of land at Nedlands	98,559	98,559	97,931
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts	114,469	114,469	55,000
Miscellaneous	64,263	64,241	67,268
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital)	...	...	100,000
	39,528,225	38,982,571	37,765,230
Redemptions	...	545,654	...
Cost of Raising	...	...	1,534,102
Unexpended Balance	...	...	228,893
	39,528,225	39,528,225	39,528,225

^a An additional amount of £338,920 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 9).

	£
Indebtedness as above	38,982,571
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds	1,566,000
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act	2,893,505
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	195,000
Gross Public Debt	£43,637,076

[Return No. 8.]

Loan Expenditure for 1918-19, compared with previous years.

Undertakings.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1911-12.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Re-surreptions	154,720	181,394	246,994	350,855	520,344	1,080,910	1,406,602	1,320,309
Tramways—Perth Electric ...	7,239	3,073	29,445	33,528	22,909	16,026	497,389	...
Electric Power Station ...	25,386	23,506	61,033	63,170	149,865	69,048	...	...
Fremantle Harbour Works ...	46,345	42,449	49,004	53,704	108,055	66,142	77,379	35,813
Fremantle Dock and Slip ...	...	...	...	14	1,291	1,868	11,330	80,842
Harbours and Rivers generally	23,603	42,485	72,854	55,510	68,014	21,860	61,700	69,109
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	...	15,167	11,059	47,268	120,473	140,582	160,931	93,572
Water Supply ...	46,636	53,080	66,426	118,276	127,689	191,528	234,184	31,417
Development of Goldfields ...	16,152	10,661	19,829	19,142	47,263	50,659	78,143	92,345
State Smelter, Ravensthorpe ...	...	...	...	78,967	60,000	...	...	...
Development of Agriculture ...	442,740	156,083	169,483	165,727	79,271	156,752	155,432	362,406
Assistance to Settlers ...	80,000	478,170	...	199,890	602,110	...	...	...
Immigration ...	1,867	1,107	2,352	4,640	16,665	56,218	63,447	96,805
Steamships ...	...	...	409	141,065	...	5,907	100,000	...
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	...	...	...	...	97,500	278,000	160,000	...
Saw Mills ...	...	...	214	511	29,069	126,416	43,691	...
State Hotels ...	1,793	117	589	10,000	6,546	17,091	17,580	...
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	73,948	25,000	93,165	172,335	271,612	506,638	259,808	...
Agricultural Implement Works	...	...	1,292	4,627	18,436	43,070	...	...
Brickyards ...	1,165	20	...	547	11,507	13,710	1,121	...
Ferries ...	...	...	...	...	5,974	2,000	4,993	...
State Fish Supply ...	...	...	131	3,031	...	...	...	...
Public Buildings ...	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	81,004	44,166	38,699	91,707
Roads and Bridges ...	4,231	2,473	2,557	6,152	5,026	6,167	37,318	23,106
Perth-Fremantle Road Reinstatement	...	20	839	7,663	21,198	...	...	...
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account)	...	...	...	...	55,000	...	...	...
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,582	...	...	...
Sundries ...	2,262	1,729	2,676	2,738	5,225	17,652	8,881	12,121
Wyndham Freezing Works ...	100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	1,049,736	1,054,178	855,183	1,584,642	2,521,903	2,913,010	3,409,218	2,309,552
Loan Expenditure per head of mean population	£3 6 8	£3 8 2	£2 16 1	£4 19 3	£7 15 8	£9 1 8	£10 17 6	£7 16 11

a Includes Land Settlement for Soldiers, £283,319.

[Return No. 9.]

Public Debt and Sinking Funds.

Loan.			Sinking Fund.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS.				£ s. d.	
<i>Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1899-1915...	998,353	1934	1	557,970 6 10	Controlled by Crown Agents, Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	458,946 7 8	
1897-1900...	3,500,000	1935	1	936,326 12 6	
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	591,377 6 7	G.S.R. Purchase.
1896 ...	2,500,000	1927	3	1,894,404 2 8	Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.
1900-1902...	680,000	1935	1	134,686 5 10	
1902-1905...	2,600,000	1935	1	470,249 3 10	
1907-1908...	2,000,000	1947	1	201,820 4 10	
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	49,214 4 3	
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	37,960 5 6	
1911 ...	1,650,000	1955	½	95,947 13 6	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	19,037 1 4	
1912-1914...	6,000,000	1962	½	44,636 17 0	
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	15,697 10 0	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal, amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of S.S. "Kangaroo."
<i>Local Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1903 ...	556,550	1923	1½	641,955 11 5	{ Debentures issued for redemption of Local Inscribed Stock.
1904 ...	322,470	1924	1½		
1911 ...	1,922,305	1926	½		
1912 ...	1,380,540	1932	½		
1913 ...	867,965	1934	½		
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½		
1913 ...	716,708	1933	½		
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½		
1917 ...	118,710	1921	½		
1918 ...	133,290	1927	½		
1904 ...	246,160	1924	1		
<i>Debentures.</i>					
1872-1888...	84,900	...	1	4,455 13 9	Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
	34,447,076				
BALANCE OF DEBT.					
Various ...	9,190,000	Various	...	...	Consisting of Inscribed Stock (£141,250), Debentures (£800,255), Treasury Bonds (£2,893,505), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, and Treasury Bills (£5,554,990) which carry no Sinking Funds.
Total Debt	43,637,076	Accrued Sinking Fund		6,154,705 7 6	
Previous year's totals	42,304,001	...	...	5,581,298 8 7	
Increase on year ...	1,333,075a	...	...	573,406 18 11	

a. Consisting of—

Treasury Bills under Insurance Companies Act, 1918	£
Treasury Bills generally (Net)	195,000
Local Inscribed Stock	177,750
Treasury Deficiency Bonds (Net)	141,250
Local Debentures	790,930
	36,545

1,341,475

Less Debentures redeemed ... 8,400

£1,333,075

[Return No. 10.]

Sinking Fund and Investments.

ANALYSIS OF FUND.

									£
Contributions from Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,103,535
Interest on Investments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,515,739
Discounts on Purchases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	548,398
									<hr/> 6,187,672
Less Brokerage and Expenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,967
									<hr/> 6,154,705
Total of Fund	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

INVESTMENTS.

	Maturity.		Rate.		Nominal Value.
					£ s. d.
Western Australian Stocks.	1935	...	3 per cent.	...	1,094,253 17 3
	1936	...	3 per cent.	...	352,884 16 6
	1927	...	3 per cent.	...	631,429 4 10
	1920-1935	...	3½ per cent.	...	784,428 16 2
	1935	...	3½ per cent.	...	168,706 17 9
	1927-1947	...	3½ per cent.	...	351,547 9 6
	1935-1955	...	3½ per cent.	...	600,130 4 2
	1940-1960	...	3½ per cent.	...	27,781 8 8
	1942-1962	...	4 per cent.	...	674,931 0 7
	Totals	...	...	...	<hr/>£4,686,093 15 5
Other Stocks: Crown Agents' Investments					557,936 4 8
W.A. Treasury Bills					318,105 0 0
British Government Treasury Bills <i>a</i>					565,000 0 0
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption £140,000					
	Stock	...	...	...	15,697 10 0
	Cash	...	...	...	11,872 17 5
	Total, Sinking Fund	...	...	...	<hr/>£6,154,705 7 6

a. Since matured and re-invested in Imperial National War Bonds, redeemable 1927.

[Return No. 11.]

Business Undertakings.

Items.	Estimated 1919-20.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Dr.	Cr.
	£	£	£	£
Avondale and Harvey Estates ...	2,180	1,850	...	330
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	8,000	...	...	8,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	118,000	...	...	118,000
State Batteries ...	52,500	60,327	7,827	...
Albany Cold Stores ...	850	1,010	160	...
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	6,630	6,079	...	551
Dairy Farm (Claremont) ...	2,900	3,151	251	...
Government Refrigerating Works	3,800	3,455	...	345
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	5,250	3,455	...	1,795
Metropolitan Abattoirs, etc. ...	18,000	10,163	...	7,837
Perth City Markets ...	1,750	978	...	772
Yandanooka Estate ...	14,848	12,223	...	2,625
Butter Factories ...	19,400	19,259	...	141
Tourist Resorts, Caves House, etc.	9,000	9,753	753	...
	263,108	131,703	8,991	140,396
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	131,405
Railways ...	2,100,000	1,746,521	...	353,479
Tramways ...	170,000	125,902	...	44,098
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage ...	154,000	88,034	...	65,966
Goldfields Water Supply ...	185,000	120,945	...	64,055
Other Undertakings, Hydraulic ...	24,500	32,663	8,163	...
Electricity Supply ...	62,000	39,662	...	22,338
	2,695,500	2,153,727	8,163	549,936
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	541,773

[Return No. 12.]

Sinking Fund and Deficit.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (Less Brokerage and Expenses).	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,500	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	190,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	390,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	275,686	239,445	515,131	7,600	507,531	699,757
1917-18 ...	301,532	242,655	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	313,851	262,707	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
Totals ...£	2,155,247	1,508,304	3,663,551	69,355	3,594,196	3,431,778a

a. The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1919, was £3,418,480, the difference being due to a credit-balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return.

[Return No. 13.]

RAILWAYS.

Statement showing Tonnage and Earnings on Goods carried.

Class of Goods.	1909-1910.		1913-1914.		1918-1919.		1909-1910.		1913-1914.		1918-1919.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	174,584	7.97	202,668	6.53	179,613	7.80	£ 53,903	5.39	£ 56,373	4.04	£ 53,355	5.12
Ores and other Minerals...	233,292	10.65	396,346	12.78	242,182	10.52	39,466	3.94	69,218	4.96	48,094	4.62
Wool ...	6,314	.29	6,945	.22	31,915	1.39	10,281	1.03	12,058	.86	54,972	5.28
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	86,442	3.95	111,604	3.60	83,245	3.62	53,298	5.33	66,403	4.76	49,455	4.75
Wheat ...	107,439	4.90	299,143	9.64	410,852	17.85	47,066	4.70	138,607	9.93	138,948	13.34
Other Grain and Flour ...	59,193	2.70	93,574	3.02	183,344	7.97	40,501	4.05	45,429	3.26	75,864	7.28
Firewood ...	656,384	29.96	677,944	21.86	535,282	23.26	63,226	6.32	62,268	4.46	56,056	5.38
Local Timber ...	514,788	23.43	749,092	24.15	299,360	13.01	181,775	18.17	299,294	21.44	125,700	12.06
Imported Timber ...	15,572	.71	22,733	.73	942	.04	13,915	1.39	10,916	.78	669	.06
Fruit and Garden Produce	25,847	1.18	26,773	.86	45,826	1.99	32,371	3.23	34,253	2.45	48,074	4.61
Fertilisers ...	a		73,325	2.37	61,363	2.67	a		33,830	2.42	12,501	1.20
All other goods ...	311,235	14.20	441,771	14.24	227,385	9.88	464,799	46.45	567,262	40.64	378,152	36.30
Total ...	2,191,090	100.00	3,101,918	100.00	2,301,309	100.00	1,000,601	100.00	1,395,911	100.00	1,041,840	100.00

a. Figures not available.

[Return No. 14.]

Trade, Production, Population, Etc.

	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Railway Revenue	£1,649,397	£1,858,914	£1,896,579	£2,047,823	£2,382,022	£2,163,790	£2,217,250	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811
Railway Mileage	2,145	2,376	2,598	2,854	2,967	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,539
Wool exported	£969,904	£1,047,456	£1,008,853	£964,938	£907,363	£817,630	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,952,141
*Wheat produced (bushels) ...	5,602,568	5,897,540	4,358,904	9,168,594	13,331,359	2,624,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,303,787	8,845,387
*Hay produced (tons)	195,182	178,891	299,695	255,751	278,585	156,932	395,172	236,089	267,163	250,014
Gold produced	£6,553,314	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,932	£5,195,732	£4,803,206	£4,301,698	£3,924,197	£3,580,650
Timber exported	£907,702	£932,800	£1,001,593	£965,308	£1,142,280	£808,392	£442,014	£310,933	£274,280	£332,584
Coal produced	£114,487	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374	£137,575	£140,388	£182,852	£192,248	£219,260
Other Minerals (exported) ...	£328,471	£155,277	£150,490	£195,764	£215,819	£169,094	£155,213	£189,124	£275,856	£244,385
†Number of Sheep	4,731,737	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375	4,456,186	4,803,850	5,529,960	6,384,191	7,183,747
†Number of Cattle	793,217	825,040	843,638	806,294	834,265	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,847
†Number of Horses	125,315	134,114	140,277	147,629	156,636	161,625	163,006	169,730	178,151	180,094
Area of land selected (acres) ...	1,904,780	1,922,112	1,973,565	1,408,108	998,851	502,551	308,590	235,640	547,583	611,135
Area of land leased (acres) ...	10,330,373	9,314,310	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	39,571,708
‡Area of land under cultivation ...	4,685,607	5,309,832	5,650,628	6,717,226	7,320,533	7,548,768	8,056,374	7,822,549	7,587,820	7,582,330
*Area of land under crop (acres)...	722,086	855,024	1,072,653	1,199,991	1,537,923	1,867,547	2,189,456	2,004,944	1,679,772	1,604,702
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards ...	2,279,852	2,408,803	2,597,156	2,767,276	3,381,304	2,366,855	2,491,537	2,648,339	1,694,000	2,111,899
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards ...	2,271,879	2,419,078	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,375,282	2,794,822	2,492,875	2,557,986	1,102,295	2,121,070
Exports, including Gold	£8,576,659	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,846,039	£10,415,095	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	c	c	c
Exports, excluding Gold	£3,530,560	£3,752,783	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,954	£3,062,276	£4,795,057	£5,562,966	£3,607,335	£5,927,471
Imports	£6,932,731	£8,450,855	£9,283,722	£9,589,745	£9,727,473	£8,301,280	£9,830,000	£9,382,210	£7,617,683	£7,977,592
Savings Bank's Deposits d ...	£2,400,099	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872	£3,743,135	£3,640,874	£3,523,851	£3,006,075	£4,415,732
Savings Bank's withdrawals d ...	£2,070,776	£2,687,377	£3,316,113	£3,684,046	£4,600,884	£3,878,854	£3,828,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,293	£4,128,161
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	3,487	11,632	9,418	5,852	3,851	b 7,752	b 13,280	b 11,469	b 2,098	8,183
§Population	271,162	287,826	302,341	313,940	323,952	322,526	314,687	308,530	311,121	323,220

* Season ended 28th February.

† Year ended 31st December.

‡ Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

§ As on 30th June.

¶ Including Perth Tramways.

a Preliminary figures, liable to revision.

b Excess of Departures over arrivals.

c The value of gold exported is not at present available for publication, and is not included in the Exports.

d Not including School

Savings Bank.