

Legislative Assembly,*Thursday, 4th November, 1937.*

	PAGE
Questions: Grasshopper pest, bait on railway reserves	1555
Railways.—1, Wheat trucks, used for coke;	
2, Sheep transported in wheat trucks	1555
Employment Department, appointment of Inspector	1555
Mining, Simpson's battery, Nullagine	1555
Licensing Act	1556
Point Heathcote Reception Home	1556
Fruit-case wood	1556
Petition: Claremont 'bus service	1556
Bills: Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment, 3R.	1557
Land Act Amendment, 3R.	1557
Colliery Hospital Agreement, 3R.	1557
Financial Emergency Act Amendment, 3R.	1557
Income Tax Assessment, Com.	1557
Judges' Retirement, returned	1560
Annual Estimates, 1937-38: Votes and Items discussed	1560
Public Works and Buildings	1560
Agriculture	1562

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

QUESTION—GRASSHOPPER PEST.*Bait on Railway Reserves.*

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Was the Railway Department offered the use of a mechanical poison bait distributor for use on railway reserves throughout the Dalwallinu Road Board district, in order to combat the grasshopper menace? 2, If so, why was not advantage taken of it?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1.

QUESTIONS (2)—RAILWAYS.*Wheat Trucks Used for Coke.*

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, Have any of the bulk wheat trucks which were altered to transport wheat in bulk been used for the transport of coke? 2, If so, where were those trucks so used and how many were used? 3, Were those trucks marked as being for "bulk wheat only"? 4, How much has been earned in freight by using those wagons for the transport of coke? 5, What amount did each of those trucks earn in freight when loaded with coke and what would be earned when loaded with bulk wheat over the same distance? 6, In view of bulk wheat trucks being used for coke transport, will the Government make any refund of the £1,905 paid by the Westralian Farmers, Ltd., for the alteration of the

trucks which, it was understood, were to be used for "bulk wheat only"?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Geraldton-Wiluna. Equivalent to 134 four-wheeled trucks. 3, Yes. 4, £3,584 15s. 3d. 5, Approximately £27 for coke and £18 for wheat. 6, No.

Sheep Transported in Wheat Trucks.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Railways: Is he aware that R.B. (steel bulk handling) trucks are being used by the Railway Department for transporting sheep and fat lambs to Midland Junction fat stock market? 2, Why are such unsuitable trucks being used for that traffic? 3, Will he take steps to ensure that the practice is stopped at once?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Such trucks are used only in exceptional cases when more suitable trucks are not available. 3, Answered by No. 2.

QUESTION—EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT.*Appointment of Inspector.*

Mr. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Employment: 1, How many inspectors are at the Employment Department? 2, Has Detective Hughes, who was attached to the Employment Department, resigned from the police force and been appointed in charge of the inspectors? 3, What is the salary for the new appointment? 4, What allowances have been paid to Detective Hughes during the past five years—(a) for travelling; (b) for car.

The MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT replied: 1, Nine. 2, Yes. 3, £402 per annum, plus an allowance of £40 for overtime. 4, (a) £342 4s. 6d.; (b) £1,602 12s. 6d. Covering an average yearly mileage of 32,000.

QUESTION—MINING, SIMPSON'S BATTERY, NULLAGINE.

Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is it a fact that Simpson's battery has been removed from its original site to the old State battery site near Nullagine? 2, Which departmental officer first recommended the original site from which this battery is supposed to have been removed? 3, What is the amount of money, and on which officer's recommendation was money ad-

vanced to Simpson by the Government for the erection of the battery on the original site? 4, How much money, if any, has been advanced for the removal of the battery, if such has occurred?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Simpson's battery is now being moved to the old State Battery site at 20 Mile Sandy. 2, Inspector of Mines J. Verran. 3, £4,498 12s. 11d., advanced from the Commonwealth Metalliferous Fund upon the recommendation of the Inspector of Mines and the State Mining Engineer. 4, The removal is being financed by the battery owner.

QUESTION—LICENSING ACT.

Mr. STYANTS asked the Minister for Justice: 1, Has consideration been given to Part IV. of the Licensing Act as applying to the Kalgoorlie municipality? 2, If so, what was the result?

The MINISTER FOR JUSTICE replied: 1, Yes. 2, Part IV. of the Licensing Act, which contains the whole of the machinery clauses dealing with the issue, renewal, transfer and removal of licenses and charging of fees, must necessarily apply to the licensing area within the Kalgoorlie Municipality as to all other parts of the goldfields and the State; and no evidence is forthcoming that the administration of this part of the Act has been detrimental to the welfare and progress of the municipality.

QUESTION—POINT HEATHCOTE RECEPTION HOME.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Health: 1, Is it a fact that letters addressed to patients at Point Heathcote Reception Home are opened prior to being handed to addressees? 2, As inmates of Heathcote are there in many cases voluntarily, and as in no instance are uncertificated cases admitted, will he give consideration to the issue of an order instructing that the practice, if already adopted, shall forthwith end? 3, Is he able to give an assurance that outgoing correspondence of patients is not interfered with?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH replied: The regulations relating to patients' correspondence at Heathcote give the Medical Superintendent or the medical officer discretionary power to peruse both inward and outward correspondence. Replying to questions:—1, In certain cases the

medical officer has considered it necessary to peruse letters before being handed to addressees. 2, Voluntary inmates, in the application form, specify their willingness to abide by the regulations. In view of the very varied mental condition of patients, both voluntary and involuntary, it is considered that the discretionary power contained in the regulations must be retained for exercise in certain cases. 3, Covered by reply to No. 2.

QUESTION—FRUIT-CASE WOOD.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Forests: 1, Does he recall the shortage of fruit-case wood which occurred last year, and which caused such inconvenience and anxiety to growers, particularly in respect to wood required for cases for export? 2, In view of the very difficult circumstances disclosed, will he give favourable consideration to the setting aside of a suitable area or areas of jarrah country to be held and utilised as a reserve or reserves for timber for fruit-case wood, such to be of sufficient area or areas to provide for the increasing needs of orchardists?

The MINISTER FOR FORESTS replied: 1, I am not aware that there was any actual shortage of case-wood last year. 2, The Forests Department is taking steps to regulate the cutting of timber for fruit cases with a view to conserving future supplies. In addition to the considerable quantity of fruit cases produced by the large sawmills the department has granted a number of permits throughout the fruit-growing districts for the production of cases only.

PETITION—CLAREMONT 'BUS SERVICE.

MR. NORTH (Claremont) [4.32]: I desire to present a petition from the electors of Claremont and Nedlands asking this House to lift the restrictions on the buses plying over the main road from Perth to Fremantle along the existing tram route. I move—

That the petition be received and read.

Mr. Hegney: It is a bit late in the session for that.

Question put and passed; petition received and read.

BILLS (4)—THIRD READING.

1. Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act Amendment.
2. Land Act Amendment.
3. Collie Hospital Agreement.
4. Financial Emergency Act Amendment.
Transmitted to the Council.

BILL—INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT.*In Committee.*

Resumed from the previous day; Mr. Hegney in the Chair, the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Postponed Clause 167—Court of Review:

The CHAIRMAN: Progress was reported on Clause 167, which deals with the setting up of a court of review, consideration of which had been postponed.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 of Subclause 1 after "from," the following words be inserted:—"opinions, decisions, determinations or."

The Premier may point out that the term "assessment" covers these other matters, but I find that in the Acts operating in the Eastern States the phraseology is somewhat along the lines I suggest. Disputes may occur between the Commissioner and taxpayers apart from assessment matters, and the amendment will give the right of appeal against the Commissioner's decisions. As the legislation is to be uniform and co-ordinated throughout Australia, probably rulings will be arrived at on various points, so that there is not likely to be so much difficulty in future as there has been in the past. The term "assessment" narrows the position down too much, although the Premier may think it is inclusive.

The Premier: I should have thought so.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: That was what I thought at first, but as Parliaments in the Eastern States have included these additional words, I thought it best to take advantage of what they, in their wisdom, have provided for. I do not know whether this has been the subject of discussion elsewhere, but I feel that we might as well have this amendment.

The PREMIER: I suppose that great minds think alike. I have not given much consideration to this amendment, but the only thing that matters to the taxpayer is

for how much he is assessed, and he learns that from the Commissioner's assessment. If that is considered unsatisfactory, then really it contains the opinions expressed by the Commissioner, and they are plain for the taxpayer to see. The clause is quite clear about it and I cannot follow the hon. member's reasons for the proposed amendment. It may mean something altogether different from what we think it means, and so I do not propose to agree to an amendment which we cannot fully understand. The whole question affecting the taxpayer lies in the decisions and opinions expressed in the assessment. If the taxpayer does not feel inclined to accept the assessment, he has his remedy in the processes of the law. The whole clause represents the introduction of a new principle and the taxpayer can get a decision from the court. Once the assessment is issued he has, of course, to pay the tax before anything else can be done, but, having paid the tax, if he thinks the assessment is wrong, he can get a determination from the court. Previously the Commissioner could delay the thing for any time whatever. It would be unwise to accept an amendment which, in the first place, is not necessary and which, in the second place, even if we consider it necessary, we do not fully understand in its application.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Postponed Clauses 168, 169—agreed to.

Postponed Clause 170—Appeals:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: This clause provides for appeals and the periods during which they can take place. Subclause 1 provides that if a taxpayer is dissatisfied with a decision of the Commissioner, he may within 60 days request the Commissioner to treat his objection as an appeal and forward it to the court of review or to the Supreme Court. Then Subclause 2 provides that if within 60 days after receiving this request the Commissioner does not forward the objection, the taxpayer may give him notice in writing to do so, whereupon the Commissioner shall, within 60 days, refer the decision or forward the objection to the court accordingly. So there are two periods of 60 days' delay. Then, in the proviso to Subclause 2, it is prescribed that if within 60 days the Commissioner requires further information from the taxpayer, he shall not be bound

to refer the decision or forward the objection to the court until the expiration of 60 days after the receipt by him of that required information. So there is another 60 days. All this delay is quite unnecessary. Apart altogether from the 60 days referred to in the proviso, there are two periods of 60 days, constituting of course a lapse of four months. It is altogether too long a period. Under this the Commissioner or his officers could put up merely trivial matters to ensure further delay, and so the thing might go on for six months. Surely four months is quite sufficient time to give the Commissioner in which to make up his mind. I move an amendment—

That after the word "objection" in paragraph (a) of Subclause 3 the following be inserted:—"provided that the court of review or the Supreme Court may, if it thinks proper, allow the taxpayer on such conditions, if any, as the court imposes, to amend the ground of his objection."

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member has on the Notice Paper a further amendment to strike out the provision to Subclause 2. He will not be able to move that if he first persists with the amendment he has just moved.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: It was my intention first to move to strike out the proviso. The two amendments are out of their proper order on the Notice Paper. With your permission, I will withdraw the amendment I have just moved and will move the following amendment—

That the proviso to Subclause 2 be struck out.

The PREMIER: I candidly confess that I do not know the ramifications of the department sufficiently well to make a determination here and now as to whether the time allowed should be 60 days or twice 60 days, or only 30 days. If anybody thinks he can invoke the aid of the law and have actions in the court subject to appeal and get away with it all in a couple of months, he is unduly optimistic as to the processes of the law. Of course sufficient time should be given to those who wish to invoke the law, if only in order that they might learn more about the position, and so possibly avoid going to law. That is why the period of delay is provided for in the clause. The assessment is issued and if there be any valid objection time is given for the taxpayer to notify the Commissioner of that objection, whereupon the

Commissioner is in a position to give a decision which may persuade the taxpayer from going to law at all. The whole purpose is to avoid either side going to law. If the Commissioner admits that the taxpayer's objections are valid, and that he is prepared to agree to them, that is the end of it; if on the other hand the Commissioner declares that the objections cannot be upheld, then the taxpayer knows that he must pay up or, alternatively, go to law. At least two or three months is required sometimes in order that all the information may be fully considered by both sides.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: But the Commissioner has four months' time provided for him here.

The PREMIER: If it be only a simple matter, the Commissioner will not take advantage of the full period. It is not to his interests to delay the matter, but sometimes a great deal of information has to be obtained in regard to property or stock that has been sold, and the market prices. So I think the Committee would be well advised to allow the taxpayer if possible to receive satisfaction without going to court. It would require to be a large amount of taxation that would have to be paid to make much difference to the people who were out of the use of the money for a month.

Mr. WATTS: Some appeals have taken place with respect to a fairly large sum of money. The taxpayer is, therefore, out of pocket for the time being as to the amount involved, and is separated from his money also whilst the court procedure is going on. The time should be minimised as far as possible. The taxpayer is given 60 days in which to lodge his objections, and then the Commissioner may take another 60 days to consider those objections. The matter might thus be held up for six months. Notwithstanding this delay, the Commissioner may then ask the taxpayer further questions, and, until he receives the answers, the proceedings may be held up another 60 days. In the case of a genuine difference of opinion between the Commissioner and the taxpayer, the time involved might well be curtailed.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That in paragraph (a) of Subclause 3 after the word "objection" the following be inserted:—"Provided that the court of review

of the Supreme Court may, if it thinks proper, allow the taxpayer on such conditions, if any, as the court imposes, to amend the grounds of his objection."

The burden of proof that the assessment is excessive lies with the taxpayer. Although the Commissioner is empowered to get all the information he desires, when the appeal reaches the court the taxpayer is limited to his original objection.

The PREMIER: If he has other objections he should state them.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: According to this clause, the objections to be considered are those stated when the taxpayer first appealed to the Commissioner. I have taken these words from the South Australian Act. It is only fair that the taxpayer should be given some consideration.

The PREMIER: I am sorry to be antagonistic to the Leader of the Opposition, but I cannot accept the amendment.

Hon. C. G. Latham: We are not quarrelling about it.

The PREMIER: I would like to have met him with respect to some of his amendments. Amongst taxpayers there is an anti-tax-gatherers complex. They think the tax gatherer is public enemy No. 1, that he is out on all occasions to do them an injury, and that if he can "put one over them" and get in more tax than he should, he will do so. We cannot say that that is our experience in Western Australia. When people have a legitimate objection to any assessment made by the Commissioner they are allowed from 30 to 50 days' grace in which to lodge their objections. Even after that they have a further 60 days. The time should be sufficient in which to state the ground of their objections. If the taxpayer thinks that one objection will not be sustained, he should state at once all his objections. It is possible that a taxpayer may not put in certain objections which, if the Commissioner knew of them, would cause him to take a different view of the matter.

Hon. C. G. Latham: It would be within the jurisdiction of the court to disallow or allow further objections.

The PREMIER: The taxpayer should lodge his objections in the time allowed to him; otherwise the Commissioner may run the risk of losing the case which, had he known of the additional objections, he would have been glad to handle in a different way.

The provisions of this clause are fair and reasonable.

Mr. McDONALD: If a taxpayer disagrees with his assessment he sends in a notice of his objection. These objections the Commissioner sends to the court of review. By this clause the taxpayer is limited to those particular objections.

The PREMIER: If he lodged other objections the Commissioner might uphold him.

Mr. McDONALD: The court of review is confined to a consideration of the original objection, and to no other. In New South Wales and South Australia amendments similar to this one have been passed. It is considered there that the taxpayer should be allowed to amend his original notice of objection. If, after notice of objection is given, the taxpayer discovers something that is very material to his case, he is allowed to bring forward that additional matter. He writes to the Commissioner and notifies him that he will apply to amend his notice of objection by adding the further objection. The Commissioner is, therefore, able to meet the additional grounds in the court of review. Suppose it were discovered at the last moment that the taxpayer had not notified the Commissioner of these further objections! Even so, the court or the board might well say, "We will allow you to amend on the terms that you pay any costs occasioned to the Commissioner, and we will allow a fortnight's adjournment for him to consider the amendment." The costs might amount to a few pounds, but for the taxpayer there might be hundreds of pounds at stake. He might discover some new view of his situation. The amendment will do no injustice, and will cause no inconvenience.

Amendment put, and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	21
Noes	23
				—
Majority against	..			2
				—

AYES.

Mr. Boyle	Mr. North
Mrs. Cardell-Oliver	Mr. Patrick
Mr. Doney	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Seward
Mr. Hill	Mr. Stubbs
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Keenan	Mr. Warner
Mr. Latham	Mr. Watts
Mr. Mann	Mr. Welsh
Mr. McDonald	Mr. Shearn
Mr. McLarty	

(Teller.)

AYES. Mr. Collier Mr. Coverley Mr. Cross Mr. Doust Mr. Fox Mr. Hawke Mr. Hegney Miss Holman Mr. Johnson Mr. Marshall Mr. Millington Mr. Munale	NOES.	
	Mr. Needham	
	Mr. Nuisen	
	Mr. Raphael	
	Mr. Rodoreda	
	Mr. F. O. L. Smith	
	Mr. Styants	
	Mr. Tonkin	
	Mr. Troy	
	Mr. Willcock	
	Mr. Wise	
	Mr. Wilson	(Teller.)
	PAIRS.	
	Mr. Brockman	NOES.
Mr. J. M. Smith	Mr. Withers	Mr. Lambert

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Postponed Clause 171—Power of court on hearing of appeals:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: I move an amendment—

That in Subclause 2 the words "where the claim of the Commissioner is held to be unreasonable, or the grounds of appeal therefrom to be frivolous."

The subclause empowers the court, in its discretion, to award costs. The judge is best fitted to determine whether or not costs should be awarded to either side.

The PREMIER: I see no great objection to the amendment. The court would probably act as suggested in any circumstances.

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 172, 173—agreed to.

Postponed Clause 174—Adjustment of tax after appeal:

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: In the circumstances contemplated by the clause, the taxpayer has already paid his tax. If an adjustment is to be made in favour of the Commissioner, that official will claim against the taxpayer, who certainly will not be allowed any longer period than 30 days except by special arrangement. The clause, however, does not provide that if the decision is in favour of the taxpayer the Commissioner shall pay within any specified time. Taxpayers complain that a refund takes months, sometimes many months, to obtain. I move an amendment—

That after the word "shall," in line 2, there be inserted "within thirty days."

Too many of our laws provide penalties for the public, but omissions of duty on the part of officials are forgotten. If an elector neglects to get his name on the roll he is liable to a fine of £2, but if his name has been improperly struck off the roll there is no penalty for the official who so struck it off.

The PREMIER: The Taxation Commission has no power to make refunds, but can only report to the Commissioner of Taxation, who makes the necessary adjustment. It might take some time for him to ascertain exactly how much tax should be refunded. The court might order him to assess the tax on a basis fixed by the court. If the amendment is carried, I shall move a further amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

The PREMIER: I move an amendment—

That after the words "thirty days" there be inserted "of the decision, or of the receipt by the Commissioner of all information necessary for him to give effect to that decision, as the case may be."

Amendment put and passed; the clause, as amended, agreed to.

First and Second Schedules, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

BILL—JUDGES' RETIREMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1937-38.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 28th October; Mr. Sleoman in the Chair.

Department of Works (Hon. H. Millington, Minister).

Vote, Public Works and Buildings, £106,276:

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. H. Millington—Mt. Hawthorn) [5.31]: It is usual when introducing the Revenue Estimates to present a brief resume of the activities of the department during the preceding year. The expenditure last year was—

	£
From Revenue — ordinary public works and buildings	103,335
From Revenue Votes—for maintenance and other charges, including interest and sinking fund—	
	£
Goldfields Water Supply 120,234	
Other hydraulic undertakings	60,142
	180,476
From Loan Funds—including expenditure from Loan Suspense account	912,629
	£1,196,440

In addition, an amount of £52,189 was expended by the department in connection with works not provided for on the Estimates under my control, as follows:—

	£
Commonwealth Employment Scheme grants	3,244
Local water boards, hospital funds, etc. (including £5,000 from Commonwealth towards Derby Leprosarium)	48,945
	<u>£52,189</u>

A comparison between the total expenditure for the year 1936-37, from all sources, namely £1,248,629, and the total expenditure for the previous year, namely £1,386,546, shows a decrease of £137,917. The dissection of the total expenditure referred to, namely £1,248,629, plus expenditure on Town Planning £1,414, equalling £1,250,043, is as under:—

Salaries and incidentals	81,623
Harbours and rivers	205,915
Water supplies, drainage, and irrigation	649,664
Roads and bridges	126,163
Public buildings (including abattoirs)	173,039
Miscellaneous	13,639
	<u>£1,250,043</u>

The principal works undertaken by the department last year were—

	£
Bunbury Harbour—improvements	21,203
Fremantle Harbour—continuation of renewal of quay, etc.	72,506
Geraldton Harbour—work towards completion of improvements scheme	17,987

Mr. Doney: What about the Albany Harbour? Can you give us the expenditure on that?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We may come to that. Other figures are as follows:—

	£
Swan River improvements	15,526
Roebourne Harbour facilities—Point Samson jetty	42,164
Water Supplies (towns)—	
Geraldton Water Supply—relaying gravitation main Wicherina to Geraldton and installation of further pumping machinery	2,949
Boring at Wicherina	4,424
Extension of reticulation to Wonthella tomato-growers	3,626
Narrogin Water Supply—	
Further improvements to mains	945

Goldfields Water Supply—

Further progress in renewing main conduit and steel and wood pipes	186,832
Proportion of cost of linking up Goldfields W.S. and Barbalin No. 1 District W.S.	20,000
Northam reticulation—improvements and additional reservoir	4,954
Coolgardie and Norseman extension	105,342
	<u>£317,128</u>

The laying of the extension to Norseman was completed during the year, and the total cost to the 30th June, 1937, was as under—

	£	s. d.
State Loan Funds	148,487	9 1
Commonwealth Funds	20,738	7 0
	<u>£169,225</u>	<u>16 1</u>

Work carried out in connection with water supplies in agricultural areas, drainage and irrigation involved the following expenditure—

	£
Harvey irrigation and drainage	28,685
Mayfields drain	4,548
Collie irrigation and drainage	10,267
Mardella drain	7,674
Other drainage works	15,431
	<u>£66,605</u>

Country lands tanks, etc—

	£
Barbalin No. 1 district water supply, linking up with goldfields water supply	42,713
Minor works, including tanks at Cleary Rocks (£3,202), Lake Margaret (£1,967), Mt. Collier (£1,448), New-carlbeon (£2,215)	29,115
	<u>£71,828</u>

The total cost of linking up the Barbalin No. 1 water district with the goldfields water supply to the 30th June, 1937, amounted to £65,633 10s. 1d. made up as follows:—

	£	s. d.
Charged to goldfields water supply Loan item	20,851	13 8
Charged to water supplies in agricultural areas Loan item	44,781	16 5
	<u>£65,633</u>	<u>10 1</u>

Water supplies—eastern and other gold-fields:

	£
Daveyhurst tank	2,573
Big Bell water supply	2,075
Reedy town water supply	2,025
Other smaller works	2,145
	<hr/> £8,818

Abattoirs—improvements and additions	1,911
Roads and bridges—continuation of road programme	125,822

Public buildings:

	£
New schools and quarters (including the new Perth Girls' school, £9,473)	25,904
Hospitals—additions	37,999
Police stations, gaols, courthouses, and quarters	3,470
Minor works	11,003
	<hr/> £78,376

The total cost of the new Perth Girls' School to the 30th June, 1937, amounted to £82,065 6s. 7d.

Mr. Doney: That is a great deal more than the estimate, is it not?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: There are always extras in these contracts, and they mount up.

Mr. Doney: It is a very expensive school. How many does it cater for?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Minister for Education will be able to tell you that. All that the Public Works Department does is to build the school. The estimated amount of revenue from all sources for the year 1936-37 was £341,250. The actual revenue received amounted to £366,189, showing a surplus of £24,939 on the estimate for the year. The estimated revenue for the year 1937-38 and the actual collections for 1936-37 are as follows:—

	Estimate. 1937-38,	Actual. 1936-37.
Public works	29,000	21,131
Town planning	65	63
Goldfields water supply	300,000	286,848
Other hydraulic undertakings	60,000	58,147
	<hr/> £389,065	<hr/> £366,189

This shows an increase for 1937-38 of £22,876 on the actual amount received last year. Those are some of the figures dealing with the works undertaken by the department and with the estimates of expenditure for the current year. The main activity of

the department has been in the expenditure of loan funds and in carrying out work for other departments. Much of the activity has been associated with the main roads scheme, but this does not come before Parliament except in the form of a report, which has been presented. As regards the revenue Estimates, I have given the information necessary for their consideration.

MR. DONEY (Narrogin) [5.47]: As might be expected in a year so dry relatively as the one through which we have just passed, the aspect of the Minister's activities that he has stressed most is that connected with water supplies. I wish to say a few words with respect to water problems along the Great Southern. I am not inferring that other parts of the State do not equally require mention, but members representing the parts that might be concerned will no doubt have something to say. In a relatively dry year such as we have just had, country water supplies would naturally be the most important branch of the Minister's work. From the figures given by him, I noticed that the Great Southern portion of the State can hardly be said to have been dealt with on a very generous scale, especially having regard to the absence of a water supply in places like Pingelly and Katanning. Narrogin is badly enough off, but by comparison with certain towns to the south and the north, its position is moderately satisfactory. The only expenditure in the Great Southern out of the many thousands mentioned by the Minister is a rather meagre £945. I admit that that expenditure has been in my own town, and for that I suppose I should be a little grateful. I am not complaining of the Minister's control of this side of his work. Quite the contrary. I think his personal attitude towards the question of country water supplies is at all times helpful and sympathetic. Whether the same can be said of the attitude of his colleagues is, of course, an entirely different question. The worst feature of the problem in the Great Southern is that it is recurrent every year. I do not know that the Minister is making any great effort to overcome the difficulty, particularly having regard to the miserably small expenditure of £945 for the whole of the Great Southern districts. I can hardly understand the smallness of that amount.

The parts I particularly wish to refer to are those localities from Brookton southwards to Tambellup, including certain portions of the agricultural areas lying to the eastward of the Great Southern line. In Narrogin this year—I am naturally more concerned about Narrogin than any other part—the rainfall has been 16 in. compared with 20 or 21 in. usually received by this time of the year. I dare say that a proportionate decrease has operated roughly over the whole of the country concerned. During recent months there has been a fairly extensive survey at fairly heavy expenditure in respect of a proposed scheme to bring water from the Wellington dam near Collie, or if not from the Wellington dam, from some other spot in the hills where maybe water can be secured at probably a cheaper cost. In answer to a question by the member for Katanning (Mr. Watts) a day or two ago the Minister said that the work had not yet proceeded far enough to allow him to give any definite information. The answer indicates the terms in which the question was couched. On that scheme I wish to ask the Minister some more specific questions, and possibly the Minister might be able to give me a little satisfaction in regard to them. I would like to know what is the cost of the survey to date, how far is the survey from completion, and what has the Minister learnt so far as to the feasibility of the scheme? The latter question, of course, would embody the engineering practicability and also the possible cost of the scheme.

Mr. Cross: You ought to give notice of those questions.

Mr. DONEY: I will leave that to the hon. member. I wish to know also whether the source from which the water is to be procured has been determined. I think that much ought to be known from the work done so far. I should like to know what towns and agricultural areas are intended to be included in the scheme. I hope the Minister has made a note of those questions and will give what answers he can at a later stage. I am deeply concerned about the position at Narrogin this year. I do not wish it to be thought that, in dealing with a matter of this kind, I am parochial. I do not consider I am, because the information and the data would no doubt apply to quite a number of other towns and districts in the State. The Min-

ister will appreciate that the discrepancy of 4 in. in the rainfall will be enough to make all the difference between a sufficiency of water and a very serious shortage. This year we have about 40,000,000 gallons. To be on the safe side we need 60,000,000 to 65,000,000 gallons. Members can therefore judge from a comparison of the two falls what the position of Narrogin is. I hope the Minister will be able to tell me during the debate exactly how the hydraulic engineer intends to treat Narrogin this year. There will, of course, be restrictions; I quite understand that. Restrictions are inevitable in the circumstances, but the Minister will appreciate that it is possible to apply such restrictions helpfully rather than harshly. He can apply them equally and evenly, or he can apply them unequally and unevenly. It has been suggested that this year, not only in Narrogin but in towns similarly situated, the use of hoses will not be permitted. I hope that information is not correct. If there is any such intention, I would like to suggest, as regards Narrogin at any rate, that the use of hoses should be permitted on, say, one day in each week. In places like Narrogin the Minister might agree to allow the use of hoses in one-half of the town, say, on Saturdays, and in the other half on Sundays. No more water would be used under that arrangement, which I suggest only to obviate the very laborious system of carrying water around by means of buckets. I am not suggesting the limited use every day of hoses as, I believe, has been proposed. I know it would be practically impossible to police such a regulation. Some time ago the departmental officials were inclined to dispute their responsibility in the matter of the water supply for Narrogin and towns similarly situated. The method of supplying water to the town was a Government idea and was carried out by the Government, and therefore the Government cannot escape responsibility for seeing that we have a sensible supply. I should like to explain, too, that ample water falls on the catchment in Narrogin every year, if only it could be impounded, and that the responsibility naturally devolves upon the engineers of the department to ensure that an adequate quantity is impounded every year. I admit that this is unusually difficult at Narrogin, the catchment there being particularly porous, but that does not cancel the Minister's responsibility. Some time ago I suggested

that a better supply would accrue to Narrogin if portion of the catchment area were bitumenised. It is conceded by the Minister's department, I think, but at any rate by the hydraulic engineers, that a bitumenised surface would shed over most of the catchment something like ten times as much water as would the untreated surface.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: How much an acre would it cost?

Mr. DONEY. Plainly, to treat the surface with bitumen would be very costly indeed. I may state that treated with bitumen or with some other similarly impenetrable substance, the surface of about one-tenth of the catchment would, on the figures I have already given, double the water supply of Narrogin, and similarly, of course, if one-twentieth of the catchment were so treated, we would have an increase of about 50 per cent., an increase that would be ample. The Minister may recall that about three years ago a quarter of an acre was so treated and the experiment was satisfactory. I believe, however, that the cost was so prohibitive that if it was proportionately applied to the 50 acres, the extension of the work would be out of the question. The point is, however, that I am not yet satisfied that quite as much investigation in respect of treating the surface with bitumen has been made by officers of the department. It may be that if fuller investigation were made, say in the Eastern States, the United States, or in some of the South American countries where climatic conditions are more or less similar to ours, we might find that catchment surfaces could be treated at far less cost than that involved in covering the quarter of an acre at the Narrogin catchment to which I have referred. Reverting to the matter of the £945 expenditure, good work has been done in clearing the surface catchment of fallen trees, scrub and so forth. But of course, on account of the low rainfall experienced last season, the value of the work carried out was minimised to a large extent. That is all I need to say at this juncture in the matter of country water supplies. With regard to the scheme that is now being investigated, when the report is submitted, most or all of the towns in the Great Southern will be quite prepared to treat it upon its merits. I am not, however, particularly hopeful of the result, as I rather fear that the small number of people who would have to carry

the burden will find that task beyond their financial capacity.

The CHAIRMAN: Before the discussion proceeds any further, I should like to inform members that the question of country water supplies can only be debated under the heading of "Hydraulic Undertakings." I refrained from pulling up the member for Williams-Narrogin when discussing water supplies, but I mention it now so that members will not fall into the same error. The subject can be debated under Division 58 which is not yet before the Committee.

MR. CROSS (Canning) [6.5]: I desire, probably for the first time, to express my appreciation to the Minister for having agreed to construct the new Canning Bridge. There is no doubt about it that that bridge will be a considerable improvement and will be appreciated by all who have occasion to use it, particularly as its construction will remove the dangerous bend that exists at the eastern end of the old bridge. It is probably more by good luck than anything else that there have not been a series of accidents in that vicinity. I had intended referring to water supplies.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member will have an opportunity later on to do so.

Mr. CROSS: There is one matter which I think comes under this heading and it is in connection with the Canning Road. The same thing would apply even on a worse scale to the Albany Road from Victoria Park to Cannington. I am going to suggest to the Minister that he should consider the advisability of taking steps to widen the Albany-road commencing from the Welshpool turn-off and on to Nicholson-road, Cannington. That road is much too narrow now for the traffic that passes over it. It is really a dangerous road and I have been informed by a number of property owners along that thoroughfare that if the Government desires to resume a few feet of land for the purpose of widening the road, they will be only too willing to give it free of cost. I hope serious consideration will be given to my suggestion because we all know that the Albany-road through Victoria Park and Cannington is the main outlet to the South-Western part of the State. Actually the road is three or four feet too narrow, and a number of accidents have happened because of that narrowness. Whilst on this subject,

I should also like the Minister to take up the question of providing some sort of footway along this main road, particularly between the eastern end of Victoria Park and Cannington. Because of the absence of a footpath pedestrians are compelled to walk on the edge of the road and especially at night time they incur the risk of meeting with an accident. I am not asking that anything elaborate should be done, but the Minister might well take up this question also with the local authority. Along the Canning-road, running through South Perth, a footpath is being constructed by the road board, but there are still parts of that road where the conditions are similar to those I have just described along the Albany-road. Seeing that I am not at this stage permitted to discuss water supplies, I shall leave that subject until later.

MRS. CARDELL-OLIVER (Subiaco) [6.8]: I desire to draw the Minister's attention to the need for certain drainage work—

The **CHAIRMAN**: The hon. member will be able to deal with that under the heading of Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage. The Minister will introduce those Estimates later on.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: May I not refer to the need for laying down water pipes in the school ground?

The **CHAIRMAN**: Yes, anything dealing with school buildings or construction.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: At the Bagot-road school the surface drain traverses the ground that has already been gravelled. The drain carries all the flood water from the infants' school and the senior school and the surface water from the gravel. The drain was formerly connected with the Rokeby-road drain. The Town Engineer states that the connecting box drain which is built of wood was put down 30 years ago. This drain collapsed several years ago because of neglect, and since the present headmaster has been at that school, a period of about 18 months, the drain has not functioned. The headmaster has on several occasions requested that attention be given to the defect but nothing has been done. A supervisor from the Public Works Department inspected the lay-out and said that repairs would be put in hand. That was about two years ago, but up to date nothing has been done. There is no outlet at all for surface waters. It is really very unpleasant for the

children in the school, because the water becomes stagnant and consequently offensive. The children have to walk through it in places and naturally that is very bad for their health. Further, in one part of the playground the drainage is so defective that after heavy rains quite a lake of water remains there. To show the extent and depth of it, some time ago someone placed a boat on that lake. I hope the Minister will be able to give attention to the matter. I should also like the Minister to give attention to a request that pipes should be carried into the school grounds to provide water for the flower garden there. This garden was made by the children themselves, with the assistance of course of the Parents and Citizens Association, and this body would be prepared to pay for the cost of the pipes if the department would provide the labour. Really this was actually set out some time ago, but nothing has been done and the flowers in the garden are withering. I should also like to refer to Jolimont where there is a huge swamp of the existence of which I have no doubt the Minister is well aware. The surroundings are particularly unhealthy in the summer time and the locality provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes. The upper part of the swamp is most objectionable to those who are residing in the vicinity. The district is peopled mostly by relief workers and other workers in receipt of a small wage. Many have children and it can be imagined that some of those children who are of parents earning small wages, are under-nourished, and consequently are not able to resist disease as healthier and stronger children would be able to do. So it is imperative that something should be done in the way of cleaning up this swamp.

The **CHAIRMAN**: That matter had better be dealt with when the Drainage Estimates are being considered.

Mrs. CARDELL-OLIVER: Very well, I shall refer to it again later on. I would stress upon the Minister the importance of arranging to have the pipes connected with the school flower garden seeing that the Parents and Citizens' Association has agreed to pay the cost of the pipes.

MR. NORTH (Claremont) [6.13]: I should like the Minister when he replies to inform the House whether anything is likely to be done with regard to the provision of new departmental buildings. Of course this

may be a matter for discussion on the Loan Estimates, but as there has been such a lot written in the Press lately about the need for new Government offices, the House might be told what steps are being taken to provide them. Another matter about which I should like to hear something from the Minister is in respect to Parliament House. Is it the intention of the Government to take steps in the near future to complete the building? The delay in completing the building has been so long that we find it is almost falling to pieces. It is now nearly 40 years since it was first built and those who care to walk along the verandahs imagine sometimes that they are amongst the ruins of Pompeii.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

[Mr. Sleeman took the Chair.]

Mr. NORTH: Before the tea adjournment I was suggesting the making of repairs to this building. I am aware that a few years ago good work was done in repairing leaks and so forth, but there is still room for improvement in the outside verandahs. That verandah which faces Harvest-terrace is not in a satisfactory condition at all. I am not trying to be critical. I feel that the continual fault-finding to which one is reduced when sitting in Opposition becomes monotonous.

Mr. Marshall: It is more trying when you sit over here and cannot find fault though you want to!

Mr. NORTH: I could well occupy a few minutes in drawing attention to the wonderful changes that the past 12 years have brought about in connection with public works and roads, but it is our duty to try to show the Government little things they may have missed in their circumspect investigation of the condition of public works and repairs to public buildings. I urge that these matters should be attended to because, apart from the fact that half-finished buildings here do not compare to the buildings erected by the Federal Government—for excellent reasons known to Ministers and to the House, reasons which I trust will lead to the appointment of an Interstate Commission to improve the financial relations between the Commonwealth and the States—there is the business aspect to be considered. A comparison of this building with the large edifices on St. George's-terrace gives no ground for satisfaction. Any busi-

ness man or professional man likes to see his affairs conducted in such a manner as makes a good impression. Surely we here, governing this State, should have more thought of our main building than to leave it as it is. If at present the Government cannot have the building completed, they might at least divert some of the skilled workers now on sustenance to putting Parliament House in a decent state of repair, with the object of eventually completing the main plan. South Australia is completing its House of Parliament, and the Federal Parliament has a good building at Canberra. We would add to the general respect for this institution if its housing were completed. The day is coming when we shall have to take steps to influence public opinion in favour of our parliamentary institution. As compared with the situation of 12 or 15 years ago, there is now a general lack of interest in public affairs; and this may be due partly to the continual propaganda against Parliament. But the public see this dear old building with bits of iron sticking out of the bricks and looking like gaping teeth. That creates a poor impression. The outside public, unlike Ministers, believe that this place is rolling in money, that one has only to make a few remarks in this Chamber and whatever is wanted is done, that there are tens of thousands of sovereigns on the Table of the House. It is painful to compare this building as it is in 1937 with edifices in St. George's Terrace—mostly insurance or financial offices, I admit; but still the whole impression is bad. If it could be urged that the improvement of Parliament House and its completion would take bread out of some man's mouth, or milk out of some child's mouth, I would not offer the suggestion. But it is not so. Under the economic system, it is argued, work produces the very things the people lack. The time has arrived when we should consider whether the maintenance and completion of this Chamber is not of more importance than a few miles of road in some outback place. For a few years we should have a lesser mileage of road construction, thereby being enabled to divert from that work skilled men who would like to be back in their old trades again. So we could do a good job for the State. I am not bringing this matter forward to delay Government business for a little while, or merely for the sake of bringing it forward. The condition of this build-

ing was brought forcibly to my notice in this way. Recently I had the honour to entertain a few ladies from Claremont to afternoon tea, and I showed them over this very building which houses the Parliament of Western Australia. The party consisted of the teacher of a large school and a few of her pupils. In order to obey the rules it was necessary for me to conduct the ladies over the stone verandah into the dining room, and they nearly fell over where the tiles have erupted and discoloured loose sand. During the cup of tea which followed I had recourse to showing them the photographs of hon. members displayed around the dining room, thinking these would evoke admiration. However, the only comment was, "Have their fingerprints been taken?" That I thought very harsh; but undoubtedly the visitors were shocked to see that what should be the chief building in the capital city was in such a deplorable condition. Leaving that subject, I wish to make a few remarks on town planning, which also comes under this Vote. I should like the Minister to state how it comes about that the Town Planning Commissioner gets into such hot water and into so many quarrels with local authorities. Is it that the town planning scheme is on wrong lines, or that the Commissioner's ideas are ahead of the times? Wherever he goes he seems to get into quarrels and hots, and people disagree with his suggestions. Should we amend the powers or change the policy of that officer? At Fremantle the other day there was an attempt to put a new street through, but the scheme was strongly opposed by the officer, who probably knows what he is doing. Still, there must be some reason why on so many occasions the local authorities are hostile to the views he expresses and to the desires he wishes to attain. Perhaps the Minister will give us some enlightenment on that subject.

Mr. Cross: You may expect some local authorities to get excited when they are told to do something decent!

Mr. NORTH: I am speaking for two model suburbs, from which there are not many complaints.

Mr. Cross: But they can make their mistakes, too.

Mr. NORTH: The local authorities and the Town Planning Commissioner seem to be at cross-purposes so very often. I am yearning for the day when I can go about and praise the wonderful improvements made throughout the State generally. I

realise that it is marvellous to see the improvement in buildings in the city area, and we should see to it that we ourselves effect improvements that are so essential.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [7.41]: In the few remarks I wish to make on this Vote, I shall not indicate a desire for much increased expenditure, but rather will I lodge an appeal on behalf of the more remote centres of the State for a larger share in connection with public expenditure on works and buildings generally. During the last few years I have noticed that most of the public buildings in and around the metropolitan area have received close attention from the standpoint of general repairs, painting, and so on. Great activity has been displayed along those lines, but I am sorry to say that outside the metropolitan-suburban area, public buildings and works are neglected almost to the stage of collapse before any effort is made to place them in even a semblance of repair.

The Minister for Railways: You have not been to Coolgardie lately?

Mr. MARSHALL: No, but Coolgardie is more or less on the same plane as the city.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Did you not see Coolgardie when you accepted an invitation recently to go to Kalgoorlie?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, but merely when passing through.

Mr. Lambert: And Coolgardie is grateful for that!

Mr. MARSHALL: Like the metropolitan area, those centres that have the advantage of Ministerial representation can secure attention, but by far the greater number of outer districts have not that advantage. I should say that a good Minister or a good administrator would see to it that there was no preferential treatment accorded any particular centre with regard to public works and buildings. Rather would he see that each claim for expenditure was dealt with on its merits. He would not lend himself to a course of action that would imply that he was influenced by the numerical strength of electorates. Taking the buildings as a whole in the Murchison district, they are in the main in a state of disrepair and certainly require brightening up. For a long time I have endeavoured to secure the erection of a decent fence around Government pro-

perty at Wiluna. The members of the road board there go out of their way to make every individual citizen conform to the bylaws and regulations with regard to buildings and fencing. Even the poor old worker who is hard-pressed to raise sufficient money with which to keep his home intact has to provide a fence around his property and, in fact, has to cross every "t" and dot every "i" at the dictation of the board, and does not growl about it. Notwithstanding that, in the heart of the township and in the midst of up-to-date buildings, shops and so forth, we have the deplorable spectacle of an old fence that has stood for 30-odd years, constructed of bush timber and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. gauge round iron instead of fencing wire—and the road board can do nothing about it. Time and again I have asked the Minister to spend a few pounds upon the erection of a decent fence to bring the Government property into harmony with the rest of the township, which is rapidly becoming one of the finest inland towns in the State. The Government is at fault in this instance, as the road board has no authority, and so things must remain as they are. It is a positive disgrace to the town. Important buildings like the police court, the registrar's office and the post office present a deplorable spectacle of absolute neglect. That condition applies, practically speaking, to almost all the townships in the Murchison electorate. Absolute carelessness and neglect is apparent in connection with every public building. Then, again, I have to complain about the type of building that is being erected in outer centres by the Education Department. I do not refer to Kalgoorlie or Coolgardie but, for instance, I take positive exception to the type of building erected in Wiluna.

Mr. Styants: But Wiluna will be extinct in 10 years' time!

Mr. MARSHALL: Now we have another member giving us his ideas.

Mr. Thorn: He is a pessimistic sort of individual.

Mr. MARSHALL: I heard that sort of prophecy about Kalgoorlie 20 years ago, and yet the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Styants) has slipped into Parliament on the strength of the population still there. His remark just shows the type of vision and foresight he possesses. To get back to the complaint I was making against the Education Department and the type of school

building that is being erected, I understand that they are running up what is described as the "standard type." It is most unattractive. It might be improved if polished jarrah were used, but the timber is put up in the rough and is as ugly and objectionable to look at as one could possibly conceive. There is no semblance of architectural beauty about the type of building, and, as I have often said before, it reminds me of the opium dens. They are squibby-looking unattractive buildings, whereas we should look to the Government to set an example in this respect.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Where did you get your experience of opium dens? Surely not here?

Mr. MARSHALL: Unlike the hon. member, I have travelled a little and have had experience in Asia and other parts of the world.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You keep away from those places.

Mr. MARSHALL: I have seen quite a number of them. The school buildings I refer to are most unattractive, although they may be serviceable and up to date regarding the accommodation provided for the children. I particularly take exception to the type of building, the rough way in which the schools are thrown together and their unsightly appearance generally. The fittings, furniture and appointments are in a deplorable condition, but I understand that applies to most of the schools, particularly those in the more remote parts of the State.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [7.50]: I desire to say a few words about the Main Roads Department. A splendid change has been taking place in connection with the construction of roads throughout Western Australia, including the main road running to the Murchison. That must be gratifying to all concerned. One disability, however, which is experienced in the outer suburban and country town areas is that while the roads are excellently made, as a rule there is no footpath, and that constitutes a real danger. In most of these places the lighting is poor and the absence of footpaths makes for considerable danger. In the construction of roads, I should like to see provision made for the cost of a footpath, perhaps even only a narrow footpath, which would do much to minimise the danger to pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Cross: I drew attention to that before tea.

Mr. SAMPSON: Even that does not prove it is wrong.

The Minister for Mines: It is the job of the local authorities to make footpaths.

Mr. SAMPSON: It might be possible to secure collaboration.

The Minister for Mines: If you shake up the Gosnells or the Darling Range Road Boards, you will get footpaths.

Mr. SAMPSON: We hope to have a road up there one of these days, but I am not discussing anything so near home at the moment. At present people are forced to walk on the roads to which I have referred. It is impossible to walk on the side because it is rough and often there is an open drain, so that the work I have suggested might well be done. Bitumen roads, of course, are very good and an immeasurable improvement on what we have had in the past. Some day we will have concrete roads, but that is so far in the future that there is probably no justification for my referring to it. But the bitumen black-surfaced road is very difficult to drive on if it is raining and particularly so at night. However, we have not reached the stage where we can enjoy concrete roads where motor lights would be reflected. That time will come, but it will be a long time hence. In the bigger centres of the world, particularly across Canada and the United States, concrete roads are being constructed and the bitumenised roads are regarded as out of date. However, we have much to be thankful for. The Main Roads Department is doing splendid work and throughout Australia there has been a revolution in road construction.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (York) [7.54]: I am not going to complain to any great extent about the belated repairs to public buildings because I know that the Government can do only that for which money can be found. Nevertheless, some of the public buildings should have more attention. The member for Claremont drew attention to the condition of this House. A good deal of money was spent on it, but it needs more attention. Anyone who was here in the winter months would have seen the floors covered with water. The water came in as though the roof were a sieve. The building is too valuable for us to allow it to get into such a condition. If something

is not done to the roof pretty soon, the depreciation will be beyond remedy.

Mr. Marshall: You say that water came into the building through the roof?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes.

Mr. Marshall: That is nothing; I have seen stones come into the building through the window.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: The place was in a shocking condition in the winter. Money has been spent on the building, but it has been merely a question of patching it up. I am reminded of the man who visited an Irishman and said to him, "Paddy why do you not get your roof put in order?" To which the Irishman replied, "It is too wet now and there is no need for it in the fine weather." That seems to be applicable to this building, but there should be something done. The front verandah is a disgrace. When I was at Geraldton recently the Mayor asked me to accompany him to look at some of their public works. He said that the Country Party members were always complaining about work not being done for them and the Government supporters getting work done in their districts. I hope the Minister for Works will visit the school to which the Mayor took me and see the condition it is in. The fence has been pulled down. There are about 10 chains of fencing required. Surely our schools should set an example to the young people. It is there that they should start to learn to be tidy, but it is impossible to be tidy at that school. I know that the Premier cannot be expected to chase after these things because he is an extremely busy man, but something should be done. I was also shown the school at Bluff Point. If the Minister will get hold of the file, he will realise what a disgrace those buildings are.

The Minister for Works: Both are receiving attention.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Well, something should be done. It will cost twice as much to repair them next year. I know there is a limit to the amount of work the Government can do.

Mr. Cross: There is a lot of competition.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: We were told that all we had to do was to change the Government and everything would be all right, but things are going on just the same. A lot of schools in the Canning electorate

can wait for a long while for improvements.

Mr. Cross: Oh no, I want a lot of work done.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: They are so wealthy there that they can afford to build schools for the Government and provide money free of interest.

The Minister for Railways: They can afford to ride in motor cars there.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Yes, they will not even use the trams, and now they want trolley buses; another luxury!

Mr. Marshall: And a bridge across the Narrows.

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: As much as possible should be spent in repairing those buildings which demand urgent attention.

MR. LAMBERT (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [7.59]: I have little to say in connection with this vote, but I want to draw attention to the fact that in the city there is one thing which remains, while the other grows. This is becoming a city of arcades and a city of hovels. While the arcades are growing, the hovels are remaining. Attention to this matter is part of our responsibility. We have that hovel at the end of St. George's-terrace which is called the Barracks. It is a monument of prehistoric days and it is an absolute hovel. To-day it is impossible to conduct business in hovels of that description. It is not suitable for the work being performed in it, nor is it suitable for the people that are there, the Under Secretary, and the sub-secretary, and the deputy secretary, all with their typists closeted in 12 x 12 rooms. Sometimes it is possible to find them, but at other times it is impossible. The time has long gone by when that place should be rooted out, lock, stock and barrel. It is a disgrace to the city's architecture. It can never lend itself to efficiency with the countless number of rabbit-warrens in it.

The Minister for Railways: It was the best decorated building in the city at Coronation time.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am not concerned about the Coronation decorations, but I am definitely concerned about the countless years that these old Barracks stabled the high officials of the Colony. Even to-day the wretched old place is utilised for some of the really important business of the State. If the Government would but tear down the whole ruin and erect an up-to-date building on hygienic businesslike lines, more money

would be saved in administration than would be required for interest on the capital cost of the new building.

Mr. Needham: Would you destroy that historic landmark?

Mr. LAMBERT: The only historic landmark in this country that I would not destroy is the hon. member himself. I deplore the incessant chatter I have heard year in and year out, and the pious promises of Ministers that I have heard, Ministers possessing little or no vision, who allow a building of that sort to remain as it has remained ever since this State was a Colony. It is a place with a typist at work in one room, with somebody serving tea in another room, and with an Under Secretary sitting in his own room waiting to be served with morning tea; but we shall never have efficiency in the Public Service until we have a building capable of accommodating our Public Service. Parliament itself should direct the Government to pull down that loathsome building housing the Public Works Department, and tell them to build another structure more in keeping with modern ideas and with the conduct of business in this country.

The Minister for Mines: Two or three other Government offices should come down long before that one.

Mr. LAMBERT: I have not finished yet. Please do not think my criticism is going to be merely a sort of benevolent reference to the old military fort. I hope that by the very force of Parliament itself we shall be able to get a Minister with sufficient vision to see that the time has long gone by when this obsolete, unthinkable structure should be torn down and a building erected in its place more in keeping with present-day requirements.

Mr. Cross: Ministers have the vision, but not the money.

Mr. LAMBERT: I have heard that a hundred times, and it usually comes from a man who takes No. 12 in boots and No. 1 in hats. That sort of thing never gets us anywhere. What makes a country great is the joint effort of the pioneers who went out to almost impassable portions of the State, pioneering when many of us were taking milk and other ingredients of a soft diet.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: Those pioneers would turn in their graves if they knew it was proposed to demolish that building.

Mr. LAMBERT: Well, let us have it pulled down so that the hon. member shall not turn in his grave. The central building

that houses the Minister for Mines and his staff and one or two other departments is another that should have been demolished long ago. It is unsuitable, out of date, unworthy of the 30-year agreement with the Commonwealth Government, and an absolute disgrace as a public building. I visualise the time when, if the Government would tear down that building and make a shopping block of it on the ground floor, erecting accommodation for the whole of our administrative offices in five or six upper storeys, the ground floor would pay the interest upon the outlay. Yet there it stands, year in and year out, for public officers working each in his own little 12 x 12 dug-out, and we cannot get the Government, or a Minister, or even Parliament to express the opinion that these hovels of bygone days should be torn down.

Mr. Needham: You are in a tearing mood to-night.

Mr. LAMBERT: Under the soothing inspiration of the member for Forest (Miss Holman) I should like to add my tribute to the necessity for making improvements and additions to Parliament House. The only additions made since I have been here—and I had virtually to live in one of them for three years as secretary to the then Leader of the Opposition—is a small skillion that accommodates Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition. In winter in that building, probably on account of the material used and its structural disadvantages, the temperature falls below zero, while in summer it rises to boiling point. That is the idea of the Works Department when making additions to this building. We would never miss £10,000 or £20,000 a year to provide proper accommodation. We have lady members supplied with miserable accommodation in a ramshackle building at the rear of the House consisting of galvanised iron and papier-maché. As to accommodation where members might entertain or interview constituents and other visitors, there is none at all. If a constituent calls to interview a member he has to sit—

Mr. Marshall: On the lawn.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, or on a stool outside the Chamber. There is no other accommodation. If Ministers are not prepared to take the initiative, Parliament should give a clear direction for the provision of money that reasonable accommo-

dation might be made available to enable members to carry out their public duties under proper conditions. In conclusion, I express regret at the termination of the long and honourable career of Mr. Munt as Under Secretary for Works.

MR. McLARTY (Murray-Wellington) [8.12]: I wish to refer particularly to the condition of school grounds in my district.

Mr. Marshall: You are well provided down your way.

Mr. McLARTY: It appears to be hopeless to go to the Education Department to get money for the purpose. My district has a heavy rainfall, and some of the school grounds in winter are nothing less than swamps. A photograph was recently published in the "Western Mail" showing a child standing in the Harvey school ground in water almost up to his knees. Other schoolgrounds are in much the same state. The people have been asking for a long time that money be provided to enable improvements to be effected, but nothing has been done. Apparently the matter rests with the Public Works Department. Officials are sent to the district to make reports and promises are made, but we get no further. The Government would be justified in spending money to improve those grounds before indulging in expenditure in many other directions. Regarding the suggestion that money should be made available for improving the accommodation at Parliament House, the House Committee—I am a member of it—has suggested to the Premier that improvements should be made. Probably the reason why Parliament House has not been completed is that a certain amount of criticism might be levelled against putting such work in hand. The building has been standing for 33 or 34 years, and members will agree that the present accommodation is inadequate. If a visitor comes to see a member, particularly when the House is sitting, it is difficult to find any privacy. The State Brickworks are making more bricks than are being sold, and it is surely bad business to allow that utility to work only half-time or possibly to close down. If the State has the bricks to spare—as it has—surely it would be a good proposition to complete some of the buildings so urgently needed. I hope that in the near future a start will be made to complete Parliament

House. The whole of the work need not be done in one year, but a sum of money could be provided each year until the building was completed. I hope that my remarks regarding school grounds will not fall on deaf ears. The material is handy, and to improve those grounds would not be a costly job. When children get wet-footed in the morning and have to remain in the classrooms with wet feet all day, only to get wet again when they go out, the parents have just cause for complaint.

MR. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [8.17]: I regret that no item appears on the Estimates for the Main Roads Department. This is a large department under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Works. Recently a report was tabled indicating an expenditure for the year of nearly £750,000. Since I have been a member, Parliament has not had an opportunity to know what the department proposed to do in the current year. A report is submitted on what has been done, but members are not given an opportunity to discuss the programme or to indicate where works should be carried out. When Mr. Lindsay was Minister for Works, Mr. McCallum was keen that an item should be placed on the works estimates so that members might be able to discuss the actions and activities of the Main Roads Board. More money is spent on roads than on public works and buildings. I suggest that when the Estimates are being prepared next year an item should be included to enable members fully to discuss the activities and policy of the board. This large and growing department will next year receive an additional £120,000 from the Commonwealth and will be spending nearly £700,000, and members should at least have an opportunity to express an opinion on the matter. The Minister should submit plans of the proposals for the year so that members might review them and offer suggestions.

Mr. Cross: Remarkably good work is being done by the board.

Mr. HEGNEY: I am not questioning the work it is doing. I admit it is doing good work in my electorate as well as in that of the member for Canning and other parts of the State. The Minister should give consideration to this matter of placing an item on the Estimates so that members may discuss it. There is one building which should be reconditioned and brought up to date. I refer

to the office of the Traffic Department, through which a great deal of revenue comes into the Treasury. Anyone who has to visit the traffic office at the time when licenses are renewed or taken out will know the congestion that exists there. I was one of a queue waiting to renew my car license recently, and noticed not only the condition of the building itself but the scarcity of the necessary equipment to deal with the public. There is one table at which people have to sign their names, etc., and one pen. No adequate facilities are provided for the many customers who have to pass through that office. It would not require much money to recondition the building and bring it up to date, so that the officers there could handle better the large volume of business that comes before them. There is room for considerable improvement in the organisation with respect both to the building and the convenience inside it. I also wish to refer to the Bayswater school ground, which is wholly inadequate in area for the number of children attending that school. A proposal to cope with the situation has been before the architectural division of the Public Works Department, namely, for demolishing the hill and filling in some of the land on the other side, land required by the Education Department either for recreation purposes or an infants' school site. All the Ministers for Education with whom I have come in contact since the member for Nedlands filled that office, such as the present Premier, the present Minister for Works, and now the Minister for Agriculture and Education, as well as the Town Planning Commissioner and the Director of Education, have visited the school and seen the necessity for something being done there. The Chief Architect, Mr. Clare, has submitted a report. The present Minister for Education has certainly made available a sum of money, but it is inadequate for the purpose. Evidently reliance has been placed upon the local authority to do something. Unfortunately for the children the local authority is in an impecunious position. It was recently dissolved and is now being reconstituted. No revenue can be derived from that source for the improvement of the school grounds. There are now 500 children in attendance there. The ground is on a hill. No foresight was used when the grounds were laid out, and it is high time some improvement was effected. Money is being made available for road boards in the country for the construction

of roads and bridges, etc. Here is a public untility of the first importance. The Government could not spend money better than in providing the labour and material for the improvement of these school grounds. I hope I shall not have to refer to this matter again. I am becoming weary of asking Ministers to look at the grounds, and of bringing the matter before the officials. It is very difficult to get anything done. Although I agree that the completion of Parliament House is of importance, and should be done if revenue is available, I contend there are many other matters of greater importance that should be attended to first. Some members may be concerned about meeting their friends on the lawn, but they can meet them elsewhere. Many other things require to be done with the money that is available, and until they are attended to there is no need to think about completing this building.

MR. SEWARD (Pingelly) [8.25]: I had intended, after hearing the remarks of the Minister, to ask for further information regarding water supplies. In view of your ruling, Mr. Chairman, my remarks under that heading must come at a later stage. I support the remarks of previous speakers concerning the type of building erected for many of our schools. The department has a type of structure that is apparently erected in any part of the State regardless of the weather conditions. In a State like this the climate varies considerably in different parts. What may be quite suitable as a building in one part of the State is unsuitable in another. Only recently I made application for the erection of a shelter shed at a school in the southern portion of the State. A very correct reply was given that whilst money was required for school buildings, none was available for shelter sheds. I then asked that a verandah should be attached to the existing building. The reply given was that that particular type of school did not carry a verandah. That may be all right in Geraldton and other dry areas. It is not all right in the Great Southern and the South-West where the conditions are wet. At the centre of which I am speaking the conditions during winter are generally abnormally wet. The unfortunate children have to huddle together in such slender shelter as the building affords, and subsequently carry

mud and dirt into the school building. Very often they get very wet before going into school. This is very hard upon both the children and the teachers. The children certainly have wet feet all day long. The department might allow a little latitude in providing a type of building more suitable to the particular conditions appertaining to the district concerned. It is very pitiful to see youngsters getting wet in this way. They have only a small place in which to hang their coats, and there they have to huddle together in the wet weather. Members have commented upon the departmental offices in the city. The time is long past for taking this matter in hand. It must be a great inconvenience to Ministers to have the offices scattered about the city. It also means that members have to traverse most of the city when going from one department to another. This matter should have been taken in hand long since, and a central block of buildings erected. I do not agree with the position for such buildings as has been mentioned in the Press—whether authoritatively or not—in the vicinity of Government House. It is quite practicable to erect them where the Public Works Department is now housed. By excavating there, it would be possible to erect well-lighted buildings, with a flat roof, and all the Government departments, with the exception of the laboratory of the Agricultural Department, could be accommodated there. It has been mentioned here to-night that there is objection on sentimental grounds to the removal of the buildings now on that site.

The Minister for Agriculture: I would give the office of my department to the Historical Society at any time!

Mr. SEWARD: I would like to see the Minister housed in a suitable building. That applies also to other departments. I agree with the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) in his comments upon the waste of time of employees that occurs in the Public Works Department. I frequently go there, and I consider that with up-to-date buildings a reduction of between 10 and 15 per cent. could be made in the staff. No matter when one goes there, one sees clerks meandering about with papers from one room to another. The place is inconvenient, never having been intended for its present purpose. If that position is not available, I am perfectly certain that by the sale of allotments held by the various departments

in the city sufficient money could be obtained for the erection of up-to-date accommodation for Ministers and their departments. That would be a great convenience to Ministers themselves, for with conveniently situated offices they could be attending to their departmental duties when their presence was not required in this Chamber. Those are the only matters I wish to mention now. On the water question I shall ask for information later.

MR. STYANTS (Kalgoorlie) [8.33]: I desire to refer to two matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Works. Let me disabuse the mind of the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) as to everything being satisfactory in connection with school buildings and fences in the Kalgoorlie district. Two or three months ago a highly distinguished gentleman passed through from the Eastern States, on his way to attend the Educational Conference held in Perth about that time. After being shown over the Golden Mile and inspecting the surroundings of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, he was asked his opinion, and he said that he had seen the richest mile of country in the world and the poorest schools he had ever encountered in his life. While criticising the condition of some school buildings, however, I wish to extend to the Minister the appreciation of the pupils and staff, and of the parents of pupils, for the renovations made during the last 18 months at the Goldfields High School. On reference to the file I found that at that time practically no renovations at any time had taken place at the Kalgoorlie High School for 21 years. The department has now put the building in reasonably good order. It has been renovated both inside and outside. The original picket fence surrounding the school was being practically blown away by high winds. I wish to express approval of the fencing material now being used for goldfields schools, which is much more suitable than the old jarrah type that was subject to the ravages of white ants and dry rot in that climate. The fence now put up on the Boulder Block side of the Kalgoorlie High School consists of cyclone wire and of posts of reinforced concrete, representing a lifetime job. The fencing around the Kalgoorlie Central School, which is the main State school on the goldfields, was put up when the school was originally built. I understand from the Public Works Department that tenders are being called for the

erection of a new fence. We shall be highly pleased to have a new fence, because the present one is a disgrace and an eyesore. A matter which I brought up under these Estimates last session was the providing of a reasonably cool supply of drinking water for the infants of the Kalgoorlie school. Only 18 months ago it was a difficult matter to obtain even water-bags for the Kalgoorlie school. However, on representations being made to the Education Department we were able to secure large hanging water-bags for the senior pupils. These bags are not suitable for the use of infants. The drinking water provided at the school gets so hot during the summer months that one has the spectacle of children going along with mugs and pieces of clean linen, and when the water has been got out of the taps putting the wet linen over it and allowing it to cool off so that they may be able to drink it. That is a most undesirable state of affairs. The adult population adopts a much more efficient method of keeping drinks cool than that available to the children. I brought the matter up last year. Those who know the goldfields climate realise that in summer the heat of the sun raises the temperature of the earth to such a degree that in the middle of the day the water is almost too hot to wash one's hands in, let alone drink. Yet the school is carried on with practically no provision whatever for the children in respect of drinking water. There are drinking fountains, if one can apply such a designation to them; but the colour of the slush coming through with the water on some occasions renders it unsuitable for drinking by juveniles. I hope something will be done to improve conditions in this respect at the Central Kalgoorlie school. The old Kalgoorlie school has a crude method for cooling drinking water, but at least it compares favourably with the method obtaining at the central school. At the North Kalgoorlie school there is a tank into which the water is run, and there it has the shelter of a corrugated iron canopy. Thus it is a little cooler than water coming through the pipes, which has to be used by the children at the Kalgoorlie central school. There is one more matter I desire to touch on, and that is the condition of the road. The road is not that portion of the main road which is within my electorate, but the electors of my district have to use the road in coming from Southern Cross. Serious complaints are made as to the condition of that road. I had an

experience of it last winter, and found 45 miles of it in a deplorable state. I have been informed by the Main Roads Board that some thousands of pounds are to be spent on the road, but every time I go to Kalgoorlie I hear most adverse reports on the condition of the section between Woolgangie and Coolgardie.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You have a very good railway up there.

Mr. STYANTS: Yes, but it is not fast enough. That is the trouble. It takes longer now to get to Kalgoorlie than it took 25 years ago.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Change the Minister!

Mr. STYANTS: We want to change the method rather than the Minister. I hope that the points I have raised will receive consideration, particularly the supplying of cool drinking water for infants at the Kalgoorlie Central School.

MR. HILL (Albany) [8.40]: It was rather noticeable that when the Minister was referring to port expenditure, once more the name of Albany was conspicuous by its absence.

Mr. Cross: You have had a lot of work done there, and you have the best roads in the State in your district.

Mr. HILL: It is about time the Government realised there is a place called Albany in Western Australia, and, further than that, it would be well to take advantage of what Nature has provided rather than spend public money in the construction of harbours in unsuitable localities. Capital expenditure is the main item that affects port costs, and in this State the amount we have spent on our ports is out of all proportion to what it should be. In South Africa the Government spent £151,000,000 on the railways and £17,000,000 on the ports. In Western Australia we have spent £25,000,000 on our railways, and £66,750,000 on our ports. In South Africa the ratio is nine to one, but in this State it has been four to one. Fremantle, because of the big capital expenditure on the port, is the dearest in Australia, and I will give some figures in support of that statement. If the revenue collected from each port were made a direct charge on cargo, the average charge at the capital ports for 1936 would have been—

Melbourne—2s. 6d. per ton.
 Sydney—2s. 8d. per ton.
 Adelaide—3s. 8d. per ton.
 Fremantle—5s. per ton.

In South Australia for the financial year 1935-36 a profit was made of £142,000 at their ports, and there was a decrease in loan liabilities amounting to £37,000. In Western Australia, we increased our loan liability by £332,000, and made a loss of £17,000. In Melbourne, the total loan expenditure was just on £9,000,000, and so much has been paid off that the loan liability is now £4,377,000. In this State, the total loan expenditure on the port of Fremantle up to 1936 was £3,287,000, and the loan liability at that date was £3,412,000. The expenditure on ports in this State since 1924 and the net earnings for the financial year 1936-37 were as follows:—

	Expenditure.	Net earnings.
	£	£
Fremantle ..	1,182,257	225,757
Geraldton ..	847,531	1,289
Bunbury ..	263,748	896
Albany ..	1,259	1,798
Esperance ..	76,409	68

Thus Albany last year returned to the Treasury £540 more than has been spent on the port since 1924. I have applied to the Minister to carry out some work for the superphosphate establishment on the waterfront, but I am sorry to say that he adopted the attitude that the Government could not do something for Albany that could not be done for any other port. In Western Australia we are paying 2s. 6d. a ton more on account of super than we should, because none of our works is situated on a waterfront. Albany is the only port in the State where that would be possible. I hope the Minister will reconsider his decision and carry out the work I have suggested. At present, £13,000 of the vote for Albany remains unexpended. In view of what has been done in Melbourne, I think the work could be carried out at a cost of about £50,000. Had the farmers of the Great Southern district been able to draw their super supplies from Albany last year, the railways would have been saved a loss of £20,000 on the haulage of that manure. There would have been a further saving of £4,000 on account of railage and an additional £9,000 if the superphosphate works were advantageously established on the waterfront at Albany. I hope the Minister will reconsider his decision, and when he introduces the Estimates next year, Albany will be mentioned, and we will

have an asset created there that will be a source of revenue to the State.

MR. TONKIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.45]: Speaking comparatively, I think it can be said that the Public Works Department has had a very satisfactory year. It can also truthfully be said that more money was spent in getting more work done than during either last year or the year preceding that. I am grateful for the work done in my constituency. There is a point of policy adopted by the Public Works Department with which I do not agree, and I think I should ventilate the matter at this stage. I do not believe that any Government department should shirk responsibilities that can be enforced upon individuals by law. Municipalities have the right to call upon owners of land within their boundaries to fence their properties. It is only fair that that position should obtain, and yet we find that the Government, who own land in various municipalities, refuse to fence their holdings, with the result that otherwise pleasing surroundings are spoilt. I could understand the department, if short of money, refusing to fence land in out of the way places, where those areas are large and the private individuals are not called upon to fence their properties. On the other hand, there is no excuse, to my way of thinking, for the Government to refuse to fence their blocks in the heart of the city. In North Fremantle, right on the main road, the Public Works Department owns a considerable area of land that is unfenced. The area is hilly, and the sand drifts across the footpath and on to the road. I have made a number of requests to the department to have the land fenced. On the first occasion I made application for the work to be done, I received the reply that it was not the policy of the department to fence vacant land in municipalities. If that is not the department's policy, it ought to be, because if private people are obliged to fence their properties, even though they may experience great difficulty in finding the necessary money, I claim the Government should set an example, especially when the property concerned is in the heart of the city. I hope it will be found possible during the current financial year to attend to that particular matter. There are several blocks that require attention, and I hope the department will

appreciate the fact that it is not acting fairly. The attitude of the department does not give the local governing authority a chance to brighten up the municipality, nor does it permit of the streets being made attractive. It is disheartening to municipal councillors or road board members who desire to beautify their respective localities. Even if short of funds, the department should make a special effort to attend to this matter, and I hope it will not be necessary for me to lodge a complaint of this nature again.

HON. P. D. FERGUSON (Irwin-Moore) [8.49]: I desire to offer my congratulations to the Main Roads Department for the excellent work performed in connection with main roads throughout the State. There is no doubt that the transformation that has taken place, since the department's activities were commenced, is simply marvellous. A few years ago the roads, particularly the main roads, because of the tremendous cost to local governing bodies which they were quite unable to undertake, were the worst in Australia. I am given to understand by those in a position to know that our main roads to-day are as good as any in Australia. The Main Roads Department is to be commended on what has been done. Referring to public buildings, I want to draw the attention of the Minister to the condition of the Wongan Hill's State Hotel. I have mentioned the matter before in this House, and I hope the Government will be able to find the money to bring that hotel up-to-date. It is absolutely incapable of supplying the demands made upon it by the travelling public and the people of the district generally. I agree with the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) that the Government should not shirk any responsibility which it places upon private individuals. There is no doubt that if that hotel were owned by any private individual the Licensing Bench would insist on more and better conveniences being provided than are made available at the present time. When I mention that one of the saloon bars in that hotel is about 4ft. 6in. wide and 9ft. long, some of the difficulties experienced by those who frequent the hotel will be realised. In addition to the public bar there are two saloon bars—one 10ft. by 12ft. and the other 4ft. 6in. by 9ft. It is not big enough to hold two Ministers of the Crown.

There is no doubt that something should be done at an early date. I am given to understand by those in a position to know that the walls and foundations are substantial enough to carry another storey, and nothing but another storey on that building can make it reasonably up-to-date, with sufficient bedrooms, a reasonably sized dining room and sufficient bar accommodation to meet the ordinary requirements of the place. Although some improvements have been made in recent years not enough has been done, and if a visit were paid to the hotel on any night it would be found that most of the guests were accommodated with shakedown on the verandah. I hope the Minister will discuss the matter with his colleague who controls these matters with a view to seeing what can be done. I am sorry that the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) is not in his place, because I want to join issue with him about the remarks he made and the stand he has taken in connection with the Barracks. The Barracks have an historical interest for Australians who are descended from the pioneers of this country, and I hope it will be many a year before the Barracks are demolished. Even though the building is not as up-to-date and convenient and economical as it might be for the conduct of public business, nevertheless it should not be interfered with in any material way so far as the outside of the structure is concerned. If more conveniences are required—and no doubt they are—the internal arrangements of the building can be reconstructed and brought up-to-date. I am of the opinion that if a commodious building of several storeys in height, built on up-to-date architectural lines, were constructed on the site of the present Treasury buildings it would in all probability accommodate most of the civil servants of the State, and the Barracks would not be required for that purpose at all. The statement has been made, by way of interjection, by the Minister for Agriculture that the Historical Society could have the building in which his department is housed, but there is no comparison between the two buildings. The Department of Agriculture building has no historical association whatever. The only claim to greatness it has is that it housed the whole of the Civil Service of the State and for years the whole of the Parliament of the State; but it has no his-

torical association as has the Barracks structure. There is no one in Western Australia who would regret the demolition of the Department of Agriculture buildings. In addition, while the Barracks is a reasonably well-constructed brick building, half of the Department of Agriculture consists of brown paper and linoleum and matchwood. There is no doubt that it should be demolished. At this stage Western Australia cannot afford to demolish all these buildings and construct up-to-date departments for our public servants. There are too many demands upon the Government of the day for more important activities. There are too many people in this State having a difficult time financially, and they cannot be called upon to pay taxation for the payment of interest and sinking fund on more buildings at the present time. While up-to-date buildings for housing the Civil Service are desirable, we have to cut our garment according to our cloth. Until we can afford these things we must do the best we can without them.

MR. MANN (Beverley) [8.56]: I should like to pay a tribute to the Main Roads Department generally and particularly to Mr. Tindale. Ten or 12 years ago most of the roads were in a shocking state, but today we have excellent roads and particularly towards Beverley. The department has done a lot of good work. I hope that with the completion of the various main roads with bitumen further money will be allocated for the far eastern areas, and that the Government will subsidise the construction of other roads which will eventually be main roads. With the previous speaker I join issue against the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie regarding his attitude towards the Public Works Department building. It is extraordinary to hear the tirade of nonsense indulged in by the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie.

The **CHAIRMAN**: Order! The hon. member must not reflect on a member of the House.

Mr. MANN: I am sorry if I reflected on the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie.

Mr. Thorn: I thought that was impossible.

Mr. MANN: We who are Western Australians descended from the early pioneers would much regret to see this old building taken down. I agree that the time is ripe for additional public buildings, but we have a sense of pride in some of our old buildings

which I hope will remain. While we are short of Government departments and those departments that we have are not adequate or convenient, a lot of money is still required in outside areas for schools. I have been trying to get a school building erected at Morbenning. It is an isolated area between Bally Bally and Jacob's Well. The Minister approved a long time ago of the construction of a building, but it is a matter for the Treasurer. Each time one goes to the Education Department and asks for anything of an educational character one is told that the department approves but the Treasurer has not the money. Sometimes one thinks that this institution could be wholly abolished. One is told to see Mr. Berkeley or Mr. Reid and discuss it with him, but one gets little satisfaction from such an interview. The Minister will recall that last year he learnt that the children at Morbenning had no school building. There are within a radius of four miles sufficient children to warrant the erection of a new school building. Other schools are also required in that district. At Corrigin and Beverley, growing centres, the school buildings are very old-fashioned and extremely hot, while in winter the children enjoy themselves sliding about in the mud. More consideration should be given to the children and their circumstances. Country children, as a rule, are quick enough at school, and when a boy comes down to Perth to attend school, he usually makes very good progress.

Mr. Marshall: What sort of appearance has your country; has it a nice appearance?

Mr. MANN: Certainly the appearance of the school buildings is not at all nice. They are entirely inappropriate for the purposes of education. Many of the children travel miles to school, and when they reach the school building they can scarcely breathe in the heated atmosphere of the place. What can the impression be on any of those children who, later, may come to the City and see a building like the Perth Girls' School, as compared with which the best of our country schools is entirely primitive? Then changes have taken place in the older centres. Where once certain schools had full attendances, their attendances have fallen off owing chiefly to movements of the population. I know of some unfortunate children who have to drive nine miles to school, which is far too great a distance.

The Minister for Railways: In my electorate they have to walk to school.

Mr. MANN: I like these pious reflections. One would think that it was luxury to get into some shabby old vehicle and drive nine miles to school. Also to listen to some members one would believe that in days gone by we had none but super-men. Does not the Minister think that our young people are just as good as we were in our day or our fathers were in their day? I think it is too much to expect of children six or seven years of age that they should drive nine miles to school. The distance is far too long. It all chimes with the idea of those people who might say that children should have to milk a number of cows before going off to school. But those people are not familiar with their subject. Reverting to road construction, I am satisfied that our roads will compare favourably with roads anywhere else in Australia. I am sorry that I cannot discuss country water supplies under this Vote.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [9.5]: Originally it was not my intention to have much, if anything, to say on these Estimates. However, it is always well to be in the fashion, so I have adopted that attitude and propose to say a few words on one or two matters coming under this Vote. I listened with interest to the observations of the member for Middle Swan (Mr. Hegney), who said he thought that Parliament might deal with the estimates of the Main Roads Commissioner. I do not agree with him in that regard, for I think we should be inclined to make some confusion where there is none at present; because, as it appears to me, the operations of the Main Roads Commissioner, so far as the control and expenditure of his finances are concerned, have been very satisfactory.

Mr. Cross: He spends most of his money in the country.

Mr. WATTS: Speaking by and large, I think he gives a very fair deal to all parties concerned, and that the results of his work and the work of his officers are a credit to the State generally. In my view he has treated every case on its merits: certainly each case that I have had to put before him has been dealt with in that manner. And I understand that is a common experience with those who have had to approach him. So I do not think it would be of advantage to effect any change in that department. I have on one or two other occasions made references to the public buildings in the

Katanning electorate, and I think in the circumstances it is incumbent on me to mention them again, lest in the excessive talk that there has been their existence or non-existence should be lost sight of. Amongst the most important of those buildings is the Katanning courthouse. We have heard a lot in reference to the Historical Society this evening. In so far as the district of Katanning can be said to have any history, I am satisfied that those buildings are amongst the most historical. But despite their historical value and their antiquity of some 40 years, they are definitely capable of improvement, and certainly ought to be improved. I know from answers to questions that I asked the Minister earlier in the session that my request for improvement is receiving consideration, but I have no means of knowing whether that consideration is likely to be favourable. So I wish to impress on the Minister this evening the fact that it is very necessary to give those improvements the earliest favourable consideration. The court building at Katanning consists of three small rooms and three small lock-ups. Recently the police in that neighbourhood have been told that they can incarcerate prisoners in those lock-ups for a total period of 14 days. That has not previously been the case. In consequence, the local health authorities have, in effect, condemned the premises as totally unsuitable for even temporary habitation in that they are insanitary, unclean and generally unsatisfactory. I forwarded a copy of the local health inspector's report, which is couched in reasonable terms, to the Minister for Police, and I understand he has communicated with the Public Works Department. On Friday last, when the Minister for Employment was in the town, I took the opportunity to show him those premises, and I have no doubt he was quite satisfied that they are totally unsatisfactory and, as the health inspector said, insanitary and unfit even for the purpose for which they are being used. I previously referred to the sergeant and three constables at that place and to the fact that the whole of their duties for the public have to be conducted in one room measuring 12 ft. by 14 ft., which is creating an almost impossible position for the officer in charge. Although I have not had an opportunity to see the report of the Public Service Commissioner, I feel that the refer-

ence made in the "West Australian" newspaper this morning to his report—although stated to have been tabled in Parliament yesterday, it is not on the Table yet—must apply to the condition of the building occupied by the clerk of courts at Katanning. According to the newspaper report, the Public Service Commissioner said—

In the country the need for improved accommodation is also pressing. In one of the largest of the Great Southern towns a room 12 feet by 12 feet serves as an office for the clerk of courts. In this room, without a counter, all the business of an extensive district has to be conducted. It must be exceedingly difficult for an officer to give the public efficient service in such circumstances.

Although the report does not actually refer to the town of Katanning, nevertheless the reference is so closely allied with the circumstances that I have no doubt he intended to refer to Katanning. Quite recently, at the cost of £20, a partition was erected in this small room with the object apparently of separating from the general public the magistrate, when he is supposed to be in chambers, or the clerk of courts, when engaged upon more or less private business in the course of the duties he has to perform. This partitioning has resulted in a small space about 12 ft. by 3 ft. being left for the general public, and those premises are required to serve the people of the district who number some 9,000. I say that advisedly; there is no other court house in the Katanning electorate except the rooms used for petty sessional courts in Tambellup, Gnowangerup, and Mt. Barker. I have explained the position and quoted the newspaper reference because I consider it high time the Government realised that the business of the State in that centre cannot be properly carried out by efficient officers—and I submit they are very efficient—under the conditions in which they are obliged to work. These buildings have been unaltered, except for receiving a coat of paint, for 35 or 40 years, and in my opinion the day has long since passed when they should have received attention. I have previously mentioned that the member for Boulder, when Premier in 1928, visited Katanning and saw the existing building. Extensive plans were prepared and definite promises given that the work would be undertaken. I ask the Minister to endeavour to ensure that

an early start is made with this work because it is, from all points of view, very necessary and a want long felt by the people of the district. Otherwise, I have no great complaint to make, except that I hope the Minister for Works and the Minister for Education, between them, will shortly be able to supply a bicycle shed at the Katanning State School. Representations have been made to the Minister for Education, who knows the position. I do not wish to dwell upon the matter, but I trust that it has not been lost sight of and will be given early attention.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. H. Millington—Mt. Hawthorn—in reply) [9.15]: I am pleased with the reception accorded the Estimates. For a start, the member for Williams-Narrogin conveyed the incense of congratulations but unfortunately he proved to be out of order. Following that may I say I was delighted to find myself in such congenial company. There is nothing more exhilarating than to find oneself amongst a lot of good, irresponsible spenders. All the suggestions offered during the discussion of the Estimates have certainly been constructive in that they outlined new ways and means for spending money on the assumption that there is plenty of money to spend.

Mr. Thorn: According to the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie, there is plenty to spend.

The **MINISTER FOR WORKS**: His criticism, I regret to say, was of a destructive character. He proposed to tear down the Barracks, to which the member for Irwin-Moore took exception, and, as if that were not enough, he proposed to demolish the Treasury buildings, and I think he agrees that the offices of the Department of Agriculture should be demolished. Those suggestions come under the heading of destructive criticism. To listen to members one would think we had unlimited funds at our disposal. Let me remind members that the Premier has associated with him a number of Ministers who rank as poor relations. It matters not what requests are put forward. The final word comes from the Treasury. To those who are disposed to congratulate Ministers on providing some building or handing out favourable replies to requests, I would say they should remember those things have to come from the Treasury. Regarding public buildings, members must be aware of the difficult times through which we

passed during the term of the previous Government. Speaking from memory, in one of the bad years, a sum of only £10,000 was spent on public buildings, whereas the usual annual quota was about £90,000. According to this year's Estimates we spent £78,000. There is a considerable lag to be made up. Further, all our public buildings have fallen into a state of disgraceful disrepair. That cannot be defended, except that we were in such necessitous circumstances. From loan funds a good deal of re-conditioning was done as well as maintenance work, but all we could do was to repair the outside of buildings in order to preserve them. That was done in respect to schools; it was the best that we could do. I believe we are getting around somewhat and that the internal portions of structures are also being attended to, but we had a lot of leeway to make up. I am not complaining or blaming the previous Government. They simply had not the money, but we had not only to do the necessary repairs for the present year, but we had to make up the arrears of past years. There is justification for some of the special complaints that have been brought forward to-night. In connection with our schools, there is a list of works put up by the Education Department, and those works are classified in their order of urgency, and attended to in that order. There are as many complaints from the metropolitan areas as from the country districts. Recently, in self-defence, we had to paint the Art Gallery and Museum. I understand the building has not been touched for 15 years. Always in connection with these matters it is a struggle to get the money. No favouritism has been shown, and every effort has been made to hold the scales fairly, notwithstanding which we have not been able to make up the leeway. Some ambitious proposals have been advanced. The suggestion to spend money on completing this building is one of them. The building has been up a long time, and naturally a good deal of maintenance work is required, particularly so far as the roof is concerned. The Public Works Department did a good deal in the way of reconditioning the dining-room and the inside of the building generally, and the roof in particular. I remember the late Mr. Davy putting up a special plea that Parliament House should be completed. As Western Australians, with a pride in our State, and a desire to see that all our public buildings are in conformity

with the importance of the State, we would naturally like to see everything in complete order. Immediately, however, a practicable proposal is put forward, we find ourselves faced with the urgent necessity of spending our limited funds in other directions. Quite recently we approved of an extension of the King Edward Memorial Hospital at an estimated cost of £45,000. There is the Infectious Diseases Hospital, involving £40,000, of which we have to contribute half. There is the extension of the Fremantle Hospital, over £20,000, to which we have to contribute, and there is also the contribution to the considerable extension of the Children's Hospital. Continual requests are being made from all over the State for schools, police quarters and hospitals generally. Owing to the revival of the goldmining industry, we are responsible for reconditioning a number of old buildings or putting up new ones. This is an inescapable duty. We must provide schools, and the money has to come from somewhere. We also are obliged to provide police quarters and other public buildings. The Government has no choice. I believe we are gaining ground. I am wholly in accord with the desire that we should have better public buildings. I am surprised at the complaints about the design of buildings erected by the Public Works Department. I have discussed this matter with the Chief Architect and the Director of Education, and I was of opinion that our plans and specifications were, if anything, too elaborate, that our public buildings were too expensive. I now find that members are dissatisfied, and that they do not like the designs. I had an idea that the design of our modern school buildings was nearly perfect. The modern school-room, which is constructed to hold about 50 children, is of a very fine type, beautifully lighted, comfortable and commodious.

Mr. Mann: Are many of the schools in the country modern?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: When extensions are made, these new rooms are put in. I have seen some fine schools in country districts. Let me instance Mt. Barker.

Mr. Mann: That is a modern school.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: And of a very fine design. Wherever we have built in recent years, we have built well.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: I showed you a school at Goomalling the other day.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We are trying to make up leeway. Independently of our inescapable duty with respect to public

buildings, we receive many requests from country districts for water supplies, for instance. These have had a great effect in depleting the Treasury. If I call for a vote as to whether we shall spend £80,000 on this building, or £80,000 on the extension of the Barbalin scheme, I am sure we shall at all events get the vote of the member for Mt. Marshall in favour of the latter. If it could be shown that the money at the disposal of the department had been unwisely spent, this criticism would be warranted. If these complaints are intended to be an inspiration for what should be done next year, I can promise that every request will be tabulated and will receive most careful consideration. There is an erroneous idea that the loudest to complain are the greatest well-wishers of the public. It is remarkable how short the public memory is. When people have been given something, they invariably ask for something else immediately. I never attempt to satisfy everybody. In the case of some people, they are more satisfied if they have something to be dissatisfied with. I do not expect to be able to satisfy members to-night, but I can assure them that every request will be borne in mind for the future. I hope with the Loan funds available we shall be able to devote in future years a greater percentage of the money to what may be termed useful, permanent works than has been the case in previous years. When hon. members listen to the Estimates of my colleague the Minister for Employment, they will understand why so much money is absorbed on works undertaken merely for the purpose of giving employment, and why only a small portion of the money is left for works that we as a Government desire to undertake. That is the difficulty. It is the difficulty that has faced past Governments. If we could spend this money as we would like, for the development of the State and for permanent necessary works, I should be more satisfied. I should be more satisfied also if, as our loan obligations mount up, we could point to something of the character mentioned to-night—extension of public works, water schemes, and undertakings of general benefit to the State. I promise that the criticism that has been offered and the requests that have been made will be borne in mind. I am hopeful that as time goes on the loan funds raised by this State will be spent in a more permanently useful way

than has been the experience during the last few years.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Town Planning, £1,525—agreed to.

Department of the Minister for Agriculture (Hon. F. J. S. Wise, Minister).

Vote—Agriculture, £104,669:

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

(Hon. F. J. S. Wise—Gaseoyne) [9.34]: I was a little afraid that a majority of hon. members might carry this Vote before I got to my feet.

Mr. Sampson: Why not report progress now and deal with the Vote next week?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: In spite of the pleadings of the member for Swan, I intend to keep the House for a considerable time, as this is a highly important department, probably the most important department, since there is no activity in the State of greater importance than the production of rural wealth. The welfare of the State depends almost entirely on the well-being of our rural pursuits. The Department of Agriculture has, in all its ramifications into the various problems of the land, so many pressing problems that I think a wide discussion in this connection is advisable upon the presentation of the Estimates. It is highly unfortunate that from an agricultural point of view and a pastoral point of view the State has passed through a strenuous and serious time. Especially during the past 12 months has this applied to the pastoral areas. We are hoping, however, that with the brighter days that have dawned in our pastoral regions of the North, the pastoral districts generally will share in more opulent times in the near future. There are sad and national losses in connection with our pastoral areas, and it will take years to bring the numbers back to our past profitable state of production. In connection with agriculture generally, embracing our most important crop, wheat, although the season opened well and promised better perhaps than had been the case for many years, yet towards the middle of the year it eased off so considerably as to cause a great deal of concern. Although the early estimated wheat yield on the acreage sown was in the vicinity of 40,000,000 bushels. It was afterwards amended by the Government Statistician to 32,000,000 bushels. We are still hopeful, in spite of the absence of late

rains in the heavier country, that the crop will yield a harvest of 35,000,000 bushels. We are greatly disappointed in the heavy yielding lands, particularly those in the areas of the member for Avon and the member for Mt. Marshall, to which the late rains did not penetrate as they did to the Great Southern and Midland wheatgrowing districts. With the present price of wheat it would have been a wonderful boon to the State and a valuable help to many other industries dependent upon agriculture had the first estimate been realised. However, the buoyant price of wheat was a great feature during last year. In January 1936 the price was 3s. 9d. per bushel f.o.b. Fremantle; last January it was 5s. 6d. I should like to draw attention to the added sum made available by the Treasurer on these Estimates. It will be noted that the amount exceeds £104,000, which is an increase of over £13,000 on last year. It is unfortunate that the major part of this increase will be taken up in an endeavour to counteract the ravages of one of the worst pests we have had in agriculture in this State during recent years. I refer to the grasshopper menace. It will be recollected by hon. members that during last session the matter was fully ventilated on a motion for the adjournment of the House, but I can say without fear of contradiction that we are in a position to invite criticism—we hope, helpful criticism—from hon. members opposite regarding our efforts to control and conduct the pest.

Mr. Doney: Thanks largely to your entomologist.

[Mr. Sampson took the Chair.]

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: I am quite prepared, as the hon. member knows, to give full marks on all occasions to that officer; but we have had a great deal of worry in connection with the effective control of the grasshopper pest. I wish to point out also that it was a matter of general policy between Ministers concerned and officers concerned. Many late nights and many week-ends were spent in an endeavour to provide a practical means, not to destroy, not to wipe out the grasshopper pest, but to control it. Unless hon. members have seen the ravages of this pest, have seen the grasshoppers hatch out, it is impossible for them to grasp how plentiful and how bad the insects can be.

Hon. members who have been following the effects of the pest in the Eastern States will know that Queensland recently in its Parliament went to the extent of passing through all stages in one afternoon a Bill to control the grasshopper pest by giving local authorities certain powers, by imposing restrictions, and by raising levies to meet the expense occasioned. They will know also that in New South Wales this pest has for many years occasioned serious alarm. They will likewise be aware that in South Australia grasshoppers have been a very worrying problem for many years. South Australia has for a long time had legislation intended to control the grasshopper. That legislation not only proved to be faulty, but it proved, after the acid test of finance was applied, not to be efficacious when serious outbreaks occurred. The Government has had under consideration for three years a Bill to deal with the pest. That Bill was prepared in 1934, and was taken to Cabinet by me in that year to obtain approval for its introduction into this House. However, since the measure involved a levy on the farming community for sufficient funds to apply in connection with a levy from local authorities, it was considered by the Government that the time was not opportune to inflict a further tax, particularly upon that section of the farmers which for so many years had not had a crop. It is unfortunate that the ravages of this pest occur in districts of light rainfall where the crops are not so opulent as they might be. Many of them are good districts but have experienced a slackening off of rainfall in recent years. I wish to impress upon members that the Government has been very successful in endeavouring to control this pest in the interests of the State generally, and from that standpoint it is considered far better that the burden of the cost involved in attacking the pest should be shared by the whole of the taxpayers rather than by the impoverished section of them. Before leaving that subject, I wish to indicate that I take a serious view of the inactivity of certain landlords and mortgagors, and their lack of co-operation with the authorities in their efforts to control the pest. Even if legislation dealing with the menace be not passed in the course of the present session, I am prepared to take action under the Plant

Diseases Act or the Insect Pests Act to bring those people up to the mark next year.

Mr. Boyle: Are there many of them?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Quite a number, and the hon. member probably knows that in his electorate there are many areas that the Agricultural Bank handle. About 120,000 acres have been broken up in an effort to control the pest, but a great deal of the work was nullified through lack of co-operation on the part of others.

Mr. Boyle: One is sufficient.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. I wish to deal with some of the activities of the department in connection with wheat-breeding stations and to impress upon the Committee a point that has been to some extent overlooked in the presentation of these Estimates annually with regard to the value of those stations to the State as a whole. It would be hard to measure the value to the State of the efforts of the officers engaged in wheat-breeding, particularly in breeding new types, in disseminating new seed and better stock throughout the wheat-growing areas. The effect upon production has been quite startling and during last year the quantity of graded pedigreed seed wheat produced approached 10,500 bushels.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: And it was worth ten times as much as it cost to produce.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: After the departmental requirements were provided for, the whole of the remainder was distributed amongst farmers either for cash or under the exchange system of 3 bushels for 2 bushels or something equivalent according to the value of the commodity in a particular year. The same has been done in connection with seed oats. Irrespective of what has been done in the establishment of those farms and the cost involved in their upkeep, it would be impossible to estimate the net cash return to the State on account of the efforts of the officers concerned. We are also endeavouring to draw the attention of farmers to pasture improvements in the outer areas of the wheat belt in the lighter-rainfall districts where mixed farming will follow as the established rural industry. Some very good results are being obtained by field officers in that direction. In several districts it has been found by practical experience that, although sheep

stations represented the earlier means by which the country was settled, the districts will ultimately revert to sheep under entirely different conditions. As a result, we are getting better and larger sheep in many strong wool-producing districts in the outer wheat belt. It may also be mentioned that it is satisfactory to note that our efforts in connection with toxic paralysis have been most successful. It will be remembered that two years ago toxic paralysis was a very live matter in every district represented by country members sitting on the Opposition side of the House, and the member for Beverley (Mr. Mann) represented a district in which dreadful losses were occasioned with all classes of stock as a result of the ravages of the disease. The department took the matter up as of vital moment and the results obtained have been more than satisfactory. Before leaving the question of sheep, I desire to refer to the export lamb trade that has been so successfully built up recently. Last year 143,000 carcasses were exported, which represented 24,000 less than during the previous year. On the other hand, it is anticipated that this year the carcasses exported will exceed 250,000. It is extremely pleasurable to know that in the Albany district, where certain works that were a depreciating asset worth very little to the Government, were sold at a most encouraging figure to an enterprising firm that has since spent over £20,000 in an endeavour to establish the export lamb business. The establishment of those works at Albany has given a great impetus to the raising of lambs in Albany and the surrounding districts, and has encouraged the establishment of pastures and other improvements generally. It is confidently anticipated by the owners of the works that they will treat 30,000 lambs for export during the current year, which is a remarkable performance. It is also satisfactory to note that the quality of the lambs from the Albany districts is very high. Another very important phase of agriculture in Western Australia is the fruit industry, which is certainly worth a great deal of protection. It is interesting to note that the fruit produced last year exceeded in value £1,000,000. It will be remembered that an unfortunate hailstorm affected certain parts of the fruit-growing areas, that many of the growers had arranged at contract prices for the export of their fruit, and, in consequence, both exporters and growers experienced great losses. I would like to mention in this

connection that it seems at least a lack of enterprise, if not a lack of protection of their own interests on the part of growers, if they do not insure against acts of God of this nature.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: It was difficult.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The hon. member interjects that it was difficult, but he knows that the premium is very reasonable. The premium charged by the insurance company operated by Westralian Farmers, Ltd. is reasonable and it could be reduced considerably if, instead of five growers as was the case last year, the whole of the district insured. Not only would adequate protection be afforded, but it would inspire them with greater confidence in undertaking work in the next year and for future periods. Last year 700,000 cases of apples were exported and 31,000 cases of pears, and a bright feature was the price paid, namely 5s. to 7s. 9d. a case at the grower's siding. It can therefore be seen that the fruitgrowing districts of the State have certainly had an easy passage compared with those engaged in other forms of agriculture in other parts of the State.

Mr. North: Is the local consumption satisfactory?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes. With regard to the apple consumption, because of the quantity of the crop and the quantity exported it did not pay the growers of this State to entertain consideration of advertising to a large extent the eating of more apples during this year. Since we cannot import them from other States, it was money saved in not advertising. The fruitgrowing industry was faced with two worrying outbreaks of codlin moth and apple scab, during the year. Apple scab is perhaps one of the most dreaded diseases which affect that class of fruit. Fortunately the officers of the department acted quickly in connection with both outbreaks and we have little to fear of a spread taking place. There has been a suggestion that legislation should be introduced with a view to creating a fund to control or compensate for such outbreaks, but that matter might primarily be taken up by the growers' organisations themselves. The tobacco industry is expanding rapidly and last year there were 1,067 acres under crop with an estimated total yield of 650,000 lbs. weight of tobacco, averaging 650 lbs. weight per acre which is a high yield. Remarkable progress

has been made when we consider that one acre was planted in 1924-25 in an endeavour to try out tobacco growing as a commercial proposition. The average value per lb. is 1s. 9d. to 2s. That is a remarkable price and the State is blessed in that it can produce such high yields of tobacco of a type of leaf sought after, particularly by cigarette makers. There is something lacking, however, not in the burning quality nor the colour, but in the flavour, and the officers of the department are going into that matter fully because they are confident that by certain fertilising agencies the little deficiency can be rectified. It has grown to be a very important industry and there is sufficient land in the district of the member for Nelson (Mr. Doust) to produce Australia's tobacco requirements, if full advantage is taken of the opportunity that exists. I had better mention the small industry of banana growing which has grown up in my own district. It has proved important to Western Australia. It is interesting to note that over a period of ten years those who have eaten Java bananas in this State have paid to the Federal Customs Department over £130,000. The industry has been firmly established in spite of drought conditions and the cold snap that cost the growers thousands of bunches. The aid it received was, until recent years, nothing except the counsel of an agricultural adviser who assisted those sufficiently interested and game to establish the industry. In recent years it has been found that pumping plant and water supplies have been necessary because of the persistent drought. The Carnarvon district had six inches of rain during 18 months. In view of that it is absolutely a miracle that the industry was established.

Mr. Doney: They get that much in a week in Queensland.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: The growers therefore have been assisted by the Treasurer to the extent in some instances of £200 per grower to enable them to establish pumping plant. Although I am the member for the district, and one who worries the Treasurer considerably, I do not intend to ask him for thousands of pounds in an endeavour to bring about a boom in that industry, because I think that would be undesirable. In spite of adverse conditions that have obtained in recent years there are now 60 growers on the river as against 50

last year. The industry is finding its own feet and is being developed with its own capital. I am sure that hon. members were interested in the display at the Royal Show recently. Production last year totalled 22,000 cases of bananas and over 2,000 cases of pineapples. In connection with the dairying industry, it is a remarkable fact that the whole of Australia suffered a shrinkage of production during last season.

Mr. Doney: It would have been remarkable if it had not.

Mr. Patrick: A shrinkage all over Australia is unusual.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: All Australia suffered last season and Queensland, which normally exports 1½ million pounds worth of dairy products per annum, suffered a shrinkage to a little over £750,000 worth. The production in this State, it is pleasing to say, only shrank two per cent. Cheese production amounted to nearly 1,000,000 lbs. weight and it is hoped that although the times do not look very bright for that industry, better days are in store. The average price of butter in this State was 14.6d. per lb. The officers in the dairy branch have a definite instruction and a definite inclination to encourage silage wherever dairying operations are being carried on, because silage and dairying must go hand in hand, particularly in a State where summer or winter seasons are experienced. If it be a summer season only, as in North Queensland, silage must be arranged for the winter; in our own case, we must arrange silage for the summer. Coming to wool production, our figures present a very sad story, if we examine them during recent years. Before the 1934 period, when the great mortality occurred in this State, we had 11,200,000 sheep in Western Australia; at present we have only 9,000,000 sheep. That 2,000,000 loss has occurred in the truly pastoral areas, not in the farming areas; as a matter of fact, in some of the farming districts, the sheep population has increased tremendously. I am sorry to say that 1,000,000 sheep were lost in my own electorate. Some stations that shored 6,000 sheep are now down to 4,500. Members can imagine the effect, not only on the finances of the owner but on every avenue of activity within the district, when such appalling circumstances prevail. It is hoped that the present price level of wool will be maintained so as to afford some consolation to those with depleted flocks. The Department

of Agriculture is endeavouring to secure control of vegetable pests. It will be remembered that the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Styants) in his initial speech in this Chamber mentioned how serious was the Bathurst burr menace in his district. That problem has been taken in hand, and in spite of the pest being one of the worst of its kind in Australia, every effort has been made to control it. I can assure the Committee that we have it well under control. Its area is being limited and confined to the seeding areas of this year which, fortunately, owing to the action taken are very much reduced.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: What about wild turnip; is that spreading?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE: Yes, and there are several other weeds that are occasioning concern. But the officers of the department are straining every effort to bring those pests within control, not only by cultural methods but by the introduction of parasitical pests which can safely be introduced to prey on those weeds. Much has been said this evening of the housing of the Department of Agriculture. I should like to pay a tribute to the officers who are engaged in the most important agricultural work in this State, and who work under difficult conditions. There is no inspiration for them to give of their best, but I can assure members that the Treasurer has taken up the matter very seriously, and I hope that before the life of this Parliament is ended, not only will the foundation stone have been laid, but part of the new building will have been erected. The officers who are engaged in research are, of course, officers attached to all branches of the department. Research does not mean that any one officer can undertake any or all matters that are termed research matters. Every branch has its own problems, its own particular items to be gone into, and the value to Australia through the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research would be very hard to calculate. But we have a team of officers in the department in this State who closely collaborate with the officers of the C.S.I.R., and we get very good results indeed. Incidentally I notice that the time signal, which is given by pressing the bell, has been put into operation; but while I am discoursing on this important matter, that will not stop me from saying all I desire to say. I should

like to mention certain aspects of research to which we are giving attention. One is something quite new in Western Australia, namely the supply of fuel for motor vehicles. To me, as an agriculturist, it is the most important problem in Australia today. Australia has within its shores at the moment enough petrol for its motor vehicles—which number over 800,000—to last it for 12 weeks if it had no further supplies forthcoming. During last year 297,775,000 gallons were imported into Australia of a value of £4,438,000. The Federal duty paid was £8,518,000, giving a total value of £12,956,000. I say definitely that in my view the motor fuel of the world will be derived from power alcohol, to be distilled from growing plants. It is interesting to note that Germany and France have for many years actively interested themselves in this problem, to the extent that in 1930 Germany produced 80,000,000 gallons of power alcohol. That was taken from several crops. We have such a range of crops in Australia that if we used the sugar, which is exported at a loss from Queensland, to make power alcohol we could save the taxpayers of this country many millions of pounds per annum. We could bring into circulation perhaps £25,000,000 if Australia were to produce to her capacity the power alcohol which could be profitably produced from the many crops suited to the production of that spirit. I mention that in passing, because the Government has given consideration to trying out in different districts in this State crops suited to the production of motor spirit. It will be a very important thing if in this State, in the Kimberleys, for example, such crops as sorghum could be grown sufficiently profitably to be converted to power alcohol at a rate of 1s. 6d. per gallon. It is a very important matter, although perhaps it is simply a side-line of the possibilities of research activities in agriculture within this State. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that you have to curb me by putting the time signal into evidence. I have great pleasure in submitting the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture for consideration, but before concluding I would like to mention the recent retirement of the Director of Agriculture, a man to whom this State owes a great deal. The expansion of the wheatbelt in its initial stages was his personal responsibility, and in later years he

had the benefit of the assistance of a highly skilled staff. I hope that in the interests of the State some use might be made of his services. I am sure members will find that, whatever change has been made in the administration of the department, we have there a very happy band of efficient men ready to give their best in the interests of the State as a whole.

MR. WARNER (Mt. Marshall) [10.11]: If a time signal was indicated to the Minister for Agriculture, it brought to a close one of the most interesting speeches we have had this session in the presentation of departmental estimates. No time limit will be needed for me, because I intend to be brief in my remarks. The Minister referred to the amount on the Estimates for the control of the locust pest. The action taken this year by the department for the control of the pest has won the approbation of most of the road boards in my district, and resolutions have been passed by the boards congratulating the Government on the work they have done. The only regrettable feature is that the money was not available previously so that the department could have undertaken the work a year ago. I regretted to hear the Minister say that so many people had neglected to give the department the support expected in dealing with this problem. It is really a national problem that demands the co-operation of road boards, farmers and indeed of everybody in the agricultural areas. The great work done in breaking up the breeding grounds of the pest was costly, but a large area has been broken up and I believe that the best method has been adopted to destroy the pest. The leasing of those properties for cropping will probably produce sufficient return to pay for the outlay. Previous to the Government coming forward with assistance, the road boards had a very hard fight. A number are not yet satisfied that all that could have been done was done, but since I have heard the remarks of the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Lands, and judging from personal observation, I am satisfied that more was being done than I was aware of. Still I admit that at one stage I feared that the Government was not doing enough. I assure members that had their districts been similarly threatened by the pest they would have been as anxious as I was about the outlook. Knowing that the pest has re-

ceived such a check, we have every reason to hope that it will be kept under control in this State for a long time. When I moved the adjournment of the House in order to draw attention to the pest, I expressed the fear that it would spread to other parts of the State, and it did spread into areas where farmers little thought it would go. In portion of my district the crops this season are very poor, and the ravages of the grasshoppers have proved an additional cause of suffering to the farmers.

Hon. P. D. Ferguson: Crops are bad and grasshoppers are worse.

Mr. WARNER: Where a farmer has a good heavy crop and the unoccupied land in the neighbourhood is carrying good feed, the grasshoppers have not caused much damage, but where the feed has been poor and the crops have been poor, the pest has made its way into the crop and, by the time it reached the flying stage, has left little behind. I would not in any way be stinting in my praise of the department for all that has been done. There are other items in the Estimates on which I could speak, but I shall content myself with expressing praise at the action of the Minister in coping with one of the greatest problems with which the State has been faced.

[Mr. Sleeman took the Chair.]

HON. P. D. FERGUSON (Irwin-Moore) [10.18]: The Minister for Agriculture has been fortunate in being able to tell us a more cheering tale in his introduction of the Estimates this year than he was last year. With the single exception of the pastoral industry and wool production, it has been gratifying that he has been able to paint a more rosy picture, not only of the present but of the outlook for the future. The Minister spoke of the recent retirement of the Director of Agriculture from the position of administrative head of the department. I join with the Minister in paying a tribute to Dr. Sutton for the work he has done. I was one of those who extended a welcome to Dr. Sutton when he came to Western Australia 26 years ago, and I have been associated with him to a greater or lesser extent in the work he has been doing ever since. In my opinion Western Australia is under a very great debt of gratitude to him—one that cannot easily be repaid. With the retirement of Dr. Sutton

the Minister has made an alteration in the administration of the department by the appointment of an Under Secretary, and it seems to me that that was a natural course for the Minister to pursue. It is one that would appeal to any Minister in charge of the department. I should like the Minister to tell us his intentions regarding the appointment of a successor to Dr. Sutton as head of the great branch of the Department of Agriculture. I thought he would have given us that information when introducing his Estimates. The Director of Agriculture made that particular branch his special care, and he was particularly suited to supervise it. A great deal of work still requires to be done in that branch, and it will be interesting to know what the intentions of the Minister are. I was glad to hear him say there was still a prospect of reaching a yield of 35,000,000 bushels of wheat this season. That may be a little optimistic. I have heard estimates that the yield would be in the vicinity of 30,000,000 bushels.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Statistical Department estimate a yield of 32½ million bushels.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: In many districts along the Midland railway line and the Wongan Hills-Mullewa line, particularly inside the rabbit-proof fence, are to be seen some excellent crops. In that part of the State with which I come personally into contact I think the yields will be a little higher than the estimate. The position regarding the grasshopper pest is a most important one. During the recent years of low rainfall the pest made considerable progress in a westerly and southerly direction. There are many farmers in the wetter districts who are concerned about the ravages of the pest this year who knew nothing about it in previous years. What we have seen in the inside districts this year is an indication of what the people in the drier areas had to put up with in previous years. I commend the Minister and the officers of his department for what they have done to combat the ravages of the grasshopper. It is indeed a serious menace. Landholders who will not do their duty by assisting in combating the pest must be made to realise the responsibility they owe to their neighbours. If we get a succession of wet seasons, we will not hear much about the grasshopper, but if we have another dry season next year, on top of the two

or three we have already experienced, the position will be very serious. I wish to pay a tribute to the veterinary officers for the work they have accomplished in connection with stock diseases. There is no need for me to recount what has been done in the days gone by. The recent wonderful discovery by Dr. Bennetts in connection with rickets in sheep in the Midland and northern areas is an outstanding example of the success that has attended the patient and persevering efforts of this officer and those who have assisted him. This has meant that the lives of thousands of lambs in the districts concerned will be saved, and the value of production correspondingly enhanced. As our lamb export trade is growing by leaps and bounds, and it is anticipated that the export overseas this year may be in the vicinity of 250,000 lambs, it is essential that all districts that are capable of fat-lamb production should be as free as possible from disease. When officers of the department can achieve such pronounced success as has been the case in this connection, the public ought to know of it and suitable recognition made to them. I should like to know whether the Minister has given any consideration to the appointment of an officer who would be useful in tendering advice to farmers who intend to embark on this phase of agricultural production. So far, the ex-Director has made this particular phase of the work his own care. Two other officers of the department are more or less concerned in it, namely, Mr. McCallum and Mr. Murray. They are to a large extent merino men. I am not sure that their experience in fat-lamb production has been sufficient to enable them to give the necessary expert advice to those who are about to embark upon this side of the industry. In view of the fact that the industry is in its initial stages in this State, it would pay Western Australia to secure and retain the services of the best man available to assist in this direction.

The Minister for Agriculture: I have made a recent appointment in that connection.

Hon. P. D. FERGUSON: It has not yet been made public. I wish also to refer to the necessity for the provision of laboratory facilities. It has always been my cherished hope that I would see the Department of Agriculture equipped with suitable laboratory conveniences. There has been disappointment after disappointment all down

the years, and so far nothing has been done. It is remarkable that the staff of the department has been able to achieve such outstanding results with the miserable facilities at its disposal. A few years ago we heard from the ex-Premier that he was going into the question of providing suitable office and laboratory accommodation for the department, but still nothing has been done. Subsequent to that statement, we had a visit from officers of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The chief executive officer, Sir David Rivett, came to Western Australia, and in emphatic terms he condemned the facilities provided for the scientific officers of the department. He told us that the organisation of which he was the administrative head was spending quite a lot of money in scientific research into animal pests and diseases generally, but that there was no prospect of Western Australia obtaining a reasonable share of that money in the interests of our stock raisers and agriculturists unless suitable, adequate and up-to-date laboratory facilities were provided here. It is quite natural that when the Commonwealth Government through various organisations provided funds for scientific research, the State should have undertaken the provision of some of the facilities. Western Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth that has lagged behind in that respect. As the result of the definite statement of Sir David Rivett, I understand, a conference took place between the head of the Agricultural Department, the head of the University, and various organisations such as the Primary Producers' Association, the Pastoralists' Association, and kindred bodies; and the question of the provision of adequate laboratory facilities was fully discussed. A proposal was put up by the University to do certain things. I believe the University was prepared to spend a sum of £14,000, which had been left to the institution, on the erection of a suitable building. One of the conditions attached, so far as I am able to gather, was that the State should guarantee a certain amount of interest on this capital outlay, and that a certain sum of money should be made available for the payment of some of the expenses. I believe the C.S.I.R. was prepared to find some of the money for the payment of

officers' salaries. It has been stated that another organisation in Western Australia was ready to pay the salary of at least one expert investigator. In view of the vast importance of the work to a primary producing State like Western Australia, and in view of the tremendous losses we suffer each year by the ravages of stock diseases and insect pests of one kind and another, the Western Australian Government ought surely to realise that the time is long past for doing something to hasten the negotiations that have taken place between the various bodies, and to see that the necessary facilities are provided somewhere. It seems almost impossible to expect that they should now be provided in connection with our Department of Agriculture, and that is a matter of great regret to me. But if it is not possible for the Government to find the money for these facilities in connection with the department with which they should naturally be allied, the University and the C.S.I.R. and other organisations being prepared to provide them in part, the Government should realise that it is its duty to find sufficient money to enable the proposals of the University to be put into effect. I have been told, correctly or otherwise, that the University has expressed a desire to get on with the work, that the University and the Professor of Agriculture are especially keen to get going. They realise the value which the work would represent to Western Australia. They realise also the loss suffered by this State as a result of the absence of the necessary facilities. I would like the Minister for Agriculture to take this Committee and the country generally into his confidence and to give us all the information he has at his disposal. Let us know whether there is a reasonable prospect of the money being found. Let him impress upon his colleagues that one of the most vital matters they can interest themselves in at this stage is the fostering of the agricultural industry to the extent of assisting in the investigation into insect pests and animal diseases. The loss is too great for us to suffer year after year. It is only by governmental assistance, whether through the University or otherwise, that we can hope to get any relief from the position in which we now find ourselves. Visitors from the other States have a wonderful tale to tell us of the activities of the C.S.I.R. in those States. I understand it

is only because of the provision of up-to-date laboratory facilities by the States that the C.S.I.R. has become keenly interested. It is our misfortune that we have not had wealthy people in Western Australia to supply funds for such purposes. Only one wealthy Western Australian who has crossed the Great Divide has seen fit to leave anything to benefit agriculture. Our percentage of wealthy men is small in comparison with the older settled States. I daresay in another hundred or couple of hundred years, if things look up here and our agriculturists become millionaires, we can expect those who pass away to leave considerable amounts of money which, I am sure, the Minister for Agriculture of that period, whoever he happens to be then, will be able to utilise fully. In the meantime it is essential that we should get on with this job; and I do wish to impress upon the Minister—who I know is interested and enthusiastic—the vital urgency of doing something to persuade the Treasurer that this is one of the most important works to be financed at this juncture, and that in financing it he will be rendering good service to Western Australia.

MR. SAMPSON (Swan) [10.37]: First of all I wish to say how pleased I am to see the Minister for Agriculture back in his place. I know that the hon. gentleman is not yet well, and that he is exercising a degree of fortitude in carrying on with his work. However, I trust he is now permanently on the mend. There are many things that should be spoken of in connection with the Department of Agriculture. One thing I desire to mention is the work of the pathologist. I think I heard the Minister express himself in the plural; but I believe we have only one pathologist. Mr. Pittman, and he looks after the whole of the State. Recently, I understand, there was a request that the pathologist should look into the mottle leaf fungus disease; but before he had properly started on that inquiry he was called away to study some trouble in King's Park, and growers are still awaiting the results of the experiments or inquiries. This is no reflection upon the pathologist, because it is realised that one officer cannot possibly do all that is required. Unfortunately, in spite of the Minister's glowing report, the position is not as bright as we would like it to be. In Wes-

tern Australia fruitgrowing is not regarded so seriously as is the case in some other countries, notably California. I realise and appreciate the progress made in the production of tropical fruits, and have noted tonight that the number of growers has increased to 60. The work of the Minister himself, when an officer, has borne fruit, and he is at least deserving of some of the congratulations which must follow the production of bananas and pineapples at Carnarvon. Let me mention that in connection with the production of tropical fruits at Carnarvon there is an officer, but that in connection with citriculture there is no officer. This State has great need of a citriculturist, because about 1,400 men are engaged in citrus culture in Western Australia. Unfortunately, fruitgrowing is one of the most neglected of all Western Australia's industries. One of the most difficult problems is associated with the fruit-fly. I had hoped that the Minister would have given the Committee some information as to the progress made by the Fruit-Advisory Board and, whether it is proposed to allow the board to operate as an executive and not merely as an advisory body. The position regarding the fruit-fly is exceedingly difficult, and if we are to make any progress with regard to its extinction, it is essential that the problem be dealt with seriously. The board asked to be given executive powers and the request should be acceded to. If that were done, we would in time be able to control the fly difficulty. I believe if the board's request were granted, the fruit-fly pest would be controlled much more quickly than is anticipated. That control will be brought about only by compulsory baiting. There are many elements that make for success in that direction. The fruit-fly has been most carefully nurtured and protected because of the big fig-trees that provide a most dependable host for it. I refer to those trees that grow to a considerable height, the fruit at the top of which, being out of reach, is not picked. The fruit-fly finds in the fruit a ready means by which it can propagate its species. It would be a very good thing if all fig-trees were cut back to such an extent that the fruit could be plucked by hand from the ground. I realise that to do that would amount almost to vandalism, but I am afraid if it is not done the fruit-fly will continue to flourish. It is a grave, seri-

ous and sad commentary on the efforts of the department that so little progress has been made in combating the depredations of the fruit-fly. However, the Minister may be able to tell us that the board is to be given executive powers. If that is to be so, I have sufficient faith in the members of the board and the Minister to believe that the virility of the fly will receive a much-needed check. Another fruit that is a menace from the standpoint of the growers but of great advantage to the fruit-fly is the loquat. However, it would be wrong to speak against any particular fruit, because each type is valuable. The trouble is that the departmental officers have never had an opportunity to do what is necessary. My faith persists, and I believe the Minister will give the board the power sought. At any rate I hope so, and it is certainly necessary that that step be taken if success is to be achieved. We hear from time to time of trouble with regard to codlin moth. It is amazing to me that that pest is not more troublesome, seeing how lax are the efforts made to protect the State against infested fruit grown in the Eastern States, where the codlin moth abounds. One has only to travel from the Eastern States to appreciate the position. If he is very observant, he will see notices setting out that it is illegal to bring pears, apples or quinces from the East. Not many people read the notices, and even if they do, the precautions apparently do not go beyond that. So far as I have been able to ascertain, no action is taken following upon the display of those notices. When a visitor leaves Adelaide, he probably receives from his friends several bags of fruit. What happens if the fruit is not consumed on the journey? Is there not a definite temptation to put what remains in his or her suitcase? If that happens, is there not a grave danger arising from the possibility of our orchards becoming infested through the introduction of the codlin moth? There are many other phases. The Minister referred to apple scab. I do not know much about that disease, but all such diseases are contagious.

Mr. Marshall. All scabs are pests.

Mr. SAMPSON: And we want no confessions at this particular moment. If time permitted, I could give the Committee some information as to what steps are taken in California, and could outline the efforts made by the department at Sacramento to protect growers. What can be done

here is limited by the funds at the disposal of the Minister. On the other hand, it is for members to make it clear to the Government, through the Minister, that more must be done. There is no real inspection, no real quarantining or vigilance exercised respecting the importation of infested fruit. In California, every vehicle, whether it be an aeroplane, motor car, train, or other means of transport, is carefully inspected before the boundary is crossed. I have many details of interest I could place before members, and it is only my sense of sympathy respecting the time factor that precludes me from presenting the whole of the details in my possession. In a bulletin issued by the Californian Department of Agriculture, there are two pages relating to the results of inspections made during the year, and I will content myself with quoting the following:—

Considerably more contraband plant material was intercepted during 1936 than was the case during any previous year. This proves that with the increase of vehicular travel more plant material is carried, and in consequence a greater menace of pest-dissemination prevails. Contraband or actually infested plants or plant products intercepted in violation in contravention of State quarantine laws are listed with the quarantines involved as follows:—

Then the bulletin sets out a number of the items of contraband showing that they were on account of citrus pests, chestnut bark disease, oriental fruit moth, Eastern filbert blight, cotton insects, alfalfa weevil, cherry fruit-flies, sweet potato weevil, citrus white fly, peach tree diseases, nut tree insects, ozonium root rot, European corn borer, and a host of others. The climate of the fruit-growing areas of Western Australia is similar to that of California, and the care exercised in that part of the United States should be taken here. It is only on account of lateness of the hour that I refrain from giving members more of this information.

Mr. Cross: We have plenty of time.

Mr. SAMPSON: I know that the member for Canning has plenty of time although he is an exceedingly busy man.

The Minister for Employment: Have you not got a bed?

Mr. Needham interjected.

Mr. SAMPSON: The member for Perth may be very innocent in certain matters, but I assure him that unless the fruit and other producing industries receive the necessary attention the grass will grow in the streets of

Perth. Let the hon. member realise that. I desire to stress the importance of the inspection of railway cars or carriages, the inspection of the portmanteaux and suitcases, etc., of travellers, and the checking of goods brought by travellers from the Eastern States. I challenge anyone to say that this is not a most serious matter for the fruit industry of this State. In this bulletin from which I quoted are given facts and figures in regard to infested fruit taken from the bags of travellers, and they should interest the Premier in his capacity as Treasurer. I assure the Treasurer through the Minister that if fruitgrowing is to become a permanently successful industry in this State greater consideration along the lines of inspection and the keeping of the State clear of many diseases not yet here must be effected. I would very much like to expound this further, but it is nearly 11 o'clock and I do not desire to be the one responsible for detaining hon. members. I hope I am not asking too much of the Premier when I request that the Minister be given greater assistance in the way of funds to prevent the fruitgrowing industry from languishing. As I said during the Premier's temporary absence there are no means at present whereby producers of citrus fruits may receive the information and advice they need. With all the ability possessed by Mr. Wickens it is impossible for one man and his district inspectors to do what is necessary. We need a citriculturist. Further assistance is required and I hope it may be possible in the near future to do what is necessary. I will defer further remarks on the subject until a later opportunity.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.56 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 9th November, 1937.

	PAGE
Factories and Shops Act Amendment Bill Select Committee, report presented	1592
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment Bill Select Committee, extension of time	1593
Bills: Nurses Registration Act Amendment, 3r.	1593
Lotteries (Control) Act Amendment (No. 2), 3R.	1593
Forests Act Amendment Continuance, 3R.	1594
Jury Act Amendment (No. 2), 3R.	1594
Road Transport Subsidy, 3R.	1594
Anniversary of the Birthday of the Reigning Sovereign, report	1594
State Government Insurance Office, 2r.	1594
Financial Emergency Tax Assessment Act Amendment, 2r.	1601
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment (No. 2), Com.	1603

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

FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT BILL SELECT COMMITTEE.

Report Presented.

Hon. J. Nicholson brought up the report of the select committee, together with a type-written copy of the evidence and correspondence referred to in the report.

Report, recommendations and evidence received.

HON. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [4.35]: I move—

That the report and recommendations be printed.

I should like to call attention to the fact that I am moving for the printing of the report and recommendations only. I do not think we would be justified in putting the country to the expense of printing the bulky evidence given by some 42 witnesses. The report and recommendations will be sufficient to convey to members a full understanding of the position, and a typewritten copy of the evidence and the correspondence referred to in the report will be laid on the Table.

Question put and passed.

On motion by the Chief Secretary, resolved: That consideration of the Bill in Committee be made an order of the day for next sitting.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I have been asked whether it is not proposed to have the report read. By way of explanation, I should like to say that the reason I did not move for the reading of the report was that it is rather