

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 22nd December, 1914.

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

PAPERS WITHDRAWN— WHALING LICENSE.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.35]: I desire to make an explanation. Hon. members will doubtless remember that on the 15th instant there were laid on the Table copies of an Exclusive License under the Fisheries Act entered into between the Government and a Norwegian Company, granting to the company the right to take whales in a defined portion of our territorial waters between Cape Lambert and the 120th Meridian. The license was prepared in the name under which the application had been submitted, viz., the "Australia Whaling Company." Since then, however, there has come to hand from Norway a power of attorney to the representative of the company in this State from which it is apparent that the proper designation of the company—the title under which it is registered—is "Aktieselskabet Australia." We have been advised that the license must issue in the registered name of the company, and that a translation of the title is not sufficient. Consequently, the license has been amended and will be placed on the Table.

As, however, it is proposed to adjourn the House after to-day's sitting until 12th January, it is realised that if the license were placed on the Table to-day members would be prevented from taking any action they desired to take in connection with the license. Seeing that the purpose of laying papers on the Table is that members may have an opportunity of perusing them and taking action considered necessary in the public interest, it is not proposed to replace these particular papers on the Table until the House reassembles after the adjournment.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Report of the Zoological Gardens and Acclimatisation Committee for the year ended 30th June, 1914.

By the Minister for Lands: Department of Agriculture, (a) profit and loss statement for the year ending 30th June, 1914, of the Perth, Fremantle, and Subiaco retail meat shops; (b) profit and loss statement for the year ending 30th June, 1914, of the cattle shipments; (c) balance sheet of the State meat supply as at 30th June, 1914.

By the Minister for Mines: 1, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, amendment of by-laws. 2, Woods and Forests Department, report for year ended 30th June, 1914.

By the Attorney General: Copy of award in the Coastal District Quarrymen's branch of the General Workers' Union.

By Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): 1, Storage charges, Onslow Goods Shed; 2, Health Act, 1911-12. (a) Perth Local Health Authority, Amendment of by-law; (b) Amendment of regulations.

By the Speaker: Balance of the Auditor General's report, 1913-14.

COMMISSION FOR SWEARING-IN.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a notification from the Under Secretary of

the Colonial Secretary's office notifying me of the fact that His Excellency the Governor-in-Council has been pleased to issue an authorising Commission, appointing me to administer to members of the Legislative Assembly the prescribed oath or affirmation.

STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT—ASSENT.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a communication from His Excellency the Governor returning Standing Order No. 386a adopted by the Legislative Assembly, to which His Excellency has given his approval.

BILLS: FIRST READING.

- 1, Vermin Board Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for Lands.
- 2, Loan Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Premier.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £668,270.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.40] moved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages on one day.

Question passed.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the Bill.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved itself into Committee of Supply, Mr. Holman in the Chair,

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.43]: I move—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the services of the year ending June 30, 1915, a sum not exceeding £668,270.

I may explain to the Committee that it is necessary to obtain further supplies for the purpose of permitting us to discuss the Estimates and to carry on the public service in the interim. The supply I am asking for is to take us on to the end of January only. By that time I hope that the Estimates and appropriation to cover all the supplies granted will have passed through Parliament and that we would then be able to go into recess. For the present, owing to the fact that we are not sitting after to-day until the 12th January, and that we had only obtained supplies until the end of this month, it is essential that further supplies should be granted to carry on after the end of the month. These are on the basis of the present expenditure and in accordance with the Loan Estimates submitted to the House last year.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [4.45] I have no objection to giving the Premier the supply that he asks for, but I notice that he wants £180,000 from Loan Suspense Account. It would be better if we had some explanation as to why this large sum is required from Loan Suspense. This means works being carried on which have not been authorised by the House. That is what Loan Suspense is for. The Premier might offer us that information.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [4.46]: I have not the details, but I can assure the hon. member that this amount is principally due to the fact that we have exceeded the sum voted on the previous Loan Estimates. The work is authorised by the passing of the Loan Bill, and the expenditure on the particular work is authorised by the passing of the Loan Estimates. We have not had the Loan Estimates yet, and we have had to exceed the authority from the point of view of the Loan Estimates, although not from the point of view of the Loan Bill.

It is merely a matter of giving authority to expend that sum more than has been passed by Parliament.

Hon. Frank Wilson: This is not for new works then?

The PREMIER: Not so far as I am aware.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Supply Bill introduced, etc.

Resolution in Committee of Ways and Means having been passed, a Supply Bill was brought in for the expenditure of £338,270 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £150,000 from General Loan Fund, and £180,000 from Loan Suspense Account.

Bill passed through all its stages and transmitted to the Legislative Council.

BILL—COAL MINES REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Introduced by Mr. A. A. Wilson and read a first time.

BILL—CITY OF PERTH.

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

BILL—GRAIN AND FOODSTUFF.

Council's requested amendments.

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with a schedule of six requested amendments, which were now considered.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER: It is necessary that we should pass the measure at this sitting, otherwise we shall not be able to deal with it until we re-assemble on the 12th January. Owing to the urgency of the matter, therefore, I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Grain and Foodstuff Bill to be considered immediately.

Question passed; Standing Orders suspended.

In Committee.

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

No. 1, Clause 11—Add the following words "except grain or foodstuff hereafter imported into the State":

The PREMIER: The clause as it was sent to the Legislative Council read—

The Board is hereby empowered, during the continuance of this Act, to acquire all or any quantity of any grain and foodstuff now or hereafter within the State.

To that the Council desire to add the words contained in the amendment. I do not know that we want to acquire foodstuff and grain that has been imported into the State, and I think that under the circumstances, we might agree to the amendment. I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question passed; the Council's amendment made.

No. 2, Clause 12, Subclause (1), paragraph (c)—In line 1 strike out the word "may" and insert "shall":

On motion by the PREMIER, consideration postponed until after amendment No. 6.

No. 3, Clause 13, Subclause (1), paragraph (a)—After the word "owner" insert the following words:—"or if the board is notified in writing of the claim of any other person interested in such grain or foodstuff as agreed between the board, the owner, and such other person":

The PREMIER: I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question passed; the Council's amendment made.

No. 4, Clause 13—Strike out Subclause (3) and insert in lieu thereof:—"The price so to be fixed shall be what the Commission consider to have been the market value of such grain or foodstuff at the place and at the time where and when it was acquired":

The PREMIER: This amendment is the South Australian provision and takes the place of the subclause in the Bill. I

do not desire to press our clause as against the South Australian section, but our provision was inserted to avoid litigation. If the Committee wish to have the South Australian provision and take the risk, well and good. The two provisions arrive at the same result. I think we might agree to the Council's amendment subject to a modification in the direction of inserting a proviso that the decision of the board shall be final, and not subject to appeal. I want to prevent litigation. I move—

That the Council's amendment be made subject to a modification by adding the words "and their decision shall be final."

That will stop litigation in regard to price.

Mr. ROBINSON: The words that were originally suggested by the Premier when we were considering this matter in Committee, with the addition which I suggested, would meet the case better than the suggestion now before us, but I presume the Premier is anxious to get the Bill through. If the board in fixing the price does not have regard to the market value it is still open to litigation.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I feel it would be better to accept the amendment of the Council and adopt the wording of the South Australian Act. There is not much danger of litigation, because the price has to be fixed at what the Commission consider to be the market value of foodstuff when and where it is purchased. I do not think there can be any appeal from that unless it is proved conclusively that the price is outrageous. I am inclined to agree with the member for Canning that if we do anything we should adopt the proposal made when the Bill was previously in Committee.

Mr. TAYLOR: There is still a possibility if we accept the amendment of another place, even with the suggestion of the Premier, for there to be litigation. The member for Canning points out clearly that if an arbitrary price is fixed, with the words suggested by the Premier added, that would not prevent litigation. If that is so, why not disagree with the amendment and adopt the clause as

printed in the Bill, which leaves no chance for litigation?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Why should we legislate against anyone protecting himself. A board is to be appointed, and if that board does wrong should not there be some power given to a person to protect himself? Litigation could only be set up when the owner elected to go to law. The subclause as passed by this House is better than the Council's amendment. If the price were not in accordance with the fair market value, the owner could go to the court and demand a fair market value, and he would have to prove what a fair market value was. Our duty is to see that even-handed justice is meted out to everyone.

Mr. Taylor: You are assuming that the Commission will not have due regard to the market value.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Premier desires that there shall be no litigation, because he will become buyer and seller of the foodstuff. Is that fair?

Mr. Willmott: If it comes to litigation, the lawyers will have the value.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER: The subclause as passed by this House will not, in my opinion, permit of litigation. The appeal will have to be made to the Control of Trade Commission.

Hon. J. D. Connolly: There is nothing to take away the right of a man to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER: I agree with the member for Northam that the clause as passed by this House is preferable.

The PREMIER: The Parliamentary Draftsman deliberately dropped this provision which appears in the South Australian Act, but was prepared to insert it if we considered it necessary to allow a man to stay proceedings in order to appeal to the court, even if he had not a chance of being successful. We considered that would be undesirable, and thought it preferable to make it a direction to the Commission to take into account the question of the market value. Surely no one believes the Commission will show any prejudice, but to ask for the right of appeal suggests that some

members do think so. The Commission would not fix the price for all produce, but would deal with each individual case with this direction in mind. The clause as passed by this Chamber is the correct one, but in order to get the measure on the statute-book I was prepared to accept the amendment subject to there being no possibility of appealing.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: Does the existing clause give a right to appeal?

The PREMIER: Yes, if the price were fixed without regard to the market value. Under the circumstances I ask leave to withdraw my proposal to accept the amendment with a modification.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

The PREMIER: I now move—

That the amendment be not made.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Do you intend to move to add to your clause the words you mentioned.

The PREMIER: No.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: If we intend to adjourn till the 12th January, and the Premier wants to get the Bill passed, he cannot hope to do so if the measure is sent back disagreeing to the Council's amendments. I think we are making a mistake. There is such a slight difference between the two proposals that we may as well accept the South Australian provision. The grain will be acquired, and the fixing of the price will be a matter for subsequent proceedings, so that there will be no delay in the actual acquiring of the foodstuff. If the Commission showed a disregard for the market value there would be an appeal. The Council's amendment makes it mandatory that the price fixed shall be what the Commission consider to have been the market value. I do not think there is anything to prevent an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Taylor: Both the subclause and the amendment make it mandatory.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Whatever words are added, it will be impossible to prevent an appeal.

Mr. Taylor: That is if the Commission did not have regard to the market value.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Quite so. The judge would have to decide whether

there had been due regard to the market value. I do not think it will matter from the point of view of the Commission, but I prefer the South Australian section because it insists on the price being fixed according to the market value. The clause as passed by this Chamber says that the Commission shall have due regard to the market value. They might have due regard to such value in order to fulfil the mandate of the measure, but they might not be guided by it. The Committee would be wise to accept the amendment.

Hon. J. D. CONNOLLY: I agree with the leader of the Opposition that the Council's amendment is the better of the two. There seems to be an impression that the measure will apply to only grain and flour, but it is likely to apply to any commodity, and for this reason there should be an appeal from the Commission. It would be wrong to take away the right of appeal. The question of the market value of wheat and flour is not very complicated, but it would be more difficult to arrive at a decision respecting other commodities. Three members of a commission could not have the necessary knowledge to enable them to fix a fair market value for any commodity. That is as wide a subject as can be conceived. I agree that the clause suggested by another place will be less productive of litigation. Still, people will not be likely to rush into litigation in connection with this measure unless they have a case.

Mr. WANSBROUGH: The proposed amendment would not relieve the situation at all. If it were adopted, the board could fix the price at anything they like.

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: After all, there is a difference between the proposal of this Chamber and the amendment suggested by another place. Under that amendment the sole consideration in fixing the price will be the market value, whereas this Chamber's proposal is that regard shall be had to the market value. An appeal is provided in either case. Now, it is a matter of some difficulty to decide what is the market value. In Australia the London price is usually taken as the basis of market value, but to-day the Australian price is higher than the

London value. On the parity of the London price the value of wheat here would be 5s. 4d. or 5s. 5d. per bushel, as against the actual market value here of 6s. 4d. The price of wheat should be judged from an Australian point of view, having regard, however, to the value of wheat on the world's markets. Therefore we should leave the clause as it was carried in this Chamber.

Mr. ROBINSON: I cannot resist the temptation to speak again after listening to the Minister for Lands, because the arguments he advanced in favour of the original clause seem to me to justify the amendment, which makes it mandatory to fix the market price at the place where and the time when the goods are acquired. The original clause provides merely that regard shall be had to the market price. I question very much whether a court would interfere with a decision under the original clause, even if that decision were inequitable to the seller. We are not discussing this clause from an academic or a party standpoint; everyone seems agreed that the market price should be paid; and that desire is expressed in plainer English by the amendment than by the original clause, and with less risk of appeal.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The preferable course is to leave the clause as it stands. The whole question hangs on the market value fixed by sellers and buyers. If we have no power of restraint, the market value may be an inflated one. We must leave the board and the Commissioners free to dissect an inflated price from the genuine market price; otherwise we leave the public at the mercy of speculators.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I object to the clause with the amendment. The Premier put up an amendment. What has become of that?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: That amendment was withdrawn.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not made.

No. 5, Clause 16, Subclause (1).—Strike out paragraph (1) and insert in lieu thereof:—"If the board receives notice in writing that some person other

than the apparent owner has any lien or charge in respect of such grain or foodstuff, the board shall either deduct from such sums or any of them the amount of such lien or charge and pay such amount to the person who appears to the board to be entitled thereto or":

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: The Government see no objection to this amendment, and I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question passed; the Council's amendment made.

No. 6, Clause 16, Subclause (1), paragraph (3).—Insert at the beginning the words "Subject as aforesaid":

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment represents merely an improvement in the wording of the clause. I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question passed; the Council's amendment made.

No. 2, Clause 12, Subclause (1), paragraph (c).—In line two strike out the word "may" and insert "shall":

The MINISTER FOR LANDS: This amendment provides that the board shall give notice to the owner of premises in which foodstuff is stored, making the giving of notice mandatory; whereas our clause provides merely that the board may give such notice. I move—

That the amendment be made.

Question passed; the Council's amendment made.

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a Message accordingly returned to the Council.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING.

- 1, Lands Act Amendment.
 - 2, Esperance Northwards Railway.
- Transmitted to the Council.

BILL — KATANNING-NYABING RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from 16th December.

Mr. THOMSON (Katanning) [5.50]: I have pleasure in supporting the second

reading. The Bill came before the House last session, but unfortunately, through the intervention of the war, it did not pass the Council. In view of the old adage that a good wine needs no bush I will be very brief. The member for Bunbury (Mr. Thomas) said it was time a halt should be called in regard to railway construction. I would like to point out that there is only one way in which to open up and develop this State, that is by building railways into the country so as to give settlers a means of getting their produce to market. This line will attain a two-fold object: it will serve the settlers in the district and will also help to relieve the unemployed difficulty with which we are confronted.

The Minister for Works: A strong argument at the present time.

Mr. THOMSON: It is. I have pleasure in supporting the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

BILL—YILLIMINING-KONDININ RAILWAY EXTENSION.

In Committee.

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2—agreed to.

Clause 3—Deviation:

Mr. E. B. JOHNSTON: I move an amendment—

That in line 3 the word "one" be struck out with a view to inserting "five."

It will be noticed on reference to the plan at a point 20 miles south of Merredin, the proposed line is some 26 miles from the main Wickepin-Merredin railway, and remains at about that distance for 15 or 20 miles south. It will also be seen that the proposed new line runs very close to the second rabbit-proof fence, and as at present no selection is allowed east of

that fence, it is apparent that the new railway will not get much traffic from the eastern side at that point. I am not in a position to say whether the railway should be taken further westward or not, although I think it ought to be. I want the Government to have power to investigate the matter and, at the point named, take the railway whatever distance from the Wickepin-Merredin line appears to be in the best interests of the State. In this case the Government should have power to deviate to an extent of about five miles instead of one mile, although of course it does not follow that any alteration will be really made.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The survey of this line was completed in November, and there is no doubt in my mind that the surveyors have chosen the best route. The amendment, if carried, would make no difference, because if that proposed is the best route for the line, the railway will be constructed on it.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: On the second reading I pointed out what was apparent to some of the settlers, namely, that it was an injustice that they should have to cart their stuff such a long way. With the idea of arriving at a just estimate of the general conditions and the amount of settlement in these far eastern districts, it is my intention to traverse the whole of that country right up to the rabbit-proof fence during the next fortnight. There appears to be some justification for the contention of those people to the south who declare that they have to take their stuff a long way round. We have to consider the people settled there, and before expressing any opinion, I should like to satisfy myself as to the number. Therefore I would like the measure to be held up until an investigation can be made. This will not hinder the construction of the line.

Mr. Price: If you are not satisfied, why not move to report progress?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I desire that a fair thing shall be done, and I do not want to see the line taken too far around if that course is not justified. I move—

That progress be reported.

Question passed; progress reported.

BILL—PINJARRA—DWARDA RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 16th December.

Hon. J. MITCHELL (Northam) [6.2]: We were given very clearly to understand when this Bill was introduced by the Minister for Works that there was no intention of building the line in the very near future. It is a pity to ask for the authorisation to construct unless the Minister intends to go on with the work. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Gilchrist), in referring to railway proposals the other night, expressed a doubt regarding the wisdom of continuing the policy of railway construction, because so much land which had been alienated was not being used. The Pinjarra-Dwarda line will, for the most part, pass through land held under conditional purchase and improvement is provided for. Under the land laws of this State, the land has to be improved in proportion to the value set upon it. In the case of land valued at 10s. an acre it is provided that 10s. worth of improvements must be done in the first ten years, and in the case of land valued at 15s. an acre, 15s. worth of improvements. This provision guarantees that the land adjacent to this line will be improved and it is being improved day by day. We can very safely undertake the building of any line through any conditional purchase lands in the State. If the hon. member had taken the trouble to turn to the figures relating to the improvements effected on our broad acres during the last six years, he would have found that there was no ground for his fears. During the past six years something approaching four and a half million acres of land have been improved, cleared, or ringbarked. This is a magnificent record when we consider that it took nearly eight years to reach a total of three million acres of improved land. There is also another fact that a great deal of land is not fit for cultivation. I doubt if there is very much good land adjacent to any part of our railway system which is not being improved in one way or another. When we consider that ten million acres of the twenty million acres

alienated or in process of alienation has been selected during the past six years, it will be realised that we are making very great progress indeed. So good is our progress, in fact, that we can safely go on with railway construction so long as the lines are laid down economically. I do not wish to again discuss that aspect of the question, but I desire to make clear to hon. members just what is happening as a result of railway construction. Never in the history of Australia has the improvement of land gone on at the same rapid pace. I believe it is a fact that during the last ten years, almost one half of the additional area brought under crop in Australia was due to the development in our State, and this is largely the outcome of the policy of railway construction adopted in the past. I have pleasure in supporting the authorisation of this line, as I have in supporting any railway which will open up our South-Western areas. I do not know that this railway should be built before some of the others which have been mentioned by the Minister for Works. It is quite possible that there are others of greater importance.

Hon. Frank Wilson: The Margaret River railway will do more good than any other at the present juncture.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: I support the Bill and I hope the Minister will construct the line speedily. I repeat as I have said before that the only way to overcome the unemployed trouble is to build railways and settle the land. These are the two great things which are needed in this State, and if they are carried out we need have no fear for the future. The policy of railway construction inaugurated by my leader when in power is essentially the right one, and should be continued as speedily as possible. It is not sufficient to merely introduce a Bill and promise the people a railway; the line should be built and built as soon as possible.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. C. Angwin — North-East Fremantle—in reply) [6.7]: The hon. member for Northam is quite in error in coming to the conclusion that we have introduced this Bill merely by way of making a promise

to the people that they will be provided with a railway. We have introduced the Bill for the purpose of constructing the railway, and not merely of promising it. The hon. member must be aware that owing to the crisis experienced this year and the condition of the finances, it is impossible to immediately begin the construction of all the railways authorised. When Parliament passes a Bill for the construction of a line the people living in that particular area clamour for its immediate construction, and I referred to this point in consequence of the position with which we are now faced. I hope the hon. member will not run away with a wrong impression that we have no intention of starting the construction of this line as soon as the money market is favourable. The Government believe that the railway is necessary and when the money is available the construction will be immediately commenced.

Hon. J. Mitchell: You have three million pounds.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Holman in the Chair; the Minister for Works in charge of the Bill,

Clause 1—agreed to.

Clause 2—Authority to construct:

Mr. HICKMOTT: I think there was a wrong impression in the mind of the member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. E. B. Johnston) who remarked that this railway is to link up the Great Southern with the South-Western line. That is not so.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: A portion of it.

Mr. HICKMOTT: I think the ex-member for Pingelly advocated that the line which would be of the greatest benefit would be one linking up Armadale with the Great Southern at Brookton. This would shorten the route from Narrogin, and connect with the line running east from Brookton, opening up all that area of wheat growing country back to Cunderdin and the Merredin line.

Mr. Price: Is the hon. member in order in making a second reading speech on a matter not at present before the House?

The CHAIRMAN: No member is in order in making a second reading speech in Committee. The question now under consideration is Clause 2.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 3 to 7—agreed to.

Schedule, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Sitting suspended from 6.14 to 7.30 p.m.

**BILL—BOYANUP-BUSSELTON
RAILWAY EXTENSION.**

In Committee.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Governor received and read, transmitting the annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1914-15 and recommending appropriations.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR
1914-15.**

In Committee of Supply.

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

The PREMIER and TREASURER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) said: Standing before you this evening to unfold my fourth annual budget, or the 25th Financial Statement of the Government of Western Australia, I wish to say at the commencement that my remarks will be marked with greater brevity than has hitherto been the case on similar occasions. We are met to-night in the shadow of a great national crisis, the like of which has never

been known within our recollection or, indeed, within the history of man, and remote as the happenings of the Old World at one time seemed, yet the European War of 1914 is brought practically to our own doors, making extensive demands upon our patriotism, our money, and our men, demands in respect of which I am glad to say we are not, and shall not, be found wanting. Coupled with the war, we are experiencing within our State borders a drought of unique severity, in which I am sorry to find we are not alone, its occurrence having extended to the Eastern States, in some of which its effects are even worse than here. Standing face to face, therefore, with two great calamities, one from within our borders, and the other from without, I feel that the circumstances call for plain and straight treatment. This is not a time for idle sentiment or high sounding phrases on the one side, or carping criticism from the other, but it is a time when the British spirit within us should make us determined to rise above our circumstances, practice more self-denial, endure with more personal sacrifice, and put our shoulders to the wheel, in order that we may see the State pass successfully through the shadow of a great trial, and once more emerge upon the high lands of prosperity. In this spirit, therefore, I am unfolding my Budget to-night. It will not be an extensive résumé of our good work done; it will not consist of elaborate promises for the future; but I promise that it shall be a plain unvarnished tale, knowing that certain realities are with us, and that they must be faced by you and me. To this end, I shall not weary the Committee by dilating on the work of the various public departments of the State. I shall confine myself principally to financial considerations, allowing the various Ministers concerned to touch upon the work of departments when introducing their respective estimates. As was intimated to the House last year, the then Under Treasurer, Mr. Laurence Eliot, has retired after 50 years of loyal and faithful service to the State, 33 years of

which was spent in the Treasury. Mr. E. A. Black was appointed to the vacancy, also as Controller General of Accounts, the purpose of the latter position being to enable him to come into direct contact with officers of all departments on any question affecting the finances of the State, and thus obtain, I believe, a better control. I am sure that hon. members will appreciate the new Under Treasurer's rather difficult and trying position, in having to take up this great work under such exceptional difficulties as are at present prevailing.

Financial Transactions, 1913-14.

The figures relating to the financial transactions of last year, owing to the period which has elapsed since the close of the financial period, partake of something of the nature of ancient history. Hon. members will appreciate the reasons for the late introduction of the Estimates on this occasion. In the first place it was not possible to introduce Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure immediately preceding a general election, and, unfortunately, since the general election, we have had to face great difficulties in the compilation of what may be termed reliable Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, due to the changed conditions brought about by the war and the drought. I am of opinion, however, that while late in their introduction, they will be found, as I have ever endeavoured to have them, as correct an account of the position of our finances as is possible, keeping in mind the present conditions. On other occasions, when introducing the Budget, I have emphasised my determination to estimate as far as is humanly possible, the probable position of the finances at the close of the Financial Year. Last year I was able to boast of the fact that the previous year's Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure was something in the nature of a record in the history of the State; while I am again able to claim that my forecast for last Financial Year is an extremely correct and careful, as the year closed with a difference between the estimated Revenue and Expenditure of only £555. The Estimates and actual

results of the year's operations were as follows:—I estimated that the Revenue would reach £5,393,024, the actual result was £5,205,343; or an under-estimate of £187,681. I estimated the expenditure at £5,527,880. The actual expenditure was £5,340,754, representing an under-estimate of £187,126; or a net difference, as previously stated, of £555. I estimated the accumulated deficit to total £446,371, whereas it amounted to £446,926; again an under-estimate of only £555.

Auditor General's Report.

A good deal that might have been said on any other occasion in connection with the various accounts will be unnecessary now in view of the fact that hon. members have the advantage of the Public Accounts, accompanied by the Auditor General's criticisms, being made available before the Budget statement. I take it that the opportunity thus afforded to hon. members of delving into the transactions of the year has been availed of, and I trust that under those circumstances I may be relieved from the obligation of entering into much detail with respect to the public figures.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1913-14.

I have said that I understated the revenue by £187,681. This is, of course, the net result. The actual detail over-estimates totalled £277,979, against which there were underestimated items amounting to £90,298. I find that from Taxation items I received £42,161 less than anticipated; but this includes £14,338 less for probate, which is always a doubtful item to estimate; and Dividend Duty and Land Tax accounted for £23,232 of the shortage, but had my amending Assessment Bill been passed I would have collected this additional sum. Land revenue was short £12,937; and the railways were responsible for £44,714, this being principally due to the absence of the contemplated Transcontinental sleeper traffic. But the shortage in the railway receipts was more than counterbalanced by a reduction of £105,710 in the estimated expenditure.

State hotels also accounted for reductions on both sides of the account, this being explained by the delay in the establishment of new hotels; and under "Other Public Works and Services" the anticipated receipts from saw mills were not realised, but here also the expenditure was £91,579 under the estimates. In referring to the expenditure (Return No. 1) I would point out that under various headings the expenditure was less than the estimate to the extent of £287,704. On others, I exceeded the estimate by £100,578. This latter includes £36,734 for interest on public debt, of which £31,320 was recouped to revenue by the Agricultural Bank; £12,866 under the Votes directly controlled by myself, £14,066 under the Colonial Secretary, and £37,214 under the Minister for Agriculture. This latter includes £15,759 in connection with the Yandanooka Estate and £20,000 for the implement works. The next item for review is the balance sheet. In the "Synopsis" return I have shown the balances for last year and the previous year, for comparison.

Sinking Fund.

The Treasurer's "liabilities" have increased from £10,958,616 in 1913 to £11,051,780 on 30th June last, one of the principal items being the Sinking Fund, which increased by no less than £382,758. This represents the increase in the Sinking Fund for the year; and although the Treasurer is nominally responsible for the amount, all the funds are held by trustees in England and invested by them.

General Loan Fund.

The General Loan Fund shows an increase of £84,678. The balance of loan money raised, but not expended on Loan Account, was £1,189,525. When I say it was not expended on Loan Account, I do not wish to imply that the money has not been spent, because hon. members who are conversant with Treasury methods must know that when the Consolidated Revenue Fund is deficient, loan moneys or any other moneys available are utilised to make up the shortage.

Advances are also necessary; and stores have to be purchased, about 75 per cent. of which are purchased on Loan Account. Stores are debited to a suspense account until issued, but in the meantime they have to be paid for; and although nominally the General Loan Fund was in credit to the extent of £1,189,525 in June last, I think that the position as between loan, revenue, and trust accounts may be reduced to the following:—General Loan Fund, £1,189,525; Trust Fund, £9,862,255; or a total, being the amount for which the Treasurer is liable, of £11,051,780, as previously mentioned. On the other side of the account will be placed advances £136,288, Trust Funds (investments and cash) £9,786,520, and Stores £682,046, with the revenue deficit at the end of the year of £446,926, accounting for £11,051,780. In the foregoing statement, hon. members will notice I have allocated all the cash to the Trust Fund. The actual cash in the hands of the Treasurer was, on the 30th June, locally £803,122, in the Eastern States £142,908, and in London £124,538; a total of £1,070,568, being a reduction of £491,106 compared with the previous year.

Public Debt.

If hon. members will turn to Budget Return No. 6, they will notice that it is illustrative of the authorisations, flotations, and indebtedness on Loan Account. Our flotations for the year were £3,000,000 in London, and £731,605 in Australia. Of the latter £144,735 was used to redeem local stock paid off under option notice to the holders in 1912 and 1913, and this amount was temporarily charged to advances. I also issued Local Stock for £1,566,000 to the Savings Bank on account of money which had been advanced to the Agricultural Bank and which was previously secured by mortgage bonds. This I was empowered to do under the Agricultural Bank Act. The issue now becomes part of the public debt proper of the State, whereas the mortgage bonds were always viewed as a contingent debt; and this fact must not be overlooked when criticising the

increased public debt. The object of issuing the stock was to permit of the repayments by borrowers being utilised by the Agricultural Bank to the fullest extent, instead of being applied to pay off the mortgage bonds. At the same time, the new stock will be subject to the Statutory Sinking Fund. In November of last year a 4 per cent. loan was issued in London at £97, and netted £92 9s. Money was urgently required to meet liabilities incurred under the authorised loan programme; and, as the market at the time did not show any immediate prospect of improving, I was reluctantly forced to accept the terms offered. Much the same terms, however, applied to all borrowers on the London market during the period. It will be remembered that during February last a somewhat sensational re-action of the market took place, of which we took advantage by placing a £2,000,000 4 per cent. Loan at £98 10s. The issue netted £95 4s. 6d., which I consider was a satisfactory result. I may say that the loan was subscribed to the extent of over eleven million pounds, or more than five times over subscribed. The State of Victoria had just previously issued a £1,000,000 4 per cent. loan at £97. As I stated last year, the Australian market for State loans is limited. I was however, able to raise £721,605 at 4 per cent., at a discount of 3 per cent. But of this £144,735 was required for redemption purposes. I also paid off, during the year, £400,000 which had been borrowed in the previous year from the Commonwealth on Treasury Bills. This left £100,000 of the issue remaining current until June next. In addition, I paid off £650,000 of 4 per cent. Treasury Bills in London. These were issued when our predecessors were in office. Summarised, the flotations in London and Australia amounted to £3,731,605, realising £3,534,840, which, together with the balance of the 1912-13 London issue of £657,581 2s. 8d., made a total of £4,192,422 2s. 5d. net available. This money was utilised for general purposes, expenditure on public works etcetera, £2,997,687 2s. 5d. and for redemption

purposes £1,194,735. A balance of £1,104,847 10s. 10d. carried forward from the previous year provided £4,102,534 13s. 3d. for expenditure, of which amount £2,913,010 1s. 1d. was expended, leaving a balance as already stated to the credit of General Loan Fund on the 30th June last of £1,189,524 12s. 2d. A transaction arising out of our last London flotation was an investment by our Agent General of surplus funds, which, for the time being, he had at his disposal. Instead of placing the money in the bank to carry $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, he advanced £160,000 to the Government of Victoria at 3 per cent. Sir Newton Moore also took advantage of the London market to purchase a parcel of our stock at $99\frac{3}{8}$, which was carrying about £1 12s. 5d. accrued interest. Upon the stock being disposed of there was a cash profit on the transaction equal to $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the period, and upon the whole transaction over £2,700 was netted. The transaction hon. members will agree, was most creditable to the Agent General, and is a further evidence, if such were needed, that he is fully alive to the best interests of the State.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Did he consult you before he made that investment?

The TREASURER: Yes; he did. The gross indebtedness of the State was £34,420,181, being an increase of £4,143,748 for the year, but this latter includes the amount of £1,566,000 which I have already referred to as having been specially issued under the Agricultural Bank Act to replace mortgage bonds. The net public debt per head of the population, after allowing for the Sinking Fund, which has now reached the sum of £3,692,103, was £94 4s. 11d. per head. But deducting the Agricultural Bank and Workers' Homes loans, which, as I stated last year, are not a direct charge on the whole population, and, therefore, must be viewed in a different light from moneys borrowed for public works etcetera, and allowing for the unexpended balance of the General Loan Fund, the public debt per head was £82

6s. 11d., being an increase for the year on that basis of £3 7s. 6d. per capita. I have stated our loan expenditure amounted to £2,913,010 for the year, this being £496,208 less than was spent in the preceding year.

Loan Expenditure.

Following my usual practice I will give some details of the loan expenditure. Upon railways and tramways alone we expended £1,166,584, and the principal items making up the expenditure under this head were:—Additions and improvements to opened railways, £205,496; Wickopin-Merredin line, £53,084; Wongan-Mullewa, £127,007; Dwellingup-Hotham, £4,047; Brookton-Kunjin, £42,119; Yillimining-Kondinin, £41,561; Northampton-Ajana, £3,193; railways generally, £34,597; rails and fastenings, £247,559; rolling stock, £246,382. Members will there discover that after all, railway construction does not mean the expenditure of a large sum of money within the State in finding employment, but means in a large measure the sending of money out of the State for the purpose of bringing to our aid the necessary material for the purpose of construction. The other items are:—Water supply for new lines, £31,095; surveys for new lines, £6,368; land resumptions, Fremantle and Perth, £40,047; Perth trams, £16,025; electric power station, East Perth, £70,648. The other items of loan expenditure were:—Harbours and Rivers, £89,870, this including £66,142 expended on the Fremantle Harbour Works, £4,529 at Bunbury, £4,351 at Carnarvon, and £3,813 upon lighthouses, principally in the North-West. The sewerage for Perth and Fremantle accounted for £140,580, water supplies for £191,528, included in this being £27,912 expended in the agricultural districts, £66,704 on the goldfields, and £21,676 on the Albany water supply. On development of Agriculture £156,752 was expended. On development of the goldfields we expended £50,659, including £8,080 on State batteries. We assisted the development of mining to the extent

of £24,431, while £506,638 was found for the Agricultural bank, and £56,218 for the assistance of immigration. The Agricultural Implement Works absorbed £43,070, and abattoirs, cold storage, etc., £64,813. In providing capital for the workers' homes £278,000 was necessary; on saw mills, £126,406; on State hotels, £17,091; on brickyards £13,710; and on public buildings, roads and bridges, ferries, etc., £69,985. Having disposed of the Loan transactions for the year ended 30th June last, it may not be out of place under the circumstances to briefly refer to the question of loan provision for the current financial year. Upon the outbreak of war the usual channels of raising money for State purposes were necessarily closed.

Premiers' Conference.

A conference of the State Premiers was called by the Prime Minister, Mr. Cook, for the purpose of discussing the position as it affected practically all the States alike. At this conference Western Australia was, unfortunately, not represented, due to the short notice given. I had three days' notice by telegraph. Arrangements were made for the issue of Australian notes to the States, the conditions being a deposit of £25 in gold for every £100 of notes issued. Under this arrangement I availed myself of the terms offered and received £325,000 in notes for £81,250 in gold, the difference of £243,750 being covered by 4 per cent. Treasury Bills, having a currency of one year. It was easily realised, however, that this arrangement could not last for any extended period, and a further meeting of Premiers was called by the present Prime Minister, Mr. Fisher, which was held in Melbourne last month.

Advance to States.

At that meeting an agreement was entered into with the Commonwealth to advance to the various States to the extent of £18,000,000 for public works. Of this sum Western Australia is to receive £3,100,000, the rate of interest to be no less than 4 per cent. The security and the

term thereof to be given, have yet to be determined. This money the Commonwealth is raising locally, that is to say, within Australia. Under the agreement the States are not to raise any money either in London or Australia for a period of 12 months from 1st December last. This, however, is not to prevent them from issuing Treasury Bills to the amount of the average annual issue of such instruments during normal times. Considering the difficulties which face the States in connection with the raising of further moneys for public works, and the essential necessity of preventing one State from competing against another on the money market during such a period as the present, the arrangement made by the Prime Minister should, I think, be highly commended by all.

Estimated Revenue and Expenditure, 1914-15.

Turning to the current year's Estimates, if hon. members will turn to page 2 of the Estimates they will see that I have estimated the Revenue for the current year ending 30th June next at £5,307,782. Of this amount £4,667,282, it is estimated, will be collected by the State, totals of which are shown in detail on pages 8-11. The net amount estimated as being receivable from the Commonwealth is practically £640,500, the same as was received last year. This includes payment under the Surplus Revenue Act, as well as interest on transferred properties. The estimated expenditure is £5,647,675. Of this £1,690,152 is provided for by Special Acts, as detailed on pages 16-19, while the balance of the expenditure provided for in the Estimates, as detailed on pages 20 to 115, is £3,957,523.

The Deficit.

The deficit as on 30th June last was £446,926, and it is estimated for the present financial year that the revenue will be short of the expenditure by £339,893, or making an estimated accumulated deficiency on the 30th June next of £786,819.

Taking all things into consideration, I am sure that hon. members will agree that this is not as bad as might reasonably have been anticipated. It might be suggested that in the results obtained during the first five months of the year, I have placed the deficit on the year at too low a figure, but the Estimates have been carefully considered and unless the consequences of the drought and the war have a more serious effect on the finances than is at present apparent, my estimate should be realised. It is well to remember that a sum approaching £400,000 is due to the Government by the citizens of the State for deferred payments of rent, interest, and Agricultural Bank loans and in other directions which it was not possible to collect owing to the existing conditions. This sum has to be set against the accumulated deficit.

Allocation of Interest and Sinking Fund.

Before I deal with the differences in estimated revenue and expenditure in detail, may I draw hon. members' attention to the return showing allocation of interest and sinking fund. This appears immediately after page 18 of the Estimates. It discloses the fact that last year an amount of £1,133,996, was provided for interest charges, and £250,099 was contributed to a sinking fund for redemption of loans, while this year it is estimated that the allocation will be £1,287,249 for interest, an increase of £152,253, and £257,653 to the sinking fund; an increase of £7,554. When considering our financial position on Revenue account there are two points which must be kept in view. Firstly, that we are a young State in its developmental stages, which makes the expenditure of capital an essential, if we hope to progress; that, in its turn, carrying an increasing interest charge year by year; and secondly, side by side with this condition of affairs, we make heavy contributions to a sinking fund for the redemption of our loans. As I have already stated, this year, notwithstanding the adverse conditions prevailing, I am charged with the responsibility as Treas-

urer of finding from Revenue £257,000 by way of contribution to our Sinking Fund Trustees for the redemption of future loans.

Comparison with South Australia.

Were no provision made for such a Sinking Fund, as is the case in most of the other States, instead of showing a deficit of £339,893, it would have amounted to only £32,240 on the year's transactions, and considering the difficulties of the trying period we are passing through, hon. members will admit that that is a good showing in comparison with some of the other States of the Commonwealth. I am aware that comparisons are odious, but as much could be said to the detriment of the State's credit in connection with our Revenue Account, unless this point were thoroughly appreciated, I propose just briefly to make a comparison between our own and the neighbouring State of South Australia. In South Australia they have an Act known as the "Surplus Revenue Act," which provides that the surplus of any year shall be used for the purchase, inscription, and cancellation of stock. This is in lieu of a Sinking Fund provision. Last year they had a surplus of £218,636 making no contribution to a sinking fund; while we contributed £250,699 to our sinking fund direct from revenue. For the current year the Treasurer of South Australia estimates that on the year's transactions he will have a deficiency of £214,082; whilst still not contributing anything to sinking fund. We estimate a deficiency of £339,893, whereas if no contribution were made to sinking fund, there would, as previously stated, be a deficiency only of £32,240 as compared with the South Australian estimate under similar conditions of £214,000. Another point that ought not to be lost sight of is the difference between the "Surplus Revenue Act" of South Australia and the sinking fund provision of our "General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act." Under the Surplus Revenue Act of South Australia any surplus of one year may, by a subsequent Act of Par-

liament, be carried forward and utilised for expenditure in the succeeding year; and this is exactly what they have done with last year's surplus of £218,000. This enables them to meet such a difficulty as they and we are called upon to face at the present juncture, with much more equanimity, too, than is possible in our case, where the sinking fund provision is in the nature of a definite contract with the bond-holders. I mention these matters not for the purpose of criticism of or as a reflection upon a neighbouring State, but merely to draw public attention to the different methods of financing and the special difficulties which I have to face in one year in comparison with those of the Treasurers of other States where no definite provision is made for sinking fund contributions from revenue. Again, as I have said, we are a young State in its developmental stages; while other States—for example, South Australia, which may be termed an agricultural State—are well developed, with their industries on a substantial basis. The Treasurer of that State remarked in his Budget speech—

Since 1905 we have had years of great and unparalleled prosperity—bumping harvests, good prices, and huge surpluses. It was possible during that time amply to supply the requirements of every department of the State, to pay off old balances of accounts due from revenue to loan, and, in addition to redeem the public debt to the amount of £935,858. But the scene has changed with the startling suddenness that always will characterise affairs which are affected intensely by climatic and atmospheric conditions. We were fortunate in that our period of prosperity lasted so long, and that during such time the people of the State, as a whole, were bettered by having been able to reduce their liabilities, to add to their substance, and to fortify themselves against the years of adversity.

Contributions towards Redemption of Debt.

Having noticed this reference by the South Australian Treasurer to the

amount of debt redemption from surplus revenue since 1905, I asked for some particulars of the amount that the State of Western Australia has contributed from revenue during the same period for redemption of debt and the comparative figures will, I am sure, interest hon. members. South Australia had redeemed public debt to the amount of £935,958 since 1905, and as admitted by the Premier of that State, during years of great and unparalleled prosperity. During the same period, with at least some lean years, and during a developmental period, we contributed for the redemption of public debt no less a sum than £2,337,678 from revenue. During the same period, the Trustees controlling the Sinking Fund had earned by way of interest and discount, less charges, £917,596. The earnings of our sinking fund being, therefore, nearly as much as the total amount provided by the South Australian Treasurer for the redemption of public debt during that period. I want to emphasise these figures, as I am certain that but few of the public and, I am afraid, not many members have the slightest idea of the amount that has been contributed from our Consolidated Revenue for the redemption of debt, in comparison with the other and older established States. The admittedly lengthy period of good harvests and good prices in an established industry enabled the people of South Australia to reduce their liabilities and to add to their substance and, as the Premier stated, fortify themselves against the year of adversity.

Assistance to Primary Industries.

Western Australia, however, has had at least three admitted lean years, the present disastrous drought being something in the nature of a climax. Our agricultural industry is in the process of development, and this largely by State assistance. We have, rightly or wrongly, urged land settlement, even to those with little or no capital, assuring them of financial assistance from the State. Our people were not, however, as fortunate as those in the neighbouring State, not being able to reduce their liabilities—on

the contrary, they have had to increase them—nor to add to their substance, but, unfortunately, rather to impoverish it; nor to fortify themselves against the present time of adversity. Their position, which is a most trying one indeed, is not due to lack of individual effort or Government sympathy and aid, but rather to our great misfortune in being overtaken with a season the like of which has never previously been recorded, and this before we had time to establish the industry on a firm footing. Many, perhaps the majority of those who are suffering in those areas to-day, are still in the pioneering stages, still ringbarking, clearing, and otherwise improving their holdings, still spending the greater proportion of their energies in making preparation for the future cultivation of the soil. They must of very necessity obtain further capital, and their difficulties have been aggravated by the effects of the greatest war in history. Our settlers have been compelled to look to the State for further assistance, at a time when the State itself has been practically cut off from the money markets of the world. Under such circumstances could any hon. member suggest that I should so far forget the interests of the individual within our State as to merely devote my efforts to squaring our ledger by neglecting to provide that meed of assistance which, under existing conditions the State alone can supply, by saving our interest bill through ceasing to borrow the funds which will provide that assistance, or by neglecting to render him the other essential facilities for the successful cultivation of the soil? In my capacity I can only fairly consider the position from the point of view that the State, after all, is made up of individual citizens, and to neglect the individual citizens will naturally in turn have a baneful effect upon the State as a whole. It must not be forgotten, too, that many of the world's markets have been closed to some of our mineral products, which has rendered it necessary for the Government to make or guarantee advances against such products until such time as a market can again be found for them. These consi-

derations have had their effect upon nearly all our trading and industrial concerns—I am not speaking of State concerns alone, but of all those within the State, private as well as State-owned—which must result in hard times and much suffering for many. The best that can be done is to endeavour to mitigate the sufferings so far as lies in our power. As a Government we have done our utmost in this direction and will continue to do so. I mention all this more to represent our special difficulties, in the hope that hon. members, as well as citizens generally, will be better able to appreciate the position and show at least some little forbearance when disposed to captious criticism.

Estimated Revenue, 1914-15.

To proceed with the Revenue Estimates. In preparing the Revenue Estimates I have attempted to reduce the amount to what will be receivable from outside the public service, excepting the case of trading concerns, and for that purpose I have eliminated receipts for Government printing, lithographic, and similar services. The member for Irwin (Mr. Jas. Gardiner) mentioned the other day that we were unduly inflating our receipts and expenditure by taking into account revenue earned by one department for work performed by another. I have attempted this year to eliminate some of the evils arising from that state of affairs, and instead of crediting revenue for work performed for other departments it will be seen that I have rebated the expenditure of the department to whom payment is due. I intend next year to extend the system, as far as possible, so as to avoid objectionable inflation of both the revenue and expenditure of the State. It is intended however to continue to provide detailed estimates as at present, but to set off the charges against departments, which are not in the truest sense revenue of the State. Hon. members will notice that there are some estimated fluctuations in the revenue receivable from different sources during the year. We estimate a decrease

of £6,200 from land tax, due to probable re-adjustment in land values. From the income tax £75,000 is expected, or a reduction of approximately £7,000, as compared with last year's receipts. This is due to the decrease of profits as a result of the war and the bad season. The increase in dividend duty of £7,400 is due to increased tax being paid consequent upon the anticipated passing of the amendment of the Dividend Duty Act, which provides for all profits being taxable, instead of dividends being declared. The decrease of £17,000 in the stamp duty is due to decrease in the number of documents, negotiable instruments, etc., consequent upon the bad season and the war. It is difficult to estimate the amount collectable in probate duty, but it is estimated that no more than £30,000 will be received from this source. Owing to the bad season, and settlers not being able to pay their land rents, it is expected that there will be a shortage of £52,000 in land revenue at the end of the year. There is an estimated shortage under mining of £3,680, odd, owing to the war closing the markets for some of the minerals raised in the State. We also estimate a decrease of £6,000 in State batteries. One of the heaviest estimated reductions in revenue in comparison with the previous year is that under "Railways and Tramways" our principal earning department, on which, on account of the bad season and the consequent decrease in freights on wheat and other produce, an estimated shortage of no less than £63,021 is expected. This would undoubtedly have shown even a greater shortage had it not been for the traffic in connection with the construction of the Trans-Australian Railway from Kalgoorlie to Port Augusta.

State Trading Concerns.

The State ferries and jetties are expected to return an additional £1,450, mainly due to the operations of a new steamer which is to be put on the South Perth ferry service almost immediately, and which will catch the balance of the summer

trade. The State hotels are estimated to show an increase of £11,400, due to additional hotels having been erected during the latter part of last year, and others now in course of erection. Under the heading of "State Implement Works" an estimated increase of £51,000 is shown, but this heading also includes—which has to be kept in mind—the old harbour works, which has been amalgamated and which undertakes work for other departments and also for the Commonwealth Government. Last year the State Implement Works were only operating on a small scale during construction, and payments received were very much less than anticipated for the current year. Much the same thing applies with regard to the State saw mills, which show an increase of £247,000, this being due to the mills now operating being in full swing for the whole year. A new item is that of revenue from the State brick works, from which source we estimate receiving £6,500 before the end of June. A small increase of £1,900 is shown under "State quarries," arrangements having been made to increase the capacity for the purpose of temporarily supplying material for preliminary operations in connection with the Commonwealth Naval Base. I regret that it has been found necessary to estimate a decline in revenue from water supplies to the extent of approximately £7,000, due partly to the dry season and to the falling off in the consumption on the goldfields area. The most direct evidence of the effects of the war and dry season is shown in the estimated receipts from harbour dues, where I anticipate a shortage of approximately £50,000 as compared with last year. The item £281,000 shown as "Reimbursements in Aid" includes £100,000 for interest and sinking fund on Agricultural Bank capital; and £22,000 for interest on Workers' Homes Board capital. Hon. members will better understand if I explain that the interest and sinking fund on all our loans are charged against special Acts, and if any trading concern is charged under an Act of Parliament to pay the Treasurer interest and sinking fund on the amount of the loan funds utilised by

that particular department, it is then paid into revenue because we cannot charge up this. That is the reason why these large amounts are shown.

Increases and Decreases in Expenditure.

Turning to the question of increases or decreases in estimated expenditure, I have already drawn attention to the increase under special Acts, including interest £152,253, and sinking fund increase of £7,554, which, together with other provisions, make a total increase of £179,064 under special Acts. The only departments showing any increases that require special reference are those of Minister for Water Supply, the Attorney General, the Minister for Education, and the Minister for Works and Industries. The increased expenditure estimated in the Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department is due to certain activities of the department operating for a full year as against a portion of last year only, and by the introduction of other activities consequent on the passing of the Irrigation and Drainage Act. It might be claimed that under those circumstances the revenue should not show a decrease, but rather an increase. This, however, has been taken into account when estimating the probable revenue. As previously explained, the consumption has fallen off, which, together with the difficulty in obtaining payment for supplies from the Goldfields Water Scheme in the agricultural districts is largely responsible for the difference. The increase in the Law Department, controlled by the Attorney General, is due mainly to the transfer of the State hotels and inspection of liquors, which accounts for nearly £7,000 of a total of £9,600, while the Electoral Department, due to the cost of the general elections, shows an increase of nearly £4,000 over last year. Of the Education Department increase of £22,680 something approaching £15,000 is for salaries and allowances for primary schools, made necessary by the increasing number of scholars; which means additions to our existing schools, as well as the opening of new ones in various parts of

the State. They have to be staffed, and the staffs have to be paid. The increase in expenditure under "Minister for Works and Industries" is due in a measure to the transfer of the State Implement Works from the Agricultural Department, and by the heavy increase in expenditure in connection with the State saw mills, due to their operations being extended by working double shifts and for the full period of the year. The decrease in expenditure of £25,973 in the Colonial Treasurer's Department is principally owing to the transfer of State hotels, and other sub-departments to the control of other Ministers, while the estimated reduction in expenditure in connection with the railway system is due to the decreased mileage, brought about by a regrettable falling off in the traffic, consequent upon the bad season. The Mines Department also shows a decrease of £7,275. This is largely made up of the introduction of economies together with a falling-off in State battery returns. In the Lands and Agricultural Departments a total decrease of £27,000 is shown, this being largely due to the introduction of necessary economies, owing to the falling-off of the work of the departments, consequent again upon the bad season and the transfer of the Implement Works to the control of the Minister for Works and Industries. In the past it has been the custom of the Treasurer to enlarge to some extent on the activities of the various departments, and the progress of the State's industries from the preceding financial year, but on this occasion I have decided to refrain from too much detail, leaving this rather to the Ministers when introducing their section of the Estimates, confining myself principally to the financial side of the State's operations.

State and Commonwealth Savings Banks.

I must, however, refer briefly to the State Savings Bank which, during the last few years, has been extremely busy. Last year the total deposits received and withdrawals paid exceeded all previous records. The increase over the year

1912-13 was, for deposits, 67,000 transactions and £837,959, while the withdrawals increased by 40,386 transactions and £917,271. The interest paid to depositors also showed an increase over the preceding year by £2,966. After providing for interest to depositors amounting to £128,704 6s. 8d., sundry expenses £64 4s., and the expenses of management for the year £21,733 7s. 1d., there remains for transferring to revenue the sum of £24,479 8s. 5d., being the profit on the bank's transactions for the year. As the question of the amalgamation of the State and Commonwealth Savings Banks has received a good deal of prominence recently, I think it would not be out of place to inform hon. members of the position of the two banks, and how the State would be affected by the proposal of the Prime Minister, Mr. Fisher. Last year the amount of deposits in the State Savings Bank totalled £4,551,871, and the withdrawals amounted to £4,600,883, or an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £47,770. But notwithstanding this, the interest payable to depositors for the term provided a net increase of the balance due to depositors at the end of the year of approximately £30,000. Side by side with this, the transactions of the Commonwealth Savings Bank Department showed an increase for the same period of approximately £165,000 in Western Australia alone. It is fair to assume that as the conditions governing the deposits with the State or Commonwealth Savings Banks are much the same, this amount would under ordinary conditions be paid in to one Savings bank, so that the increase in the two Banks amounted to approximately £245,000 for the year. It is now abundantly evident that the people of Australia insist on the operations of the national bank being extended rather than restricted, and we may rest content that the Savings Bank department of the Commonwealth Bank has come to stay. That being admitted, we, as a State Government and Parliament, should carefully consider what advantages or disadvantages would accrue by operating our Savings Bank as a separate

institution under State control, or by amalgamation on the terms submitted by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fisher. The two principal features, I think, of the Prime Minister's proposal are :—Firstly, that the amount at present standing to the credit of depositors in the State Bank, £4,000,000 odd, shall remain at the call of the State in perpetuity, and that 75 per cent. of the amount of new business should also be at the call of the State Government; and secondly, that the Bank should be controlled by the Governor, sitting with a board on which the States would be represented. Had this been operating during last year, instead of having only approximately £80,000 available for investment, three-fourths of the total amount deposited in the two banks would have made over £183,000 available to the State, so that by the two Banks being kept apart it increases the cost of the management of both, and it left me as Treasurer with over £103,000 less cash available for the purpose of assisting our various industries. I am afraid that a good deal of sentiment and, perhaps, party feeling enters into the consideration of such questions, but it is apparent, I am sure, to all members that as both banks are owned and operated by the people themselves, such opposition is both expensive and unwarranted. As the people of the Commonwealth persist in continuing operations under the Commonwealth Bank, and we are concerned primarily about having money for investment to use in the development of the States resources, it is a question whether the time has not arrived when we might drop our sentiment and party feeling and obtain the advantage of this additional amount of funds to be utilised for State purposes. Before leaving the State Savings Bank I may mention that the transfer of the banking account to the Commonwealth Bank will be productive of considerable profit in future.

— *Public Servants' Increments.*

There is one matter affecting the Civil Service which, I think, ought to be

mentioned here. It is to be regretted that the conditions are such that we were unable to agree to any increases in salaries in the public service to officers receiving £156 or over per annum. There is one item, however, which appears on the Colonial Treasurer's Estimates in the Audit Department Division which provides for increases consequent upon the decisions of the Appeal Board, dating from the 1st July, 1911, to the 30th June, 1915. The amount involved for all departments for this financial year would be approximately £4,000. The Government are of opinion that under the conditions prevailing at the moment, and as trustees for the people, they are not entitled to pay these amounts at present, but in order that the matter might be discussed in all its bearings, and as it is not within the power of a member to move for the insertion of an item or the increase of an item, we have deliberately placed the sum referred to on the Estimates in order that the views of Parliament may be obtained.

Trade and Production.

Before concluding, I desire to draw hon. members' attention to the return dealing with trade and production, which I think will be found of interest, as it indicates the progress of the State in a condensed form. It will be seen that the wheat produced last year was 13,351,350 bushels, compared with 9,168,594 bushels for the previous year. There is a slight falling off in the value of gold produced, although the production reached the value of £5,478,932. Timber exported increased to the value of £1,142,280. Coal and other minerals show slight increases. There was a reduction of 175,500 in the number of sheep in the State, but cattle and horses increased by 36,978 for the year. Land under crop increased by

337,932 acres. Exports, excluding gold, show an increase of £880,828, and imports increased to the extent of £137,738. So far as the year under review is concerned, the progress made by the State was very satisfactory, and had the country been blessed with at least a normal rainfall, there is no doubt that the results obtained in 1913-14 would have been eclipsed during the present year.

Conclusion.

In my opening remarks I made reference to the principal causes of our present depression, namely, the drought and the war. Both of the evils are beyond our control, and their occurrence could not be laid at the door of any Government of this State. To these agencies we are chiefly indebted for the present conditions of affairs, and our only hope is in their remedy. The necessities of the war, I think, we are meeting with cheerfulness in being able to share the responsibilities of the motherland, and with an absolute determination to see the war pursued to a successful and honourable conclusion. The drought is even less within our control, but at least we will do our best to conserve for our people the resources in foodstuffs and supplies which are now within the country; we will endeavour to provide our farmers with necessary seed, and as far as possible our unemployed with work and food, hoping that the next season will see such a change in the adverse conditions which have beset us during the past few seasons as will once more set us upon the high road to a greater prosperity. I move the first item on the Estimates, namely—

His Excellency the Governor,
£1,750.

[*The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.*]

Progress reported.

APPENDIX TABLES Nos. 1 to 9, referred to in the Treasurer's Financial Statement.

[Return No. 1.]

Revenue, 1913-14.

	£	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	5,393,024	
The actual amount received was	5,205,348	
	<hr/>	
Or a total net over-estimate of		£187,681
	<hr/>	
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>	£	
Dividend Duty	7,438	
Licenses	439	
Probate	14,338	
Harbour Dues	4,152	
Land Tax	15,799	
Land	12,937	
Railways	44,714	
Mining	4,450	
State Hotels	14,397	
State Steamships	5,939	
State Ferries and Jetties	3,651	
Agricultural Implement Works	26,615	
Royal Mint	1,447	
Other Public Works and Services	119,409	
Residue	2,259	
	<hr/>	
		£277,979
<i>The under-estimates were—</i>	£	
Commonwealth	4,554	
Income Tax	1,990	
Stamp Duty	6,051	
Totalisator Tax	570	
Water Supply and Sewerage	28,604	
State Batteries	6,207	
Reimbursements-in-aid	40,586	
Tramways, Perth Electric	1,736	
	<hr/>	
		£90,298
		<hr/>
		£187,681
		<hr/>

Expenditure, 1913-14.

	£	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was	5,527,880	
The actual amount expended was... ..	5,340,754	
	<hr/>	
Or a net over-estimate of		£187,126
	<hr/>	
<i>The over-estimates were—</i>	£	
Minister for Lands	8,427	
Minister for Works and Water Supply	b 143,556	
Minister for Railways	105,710	
Minister for Education	15,087	
Attorney General	14,389	
Residue	535	
	<hr/>	
		£287,704

b Public Works and Buildings, £142,393.

The under-estimates were—

	£
Special Acts	a 36,077
Colonial Treasurer	12,866
Colonial Secretary	14,066
Minister for Agriculture	37,214
Residue	355
	<hr/>
	£100,578
	<hr/>
	£187,126
	<hr/>

a Mostly Public Debt charges.

[Return No. 2]

Synopsis of Balance Sheet for 50th June, 1914, and previous year.

Dr.	1914. £	1913. £
Sinking Fund	3,710,353	3,327,595
General Loan Fund	1,189,525	1,104,847
Savings Bank	4,701,216	4,564,918
Trust and Deposits Accounts generally	1,450,686	1,961,256
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£11,051,780	£10,958,616
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cr.	£	£
Advances to be recovered	136,288	146,309
Investments and Sinking Fund	8,715,952	8,011,690
Stores on hand	682,046	927,427
Cash in hand—		
Treasury ... ..	...	10
Agricultural Bank Redemption Account ... ..	...	5,374
Current Accounts	27,856	39,209
Trust Accounts	478,475	437,779
Eastern States	142,908	57,770
London	124,538	664,756
Remittances in transitu	296,791	356,777
Consolidated Revenue Fund—		
Deficit	446,926	311,515
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£11,051,780	£10,958,616
	<hr/>	<hr/>

[Return No. 3.]

Estimated Receipts for Year ending 30th June, 1915.

Heads.	Receipts for Year 1913-14.	Estimated, 1914-15.
STATE.	£	£
Land Tax	46,201	40,000
Income Tax	81,991	75,000
Dividend Duty	92,567	100,000
Totalisator Tax	12,070	12,000
Stamp Duty	77,051	60,000
Probate Duty	30,662	30,000
Licenses	45,561	45,550
Land	378,063	290,000
Mining	26,000	58,050
Railways	2,265,286	2,204,000
Tramways, Perth Electric	116,736	115,000
State Batteries	52,708	46,500
State Ferries and Jetties	23,549	25,000
State Hotels	32,562	43,965
State Steamships	77,561	78,000
State Implement Works	43,385	95,000
State Sawmills	72,329	320,000
State Brickyards ... ..	...	6,500
State Quarries	8,591	10,500
Meat Sales	37,302	37,000
Water Supply	415,605	408,645
Harbour Dues	163,848	114,000
Royal Mint	28,553	28,000
Other Public Works and Services	81,449	72,249
Reimbursements-in-Aid	271,189	281,398
Fees of Public Offices	50,696	40,675
Law Courts	23,993	22,750
Miscellaneous	8,872	7,500
	4,564,380	4,667,282
COMMONWEALTH.		
Financial Agreement, etc.	613,606	615,500
Interest on Transferred Properties	27,358	25,000
	5,205,344	5,307,782
Deficit from Year 1913-14 ... ..	...	446,926
Total amount available for Expenditure ... ..	...	4,860,856

Details of Commonwealth Receipts.

	£
25s. per capita on estimated population of 320,000 as on 31-12-14	412,500
Special payment to Western Australia	203,000
Interest on transferred properties, being 3½ per cent. on £699,681	25,000
Total for the year	640,500
Total amount received from the Commonwealth for the year 1913-14	640,963
Estimated decrease for 1914-15	£463

[Return No. 4.]

Estimated Expenditure on Administration, Recurring, and Revenue-producing Expenditure, Year 1914-15.

	\$	£
<i>Special Acts—</i>		
His Excellency the Governor, Ministerial Salaries, etc. ...	10,900	
Pension, Sir John Forrest ...	500	
Aborigines ...	10,000	
Annuities ...	250	
Auditor General ...	800	
Commissioner of Railways ...	2,000	
Commonwealth Pensions ...	3,200	
Court of Arbitration ...	800	
High School ...	1,000	
Judges' Pensions ...	2,000	
Judges' Salaries ...	7,100	
Land Improvement Loan Fund ...	25,000	
Parliamentary Allowances ...	25,400	
Pensions under Superannuation Act ...	16,000	
Public Service Commissioner ...	850	
Tramways Purchase Act ...	3,450	
University of Western Australia ...	13,500	
		122,750
<i>General—</i>		
Government House ...	1,750	
Parliamentary ...	12,597	
Executive Council ...	45	
Premier's Office ...	1,429	
Treasury ...	9,574	
Audit ...	9,850	
Compassionate Allowances ...	1,662	
Savings Bank ...	24,048	
Government Stores ...	11,445	
Government Motor Cars ...	2,042	
Survey of N.W. Coast ...	3,750	
London Agency ...	6,875	
Retiring Allowances ...	2,500	
Public Service Commissioner ...	2,291	
Refunds ...	1,800	
Taxation ...	12,918	
Workers' Homes Board ...	5,175	
Lands and Surveys ...	55,448	
Woods and Forests ...	11,917	
Agriculture ...	29,216	
Rabbits and Vermin Boards ...	15,344	
Agricultural Bank ...	15,529	
Mines ...	36,863	
Explosives ...	4,975	
Geological Survey ...	10,942	
Machinery Inspection ...	5,639	
Carried forward ...	305,124	122,750

Return No. 4—continued

					£	£
	Brought forward	...	...		305,124	122,750
<i>General—continued.</i>						
Mining School	...	...	...	...	5,346	
Crown Law Offices	...	...	...	...	15,554	
Electoral	...	...	...	...	12,902	
Land Titles	...	...	...	...	15,135	
Stipendiary Magistracy	...	...	...	...	26,282	
Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	10,172	
Education	...	...	...	...	326,905	
Colonial Secretary	...	...	...	...	12,941	
Aborigines	...	...	...	...	17,192	
Charities	...	...	...	...	79,401	
Friendly Societies	...	...	...	...	4,073	
Gaols	...	...	...	...	21,781	
Harbour and Light	...	...	...	...	21,571	
Lunacy	...	...	...	...	51,918	
Medical and Health	...	...	...	...	118,784	
Observatory	...	...	...	...	1,944	
Police	...	...	...	...	137,330	
Public Gardens	...	...	...	...	2,148	
Registry	...	...	...	...	9,003	
Parliamentary Expenses	...	...	...	...	3,380	
London Westminster Bank, Commission	...	...	...	...	5,000	
Royal Commissions	...	...	...	...	1,400	
Police Benefit Fund	...	...	...	...	2,400	
Incidentals	...	...	...	...	9,439	
Public Works and Buildings	...	...	...	...	21,680	
						1,238,755
<i>Revenue-Producing Expenditure—</i>						
Royal Mint	...	...	...	...	22,500	
Public Batteries	...	...	...	...	55,446	
Railways and Tramways	...	...	...	...	1,579,207	
State Hotels	...	...	...	...	37,177	
Refrigerating Works, Abattoirs, etc.	...	...	...	...	11,156	
Ferries, Jetties and Tramways	...	...	...	...	14,742	
State Steamship Service	...	...	...	...	90,200	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	240,325	
Saw Mills	...	...	...	...	301,950	
State Dairy Farm	...	...	...	...	3,206	
State Brickworks	...	...	...	...	5,000	
State Implement Works	...	...	...	...	111,868	
State Quarries	...	...	...	...	10,000	
Stock	...	...	...	...	65,037	
Fisheries	...	...	...	...	9,292	
						2,557,106
Total Administration	...	...	...	...		3,918,611

[Return No. 5.]

General Expenditure for Year 1914-15.

	£	£	£
Interest and Sinking Fund on Public Debt ... ..	...	...	1,544,902
Subsidies to Municipalities ... ..	...	...	9,500
<i>Public Works—</i>			
Roads Boards—Subsidies	27,000		
Roads—Revotes	300		
Bridges—Revotes	4,707		
Total Roads and Bridges ... ..	...	82,007	
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	1,325	
<i>Public Buildings, etc.—</i>			
Schools and Quarters	19,727		
Hospitals and Quarantine	10,157		
Gaols and Quarters	382		
Police Stations, etc.	4,414		
Court Houses, etc.	295		
Land Offices, etc.	350		
Mechanics' Institutes, Halls, etc.	2,000		
Harbours and Jetties, etc.	12,045		
Victoria Quay	15,000		
Various Buildings, etc.	28,065		
	...	92,435	
<i>Railways—</i>			
Relaying Great Southern Railway	12,500		
Construction	8,400		
	...	20,900	
Total Works and Buildings ... ..	...		146,667
<i>Sundry Grants, etc.—</i>			
Hospitals and Benevolent	3,220		
Exhibitions	300		
Fire Brigades	7,500		
National Grants	305		
Cemeteries	100		
Parks and Recreation Grounds	3,120		
Land for Schools	2,500		
Public Libraries	3,300		
W.A. Museum and Art Gallery	3,300		
Zoological Gardens	3,500		
Mechanics' Institutes	750		
Various	100		
	...		27,995
Total General Expenditure ... ..	...	...	<u>£1,729,064</u>

[Return No. 6.]

Loan Authorisations and Flotations.

			£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1913	...	...	33,369,253	
Do. for 1913-14	...	...	3,710,735	
Total Authorisations	...	...		37,079,988
Flotations—				
General Loans	...	...	26,938,253	
Local Debentures	...	...	246,100	
Local Inscribed Stock	...	...	7,443,893	
Treasury Bills	...	...	433,070	
				35,061,316
Balance available for Flotation	...	...		£2,018,672
<i>Actual Loan Indebtedness—</i>				
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1913	...	...	30,276,436	
Flotation during year—				
London Issues	...	...	3,000,000	
Local Stock	...	a 2,287,605		
Less issued for Redemption	...	95,960		
			2,191,645	
				35,468,081
<i>Less Redemptions—</i>				
Treasury Bills	...	...	1,040,000	
Bonds, Loans, 1878, 1881-4	...	...	7,900	
				1,047,900
				34,420,181
<i>Less—</i>				
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March)	...	...		3,692,103
Net Indebtedness 30th June, 1914	...	...		£30,728,078
a £1,586,000 of this amount was issued under the Agricultural Bank Act to redeem Mortgage Bonds and which were not included in the Public Debt.				
Net Public Debt per head of population on 30th June, 1914			£94	4 11
Do. do. do. do. 1913			85	17 2
Do. do. do. do. 1912			77	5 11
Do. do. do. do. 1911			73	7 10
Net Public Debt (less unexpended balance of Loan Money and Loans raised for the Agricultural Bank and Workers' Homes), per head of population on 30th June, 1914	...	...	82	6 11

[Return No. 7.]

Loan Flotations and Expenditure.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£
Railways and Tramways	17,607,558	16,493,969
Harbours and Rivers	3,509,486	3,160,006
Goldfields Water Scheme	2,903,078	2,689,823
Water Supply Generally	952,594	729,591
Sewerage	984,765	907,395
Erection of State Batteries	269,749	244,397
Development of Goldfields and Mineral Resources ...	1,355,649	1,248,321
Development of Agriculture	3,386,268	3,020,278
Telegraphs	276,721	269,308
Roads and Bridges	357,710	306,860
Public Buildings	718,441	634,511
Immigration	68,640	55,064
State Hotels	40,007	34,671
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	457,075	428,000
Steamships	75,549	105,907
Saw Mills	127,253	170,107
Miscellaneous	257,500	201,674
	33,343,007	30,699,882
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	1,453,600
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	1,189,525
	33,343,007	33,343,007

Loan Expenditure for 1913-14, compared with previous years.

Undertakings.	1913-14.	1912-13.	1911-12.	1910-11.
	£		£	£
Railways and Tramways, including Land Resumption	1,166,584	1,903,991	1,320,309	750,449
Fremantle Harbour Works	66,142	77,379	35,813	53,754
Fremantle Dock and Slip	1,868	11,330	80,842	48,168
Harbours and Rivers generally	21,860	61,790	69,109	69,429
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	140,582	160,981	93,572	95,811
Water Supply	191,528	234,184	31,417	17,696
Development of Goldfields	50,659	78,143	92,345	52,960
Development of Agriculture	156,752	155,432	362,406	196,374
Immigration	56,218	63,447	96,805	78,425
Steamships	5,907	100,000	...	...
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	278,000	150,000	...	...
Saw Mills	126,416	43,691	...	...
State Hotels	17,091	17,580	...	...
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital	506,638	259,808	...	...
Agricultural Implement Works	43,070	...	...	...
Brickyards	13,710	1,121	...	...
Ferries	2,000	4,993	...	...
Public Buildings	44,166	38,699	91,707	52,945
Roads and Bridges	6,167	37,818	23,106	52,296
Sundries	17,652	8,881	12,121	34,783
Totals	2,913,010	3,409,218	2,309,552	1,503,090
Loan Expenditure per head of mean population	£9 1 8	£10 17 6	£7 16 11	£5 6 10

[Return No. 9.]

Trade, Production, Population, etc.

	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-1914.
Railway Revenue	£1,649,397	£1,858,914	£1,896,579	£2,047,823	† £2,382,022
Railway Mileage	2,145	2,376	2,598	2,854	2,967
Wool produced (exported)	£969,904	£1,047,456	£1,008,858	£964,938	£907,363
*Wheat produced (bushels)	5,602,368	5,897,540	4,358,904	9,168,594	13,331,350
*Hay produced (tons)	195,182	178,891	292,695	255,751	278,585
Gold produced	£6,553,314	£6,003,789	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,932
Timber produced (exported)	£907,702	£932,800	£1,001,593	£965,308	£1,142,280
Coal produced	£114,487	£104,016	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374
Other Minerals (exported)	£328,471	£155,277	£150,490	£195,764	£215,819
†Number Sheep	4,731,737	5,158,516	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375
†Number Cattle	793,217	825,040	843,638	806,294	834,265
†Number Horses	125,315	134,114	140,277	147,629	156,636
Area of land selected... .. (acres)	1,904,780	1,922,112	1,973,565	1,408,108	998,851
Area of land leased (acres)	10,330,373	9,314,310	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488
*‡Area of land for cultivation (acres)	4,685,607	5,309,832	5,650,628	6,717,226	7,320,533
*Area of land under crop (acres)	722,086	855,024	1,072,653	1,199,991	1,537,923
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,279,852	2,408,803	2,597,156	2,767,276	3,381,304
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,271,879	2,419,078	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,375,282
Exports, including Gold	£8,574,659	£8,177,272	£10,443,570	£8,846,039	£10,415,095
Exports, excluding Gold ... ..	...	...	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,954
Imports	£6,932,731	£8,450,855	£9,283,722	£9,589,745	£9,727,473
Savings Bank's Deposits	£2,400,099	£3,170,345	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872
Savings Bank's Withdrawals	£2,070,776	£2,667,377	£3,316,113	£3,684,046	£4,600,884
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	2,691	12,013	9,319	9,206	4,527
Population §	271,162	287,855	302,271	314,157	324,854

* Seasons ended 28th February.

† Years ended 31st December, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

ringbarked, etc.

§ As on 30th June.

‡ Area cropped, cleared, fallowed,

¶ Including Perth Tramways.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [8.40]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th January.

Question passed.

COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [8.41]: May I be permitted to extend to you, Sir, and to the officers of the House, together with our friends on the direct Opposition benches and our friends on the cross Opposition benches, the compliments of the season, hoping that during the period of adjournment between now and the 12th January they will be able to forget some of their political worries, and, with their wives and families—those who are possessed of such—will be able to enjoy themselves to their hearts' content so that when we reassemble all will be refreshed and will be able to give special attention to the needs of the State in the somewhat trying conditions through which we are now passing. I wish you, Sir, hon. members, and the staff, *Hansard* included, the compliments of the season and a happy new year.

Hon. FRANK WILSON (Sussex) [8.42]: I thank the Premier for the good wishes he has extended to hon. members sitting on the Opposition benches, and I wish also to join with him in expressing to you, Sir, to His Honour the Speaker, and to the officers of the House the best wishes for a happy Christmas. I recognise that perhaps the present position is not one which will conduce to the greatest happiness at the present period. However, we must face things as we find them. As the Premier has pointed out, we have to stand together in all our troubles, whether it be through war or drought. I do not know that he has given me in the Budget he has just delivered something which will make my holiday altogether pleasant.

The Premier: Did you expect an increase?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I shall endeavour to assimilate it—it will take some assimilation—and when we meet again after the holidays, perhaps we shall be able to give some caustic, although not captious, criticism of the figures laid before us. In the most friendly spirit, I hope he and Ministers and all hon. members will endeavour to take full advantage of the Christmas holidays which are now immediately before us.

Mr. JAMES GARDINER (Irwin) [8.45]: May I also thank the Premier for his expressions and his desire that we should leave our political work to enjoy the pleasures of our own families. It seems, at the present juncture, with the shadow of the sorrow of thousands of homes over us, that the old words with which we usually join in welcoming this Christmas season are almost monstrous and impossible of utterance. I think we have a right to express our humane sympathy with all those people who are being brought into immediate suffering and by the balm of our sympathy to try to soften some of their wounds. I think with all reverence that we may express the wish that the healing touch of the Man of Sorrows may be on every sore heart throughout the Dominions to-day, and express the wish that the New Year may see the triumph of the righteousness of Right over the arrogance and tyranny of Might.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Holman): In the absence of the Speaker I desire to thank you for the kindly wishes towards Mr. Speaker, myself, and the officers of the House. We appreciate the sentiments which have been expressed, and sincerely trust that the forthcoming year will find us all in a better position than we are in to-day. Let us hope that the saying "On earth peace, goodwill toward men" will soon be brought about. I trust that the New Year will bring about greater prosperity and happiness for everyone in the Kingdom of which we happen to be a small part.

House adjourned at 8.47 p.m.