

many subjects, in fact almost any subject I chose to bring up. I noticed in the Speech a proposal to appoint three railway Commissioners. I should like the Minister for Railways to consider the possibility of running the railways a little more rapidly than they are being run at present.

Mr. O'Loghlen: They could not be much worse.

Mr. BROWN: The slowness of our trains has been a matter of public comment for years past. For a train to travel 60 miles in six hours, as is the case on the South-Western line, is hardly tantamount to travelling at express speed. I hope the Minister will speed up the railways a little bit. I would also point out that the tram track throughout the city requires serious attention. It is more or less like an ordinary spring board, and people who ride in the cars might quite well feel that they were riding on the ocean wave. It is a discomfort to most passengers. I hope that, despite the financial troubles we are in, these little matters will receive the attention of those in charge. I am now going to enumerate a number of subjects upon which I could speak, if I desired to do so. It seems to me that every question under the sun can reasonably be discussed in the Address-in-reply without interfering with the rules of debate. It might be well for the House to know that if I had the inclination I could speak upon these various matters.

Mr. O'Loghlen: That is common knowledge. You could talk for a week.

Mr. BROWN: Some of my constituents now the subjects that I like to speak upon. It may be rather foolish of me to do what I am condemning others for doing, but as "Hansard" has not been troubled very much by me, I am going to ask them to put down the subjects upon which I could speak. A subject with which I could deal at length is that of health, hospitals and asylums. Other subjects are cemeteries and cremation, harbours and wharves, freezing and canning works, sanitation, septic tanks, sewerage and deep drainage, and an improved water supply for the metropolitan area, education, primary, secondary, technical and university, fisheries and shhocks, whale oil and shark's teeth, the late implement works, State brickworks, late timber mills and powellising works, butter, bacon and ham sandwiches, wheat, potatoes, pumpkins and bananas, rabbits, vermin, evil wallabies, and white ants, prisons, bad sanitation and conveniences for escape. These are a few of the many subjects upon which I could spend a good deal of time. In view of the fact, however, that it would do very little good, and would waste the time of hon. members, besides occupying considerable space

"Hansard," I will resist the temptation to do so. I trust that some members, who have had long years of experience in connection with the Address-in-reply and the forms of government, will consider seriously whether the time is not more than ripe for an alteration of our present Parliamentary system. Anyone who will introduce a measure to alter the custom, under which we have lived for so many years, an alteration which in times past may not have been permissible, but should

be permissible now, I will have very much pleasure in lending him my support and encouragement.

On motion by Mr. Harrison debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.23 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 12th September, 1918.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

[For "Papers Presented" see "Votes and Proceedings."]

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon) [11.6 a.m.]: One of the earliest passages in the Governor's Speech, I observe, expresses gratitude to our soldiers and sailors for the solid defence they have put up in behalf of liberty and justice being preserved to the free peoples of the universe. With other members, I desire to record the admiration felt for the gallant and stubborn defence put up by the Australian troops, and especially by those from this State of Western Australia. Let me add that our congratulations are extended not only to our own Australian soldiers, but also to the troops of Britain and her Allies. Again, had it not been for the British navy we in Australia would find ourselves in a terrible plight. I do not know that all of us realise the obligation we are under to the stalwart defenders of the freedom of the seas, that command of the ocean which enables the most distant portions of the British Empire to receive supplies and send away products. It is surprising to read in the "Statistical Abstract" the volume of Australian imports and exports which has continued throughout the war. A crucial question for the whole Commonwealth is the lack of shipping tonnage. Had we been able to liquidate our assets to the full, instead of being dependent upon the British Government for financial aid in the matter of our wool and wheat, we should have been able to realise the full value of those commodities without ultimately having to pay interest on advances. Had our Press tried to educate the people, we would not hear so much complaining against members of Parliament. It appears to me that the newspapers are not trying to uplift or uphold the standard of what we who are left behind should do for those who have gone to serve in our defence. The Press ought not

to seek to belittle those who are giving their services in Australian Parliaments with a view to increasing the production of the various States and meeting abnormal conditions. The Press complains of the calibre of the men who represent the Australian people under these unprecedented conditions, who have to feel their way so as to avoid mistakes, and who are seeking to do their best for the various States they represent. We in Parliament look to Cabinet to remedy the ills of all. If two years ago we had been united in our efforts to lay aside everything in the nature of party and sectional interests, I refer to the time when I brought forward the subject of National Government in this House, when it was unpopular, the position would have been very different to-day. At that time the newspapers did nothing to stimulate the National movement. It was only some months subsequently in May, after the Federal election, when the then Premier, the Hon. Frank Wilson, had returned from Melbourne, that a move was made to create a National Government. But there was a lot of outside pressure in that direction. Throughout the Commonwealth the feeling was that we should cease to regard our particular vested interests and our particular party views, and should combine for the common good. It was rather amusing to observe in Monday's issue, I think it was, of the leading newspaper of Western Australia, an article instructing members of this Assembly what they should do now. We were told that we should, as it were, dissolve our party influences and select a Cabinet from every portion of the House showing the requisite ability. How was it that the newspaper in question did not make a forward move in that direction at the earlier period to which I have referred, and then try to stimulate public thought and attention towards that end? Instead of leading the way, the Press has to be pushed by public opinion. The leading journals of our State should be, as the very phrase applied to them implies, in the van, and not in the rear guard. It is their duty to lead public thought, and to encourage those who are out with every endeavour to do the best possible in the interests of the State and of the Commonwealth. It is indeed an easy matter, after the event, to find fault. When sections of the people are oppressed, it is the duty of the newspapers to see that such oppression is removed. We on our part, when matters are brought to our attention by the leading journals, are only too willing to remedy any evils which may exist. The leading journals of Western Australia, and particularly the morning Press, are largely to blame for the feeling prevalent throughout Western Australia as to the assets of the country and its expenditure. They are responsible for that feeling by reason of their failure to stimulate the people to further effort. Do we realise that we are at war to-day? What is the position in our populous centres? Are we as frugal as we ought to be? Are we as saving as we should be against the return of relatives and friends from the Front? Are we trying to create assets with a view to meeting our obligations in

the way of taxation and otherwise? It is the individual effort throughout the States of the Commonwealth that is going to count. It is not a bit of use to demand of members of Parliament a solution of the economic problem. If the people themselves fail to do their part, it cannot be done for them. We must become more self-reliant in every walk of life, whether it be agricultural or industrialism or anything else. By depending on our own individual efforts we shall assist not only ourselves but all those with whom we come in contact. As I stated here some years ago, we have to consider the three sections, industrialism, commercialism, and primary energy. The country cannot develop if two of those sections are obtaining an advantage at the expense of the other. It matters not which two are advantaged, the result must be the same. If primary energy and commercial energy are battenning on industrial energy, that position cannot continue for any length of years. Neither can the position be stable if industrial energy and commercial energy are battenning on the energy of primary production in such conditions primary production would be stultified, and would gradually wane until it was no longer able to bear the burden of the other two, which must live upon primary production. I say again, it is up to the Press to educate the people to combine, to present a united front, and to do their best in the interests of Western Australia and of the Commonwealth. It is popular to-day to blame the Government for any of our failures, and to credit our individual efforts with our success. It is time that we studied carefully how our success and our development exist. We know perfectly well that the obligation of the Government of the day is to advance the whole; secondly, to restore the balance when it is out of proportion; and, thirdly, to give facilities for development. With regard to the first of these three matters, it has been touched upon so far as past party Governments are concerned. In the past, party government, when the representation has been for a section of the people—I do not care whether we refer to Liberal or to Labour administrations—have looked after their political interests with the view of their constituents backing them at the next election, and they did not study the full, as they should have done, their obligation to the whole of the people. Hence it was that artificial conditions were created, and this happened not only in Western Australia, but throughout the Commonwealth. We had built up for the protection of commercialism a high tariff wall throughout Australia. That high tariff wall was in the first instance largely established in Victoria, in connection with the iron trade. There was not one article produced in the engineering shops that was not a tool of trade for some one within our own boundaries. There was scarcely any export of Australian-made machinery, and instead of it becoming an assistance it became a drag. Had it not been for the high tariff wall, I feel satisfied that we would have had what they claimed they were

out for and that was the development of our natural industries. The manufacture of woollen goods in Australia should have been the first of our natural industries, seeing that in Australia we have the largest quantity and the finest quality of wool in the world, and our manufactured woollen goods should have been in open competition throughout the world. Instead of that, we find that the competition exists amongst wool buyers who come from all parts of the world for our raw material. If capital had been reserved for the manufacturers to enable them to increase their machinery purchases, instead of curtailing them, the woollen industry would have made greater advances than it has done. Instead, the raw material was permitted to go out of the country and come back to us in the form of manufactured articles. The same thing applies to other lines. Take leather goods; these should stand next in importance to wool. Yet in Australia they are of third rate quality, and we find that hides and skins, tanning bark and other raw material are exported.

Mr. Lutey: The best military boots are made in Australia.

Mr. Teesdale: Do you say that our manufacturers are third rate?

Mr. HARRISON: I say our leather goods are. If I am wrong I am very glad to be set right. No one would be more pleased than myself to realise that we were now manufacturing leather goods of superior quality and equal to those manufactured elsewhere. My experience of the leather trade is that while I was in Victoria if we wanted anything of superior quality in the way of leather belting for driving machinery it was impossible to get anything better than that which was manufactured in the Old Country. It is impossible to obtain the best quality of leather if you artificially stimulate the process of tanning. If you do you destroy the fibre of the skin from which you are trying to create the leather. The capital outlay in the various tanning plants under the old English method of tanning leather would be more than our Australian manufacturers could stand. With regard to flour milling machinery, it would have been much better for Australia if we had been able to put the capital that went into the tariff into further reduction plants for the purpose of developing our flour output, and thus export flour instead of wheat, retaining the offal, which would have meant an increased production in other directions. The political representatives of industry caused another growth to develop, the growth of industrial unionism, and they have been able to establish themselves as a political entity, building up a wall around them, namely the Arbitration Court and its awards. Unfortunately what has been done is liable to be nullified through excess. It is quite right for these men as far as they are able, to amalgamate and do the best they can for their industries, but if excesses occur another unnatural growth will take place. If the men are honest and give a return for the reward they receive, well and good, but if they ex-

ceed that, another growth will develop and it will not be possible to resist it. If all the political interests were amalgamated we should derive some collective good and we would reach our goal in quicker time than we would do by studying only the one section, because it is impossible for the one section to develop without the assistance of the other.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Your party only consider one section, anyhow.

Mr. HARRISON: It is true that National development and wealth depend upon primary production—I am not speaking particularly of farming, or of pastoral pursuits, or of gold mining—I mean each and all collectively. The development of these primary industries must of necessity carry with it the development of others. By so doing we build up the whole fabric, and we shall reach our goal of national wealth much quicker than by striving for this portion and the other portion. If a worker is producing a value and is assisting to create a higher value, he is doing good to all those around him.

[Hon. W. C. Angwin called attention to the state of the House; bells rung and a quorum formed.]

Mr. HARRISON: If certain sections of our industrial and commercial life and also primary energy are artificially stimulated at the expense of development, or one against the other, we are in danger of abusing our secondary power. Our Press wields a power and it should do its share in regard to this matter. The people of the various sections must know where their obligations begin and end. Still I think if those outside realised their position we would have less complaining and more would be done. I now come to my second question and that is the restoration of the balance when out of proportion. It is the duty of the Government, I take it, when matters of finance are out of proportion and our various offices are not doing the business they were doing in former times, and there is an excess of energy which is not being fully employed, to restore the balance by either dispensing with the services of the men or distributing the surplus among other departments where they are needed. I am not out for drastic retrenchment, but I am out for getting the maximum value from those in the service. There are in the service men who could be better employed than they are at present, men who are not giving the maximum value I refer to, men who ought to be put on to other work. With departments slack, this is the time when the best brains in the service should be devising a better distribution of the officers. We have in the Mines Department men whose energy could be well used in discovering methods by which we could utilise the base metals to better advantage. We have in the railway service men who could set about giving us better communication, and we have in the Lands Department men who could materially assist the Minister in regard to repatriation. We have other men in other departments who could bring about

better service in their respective branches. Another balance which is out of proportion, and which should be adjusted, is one which links up with our capital outlay in administration compared with the commercial value of that outlay. In that matter I would like the departmental heads to be stimulated to assist the Minister by giving their energy, and that energy should be recognised at its commercial value, and we should not continue to go on the system of emoluments for long service. If we have men of superior merit, they should be suitably rewarded. Another balance which is out of proportion has been touched upon by other members, namely that of our population. All through the Commonwealth we have too great a proportion of population in the capital cities and Western Australia is no exception to the rule. What is the reason for this rush to the cities? The attractions of city life are much greater than those to be found in rural districts. Still another and more important reason is that our country life is not attractive because not prosperous. Make those engaged in the various primary industries prosperous, and those industries will at once become attractive. Is there anything the Ministry can do in regard to making primary production more prosperous than it is? If so, it is their duty to do their best to restore the lost balance. Let me point to one or two things that will help to restore that balance. We are out of balance in regard to finance. The man in the street is saying that we are going insolvent, that we shall not be able to meet our taxation. In looking through the "Statistical Register" I find that the increase in the number of horses during 1917 was 8,356. Take those at the low value of £10 per head and we get a capital value of £83,506. The increase in cattle during 1917 was 93,017. Take these at the low value of £5 per head and we have a capital value of £465,085. The increase in sheep during the same year numbered 868,219, which at, say, 10s. per head represents a capital value of £434,109. Pigs increased by 21,038, which at 10s. gives £10,544. The increase in goats numbered 3,292, which at 10s. amounts to £1,646. Camels increased by 526. I do not know much about the value of a camel but, putting them at £10 per head, we get £5,260. Then there are mules and donkeys, which have increased by 338.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: More than that, surely.

Mr. HARRISON: In all we get an aggregate total of £611,421, an amount very nearly equal to our annual deficit. Then we had the increase in wool over the year. According to the Governor's Speech, we had 39 million pounds weight of wool this year, the increase as against last year's value being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions. Does not that teach the Government something? In wool alone we have an increase for 1917 of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds. For a long time past experts have declared that wheat growing alone is not profitable, that we must go in for mixed farming. The figures I have just quoted bring us to that point. The present is the most opportune time we have ever known for the Government to carry into effect the advice of their

experts as to mixed farming. We expect to have a surplus of sheep in the near future, and I suggest that the Government take advantage of that and endeavour to render prosperous those farms in the wheat belt which are not doing as well as they should be doing, and which, through the Industries Assistance Board, have already cost the State a good deal of money. On such farms, as have water and fencing, the Government should place a nucleus of breeding ewes. The member for Northam spoke of this the other night, but I spoke of it more than 12 months ago. This is the most opportune time we have known for putting the suggestion into practice. I feel sure that the terms under which the sheep could be obtained would admit of their being paid for by the increase in the next season's wool. If so the Government would not be required to find any extra outlay. One drawback lies in our present method of supplying water from the goldfields scheme. I would like to remind the Minister for Water Supply that we have certain recommendations from the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Here is a large volume of collated evidence. If this is to be taken at its intrinsic value in regard to the information it contains, there is nothing the Administration should do in respect of agriculture without first consulting the evidence to be found appended to this report. There are here several passages in regard to water supply to which I would draw attention. In Appendix 9 we have this—

We find the rates charged for water are as follows:—(a) To settlers on the main pipe line to Kalgoorlie a holding fee of £5 plus rates ranging from 4d. in most cases to 5d. and  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. on one extension, per acre for all holdings within  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the main abutting thereon or situated within 10 chains of the main at the nearest point. The water is charged to settlers at 2s. 6d. per 1,000 gals. Settlers pay a meter rent of 10s. per annum in addition.

The settlers on the extensions would not be able to get any more for their mutton or wool than those taking cheaper water. I maintain that a readjustment should be made in regard to the areas supplied by the scheme. The rating has been so high that most of the settlers use only a portion of the water to which they are entitled. The report contains—

The quantity of water which was available last year was 30,147,000 gals., of which only 12,926,000 gals. were used. The total rates due to the department for the same period were £9,048.

The farmers who have extensions abutting on their properties are charged a certain rate, which represents so high an amount that they have not been able to consume the water to which they are entitled. Neither are they in a position to carry stock. Still they are rated. This rate furnishes one reason for the settler not getting the requisite stock for the consumption of the water.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They could consume the water in 1914.

Mr. HARRISON: They were not able to consume the water in 1914 when there was

drought. Even before that the settlers were agitating to get water. When a man has no water he will do almost anything in order to get it. At that particular period the farmers were prepared to do almost anything to obviate the necessity for carting water over long distances. I admit that there has been a large capital outlay in order to supply them with that water. Against this I should like to remind members of what the Commission says in regard to South Australia on this point—

The first is the South Australian system which provides reticulated water to agricultural areas almost regardless of cost, relying on the indirect benefit to the community for its return. The Bundaleer and Beetaloo schemes for instance, which cost over two millions sterling, only return a gross revenue of 1.57 per cent. towards interest, sinking fund, and depreciation. Another scheme, now authorised for the west coast at a cost of £1,500,000, contemplates a return of less than one-half (10s.) per cent.

If any indirect benefit is going to be obtained from the use of this water, instead of a rate being charged for water that is not consumed would it not be better for the Government to seriously reconsider the position? The Government have opportunities at present for obtaining sheep which they never had before. I believe if the Government guaranteed the settlers they could obtain sheep without any capital outlay, and the security offered by the sheep themselves would be a safe one. There would have to be certain regulations made to assure that the sheep were properly safeguarded from dogs, by the erection of yards into which the sheep would be placed at night. This is the time when these matters could be gone into. The best that can possibly be done should be done for the development of our latent riches. The member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) bears me out when he says that nothing will give so good a return as to settle our returned men upon small pastoral holdings, upon which they would run sheep. The hon. member is quite correct in what he says, and what I advocate is also correct. If sheep are procurable they should be given to those settlers on the wheat belt to assist them in getting returns from their farming operations. The Government must bestir themselves at once in regard to cool storage, refrigerating plants, and so forth. We are going to have a big surplus of mutton, and if these large sources of production in the shape of food are not put to their full use we shall not be able to derive all the advantage from them that we should. You, Sir, will know from your past experience of sheep that when sheep are fat, and show a maximum in carcase weight, unless they are marketed at the right moment there is bound to be a loss in weight at the very first change of season. In such circumstances the State would be losing on this valuable asset. Without cool storage facilities for holding the carcasses it would be impossible to get anything to the maximum value thus created. It should be possible to accommodate a very large proportion of these carcasses in cool storage works. The evidence of the experts, as contained in the report of this Commission, is correct,

that for the expenditure of £2,000 the Albany cool stores could be rendered capable of accommodating these carcasses, it would be money well spent. All matters of this description should be attended to promptly, and the capital outlay that will secure our assets in the way I have described should be made at once. Money is being spent to preserve our wheat, and it should be spent for the purpose of preserving our meat. These assets should not be allowed to waste away on account of bad seasons, and if it is desired to get the maximum value of them, then that maximum value should be taken care of. In my electorate there is a certain mining centre that I wish to bring under the notice of hon. members. It is a new field, and has had to contend with various difficulties in the matter of flood water. The Government should do something at once to encourage the further development of that field. There is no industry in the State that will respond more quickly to assistance than the gold mining industry. I understand that in the case of one mine alone, which has not only made no return to its shareholders but has made calls, an income tax of over £400 had to be paid last year. In addition to this, the mine has had to contend with the increased cost of working, which is much higher than it was before. Efforts have been made to obtain a reduction in the price of water there, and I trust the Minister in charge of the department concerned will carefully go into the proposition which has been placed before him from that particular centre. Certain facilities have been given already. This is the time when our experts should be encouraged to do what they can for the good of Western Australia, and I trust that the Government will do something in the near future in that direction.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie) [11.52 a.m.]: I recognise that the debate on the Address-in-reply is drawing to a close, but I feel I should not let the occasion pass without outlining what I believe to be those matters which are in the best interests of my own particular district, and in the general interests of the State. We have had financial saviours who have offered their services to the Government in all parts of the State, at street corners, in the newspaper columns, and in this Chamber. I think that the position of the finances of this State is not so much due to the war, because we find that two of our main industries, those connected with wool and wheat, are bringing in greater returns than was ever the case before.

Mr. Piesse: When we get them.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member and his constituents have received a higher price for their products than they have ever done before in the history of the State, and they have had behind them the very finest security obtainable, namely, that of the State.

Mr. Piesse: We have not got them yet.

Hon. P. Collier: You have got them.

Mr. GREEN: They have had them continually just as soon as they were due. In my opinion the decadence of the gold mining industry has really more to do with our present parlous financial position than any other matter that we may bring forward. In 1903 there were no less than 16,000 men engaged in the

gold mining industry in Western Australia, having an annual wage of 3¼ millions. To-day the average wage per annum of the 8,000 employees now engaged in the industry is somewhere about half that amount, for it is only £1,660,000. In 15 years, therefore, the wages from this industry—that is the main benefit that the State derives from it, because many of the mines are held from outside the State—have fallen away to the extent of two million pounds per annum, because of the decline in this great industry. Up till quite recently this industry has been responsible for the value of over half the exports of the State. Anyone who like myself has lived for some 23 years on the goldfields, and been fairly well acquainted with that area upon which gold mining has been conducted, cannot but have a feeling of sorrow and depression when travelling through those centres whose names were familiar to everyone in the roaring nineties, and which have played no small part in adding to the gold production which has been derived from the State. Many of those places immediately to the north of Kalgoorlie are now nothing more than a name. Travelling through on the railway past Kookynie and Niagara and even Menzies, which places at one time were the scenes of much prosperity and industry, one can now see that they are only relics of bygone days. The scene as viewed from the railway makes one think of those pictures of villages on the western front of France showing how they have been devastated by artillery. These places are now nothing more than ruins. It is our duty, if we can do so, to suggest methods whereby this great industry may be helped. I frankly admit that the position, so far as this industry is concerned, offers one of the greatest problems which can confront any Minister if he sets about affording any relief and sustenance to those engaged in it. There are certain methods which may be in the minds of different hon. members according to their point of view, which may be of particular assistance to this industry. The richest centre in Western Australia is known as the Golden Mile, and is situated immediately east of the city of Boulder. It is recognised to be the richest gold mining strip in the world, and in that area exists one of the greatest mines in the world, whose supremacy as a gold producer is unchallenged. I refer to the Great Boulder mine, which to-day is working at a cost of the value of only half of what it actually produces, even in these bad times. Immediately north of that centre there is what is known as the North End. For years past indications have been found showing that it is possible that this part of the field may be worked at a profit. Famous geologists who have been brought into Western Australia and have given their opinion upon the strata and the likelihood of gold being discovered in this locality, have advocated that there should be deep boring at this North End. It has been impossible for the small men, who hold most of these shows at the North End, to take advantage of this advice. If the Government are anxious to assist the gold-mining industry their obvious duty, so far as this centre is

concerned, is to put down deep bores in order to prove the field. They might well go to an expenditure of £5,000, which is the amount furnished by them to assist in the embarkation of the jam industry quite recently. This is not a large amount for the assistance of an industry which has made Western Australia. An expenditure of this sort would set at rest the question of whether the rich formation, which has been developed so wonderfully on the Golden Mile, is also to be found at the North End, which is only about a mile and a half from the Golden Mile itself.

Mr. Teesdale: Has there been none done?

Mr. GREEN: There has been no deep boring as far as this particular portion of the field is concerned. It is not a new proposal; it has been hammered at in season and out of season. Some method should be adopted to prove of good use and give a return for the money invested.

Mr. Teesdale: It is not a big amount you ask for.

Mr. GREEN: I stress the point because the shows are held by small men. There is gold everywhere there of a low grade character, and it is believed by many men whose word is considered of value that if deep boring was instituted something equivalent to that discovered on the Golden Mile might be unearthed. We find that not only has the gold mining industry not been especially assisted as to grants, I admit in several directions as far as assisting prospectors is concerned some help has been given, but no serious attention has been given by any Government in this direction on the fields in the Golden Mile. Private parties have sunk shafts under the idea that a deep lead must exist in Kalgoorlie the same as existed at Kanowna, but boring has never been seriously taken in hand by this or any Government, and it is a method that may be adopted to assist the industry. I ask, "Are we going to stand with folded arms, adopting Eastern fatalism while the greatest industry in Western Australia in the greatest goldfield in the world sinks into decadence?" We seem to lack the courage of our Anglo-Saxon forbears, men who were prepared to go and develop the country. I am reminded that the Celts have done their part in the pioneering of Western Australia.

Mr. Lutley: Especially the Cornishmen.

Mr. GREEN: And the Cornish side of the Celt. The Government in common with previous Governments have adopted a method in dealing with gold mining around the goldfields that has not been the means of assisting the industry, but artificial means have been adopted which has decreased the gold output; I refer to the embargo in regard to the use of salt water. The position the Mines Department have taken up is this: the Water Department have a business undertaking which has to be made to square the ledger, and if the salt water was used freely in the mines—and there is any amount of it there—the water scheme would cease to produce the revenue that it produces at present, which, unfortunately, is not large enough. However, it is at this stage that the Mines Department might see their way clear to induce the Water Department to assist so

that the natural supply of salt water in these centres might be made the fullest use of to develop the industry. Gold is in a different position from any other product. It has been said, until it has become a platitude, that gold does not increase in value like wheat, wool, and all other products that go to make up the primary industries of a State, but this fact remains, the British Government, and the big first powers of the world, have long ago seen fit to declare that the currency must be of a gold bearing standard, and since Britain insists on that, there has been a discussion by many of the foremost financiers of the world interested in gold mining. Seeing that gold mining does not pay in the aggregate anywhere, in any country where the gold is produced, it is the duty of the British Government and other countries to assist in raising the price of gold, if need be by means of a bonus on every pound of gold produced. I recognise that at the present time the proposal is in a nebulous state, but when I point to the fact that in no gold bearing country in the world has gold mining paid, it seems to me in the greatest goldmining country in the world, taking its population as a basis, it would be of immense relief if the British Government were prevailed upon to assist the industry, seeing that gold is necessary for their currency. A method was spoken of by the member for Menzies (Mr. Mullany) which was to secure cheaper supplies. That proposal I heartily endorse. It seems to me whatever opinion we may have of profiteering, that in this State whose future is so closely interwoven with the goldmining industry, and whose present position is caused because of the stagnation in that industry, we might insist, as a body, in seeing that some method, by co-operation of the Governments interested, might be employed so that the supplies should be given to the mines at the rate that obtained before the war. Already the goldmining industry on the Golden Mile is working with a shortage of labour for that particular class known as "bogging." It is usually taken up by young, hefty men who are prepared to take on any work that comes with the idea of learning the trade later on. And before the Eastern goldfields gave their 6,000 sturdy men for the Front there was a fair supply. Not an over generous supply, in this direction because it is the lowest paid and hardest work in the industry. Since these men have gone to the Front the oldest miners naturally dodge the laborious work. Seeing the goldmining industry is suffering because of the patriotic response that has been made for the war, and it has been insisted that gold is a necessary article with which to pursue the war, the least we might ask is simply that steps be taken by communicating with the Federal Government, and through the Federal Government with the Home authorities, to see that the different supplies necessary for the industry should be obtained at pre-war prices. Unfortunately these supplies which are necessary for the production of gold are being kept for the purposes of the war, but I am satisfied that if the channel of industry could be subverted to some extent to see that the full requirements of the goldmining industry throughout the Empire was supplied at the rate which ob-

tained before the war, which amounts to over 4s. a ton at the present time, it would do a great deal indeed to resuscitate this great industry of ours.

Mr. TROY: What about throwing out the profiteers?

Mr. GREEN: It would automatically do away with the profiteers. We are fortunate in this State in having the largest area in the world of an auriferous bearing nature, and any man would be a spineless individual indeed and very pessimistic even with the dark outlook ahead of us, who would say we are likely to decrease and become less important so long as this great area of country is still unopened. It is true, help might be given freely to the prospector, and I admit in the past there have been generous methods adopted in sending out prospectors. The returned soldiers have claims for support in this direction, and there have been 34 sent out to prospect. From my point of view that is the direction that has only been partly exploited as far as the possibilities that may give reward in that direction of effort is concerned. I submit that nothing too generous can be done in this direction. The position is one entirely of finance. At the same time if ever there was an industry in which a sprat should be given to catch a mackerel, it is the gold-mining industry. When we consider that north of Kalgoorlie there are hundreds of miles of railway road run unprofitably, the only way to help the country and those lines of railway service is to re-establish mining centres, if not in the old spots, to successfully prospect, if we may, the country within reasonable distance of the line. It should be the Government policy to spend thousands of pounds in this direction. Even to-day there are being, from time to time, new shows opened up. Most of the shows turn eventually to low-grade propositions, but there are possibilities of other Kalgoorlies and Boulder mines being found in the State hundreds of times over, not alone that we shall live to see, but our children and our children's children. It is necessary to point to the fact that in the Cave Rocks district, 30 miles from Boulder, there was a discovery some months ago. At the time, it raised high hopes. Unfortunately, the field is not proving as rich as originally it was thought to be. Still, a recent report by a mining inspector who visited the centre gives the assurance that on present appearances the shows are payable. Hot foot upon that discovery has come the discovery along the Kurrawang wood line, some 70 or 80 miles out of Kalgoorlie. If we can believe the reports heard at street corners in Boulder—where the people are more optimistic in their phraseology than are the people of Kalgoorlie—that field has the outlook of a Midas.

Hon. P. COLLIER: What does John Boileau think?

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Boileau's opinion does not count in Kalgoorlie, where he is renowned only for his statue. His political opinions, unfortunately, are all wrong. I quote the recent Kurrawang discoveries only to show that at any time we may expect in this State a

discovery which will be of lasting benefit, which will do a great deal to restore the gold-mining industry, if not to the palmy days of 1903, at least to a series of years showing increasing returns of gold, in place of the present monotonously recurrent drop in gold production. Recently I had occasion to visit a district which just previously had been honoured by an inspection from the Premier and the Minister for Mines—the Northampton lead district. I inspected particularly the new discoveries made in Geraldine, on the banks of the Murchison river; perhaps I should call them re-discoveries as they were worked in the early fifties of last century. It is a good illustration of the uncertainty of the mining industry that a mine, whilst for the time being it appears to go down, nevertheless always offers opportunities. It is on this account that gold mining and other mining have special attractions not afforded by any other form of industry. In mining, there is always the chance of the prospectors securing a big prize. For example, the Surprise mine, nine miles north of Ajana, on the Murchison river, has been opened to 30 feet deep. It was indeed, as its name implies, a surprise. The party have driven 250 feet altogether, and the lode is from about nine feet wide. I do not profess to be a lead miner, but to me it seems that the view along the whole of the drive was as though the drive were through a solid mass of metal, through galena, which is the lead ore.

Mr. Willcock: It is just like a jeweller's shop.

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: There is no lead in jeweller's shops.

Mr. GREEN: There is more lead in the composition of the wares sold by jewellers than the leader of the Opposition seems to imagine. At the 60 foot level the party working the Surprise mine have also driven for a considerable distance, and the lode there appears to be if possible more metalliferous than that shown at a higher level. A winze has been sunk at this level into the ore, and although sunk to a depth of only a few feet it reveals the same class of ore as appears above. There is also at Geraldine on the site of the old settlement, where some hundreds of men were employed in the early fifties under Captain Mitchell and others, and where the old buildings still stand as a relic of former days, a fairly rich show. The great trouble to be coped with there is a water difficulty, the show being situated on the banks of the river. Indeed, the original mine was sunk actually in the bed of the river, and it had to be practically abandoned because of the water difficulty. This lead district, however, suffers under certain disabilities. While perhaps it may be claimed that as one who has no special interest in the district, and does not represent the district, I have no particular right to speak for the lead mining industry, still, being in some measure acquainted with the sister industry of gold mining, I consider that I am merely doing my duty in using my utmost efforts to help what, if present prospects truly indicate the state of affairs, is destined, as people on the ground say, to be

a second Broken Hill. One of the disabilities of the district is the cartage, which costs 17 6d. to £1 per ton from the bank of the river to the head of the railway line at Ajan. Whilst I am an ardent supporter of the Esperance railway, and whilst the present Government have promised that that line shall be the first railway construction work to be undertaken by Western Australia—that has been given us as a matter of good faith—

Mr. Maley: But only to be the first of the lines of railway already authorised.

Mr. GREEN: Yes. I am prepared to say that in my opinion, if present prospects of the Geraldine lead district are maintained, a railway to serve that field should be the first to be undertaken in this State. I have a national spirit enough to say that, and now I have said it plainly. There are other difficulties with which the field has to contend. Geraldine proper, in the show to which I have particularly referred, the show on the site of the old town, there is mining on private property. We have had in this State people who advocated that in order to push the gold mining industry, gold mining leases should be abolished and private property in the pre-lease established. Those people have pointed to the United States of America as an illustration in favour of what they advocate. I say to those people who doubt the wisdom of the leasehold system for gold mining and other mining, let them go to Geraldine and observe the effect of private property in mineral country. The particular area to which I refer is owned indirectly by a member of another Chamber; and the extortionate—no other term can be applied—extortionate royalty exacted for the use of a property which the gentleman himself has left untouched for the last 30 years, knowing though he did that the proper thing could be made lead producing, proves, at least to me, that the idea of acquiring wealth stands out more prominently in the mind of that gentleman than does the idea of developing this great State.

Mr. Lutey: He is a win-the-war.

Mr. Maley: Do you know what the royal assent is?

Mr. GREEN: I have a note of it, and intend to write the subject up later. Another disability under which this district labours is the want of a smelter in the near vicinity. At present the whole of the concentrates have to be shipped to Fremantle.

Mr. Willcock: The whole of the ore; not only the concentrates.

Mr. GREEN: Unfortunately for the lead mining industry, the Fremantle Smelting Works have not the most modernly equipped appliances. It is freely admitted, not by the proprietors of the works, but by responsible officers of our Mines Department, that the Fremantle smelters are utterly out of date. Mr. Montgomery tells us that to erect a smelter at Geraldton would cost at least £12,000.

Mr. Maley: You are merely anticipating a notice of motion, I wish to point out.

Mr. GREEN: I shall be highly pleased to support the hon. member, when he has moved his motion, in terms much more ardent than those I am now employing. I may say I am reserving myself for that occasion. The Fi



mantle Smelting Works represent a matter which concerns the member for Geraldton (Mr. Willcock) as much as the member for Greenough (Mr. Maley) and probably they will join forces in this connection. As indicated by recent replies to questions in this Chamber, the Fremantle Smelting Works have, since they were first granted a Government guarantee, by the Labour Government, of their bank overdraft, raised their charges from £4 per ton to £6.

The Minister for Mines: Their charges are now not higher than the charges in any other part of Australia.

Mr. GREEN: I am not too sure of that. The Minister for Mines, of course, ought to be in a better position than any other member of this House to express an opinion; and I must accept his statement. But as regards the two other great smelting works in Australia, I am told by one of the Minister's officers that at present their proprietors must be making immense fortunes out of the smelting of lead. If the Fremantle Trading Company find it impossible, with their smelters, to smelt lead at a cheaper rate than £6 per ton, having done it for a considerable time at £4—

Mr. Maley: The charge is more than £6; £6 is the basis.

Mr. GREEN: I am coming to that. If at £6 per ton they are not making a large amount of money, seeing that admittedly they were making a do of it at £4 per ton—

The Minister for Mines: Who has admitted that? No one has admitted that they were making money at £4.

Mr. GREEN: They were making a do of it, I said. What I want to get at is this: if with an obsolete plant the Fremantle Smelting Works are making only a fair thing at £6 per ton, why should the Government not instal a modern plant at Geraldton, where smelting at £4 per ton, as against £6 per ton, would mean big remuneration to the State whilst at the same time assisting the industry?

Hon. P. Collier: In any case, £12,000 is not a great deal of money to establish the industry.

Mr. GREEN: No. This House never hesitates to pay for such a purpose.

Hon. P. Collier: The Government gave £5,000 to a jam factory.

Mr. GREEN: The House never hesitates to pay unsophisticated farmers, or rather men who know nothing about the farming industry, 9s. a day for learning the trade. That rate is paid even to farmers who have never been on the land before. In view of our generous and unquestioning attitude towards the wheat industry—which at this late hour we are told cannot pay without mixed farming—the fullest generosity should be extended by the House to an industry standing on its own basis and merely asking for a fair crack of the whip and fair play. Nothing short of smelting works at Geraldton—that is, provided the lodes are likely to continue—should satisfy Parliament as ade-

quate assistance to the lead industry. I have here an invoice, or a statement, furnished by the Fremantle Trading Company to one of the parties engaged in lead mining along the banks of the Murchison river; and let me add, in passing, that there are at least 15 or 20 shows in that district which are on good lead besides those shows which I have particularly mentioned. The party I refer to have received from the general manager of the Fremantle Trading company, a statement showing the London Metal Exchange deductions. Those deductions, which are at per ton, comprise the following items:—

2½ discount 15s.; 12 lbs. draughtage, 3s. 3d.; weighing, 9d.; 14 days interest at 5 per cent., 1s. 2d.; insurance, 11s.; total, £1 11s. 2d.

The amount of £1 11s. 2d. for a start is saddled on every ton of ore that is shipped to Fremantle. That is the arrangement with the London Metal Exchange, probably made by that living wonder, Billy Hughes.

The Minister for Works: Who is that gentleman?

Mr. GREEN: There is a William Hughes—whom we must not confuse with William Morris Hughes—now engaged in mining a good show north of the Murchison river. He has no connection whatever, and is anxious to make the fact clear, with the notorious Billy Hughes, who has set this country by the ears and who is at present in the Old Country where I hope he will always remain. As I was saying, there is £1 11s. 2d. deducted from every ton by the London Metal Exchange. These invoices or statements which I have would puzzle even a Philadelphian lawyer if he attempted to unravel them. I have spent a good deal of time over them. There were 8 tons 19cwt. and a few odd pounds sent to Fremantle. That quantity was reduced to 5,634 tons and smelted. The price paid was £30, the amount of deduction was £1 11s. 2d. in accordance with Mr. Billy Hughes' scheme, and in addition there were other charges. There was 80 per cent. advance on the £106 1s. 5d., the amount secured as a return being £84 17s. 2d. The freight on the railways was £7 10s., which amounted to 16s. a ton. That is not a heavy charge. There was 2s. 6d. for bags and another lot of bags supplied on the 23rd came to £1 11s. 6d. There was a still further lot of bags supplied and the total was £10. That was not the end of it; they also arranged a few more changes. Here is a more detailed statement which shows that this company charges £6 per ton for smelting for all ore 70 per cent. and over. On every unit, or fraction of unit, that the ore goes below 70 per cent., 1s. per unit is charged on the cost of smelting, but by an obverse rule, if we send along one worth 80 per cent., there should be a reduction in the smelting charges. This even-handed sort of justice, however, does not appear to appeal to the Fremantle Trading Co. What they cannot get on the merry-go-round they get on the swing boat. In the particular instance under review they bring in the assay value as 69.9, that is, a

tenth of a unit under the 70, and for that one-tenth they conveniently charge 1s. per ton for smelting. There is also another complaint to make with regard to the Fremantle Smelting Co., and it is that they take no notice whatever of the railway weights when supplying the prospector with the weight of the ore they receive.

The Minister for Mines: Would you expect them to?

Mr. GREEN: I should say there should be a check.

The Minister for Mines: They have their man there to check the ore when it is being weighed.

Mr. GREEN: If that is so I am pleased to hear it.

The Minister for Mines: The balances have been shown to the member for Geraldton and the member for Greenough; they know.

Mr. GREEN: The miners up there did not seem to know that when they mentioned this matter to me as one of their complaints. In fact, they were very sore about it.

The Minister for Mines: They have their representative there.

Mr. GREEN: I am pleased to hear that; I will make further inquiries about it.

Mr. Maley: You said they were very sore; that is not so. The prospectors are very well satisfied with the treatment they have been receiving, except so far as the charges are concerned.

Mr. GREEN: The hon. member was there with a Ministerial party, no doubt dispensing wine. I got my information from hardy prospectors. I met several of them and they made this a matter of complaint, and I took a special note of it. To go back to my figures. There is a balance, therefore, out of something for which they should receive £106, but by the time the Fremantle Trading Co. have done with it, the amount is considerably reduced. Freight, bags, and interest amount to £11 17s. 11d. on a small parcel of about eight tons. With the London Metal Exchange deduction, the smelting amounts to £20 17s. 11d., and altogether the charges made are such that unless a Government smelter is established, the low grade shows will stand no chance at all.

Mr. Maley: They are high grade shows at Geraldine.

Mr. GREEN: Not all. Does the hon. member mean that no smelter is required up there, and that the Fremantle Smelting Co. should be able to exploit the prospector as they have done in the past? A lot of the shows there are not being worked and the district could be materially assisted, and given a greater lease of life, if the Government erected a smelter there. They cannot possibly be expected to pay their way unless there are cheaper charges for smelting. Of course it is possible for a mine like the Surprise to pay, but what we have to do is to assist the shows which are not as rich as the Surprise. I cannot close my remarks without making some reference to the amount of industrial disease which is manifesting itself on the Golden Mile. I am not always in accord with the Kalgoorlie Council and the conference of local bodies when they

deal with subjects of local interest, because there are some gentlemen who are members of those bodies who are not always temperate in their language, and whose knowledge is not always as sound as that which we might expect from members of Parliament such as ourselves. It is always our duty to weigh any remarks which may be made in any district with the view of discovering what substratum of truth there may be in them. A complaint has been made with regard to Wooroloo Sanatorium as being the one place which should be retained for treating the lung disease which is robbing the Golden Mile of its young manhood. I know that a large number of the miners themselves would far sooner go anywhere than to Wooroloo to be treated. They perfectly detest the idea of going there. I do not say that the sanatorium should be closed down, because it is one of the most modern buildings of its kind in the world, but men who are accustomed to the sunshine of the goldfields will not go to Wooroloo where for seven months of the year the sky is overcast and the effect is depressing on the patient. So much is that so that it has a reflex action on the condition of the sufferer, and that has been proved by the mortality amongst goldfields miners who have entered the Wooroloo Sanatorium. There are very few miners who are discharged permanently, or even temporarily cured.

Mr. Harrison: Is not that largely due to the fact that patients are sent to the institution when they are beyond all aid?

Mr. GREEN: Our experience of Coolgardie was that the patients there lived for a long period, while a great number of them left the institution. I asked certain questions recently with regard to the mortality at Wooroloo and Coolgardie, and the Premier, unjustly I think, asked me to put my questions in the form of a notice of motion for a return, and as such it appears on the Notice Paper. We know enough of the procedure of this House to lead us to believe that the information which I seek will never be supplied. Unless there is something to hide with regard to the position at Wooroloo, the Premier should be frank and not deny the House the information which we are entitled to have. I am in accord with the agitation on the goldfields that some of the congestion existing at Wooroloo should be relieved by sending goldfields patients to Coolgardie. A small camp could be established there at slight expense. No costly buildings would be required, for we know that tents are as good as more substantial buildings for the treatment of consumption. With a medical officer in attendance the results would be far more satisfactory in the case of young fellows who have contracted the disease on the mines and who do not like the idea of going to Wooroloo.

Mr. Teesdale: It is a pity that was not discovered before so much money was put into the sanatorium at Wooroloo.

Mr. GREEN: It must be remembered that Coolgardie did not suit the requirements of the whole of the State. Coolgardie is far removed from the metropolitan area, and many of the consumptive patients in the metropolitan area do not like the climate of the goldfields.

To such patients their incarceration in Wooroloo would not have the baneful effect upon their mental condition which is experienced by young men from the goldfields.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The question of whether the people of the coastal districts liked or disliked going to Coolgardie had nothing to do with the establishment of the sanatorium at Wooroloo.

Mr. GREEN: There has always been a marked difference of opinion respecting the site at Wooroloo. The men of the goldfields do not like going to Wooroloo. They dislike the foggy conditions there to be found, conditions to which they are not accustomed. To leave a somewhat dreary subject, let me say that in common with other members on this side I disagree with the idea of the appointment of three commissioners for the railways. Our railways will never pay until we get closer settlement along existing lines, and the only way to bring that about is, by imposing a tax on unimproved values. This will not hurt the farmers, but will have the direct effect of encouraging closer settlement along the existing lines, and we shall not then be in the unenviable position of having 91 people for every mile of railway, against the Eastern States' average of 296.

Mr. NAIRN (Swan) [12.48 p.m.]: In the opening paragraph of His Excellency's Speech were some words which expressed the feelings of His Excellency towards us, and I think we are justified in reciprocating those words. His Excellency said—

During the first few months of the present year our Empire and its faithful Allies passed through dark days of bitter adversity and deep anxiety.

We should not forget the trials through which this Empire, and we as part of it, have passed during the present year. There is another aspect of it, for the Speech continues—

During the past few weeks changes have come more momentous than any that had previously been recorded during the four long years of war.

Had there not been justification for those words I am inclined to think that the attainment of many of our objects would have been definitely held in abeyance. I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of all members when I say that for the first time one can clearly see some ray of hope ahead, hope that this terrible conflict will soon cease and that we shall then be able to make definite attempts to restore our shattered fortunes, while the habits of the people return to normal. I realise the tremendous difficulties of all men holding responsible positions at the present time, and so any remarks I may make will not be of hypercritical character. However well it may serve party purposes to attack and attempt to politically destroy the other side, these attacks can have no useful purpose at the present juncture. Much as we desire to see greater energies displayed in all public activities, we fully realise the tremendous burden being carried and the resistance opposed to any progress at present. On the question of finance it is not my intention to make any lengthy remarks. We have been well catechised

as to the unfortunate financial position of the State, but I am safe in saying that in most other respects the people of this State, and indeed of Australia, have reason to be intensely grateful. Notwithstanding our financial position, we are living to-day under happier conditions than perhaps any other people in the world. We must not indulge in undue complaining because we find that in common with most other people our finances are not quite as we would like them.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is that the reason why we are all happy here?

Mr. NAIRN: I do not know what happiness the hon. member may enjoy, but so far as I can see it is not very much, because he always has the same sad, complaining expression on his face. What I have said does not in any way relieve the Government of their obligations to the people; to use all their energies in an endeavour to improve the existing condition of things. I believe that a great deal has been done, but I maintain that more can be done and will be done. Before I shall have finished it will be my privilege to mention one or two directions in which I think reform may be made. On the question of repatriation, I have no desire to go over the debate, but I noticed that throughout the whole course of the discussion and in the course of all the charges levelled against the Government from outside the House, not one shred of assistance was offered. It seems as if those who desire to dethrone the Government—I speak particularly of those outside the House—take up a subject which, in the words of the leader of the Opposition, should be above party politics. In an endeavour to destroy a Government which they have never assisted, those people have no hesitation in dragging in a question which fair-minded men regard as almost sacred, namely, the treatment of the soldiers who have done so much for us. Throughout the whole course of the Address-in-reply debate no attempt has been made by the critics of the Government to assist Ministers in handling this question of repatriation, which the critics say is a non-party one.

Hon. P. Collier: The hon. member is not quite correct. In my reference to the subject I said that the policy enunciated by the Premier was an excellent one and would meet the situation. My complaint was that no effect had been given to it.

Mr. NAIRN: Well, I am pleased to exempt the leader of the Opposition.

Hon. P. Collier: I still think the policy enunciated by the Premier is a good one.

Mr. NAIRN: Apart from this, no word of assistance has been offered to the Government. From that fact I can only conclude that those who were responsible for the attacks on the Government have only one desire, namely, to destroy the Government with any weapon whatever at hand. The repatriation problem is a tremendous one. We have only 300,000 people in the State, and

if we are to repatriate even ten per cent. of our returned soldiers it will cost the country anything between 2½ and three million pounds. The expenditure of a huge sum like that should be approached with the greatest possible care and caution.

Hon. P. Collier: Do you mean this State alone?

Mr. NAIRN: Yes. If ten per cent. of our men are to be repatriated it will cost the State the sum I have mentioned. I am with the Government in their attitude of caution in handling so tremendous and difficult a problem. As far as I can learn, the Government have done reasonably well, even as compared with the Governments of the Eastern States. I believe that to the Queensland Government must go the credit of having done more than any other State Government for the returned soldiers, but next in order to that of Queensland our Government have done the most for the returned soldiers. To say that the Government have not their hearts in this problem is not stating the fact as we see it. I do not think the Government have adopted any but the most sympathetic attitude towards any returned soldier applying for land, and consequently I am not prepared to believe that it would be in the interests of the country to destroy the Government because of their attitude on this question.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Your vote showed that.

Mr. NAIRN: Certainly. I am not ashamed of my vote. It always will show what I believe. I want again to emphasise the necessity for the greatest possible caution in handling this problem.

Hon. P. Collier: If delay means caution, we are getting caution.

Mr. NAIRN: I am not going to suggest that there should be delay. The leader of the Opposition can do that if he likes. There has been a reasonable amount of caution exercised, which to those not in sympathy with the movement may be construed into delay. There is in some things a distinction without a difference. There is no evidence of the Government having adopted an indifferent attitude towards this question. I would, however, impress upon the Government the necessity for cautiously, carefully, and deliberately handling all these cases on their merits, not so much the actual cases of the soldiers themselves, but the various localities in which they are to be placed. They should exercise this caution unless they want to land the State into a very difficult position. With all due respect to the member for Albany (Mr. H. Robinson), who has voiced his opinion so loudly in support of the scheme mentioned by the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell), I hope the Government will not attempt to develop that primitive country by means of our returned men. As one who has spent many years of his life in the pioneered parts of Australia, which are perhaps more similar to the primitive country I have mentioned than any other part of the Commonwealth, I say that whoever goes there will find that the results of his labour will only be reaped by another generation. If this country was the only part of the State into which we

might send our returned soldiers, it would be a different matter. There are, however, hundreds of thousands of acres in various parts of this State which could be and should be used for this purpose. We do not want to send these men into inhospitable regions, or to deny them those social surroundings which men who have lived together and enjoyed each others society abroad have so much appreciated. We do not want to send them to remote and far back places where they will be called upon to go through all the hardships of pioneering.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We are with you, but the Government are not in favour of this. They approved of that scheme.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Under very different conditions and circumstances.

Mr. NAIRN: I do not care what Governments are in favour of such a scheme, but I do say that it is to the credit of the present Government that they should have realised the mistake that was about to be made. Because a mistake is made, that is no reason why others coming after should perpetuate it. It is to the credit of the Government that they discovered the mistake and adopted another course, as they have done. A good deal of criticism has been levelled at Ministers by certain hon. members because of the attitude of the Government towards the secondary industries of the State. This criticism was absurd and unreasonable, and showed the ignorance of certain hon. members concerning the attitude of Ministers in their attempt to develop our secondary industries. There is no shadow of doubt that it should be the policy of every Government to attempt as far as reasonably possible to develop those industries in the State which are capable of being developed. This is a principle which should be adopted by every Administration. It is my desire to deal with one industry in particular, and with the criticism which was offered upon the attempt of the Government to establish it here. I refer to the jam industry. The member for Perth, and I am sorry to say his sentiments were echoed by the leader of the Opposition, made the remark—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member reading from "Hansard" of this session?

Mr. NAIRN: I was about to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not permissible, but the hon. member may refresh his memory from it if he so desires.

Hon. P. Collier: I am sorry, because if "Hansard" reports me in this way I never—

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): You only said it in a jocular manner.

Mr. NAIRN: The remark was made that if Messrs. Jones & Co. knew that jam could be manufactured in Western Australia, and if some person attempted to establish the industry, that person would lose his money. The leader of the Opposition interjected, as will be seen on page 95 of "Hansard," that this was unfortunately true.

Hon. P. Collier: Unfortunately true that we could not compete with Jones & Co.

Mr. NAIRN: It was said that if Jones & Co. knew that they could manufacture jam

in Tasmania and sell it in Western Australia cheaper than those who were attempting to manufacture it here, then those engaged in the industry here would have a losing proposition. That is the effect of the remarks of the member for Perth.

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

Mr. NAIRN: I will show the hon. member how little he knows about the subject.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I know more about it than the hon. member does.

Mr. NAIRN: This is a policy of absolute despair so far as this industry is concerned.

Hon. P. Collier: No, it is not.

Mr. NAIRN: I will show the hon. member why it is a policy of despair. If we are going to adopt an attitude of that kind, we shall never have an industry established in this State. If Messrs. Jones & Co. had no opposition here—and this is what the member for Perth loses sight of, as well as the leader of the Opposition who has echoed his sentiments——

Hon. P. Collier: No, I did not.

Mr. NAIRN: What inducement would there be for others to come to this State?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They dump their stuff here.

Mr. NAIRN: They do not dump their stuff here. I know what I am talking about. They might attempt to dump their stuff here under other circumstances and other conditions, but at present they are not doing so.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Because they would have other stuff dumped against them.

Hon. P. Collier: The whole point is as to whether the industry can be established here in competition with the Eastern States.

Mr. NAIRN: Yes, that is the point. I am sorry to hear the leader of the Opposition express himself in that despairing way.

Hon. P. Collier: If it could be done I would welcome it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. NAIRN: There is no way of finding out except to make the experiment. I want to show hon. members how wrong the argument is. I will instance one of the biggest companies in the world, namely the Anglo-Swiss Milk Company, which has the handling of millions of money. Until a few years ago it was never considered practicable to manufacture preserved milk in Australia, but by means of encouragement and some assistance, by way of the tariff and in other directions——

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are right about the tariff.

Mr. NAIRN: The industry was commenced in Australia. Immediately the Anglo-Saxon Milk Co. learned this they made it their business to go into the question further, with the result that they too established themselves in Australia. I say without hesitation that since we have the raw product—and I do not think anyone will say that our fruit is inferior to that grown in Tasmania—it is our bounden duty to give that measure of assistance which will be the means of placing the industry upon a sound footing. The note sounded by the member for Perth and the leader of the Opposition is one that is not fair to the industry or the State.

Hon. P. Collier: Perhaps the hon. member will prove that this can be done here in regard to any other industry that may come to Western Australia.

Mr. NAIRN: I have not set out yet to prove that it can be done.

Hon. P. Collier: You said you would do so.

Mr. NAIRN: If I set out to prove this I would bring some facts to bear upon the point. I would not follow a conclusion in the way that the leader of the Opposition did.

Hon. P. Collier: It is great logic to compare the jam making industry with what has been done in the case of preserved milk.

Mr. NAIRN: That sort of attitude is painfully weak, and the leader of the Opposition has no right to express himself so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. NAIRN: We want men who have faith in this country and its products. Let us not worry about Jones & Co., because they bring their stuff a couple of thousand miles, if our industry in this State is helped and encouraged. Such a note as that sounded by the hon. members I have mentioned amounts to a discouragement of those people who have invested their money.

Hon. P. Collier: Your argument is puerile.

Mr. NAIRN: I wish to make some reference to an important industry which can be developed in this State. I speak of the bottle-making industry. This industry means a great deal to us in this State, because our fruit and jam must have bottles for them to be kept in. When it was discovered by the Melbourne Bottle Manufacturing Company that the local company had decided to establish a factory here, to meet local requirements, within a very short period the Melbourne Company found it convenient to come here in opposition to it. Precisely the same thing applies to the jam industry, and to scores of others. I want to give the Minister for Industries the greatest possible credit——

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We all do that.

Mr. NAIRN: For having done what he could to foster local industries. I also wish to say that in my opinion the opposition of the member for Perth was foolish, peevish, and childish.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why did you not speak in this way when he was here?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. NAIRN: I am no more afraid to speak of the member for Perth than I am to speak of the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin). I have not met the man yet into whose eye I am afraid to look.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I am pleased to hear it.

Mr. Foley: He gets the same wages as you do; why is he not here?

Mr. NAIRN: For my part I want to see a firm like Jones & Co. come to this State.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear, if it can be done.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Why can it not be done?

Mr. NAIRN: Because, in the language of the member for Perth, that firm can make jam in Tasmania and find a ready market for it here with an open door and no opposition.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): But another man who knows his business can handle it cheaper and better here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! I do not see why this jam business should cause so much feeling.

Mr. NAIRN: I only want to say that there is a great opportunity here for us to encourage our local industries. This is a question of greater importance than many people realise, not only to this State, but to the whole of Australia. What we should be able to do is to establish ourselves as a self-supporting community. Only by that means shall we be able to secure the respect of the rest of the world. We do not want our sons to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. We want to find avenues of employment for them in every direction, but without the necessary encouragement being given it will not be possible to accomplish very much in this way. Without expressing any opinion upon the question in dispute between the Government and the local jam factory, I do sincerely hope that the Government will do all that is fair and just, and extend to these people all the latitude they can, not forgetting their obligations to the State.

Hon. P. Collier: They have been generous.

Mr. NAIRN: I want the Government to continue to be generous. This is a struggling industry, and a difficult one to establish. In one respect alone it has a very big handicap, namely, in regard to the available supplies of tin plate. Tin plate is one of the essentials in the manufacture of jam.

Hon. P. Collier: They use stone jars.

The Premier: When we have our own bottles our jam will be put into glass jars.

Mr. NAIRN: The industry is a very difficult one to operate under present conditions.

Mr. O'Loghlin: Do you not think that the fruit-growers should have shown their bonafides by taking up a greater number of shares?

Mr. NAIRN: That may be so. We do not all shoulder our burdens as we should. I believe that if the fruit-growers of the State realised that their money could be reasonably invested in this industry, and if the Government and the people were prepared to go to their assistance, there would be no short-comings so far as that point is concerned. These are matters of detail.

Sitting suspended from 1.15 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr. NAIRN: Before luncheon I had finished discussing the all-absorbing topic of jam, and after finishing with such a sweet subject is is rather difficult to find another to follow on with gracefully. I do not want to enter further my protest against those who by word or action have discredited the things of this State either as they exist in their natural state or as they are capable of being produced or manufactured here. We should be a self-contained community in this part of Australia. It is a gospel of the greatest possible importance and of the greatest consequence to the future of Western Australia. We recognise that if there is any great handicap or defect of character or conduct of the Australian people, it is the inborn tendency to discredit

the value of our own products. I venture to say if there was that proper, intelligent and necessary desire on the part of the people of Australia to at all times and under all possible conditions subscribe to the position to purchase the commodities of the country, we should be much further advanced than we are. Therefore I say any individual who by word or action endeavours to decry or destroy that principle is doing a great injustice to the country. That is why I again want to express my appreciation of the services and work of the Minister for Industries and those associated with him in doing their utmost to promote the industries of the State, both primary and secondary. We want secondary industries just as we want primary industries, and if we do not get them we shall lag behind in the progress of nations. If there is one thing above anything else which we have learned from the war—if we have learned one lesson—it is that security can only be found by a country being self-contained. A country like this with its vast possibilities, without exaggeration, is better prepared and better left by nature than any part of the British Empire to provide for the wants of her people. This country is amply qualified by nature to provide the commodities which we require. I regret the services rendered by the Minister in furthering secondary industries have not been appreciated in channels where they should be appreciated. I want to deal with another department, and I regret that I cannot quite express myself in the same manner of appreciation as I did with regard to the last. I want to speak of the conditions of one of the most important departments of the State, I refer to the Railway Department. That department will probably have a more far-reaching effect in the prosperity of the State than any other department—I say it with all respect to those who are in charge. I do not make any attack on any individual, but we must realise that the railways are up against the problem of the finances just as other departments are. There is great need for improvement in the Railway Department. I am entirely in accord with the Government in their intention of appointing three commissioners. To commence with, I think there is ample work for three intelligent, good men. It may be difficult to find them at the present juncture, but with a department which has to deal with a capital of 16 or 17 million pounds, another thousand pounds or two in obtaining good men will be amply repaid. And I want to say more; the objection I have to one commissioner is this: I do not make this as a personal attack on the present commissioner, but whether he wished it to be so or otherwise he is established as an autocrat. It is necessary that he should review every branch of his department. It is not humanly possible for any one man, I do not care who he is, to take care of that one department which affects the life of the community, the industrial, and every other life of the community. It is not humanly possible for him to have a complete grasp of that department. However, in the interests of the department and the country generally, it will be a wise and good policy to appoint

three commissioners which will bring us into line with other parts of the Commonwealth. I want to draw the attention of the House to where I consider this department is giving the State a very bad advertisement. I have in mind now the goldfields service. For some unaccountable reason, whether the capacity of the department is unduly taxed or not I do not know, but for some unaccountable reason, from my observations, the control of that branch of the service is very much below what it should be and worse than it was two or three years ago. In coming into contact and discussing this question with those who travel over that line, the one unanimous verdict is that the railway service from Kalgoorlie to Perth is badly and disgracefully managed in many respects. I believe there is a great deal of favouritism shown on that line in booking berths and tickets. I have seen three or four women jammed into every compartment, and on the same train I have seen a coach with several reserved compartments, with only one individual in each and not very important men.

Mr. Teesdale: Members of Parliament?

Mr. NAIRN: Some of them were not even members of Parliament. Now that is not right. I want to draw the attention of the House to another incident which I saw myself.

Mr. Foley: On some occasions members of Parliament reserve compartments.

Mr. NAIRN: That may be so, but those paying fares are jammed like herrings in a tin. That is wrong. With regard to reserved coaches, I want to bring before the House what I consider is a wrong policy on the part of the Railway Department, particularly at a time when economy is necessary. Only recently it was necessary for one of the judges of the Supreme Court to visit Kalgoorlie. I am told the length of his visit to Kalgoorlie was only a few hours, yet that gentleman was accommodated with nothing less than a Ministerial car, and a retinue of servants to look after that one man. That is entirely wrong.

The Minister for Works: A Ministerial car?

Mr. NAIRN: Even if it was a special car, at a time like this when economy is the outstanding thing, no person, whether a judge or a member of Parliament, should be entitled to that privilege. I understand it is not granted in any other State in Australia. Others of lesser influence in the community are compelled to submit to reduced privileges, many privileges have been taken away, and in many and various departments there has been retrenchment, while here is a glaring anomaly. I do not know what it cost the State to take that one man to Kalgoorlie.

Hon. P. Collier: Fifty pounds each way.

Mr. NAIRN: That would be £100, and I do not think it is an exaggeration. I believe it has always been the policy of this State, but it is a wrong one. We want someone who has courage enough to lay hold of everyone in the community and see that each subscribes to the policy of economy; it is not a difficult task. It is possible to take hold of some servant of the State who is receiving £200 and take away some privileges, but when it comes to others, it is a different matter. All should be placed on the same basis. Economy should be exercised

with even-handed justice, and when we see this going on, I feel it my bounden duty to express my disapproval. It is out of keeping with the times. I do not want to say more on that subject. The Premier says, hear, hear. I know it is not pleasant for any of us to make these statements, but someone must say them. They must be said and why should we not say them. I do not say these things disrespectfully, but a practice has grown up for years, and now is the time to knock some of the excrescences off. Another matter I want to speak of, and this affects the constituency I represent, is the Forestry Bill which the Government have given notice of their intention to bring in. I realise quite fully that the Minister in charge of the Forestry Department, who is enthusiastic in his work, will make a conscientious attempt to bring in a good, workable measure. There are one or two aspects which I want him to keep in mind when dealing with the Bill. I am speaking now from the point of view of my constituents. I represent a number of men who have been living for years on the timber industry. They are poor men, not capitalists; they may have a little home and they may have a little orchard. Some of their time is spent in employment in the timber industry, the remaining portion they devote in endeavouring to establish homes for themselves. I do not want anything to be placed in the Bill which will curtail the reasonable liberties and privileges of these people. I remember when Mr. Johnson was Minister, and I was sitting on the other side of the House, a great deal of injustice was done to men engaged in this industry.

Hon. P. Collier: We lost the Swan seat through it.

Mr. NAIRN: I believe that had a great deal to do with placing me in my present position, and I do not want to fail, because what I said then I said conscientiously. I shall help the Government to the full extent of my power to preserve this great natural industry of the State. It is a great and valuable asset, but the Government must remember that there are those who must be considered. I say that in no parochial sense, for there are scores and scores of them. I give this warning not in any threatening manner at all, but merely in order to point out to the Minister the danger of such action as was taken by one of his predecessors. With regard to the party to which I belong, I have now the same faith in what the National party can do for this State as I had when I helped, in my humble way, to bring it into existence. I desire to protest once more against an attitude taken up by outside, irresponsible bodies. Of course I do not refer to our friends opposite, whose duty it is to protest as vigorously as possible in order to keep us up to the mark. But I do protest against that of which we have had an example in this House during the last month—influence being used by those who have no responsibility, to urge members at any cost, and quite regardless of the sacredness of the subject, to destroy the National party because the members of that party persist in their original policy. I

am glad that the National party were born despised by the Press, and that once they were in existence they defied outside interference. At the outset we were informed by the Press that unless we selected certain members as Ministers we were doomed. The Hon. Frank Wilson was informed that only two Honorary Ministers were required, one of whom might be from the National Labourists and one from the Country party. Because that advice did not satisfy the aspirations of the National party, the same influence has been continuously and viciously used against us. I am glad, however, to observe that the sum total of defections from this party has been only two.

Hon. P. Collier: Three.

Mr. NAIRN: No; only two. One was with us only in his imagination. So long as I am here I shall raise my voice against irresponsible interference from outside whenever such interference is attempted.

Hon. P. Collier: Is the hon. member now referring to the Farmers and Settlers' Association?

Mr. NAIRN: No; to the "West Australian," the author of the last attack on the Government.

Mr. Johnston: The gutter Press.

Mr. NAIRN: I sincerely hope that the National party will preserve its individuality and its self-respect, and continue to do that which it has undertaken conscientiously to do. Heaven knows that if ever there was a time when the control of affairs was difficult, that time is now. In our hearts all of us must be prepared to acknowledge the tremendous task facing the Government. In conclusion let me express my general approval, though not in every detail, of what the National party have done for Western Australia. I believe the party will continue to work for the benefit of the State, notwithstanding the slurs and insinuations cast upon them from various quarters. In the interests of Western Australia it is good that we should, as far as possible, sink all party differences and work for the one common end of helping Western Australia, in her hour of difficulty, out of that unfortunate position in which she finds herself, through no fault of ours, but through circumstances over which we have no control—circumstances which indicate that they are about to pass away. It will be my privilege, while considering the best interests of the country as a whole, and of those whom I represent, to assist the Government to do that which they have set their hands to do.

Mr. VERYARD (Leederville) [2.52 p.m.]: Some hon. members have said that the Governor's Speech constitutes a record for length. Yet there is one paragraph in that Speech which in itself, I consider warrants the existence of the document—I refer to the paragraph dealing with liquor reform. Thousands of people in this State are, and have for a long time been, anxious for some kind of reform in this direction. There is at present a strong agitation in favour of prohibition. I personally am not sanguine that the Western Australian people will accept pro-

hibition, though I believe that course would be in the best interests of the community. Australasia spends something like 18 millions sterling annually on the liquor traffic. If this huge sum of money flowed into the Federal war chest, it would certainly have a strong influence towards the financing of our war expenditure. The Premier recently received a deputation on the prohibition question, and in his reply said that he could do nothing because of a certain compact. To my mind, that was an extremely lame excuse for a Premier to make. I believe its only purpose was to absolve the Premier from the necessity for taking any active steps towards prohibition. I am aware that some years ago a compact was made. But it was made in ordinary circumstances. Since then, this terrible war has come about; and the circumstances of to-day are not those of the past. As we know, circumstances alter cases; and here we have a case where it is a question of winning the war. In my opinion, if to that end it is necessary to sacrifice the liquor trade, or any other trade, the sacrifice ought to be made. While it is true that a compact was made, that compact was made only between the Government for the time being and those interested in the liquor traffic. The compact did not receive the people's endorsement. Ministers of the day took upon themselves the responsibility of entering into that compact; and shortly after there was an appeal to the people, and the Government were badly defeated—fairly good evidence that the people did not endorse the compact.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Is the hon. member sure that was the cause of the defeat?

Mr. VERYARD: Hon. members may be surprised to learn that in each of my election campaigns I have supported the compact. I supported it because I felt that it constituted a fair compromise between the State and the liquor trade. Moreover, I supported it in opposition to the strong wishes of my friends. More especially have I had to encounter the opposition of that well intentioned but misguided body called the Western Australian Alliance. I have never received the support of that body, but I have had active opposition from them, and also from the beer trade.

Hon. P. Collier: And you downed them both.

Mr. VERYARD: I have not yet fallen. Notwithstanding their knowledge of my consistency on the liquor question, the Western Australian Alliance, during my last campaign, were unable to perceive the difference between a candidate who had always in this House supported liquor reform, and a candidate who was opposed to any kind of liquor reform whatsoever. That fact shows the prejudice against me. The beer trade seem to be very fearful of prohibition. I notice that on the hoardings they are advertising that if prohibition should come about, taxation would increase 100 per cent. I am quite prepared to believe that, should prohibition be



given effect to, there would be some dislocation of taxation, which might continue for a short time; but I am convinced that the eventual benefits from prohibition would be immense. The 18 millions sterling spent annually in drink does not by any means represent the total cost to the people of the liquor traffic. How much is lost annually in wages through drink? How much through accidents caused by drunkenness? How much through the need for upkeep of asylums, prisons, hospitals, police, and magistrates? In Australia the cost of these institutions run into millions of pounds annually. And there is a reverse side even to this—those people who do not use intoxicating drink, who do not get drunk, who do not require asylums, prisons, hospitals, or police, nevertheless have to pay their proportion of taxation for the maintenance of these institutions. In this respect we are really made our brothers' keepers. The Licensing Act requires several amendments, particularly as regards its local option sections. Provision is made for local option, but it requires that 60 per cent. of the electors should vote, which means that those people who are opposed to any liquor reform have merely to absent themselves from the polling booth and thus ensure that the 60 per cent. required shall not be attained. Hon. members are aware that even at Parliamentary elections it is not often that a 60 per cent. average of voters is reached. But when a large section of voters absent themselves purposely from the ballot, that percentage becomes impossible of attainment.

Hon. P. Collier: There is always more than 60 per cent. recorded in this State.

Mr. VERYARD: Even suppose that were so, it means that every class of the community goes to the ballot box, but in the case of local option a large number of people would not go, so that 60 per cent. would not be reached. In my opinion those people who take the trouble to vote are entitled to claim that the decision be carried into effect. In connection with the election of members of Parliament, or in connection with the business of the House, or anything in fact, the majority always governs, and I fail to see why it should not be made to apply here also. If prohibition is brought about it is likely that owners of licensed houses will be obliged to accept a reduction in the rents. Seeing that these owners now receive 100 per cent. more rent for licensed premises than for similar premises which are not licensed, that 50 per cent. reduction would not hurt them.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): The hon. member is an optimist about hotel property, I don't think.

Mr. VERYARD: Should this large sum of money be available as the result of prohibition, we will find that thousands of homes will be generally better equipped, and that greater comfort will result to the people as a whole. As the licensing law exists at the present time greater satisfaction would follow if it were properly enforced.

The law at the present time is evaded every day, and when a conviction is obtained the penalty imposed is always out of proportion to the offence. Only a few days ago a publican was fined the paltry sum of 15s. for supplying drink to two people who were not bona fide travellers. Such a penalty is useless as a deterrent. The amount should be considerably more, and on the third occasion there should not be a fine but a forfeiture of the license.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): In the present state of the trade I should not think they could afford to pay much more than 15s.

Mr. VERYARD: I desire briefly to refer to the Moora Licensing Court incident in regard to which I asked some questions of the Honorary Minister the other day. The answers given to the first three questions were in the affirmative. The next question asked was as to whether the police were instructed not to oppose the granting of a license because of the conditions of sale. The answer to that question was—

Yes. A request was made improperly to the Commissioner of Police by an officer of the Lands Department without the knowledge of the Minister controlling the Lands Department or the Minister in control of the police. The matter is being fully investigated.

To my mind such instructions coming from an officer show a remarkable lack of control in the department. We have the Premier as Minister in control of the department, whilst the duties are carried out by an Honorary Minister. Yet an officer of the department is able to control matters to the extent disclosed in the answer. Then I asked a question as to whether the magistrate, had he refused to grant the license under such conditions, would have been retrenched. This was the reply—

Certainly not. The Government have no desire whatever to influence magistrates in any matter, and although the land was sold on certain conditions, it was never the intention of the Government that the application for the license should be dealt with in other than the ordinary way—free from any influence whatever outside of the evidence submitted.

This shows absolute ignorance of the value of the conditions on the title. To my mind a title is like a letter of credit. It only requires to be presented to be honoured. When a Minister says that there was no attempt to influence the bench, I say that it would be impossible for the bench and the Police Department, remembering what happened some years ago to Capt. Hare and to Mr. Roe, not to hesitate before refusing to grant the license with the conditions embodied on the title as was the case at Moora. I next asked the Minister "Would the department be under any obligation to the owners in the case of the refusal of the license?" The answer to that was "No." If I held that title deed, as a business man I would require compensation. It is part of the agreement, and the agreement in that case provides for a license.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): It does not.

Mr. VERYARD: It does; there is no question about it. There was to be a building erected within a certain time, and if the terms were not complied with the individual would not be entitled to compensation.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): That is the hon. member's reading of it.

Mr. VERYARD: I am sorry the Honorary Minister cannot give me a better one. The next question I asked was, "Is it intended to continue the policy of selling land under these conditions?" and the answer was—

The Government, holding that the Licensing Bench is the only authority to decide whether new licenses should be granted, sider that when land is sold with a right to apply for a license, conditions should be imposed to prevent dummying and the hawking of the license.

The inference is that the system is to be continued. I do not know that the hawking of licenses would be a serious matter in Western Australia. If so it should be put down. I next asked "Is the Minister aware that in 1911 an overwhelming majority of the electors decided against increased licenses in the State?" This was the answer—

Yes, except in the Gascoyne district, but it is still competent for the bench to grant licenses in localities more than 15 miles from an existing license.

I am sorry my friend the member for Gascoyne is not here, because I am sure he would blush. The replies given by the Honorary Minister are a condemnation of the whole system. I am justified in saying that the licensed house in question will require police protection which will cost the State at least £250 per annum. Probably the land was sold at 100 per cent. above its value on account of the conditions which were imposed. We may therefore say that the increase in that respect was £50. Four years revenue at £25 yearly and the £50 added value to which I have referred, will give a total of £150. That will be the revenue the State will derive. On the other hand, it will cost the country £1,000 for police protection. There will thus be a debit balance of £850. Then we wonder why the deficit continues to increase. A peculiar phase of the Moora licensing business was the fact that a license should be granted for this place which is 35 miles from a police station, while another application, which was for a gallon license for a place only 25 miles from police protection, was refused. That certainly shows, to my mind, that the imposition of conditions was sufficient to bring about the desired effect so far as the licensing bench were concerned.

Hon. P. Collier: There seems to be great activity in connection with licenses in country districts.

Mr. VERYARD: They are getting ready to receive compensation.

Hon. P. Collier: But the hon. member is against compensation.

Mr. VERYARD: Not necessarily, if prohibition comes about. Another matter to which I desire to refer has reference to the Yandanooka estate. I recently asked the Minister for Lands some questions, but his replies were certainly unsatisfactory. So far back as

two years ago I asked a number of questions, and they too were very unsatisfactory. I do not blame the Minister so much as I do the officer who supplied the answers. Anyhow, in this case they were absolutely incorrect. During the recess I had the pleasure, through the courtesy of a member of the Irwin roads board, of being driven to an estate beyond Yandanooka, and necessarily I travelled through or around the Yandanooka property for a distance of 24 miles. One of the questions I asked on the former occasion was as to whether sufficient sheds had been provided to cover all the machinery on the farm. The reply which was given was that provision had been made for housing all the machinery which would be affected by weather conditions. I did not know that there was any machinery which would not be affected by weather conditions. Anyhow, the reply was not in accordance with the facts. There was no shed accommodation whatever at that time, but immediately afterwards some sheds were put up. The result, however, was not satisfactory, because the wind from any quarter of the compass could blow around and across the machinery that was put in the sheds. On the occasion of my recent visit I saw two traction engines without any cover whatever. The cost of these would possibly be £1,000 each. These machines had been exposed to all weathers for some two years, and hon. members can imagine that it will not be long before they will not be worth their weight in scrap iron. At the time of my visit there were ten or twelve harvesters lying close by the Yandanooka railway station. They were being sent away somewhere by train. I can only imagine by their appearance that they were being sent somewhere for repairs. I do not think any respectable farmer would have liked to confess to being the owner of those harvesters. Last week I asked some questions of the Honorary Minister in connection with the estate. The first was as to whether he was aware that thousands of acres at Yandanooka were affected with the noxious weed known as stinkwort, and that it was rapidly spreading. The Minister replied that there were not thousands of acres of that plant at the estate, and that its growth was confined to a few isolated places. When I received the replies I sent them to a member of the Irwin roads board. I just wrote at the bottom, "What do you think?" I received a reply last evening. It read as follows:—

The replies given were certainly characteristic of the man who made them. He knows from personal knowledge that such is not the case. He had another member of the board drove through hundreds of acres of stinkwort in full seed. There are thousands more acres of the same weed.

The Minister said that stens had been taken to eradicate the weed. The letter states—

Absolutely no steps were taken towards eradication on the estate, while adjoining property: owners spent hundreds of pounds in doing so, and the roads board have grubbed the road area for about 20 miles through the estate.

The writer of the letter saw thousands of acres of the weed on the estate, and he points

out how eager his board have been to have the estate make some effort at eradication. Yet nothing was done, notwithstanding their request. It is quite evident that the Honorary Minister, either in himself or being misled by his officer, was deceiving the House when he gave those replies. Let me say a few words in reference to our primary and our secondary industries. The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) has said that what we require is increased production in such lines as wool, beef, mutton and timber. Coming to the secondary industries the hon. member said he wished to speak of them with the utmost disrespect. I looked up to see if I had not made a mistake. I could not imagine a King's Counsel, a leader of the Bar, being guilty of making such remarks. If the hon. member were Minister for Industries I take it he would be sending our wool away with a view of having it returned in the form of cloth, that he would send away our timber to have it returned in the form of furniture, and would send our hides away to be returned in boots and shoes. What a wonderful way of helping Western Australia! To my mind, while it is necessary to encourage our primary industries it is no less necessary to encourage our secondary industries, as that encouragement means the retention of millions of money in our State. Had the member for Perth as keen a business instinct as he has a legal instinct, he would realise the importance of secondary industries. I suppose all hon. members recognise the need for developing our primary industries, but at the same time everything possible should be done to foster our secondary industries. Unlike the member for Perth, I think the Minister for Industries is to be congratulated on his efforts to establish secondary industries. I do not suppose for a moment that the Minister claims to be infallible. I think his greatest mistake was made in regard to the proposal to lease any part of the foreshore in connection with the ship-building enterprise. Probably he made a great mistake also when he offered part of the Perth foreshore to the Federal Government for any purpose whatever.

Hon. P. Collier: He certainly should have gone inland for the ship-building sites.

Mr. VERYARD: As a citizen, I object to the foreshore being used for the purpose. It is pleasing to learn from the Governor's Speech that the encouragement given to the establishment of butter factories has had beneficial results. Let me say that the butter supply could be largely increased if a railway were built from Subiaco to Wanneroo. The distance would be only 15 miles, and probably the line would be profitable from the very beginning. Wanneroo is one of the oldest settlements in the State, and deserves consideration. Apart from the advantages to be derived in other respects, it is to be remembered that the Minister for Forests is now putting in a pipe plantation to the east of Wanneroo. Also, with a railway to Wanneroo, a very large milk supply would be made available to the City, and I have it on the assurance of a friend that a butter factory would be started straight away. Wanneroo is eminently suited for the production of milk and butter. It has large areas of

grazing land, and also of swamp land on which to grow food for the cattle.

Mr. Harrison: Has the hon. member any idea of the number of cattle in that area?

Mr. VERYARD: No, but I know that some of the best butter made in Western Australia comes from that district. Other industries would be encouraged by the proposed railway, for all along the route are immense firewood areas, some large areas of building stone, and some of the richest limestone deposits in the State, to say nothing of the products of the gardens. Thus it will be seen that a cheaply constructed line would be profitable from its very inception. I am not so particularly interested in Wanneroo as I am in my own constituency. The Premier himself represents Wanneroo. I know the district and its capabilities well, and I have no hesitation in urging the Government to build the railway. If the railway were built, we should have butter factories there running the whole year round. There is another aspect to this question of secondary industries. I think the consumers in the State might very well be expected to give local industries better support than they do. In too many cases the people believe that nothing made in Western Australia is good.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do not the manufacturers themselves support that belief?

Mr. VERYARD: Take biscuits. Our annual importation of biscuits amounts to £50,000, yet we have biscuit factories in our own State, one of which in open market won a gold medal, I presume for the quality of its biscuits. It should be noted by our own people that biscuits made here compare favourably with the imported article.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And further, there are more biscuits in the packet.

Mr. VERYARD: In 1899 the State imported £65,000 worth of eggs. During the last three months of last year our imports amounted to £1,760. Fortunately the figures are dropping, and I am glad to say that recently some eggs were exported from this State to the Eastern States. I would like to congratulate the shippers of those eggs, but from my experience of eggs from the Eastern States, I am afraid that we shall have to look further afield for a satisfactory market. Let me refer to the settlement of returned soldiers at Osborne Park. Some time ago, at the request of the Returned Soldiers' Association, a committee of business men were appointed to supervise and manage the settlement scheme at that place. I am sorry to say that although full control was granted to that committee they are making a sorry mess of things through sheer neglect of their duties. The poultry school at Subiaco is practically a farce. The manager lives some distance down the line and is frequently conspicuous by his absence. The returned soldiers have but a limited opportunity of learning anything at the school. Many valuable fowls have died, and I am informed that a box of eggs recently sent there for incubating purposes was allowed to lie in the weather for a fortnight before being put into the incubator. The soldiers already settled at Osborne Park are very pleased with the help and sympathy accorded to them by the local residents. Next in order of their

satisfaction is the class of building being erected there. In addition to comfortable homes the soldiers there have wind-mills, with the necessary tanks and stands. These settlers have already been there for some months, but no water has yet been supplied to them except that which they have been able to cart for themselves a distance of a mile. This has taken up a lot of their time, and should not have been necessary. In one case, I am informed, the Works Department put down a water pipe without success. Later on they put down another, but were not satisfied because there was no water. A third effort was made but without success, and the whole thing was left at that. I was asked who would have to pay for all this expense. None of the settlers can learn what they are to be charged for the whole concern afterwards. I am informed that they could get a couple of hundred pounds advanced from the Agricultural Bank, for which they would have to pay interest at the rate of seven per cent. Such help may be of use to them, but it seems to me that the interest is rather high.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have these soldiers to pay seven per cent.?

Mr. VERYARD: Yes. The class of fowls supplied to them is also very unsatisfactory. Each one is supposed to have had 200 fowls supplied to him, but none of them have anything like that number now, possibly not even half that number. Many of these fowls were old and useless, and were diseased with croup and scaly legs. Those acquainted with poultry raising know that the first essential in the success of the undertaking is to have pure and healthy stock. Unless good stock is provided this poultry raising cannot be conducted at a profit. I am satisfied that the returned soldiers engaged in this industry are determined to fight out the question, but they stand in need of some practical sympathy on the part of those to whom they are able to look. It seems to me that the Minister controlling the department should communicate with the Returned Soldiers' Association, and ask them to request the poultry committee to resign, either with a view to appointing a fresh committee, or with a view to the department taking control of the business. The present system is very unsatisfactory. I wish to bring forward another matter out of friendship to a young man, whose father and I were associated very intimately for many years, and whom I know to be thoroughly deserving of help. Some 11 years ago two brothers went out to the Murrumbidgee district. The member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Johnston) knows the case well and can endorse what I say in the matter. After working together for some eight years they decided that one brother should remain on the land while the other fought for his country. I am sorry to say that the brother who fought for his country will not return. Only a few weeks ago the other brother had to retire from his farm. He applied to the Agricultural Bank for assistance, but was informed that there was no money for the purpose. During the period

that he has been on the farm he has put up nine miles of wire fencing, has cleared 160 acres, ringbarked 500 acres, and freed from poison 600 acres. There is a four-roomed house on the property and stabling and other accommodation, and altogether over £1,000 has been spent there. Of the full amount that would be required to be paid for rent, namely, £800, the sum of £400 has been paid. This young man would have been glad to have had the use of £400 at this juncture in order to see him through. It is painful for him to leave the farm because he likes the life. He would be glad to go back if he could get assistance. At present the department is pressing him for one year's rent, which is all that he owes at present. Hon. members know the bad seasons which farmers have had to put up with for some time past. The result in this case has been that what stock he had on the farm he has had to sell in order to pay his way. Finding that he cannot get on without assistance he has had to leave the farm. I think this is a case in which the Premier might do something. It is just as much the duty of the Government to keep competent and deserving men on the land as it is to put untried men there.

Mr. Teesdale: How much rent does he owe?

Mr. VERYARD: About £40, or a little under. This man's property is worth at least £1,500, and he wants the sum of £400 to help him along.

Mr. Harrison: Has the case been laid before the Minister for Lands?

Mr. VERYARD: Not so far as I know.

Hon. P. Collier: How can the Government assist him when they do not know of his case?

Mr. VERYARD: He has only so far dealt with the Agricultural Bank. I do not think the matter has been placed before the Minister. I draw attention to it in the hope that the Premier may be able to extend some help in this case. It is a deserving one, and I think if help were extended it would meet with general approval.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister—Nelson) [3.37 p.m.]: Of all the speeches that have been made in this debate the one which appealed to me most was that of the member for Swan (Mr. Nairn). I listened to that speech with very great delight. It was very fair and very true. He pointed out that although the primary industries were so important, the State could not progress as it should if the secondary industries were left without any help or assistance from the Government. Unfortunately, there are many farmers in the State who are imbued with the idea that primary industries alone are necessary for this State to reach prosperity, that so far as the secondary industries are concerned, they are more or less parasites. The sooner they get that idea out of their heads the better.

Mr. Harrison: Who thinks that?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Let the hon. member read the papers, and he will find that many farmers, and others who should know better, are writing

to them pointing out that primary industries only can bring this State to prosperity.

Mr. Harrison: I should like to see the paper which says that.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): We know that it is not so. The member for Swan laid that plainly before the House.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The hon. member does not read the "Primary Producer."

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): The jam factory was mentioned. If the fruit industry of the State is to be kept going it is necessary that the surplus fruit should be forwarded to a jam factory. Fortunately for Australia, and particularly for Tasmania, we are sending away 15,000,000 lbs. of jam to Great Britain. What is going to happen after the war when Great Britain will not require all this jam? It will have to be absorbed to a large extent in Australia. We have, therefore, a better opportunity to-day than ever before, or than we are ever likely to have in the near future, of starting this industry and putting it upon a proper basis in Western Australia. We can produce fruit here, equal, if not superior, to the fruit used by Jones & Co. of Tasmania. We have the money here with which to establish the industry if people would only have the necessary faith in the country, and particularly in the fruit industry. Unfortunately we have been hit hardly in the past. In years gone by we had a jam factory established at Donnybrook, which unfortunately turned out a financial failure. Now we have another jam factory established, but the fruitgrowers themselves only took up a small number of shares, paying in all £1,300. The Associated Fruitgrowers came to the help of the jam factory to the tune of a considerable amount. The same people, who had shares in the jam factory, also had shares in the Associated Fruitgrowers, and they put in something over £2,000 over and above the £1,300 put in by the shareholders of the jam factory. It will thus be seen that these people did put their hands into their own pockets in order to help themselves.

Hon. P. Collier: What happened to the Donnybrook factory?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): It became defunct owing to bad management. The first batch of jam turned out was put on the market, but being of a poor quality was turned down by the storekeepers who returned it all to the factory. Unfortunately the jam had been burnt in the making, and was therefore condemned. The result was that the whole thing went smash.

Hon. P. Collier: How long ago?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This was in 1911.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Unfortunately I was a shareholder. So far as the present factory is concerned, a good deal of the trouble has been caused through bad management. With a thoroughly up-to-date manager, I can see no reason, in spite of difficulties regarding tin supplies and other material, why it should not be a success. The prices paid by the factory are not as good as the prices paid by Jones & Co. in Tasmania.

Hon. P. Collier: You mean for the fruit?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Jones & Co. are paying more for their fruit in Tasmania than the factory is paying the local growers here. If the factory is to be successful it will have to be thoroughly reorganised. I hope this will be done. The member for Leederville (Mr. Verward) mentioned the Osborne Park poultry farm. As he stated, these farms were under a committee. The Government had nothing to do with them. The committee is deserving of congratulation for a great deal of the work they have done, but like other people, they have made mistakes, with the result that there has been a shortage of water at these poultry farms. I understand that the matter has been put right. Regarding Yandanooka, the hon. member can know very little about stinkwort, or else he would not allow himself to be misled by a member of the Irwin Roads Board. Stinkwort travels south. On either side of the Bunbury railway line, nothing is to be seen but stinkwort. But is that country useless because of the stinkwort? In the Kojonup district any quantity of stinkwort may be seen; and yet in that district is produced the finest wool produced in Australia to-day, the wool which obtains the best price among Australian wools. In the cultivated paddocks stinkwort is to be found; but let hon. members ask Professor Paterson whether we are to give up all hope because some of our lands are badly infested with stinkwort? Professor Paterson will tell them that the roots of the stinkwort, in going down as they do, aerate the soil, and have especially a good effect on stiff soils. People also say that farmers running sheep in stinkwort paddocks find that at certain periods of the year the sheep live on the stinkwort. I defy contradiction of that statement.

Mr. Money: The sheep starve on the stinkwort.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): The Dardanup estate is one of the finest in the South-West, and yields one of the largest money returns per acre. Yet the fields there are full of stinkwort. It is simply creating a nightmare to assert that this weed will ruin Yandanooka.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The member for Leederville was complaining about the incorrect information given to him.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): It is not incorrect information, unless the weed has spread very considerably since I was on the estate. The talk about thousands of acres being covered with stinkwort is rubbish. At Mingenew I told the farmers, "I think you are frightening yourselves unnecessarily." And so they are. The House can accept my assurance that there is nothing to worry about at all in connection with stinkwort. As the member for Mt. Magnet (Mr. Troy) has said, there are other plants which are very dangerous indeed, and in regard to which every effort at eradication should be made. But that does not apply to stinkwort. Next, the member for Leeder-

ville brought up the case of two brothers, one of whom has, unfortunately, been killed at the Front. If the hon. member will inform me of the facts in my office, I shall have very much pleasure in going into the case; and if anything can be done to assist that farmer it certainly will be done.

Hon. P. Collier: The office is the place to deal with such a case; not this Chamber.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): That is so. The member for Leederville stated that the case had never been brought before me. Then how could he have expected me to deal with it? Thereupon the hon. member referred to prohibition. It seems to me that these would-be prohibitionists are using the war to get their own particular way. They speak of "war-time-prohibition," but they are really using the war in order to get prohibition. In this Chamber the liquor question has never been made a party question. On it, all shades of political opinion may be observed sitting alongside or opposite each other. I for one do object to these, shall I say, fanatics endeavouring to nobble members of Parliament, and bind them to vote irrespective of freedom of conscience. If these people really want to do some good, let them turn their attention to the liquor as sold to-day, and if that liquor is harmful, let them turn their attention to reducing the strength of the ardent spirits and of some of the wines handed out to the public. As the member for Leederville has brought up the drink question, let me touch on a matter which has caused some questions to be asked in this House, and which has also received some notice in the Press. I refer to the hotel license at Perenjori. That place, I may mention for the information of hon. members unaware of its situation, is on the Wongan Hills railway between Ballidu and Mullewa. When that townsite was laid out, certain blocks which were considered most suitable for the purpose were set aside for hotel sites.

Hon. P. Collier: State hotel sites.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): No; I do not think so.

Hon. T. Walker: When were they set aside?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): When the townsite was surveyed.

Hon. T. Walker: Yes, I know that; but when? Was it when the Labour Government were in office?

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. T. Walker: Then they were set aside for State hotel sites.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): It was done in 1916. Time went on, and the question of whether a State hotel should be built on the block was referred to the general manager of State hotels, who on the 20th July, 1916, replied—

I have to inform you that there is no prospect of a State hotel being erected on the area referred to, and I see no objection to the lease being granted as set forth in paragraph one of your letter.

The lease referred to was not an hotel lease, but a lease granted to a certain lady under a section of the Land Act which permits that to be done—a lease under which she had to remove any property of hers on that block, upon notice from the department, within three months. When this block was set aside, it was set aside as being the best block within the townsite for this particular purpose.

Hon. T. Walker: Of a State hotel.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Not of a State hotel, but of an hotel. If hon. members will look through the various plans of townsites, they will see on each of them a block set aside for an hotel—not necessarily a State hotel. On the 25th June, 1917, the roads board wrote to the Government that an hotel was necessary in the district. That was the first intimation received by the Government. Next, a request came from a man named Robinson, whoever he may be. He stated that he would like full information as to this particular block, since in his opinion the town required hotel accommodation. Then we have a letter from the Farmers' and Settlers' Association stating that an hotel was necessary. That letter was written on the 25th February, 1918, and the association wrote again on the 9th April. Following on these letters, and after full inquiry, I recommended Cabinet on the 19th April that this block should be thrown open for this particular purpose; and Cabinet approved on the 26th April. Thereupon the people interested, namely, the roads board and the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, were written to pointing out the conditions under which it was proposed to sell the block by public auction. The block was advertised in the "Government Gazette" and in the "Northam Advertiser" on the 27th and 31st July; and in the "Northam Courier" on the 26th July and the 2nd August. The "Sunday Times" also had a notice on the subject, though not an advertisement, during July. The question has been asked, in what papers were the advertisements published? All advertisements are left to the discretion of an advertising officer, who inserts them in whatever papers he thinks fit. The matter is entirely under his control. Certain conditions were imposed on the sale of the block—that it be used only for hotel purposes; that an application for a license be made to the next licensing court sitting after the sale; that the premises be erected within 12 months from the date of sale. In my opinion—and I contend I have a perfect right to my opinion, just as other members have to theirs—those are good conditions. Let me tell the House why I consider them to be good conditions. Every other title of this description is endorsed that no intoxicants may be sold on the land. But in the case of a block sold for hotel purposes, the successful bidder at the auction, under the conditions here imposed, cannot trail around for an indefinite period until he gets either a brewery or a financier to back him. Only those in a position to erect an hotel, and of sufficiently good char-

acter to obtain a license from a bench, would be likely to bid. The successful bidder has to go before the next sitting of the licensing court; that is to say, he is bound to act almost immediately. That is only reasonable, because, if an hotel is required, the sooner it is up the better. Then, if the licensing bench approve of the application, the successful bidder has to erect an hotel within 12 months. As we all know, the licensing bench are the only authority who can grant a license. As I stated in answering the questions asked by the member for Leederville, I consider it absolutely wrong to try to influence a bench in any way whatever. The block here in question was put up, and was sold to Messrs. Connor and A. L. Johnston, whoever they may be, on the 3rd August at Northam. These bought it as tenants in common. I have since learnt that Mr. Connor is a farmer in the district. Mr. Johnston, I understand, is at the Front.

The Premier: I do not think so.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I was informed to-day that Mr. Johnston is at the Front, and that he applied through his attorney under power.

Hon. T. Walker: How did he get hold of Connor?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I have not the faintest idea. I know nothing more than I am telling the House. A public officer wrote to the Commissioner of Police on the 2nd September regarding opposition to the license, and it would appear from the statement in the Press that the Commissioner instructed his officer not to oppose: I will read the letter to the House—

To the Commissioner of Police, Perth. Re Perenjori lot 9: I am informed that an application is being made to the Licensing Court at Moora this week for a license over the above lot, and that your local inspector has instructions to oppose the application. I therefore beg to advise you that this lot was, after inquiries had been made by the Government, and it being satisfied that an hotel was required at this centre put up for auction on the 3rd ult., at the upset price of £100 subject to the following conditions:—

The conditions are then given, and then follows the second paragraph of the letter—

I shall therefore be glad if you will instruct your local inspector in the circumstances that as the purchaser is only complying with the terms of approval it would be inconsistent on the part of the Government for any opposition to be put forward.

Hon. P. Collier: Who signed that letter?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): There are initials at the foot of the letter which I could not make out, but I have made inquiries and have found that the initials are those of Mr. Morris.

Hon. P. Collier: How did Mr. Morris know that the inspector had been instructed to oppose the application as stated in the letter?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I do not know. I knew nothing whatever about this matter. As hon. members opposite know, the Minister is not made ac-

quainted with every letter that goes out of the office. It would be absurd to expect that. The member for Leederville said that the Minister should be familiar with everything which takes place in the office.

Hon. P. Collier: I have never known an officer to send out a letter of such importance without getting the approval of the Minister first.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I entirely agree with the leader of the Opposition that that letter should never have been sent. When I saw the letter on the 10th I pointed out that the department could not instruct the police.

Hon. T. Walker: Mr. Morris knows that.

Hon. W. C. Augwin: There is no more careful officer in the department, but he must have been acting under instructions.

Hon. T. Walker: That induces me to believe that there is something which we have not been told.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): From my knowledge of Mr. Morris I do not think he would attempt to do anything underhand. He is a most reliable officer.

Hon. T. Walker: And experienced.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Reliable and experienced both. This is the first time anything has ever come under my notice from that officer which is not as it should be. The following explanation has been written by the Under Secretary, Mr. H. S. King—

I note your wishes of the 10th inst. Care will be taken in the future to avoid any semblance of giving an instruction which was not intended in this case. Cabinet decided that an hotel was necessary, and as it was not proposed to erect a State hotel, a hotel site was thrown open under certain conditions. Before the Licensing Court sat the purchasers called and said that the inspector of police at Northam had informed them that he had general instructions to oppose any license being granted, and asked whether I would advise the Commissioner of Police as to the conditions attached to the sale of the land. I promised to do this, and said it would be for the Commissioner of Police to issue what instructions he thought fit. Paragraph 2 of the minute was unfortunately worded, but no doubt the Commissioner of Police took it as it was intended, as he would know that this department has no power to give him instructions in cases of this kind. I presume the general instructions given to the police to oppose all licenses were given when it was the policy to erect State hotels wherever possible, but as that policy has changed it might have been thought that the instructions had been revised.

Would the leader of the Opposition, who was Minister in control of the Mines Department when Mr. King was Under Secretary there, believe for a moment that that officer was capable of being squeezed or influenced in any way?

Hon. P. Collier: No, but I never knew Mr. King to write such a letter dealing with a matter of that description without my authority.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Mr. King did not write the letter, and as he states in his own letter it was an improper one.

Hon. P. Collier: Did the people call on Mr. King or Mr. Morris? The letter does not say.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I do not know.

Hon. P. Collier: Was it Mr. Connor who called, or was it the other man, or who was it called on their behalf?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I do not know. The other man could not have called because he is out of the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Are you quite sure the other man could not have called?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): All I can say is that so far as the remarks that have been made about this business are concerned, there has not been anything underhand or wrong, with the exception of the second paragraph of the letter.

Hon. P. Collier: The matter certainly calls for inquiry.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I might have thought that influence had been brought to bear, but knowing Mr. Morris as I do, and as hon. members know him, they will agree with me when I say that he is above suspicion.

Hon. T. Walker: Mr. Morris would never write a letter like that without pressure being brought to bear on him.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Does the hon. member wish to imply that I brought pressure to bear? Let us get down to facts.

Hon. T. Walker: I wish I knew the facts. There are facts that want disclosing in connection with this matter.

Hon. P. Collier: Mr. Morris would never write it merely on the calling of Loftus Connor. Someone else must have brought pressure to bear on him.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Does the hon. member wish to imply that I brought pressure to bear on him?

Hon. T. Walker: We do not think you did, but we do think there has been pressure.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): There has been a slur cast on me. It has been said by way of innuendo that Mr. Morris, a gentleman who is entitled to every respect, and who is above suspicion so far as his honesty is concerned, has had pressure brought to bear on him. And it is left on the minds of the public that that pressure must have been applied by the Honorary Minister in control. I deny any such imputation, no matter who makes it. I am not accusing anyone of having made it, because it has been done by way of innuendo.

Hon. T. Walker: You are putting the cap on now.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Let us be open and above board. I am prepared to get to the bottom of this. I did not know that the letter, which was dated the 2nd September, had been written until I saw it in the Press on the 10th.

Hon. P. Collier: I think it would be well if you were to learn from Mr. Morris who called

on him, and who reported to him that the police were going to oppose the license.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): That will be done.

Hon. T. Walker: It should have been done before.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): How could it, when I did not see the letter until the 10th. I court every publicity in this matter. It seems to be absurd that if Cabinet should approve of land being sold for hotel purposes, and that if the purchaser applies to the Licensing Bench for his license, that the police should step in and oppose it. It is not fair that the onus should be thrown on the shoulders of the Minister for Lands to decide first of all whether a hotel is necessary or not. Surely this is a matter for the Licensing Bench. Unfortunately, as in the case of Ajana, I found on going through the file that a section of the community were strongly in favour of a hotel, while another section were strongly opposed to it. I said that under those circumstances I would not be prepared to make the land available for a hotel, at any rate until I got a further expression of opinion. The applicant worried me considerably. I said no, and added that on the evidence the people had not made up their minds. That man applied to the Licensing Bench, and the bench stated that they could not entertain the application because the man had no land. Hon. members will at once see the position. If the Minister for Lands does not make land available it is useless to get an expression of opinion from the bench as to whether a license is necessary or not. It is throwing the onus on the Minister to make up his mind as to whether it is necessary that a hotel should be built. That is not fair. One can only go on the weight of evidence. Certain land is made available, and the successful bidder then goes to the Licensing Bench and the bench may in their wisdom, on the weight of evidence, turn down the application.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You made land available at Ajana.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): No.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The land has been sold.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): There is an endorsement on every deed that liquor shall not be sold on that land.

Hon. P. Collier: It can be lifted.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Only with the approval of Cabinet, but it has never yet been lifted, and it is never likely to be when we know that in every town certain blocks have been set aside for hotel purposes, and that on those blocks only can hotels be erected. Therefore, so far as Ajana is concerned, until Cabinet decides that a hotel is necessary there, and makes the land available, nobody can erect a hotel, even if they get a license from the bench, which they cannot do because they have not the land. Let me point out another absurdity. If we do not make the land available and the bench consider that a hotel is necessary, what do we find takes place? A man residing three-quarters of a mile from the townsite having a freehold



lot, can go to the bench and apply for a license.

Hon. P. Collier: Has that ever been done?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Yes, and a license has been approved and the man has built a hotel on his freehold property outside the townsite. Hon. members will agree with me that such a thing is not desirable.

Hon. P. Collier: Where has that been done?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): It has been done. I am not going to say where. I think the time has come when the licensing bench should have power to say that they will grant a license to a suitable applicant. That would then be an indication to the Minister to throw open certain land in the town for hotel purposes. But it is wrong to lay upon the Minister the onus of saying whether a hotel is necessary. Notwithstanding any light that I may have been able to throw upon this subject of the Perenjori hotel, I think hon. members should be afforded an opportunity of perusing the file. Just now I would not be in order in laying it on the Table, but when the proper time arrives I will move that the file be laid upon the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member quoted from that file?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): I have.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then there is no objection to its being laid on the Table?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT (Honorary Minister): Well, I now lay it on the Table for the information of hon. members. Let me repeat that for my own part I do not care what people say. If one has a clean conscience it matters little how much mud people may throw. In respect of Mr. Morris, the officer concerned, I repeat that, having known him for many years, I am certain that no undue influence was brought to bear upon him. I consider him to be above suspicion.

Hon. T. WALKER (Kalgoorlie) [4.17 p.m.] : At this late stage of the debate I will not go over the ground which it was my original intention to cover. In respect to a number of the criticisms made, I endorse what has been said, but of course I cannot endorse the confidence which has been expressed in Ministers. Nor can I endorse what has been said by our friend the Minister for Industries. I think he is not encouraging, not fostering, not really supporting, secondary industries. He is playing with them. We are all in favour of secondary industries, in favour of work for our people, in favour of the distribution of wages among them. I question whether the Minister is doing a single thing towards that end; rather in some instances he is destroying it. Take his work in connection with the State nursery at Hamel. Not very long ago a letter appeared in the newspaper in this form—

On Saturday last a statement re the above—

That is, the retail nursery trade. The letter continues—

appeared in your paper from the Attorney General. As some of his statements are

grossly misleading, I trust you will allow me a small space in which to reply on behalf of the nurserymen. In June, 1917, he made a statement to the Press that he had given instructions that no more shrubs or hedge plants should be grown. I desire to point out that the only hedge plants grown to any extent at the State nursery previously were *Pittosporum* and—

The word here is blurred, is not legible, but it refers to another plant. The letter continues—

These are still growing, and the latter variety more extensively now than previously. Will Mr. Robinson state the varieties of hedge plants which the State nursery produced previously and which he has prohibited from being grown now. I desire to ask Mr. Robinson two questions: (1) Did he, when contesting the Canning electorate with Mr. Seaddan, state that he was totally opposed to State retail trade, believing that private enterprise was best for the individual and the State. (2) Has the State nursery under his administration commenced the retail sale of plants and trees, and issued a detailed retail price-list under the name of the Forestry Department of Western Australia, offering these plants and trees for sale to the public. I challenge him to answer either question in the negative. I do not at present desire to follow the other statements. His final threat that this retail trading concern which he has commenced will continue to exist, does not trouble the nurserymen much.

This was signed by G. H. Wilson, secretary to the Nurserymen's Association, Barrack-street, Perth. In addition we have the Minister's published list of prices, under-cutting the nurseries in and around Perth and in the State generally; under-cutting men who are employing workers. My objection is that the Minister, with his retail business, is cutting into those who are employing men, that he is charging for these plants, yet not employing the same number of men as the private nurseries. In other words there is no consistency, no guidance by rule or principle in the attitude taken up by the Minister for Industries in respect of this work at the State nursery. And all his utterances in like measure are merely tinkering with big questions. There is no earnestness about the ship-building proposal, no earnest endeavour to start secondary industries. He is only playing with a big problem. Limelight, advertisement, palaces in the air—they are all after the style of the South Perth bridges. They allure the eye and attract the attention, but they do no permanent good to the country. I had intended to go into this matter at length, but the debate is so well worn that I do not marvel at the yawns and groans and exhibitions of exhaustion on the part of the Minister for Works. I have not much to say to the Minister for Works, but he does not at all contribute either to keeping the debate alive or to keeping me intent upon my subject. After his heroics the other night, when one would have imagined that he was the

Colossus of the Ministry, when he patronised all his colleagues, patted them on the back even to the apportionment of praise, measured their excellences by the degree to which they fell into line with his self-appreciation and his magnification of himself, I should have hoped after he had endeavoured to belittle such men as the member for Perth that he would set an excellent example to both sides of the House in his behaviour in his place, and endeavour to preserve the dignity of Parliament and the placidity of the debate. However, I am disappointed with the hon. member, as on many previous occasions. What I desire to deal with now is the way in which the Esperance district is treated. Notwithstanding the promises of assistance for the establishment of a bacon factory at Grass Patch with, perhaps, another at Esperance, the intimation given to the whole of the public of the State is that Esperance is a tabooed district. No new settlers go there. The assistance given to other parts of the State is not to be given to the settlers in the Esperance district. And even in the purchase of their wheat—and in this respect I suppose we must be thankful to the Minister for Industries for having said something on their behalf—even in that they are only to receive some little encouragement at Esperance itself and at Norseman.

The Attorney General: That, surely, was genuine.

Hon. T. WALKER: I am not denying that it was genuine as far as it went, but it was not whole-hearted, it was little. They should be treated exactly on a par with other settlers in other parts of the State. That district is too large and too important to the future of the State to be treated with the utter neglect with which it has been treated by the present Government. I shall have occasion to return to the subject at a later date, so for the present I will not weary the Assembly by dealing with it further.

Mr. Maley: You ought to advocate separation for that province.

Hon. T. WALKER: I think we ought to go in for separation all over the State. But decidedly that big district might as well be separated, a district capable of providing homes for thousands might as well be the other side of South Australia for all that the present Ministry care about it. They are ignoring it and doing all they can to prevent its development. Yet it is as serviceable a part of the State as are those portions particularly favoured by lavish expenditure of the Government. Some districts get all the assistance they ask for, while Esperance is deliberately told that it shall receive none. I particularly want now to deal with that extraordinary method of land administration which we have heard explained this afternoon by the Honorary Minister. I do not think we have ever had the experience of listening to such a lame, contradictory apology for Ministerial ineptitude and ignorance as that which we have heard from the Honorary Minister this afternoon. Here is a man who tells us that things of the most momentous character are happening in his own department, and he says he knows nothing

of them. Does he not know that 1 officers are running the country as well as 1 Lands Department, not only the Lands Department, but the Police Department, and not only the Police Department but are directly running the Attorney General's department?

The Attorney General: Oh no, they do not.

Hon. T. WALKER: What about the licensing benches and the Magistrates who come under the purview of the Attorney General? Here we have the spectacle of magistrates acting in effect directed as to how they shall act in the administration of justice in the courts. There is not a word of condemnation from the Attorney General or his department. We have never heard of such an attempt deliberately direct the decisions of magistrates, as we have in this particular case. This is one of the most delicate matters in the world to interfere in the administration of a Police Court case, but to deal with a magistrate in a licensing court, to give practical directions, for that is what this amounts to, a police magistrate is an interference with justice that should make the blood stir the veins of the Attorney General, and call him to insist upon more than the limp explanation we have heard from the Honorary Minister (Hon. F. E. S. Willmott) this afternoon. This only shows the state into which the Government have fallen. Any Minister can do as he likes, or can do nothing at all if he likes, and the others are perfectly content to drift on. The truth is that we have lost all responsibility in Parliamentary Government. We have a "go-as-you-please" Ministry, and we could not have a better example of this than in the conduct of the Honorary Minister in connection with this transaction. Let us review it. There has been, in all the townships opened up by agricultural development in this State, blocks reserved for the purpose of State hotels, in order to prevent the indiscriminate issue of licenses. That has been the policy of the Government as laid down by Act of Parliament, backed and directed by the vote of the people. The people have said, "We will not have an increase of licenses," and in order that that direction from the people may be carried out Governments in the past have said, "In opening out townships we will reserve in each township some particular block suitable for a State hotel."

Mr. Pickering: Is that so?

Hon. T. WALKER: It is so.

Mr. Pickering: I thought that an application could be made by a private individual for a license if it was outside a radius of 15 miles from an existing license.

Mr. O'Loghlin: What did the referendum indicate?

Hon. T. WALKER: If a new goldfield, 15 miles away from an existing license, requires hotel accommodation for travellers and so forth, it is permissible that such a license should be granted. We are now speaking of deliberately laid out agricultural townships and of those laid out by the Crown under the leasehold principle. In every instance we have reserved to the Crown for the purpose of a State hotel a block or two in the best position

for such purpose. This has been done in accordance with the instructions of the people who have said that there shall be no new licenses, or if there be any that they shall be State licenses. It now appears that in this place the Lands Department has been asked for leave to have a hotel there. If the truth were to be told here to-night, hon. members would know that there was not a township anywhere but has had a similar request to tender. In every part of the State those anxious to make money by means of a license have asked that a hotel should be permitted in these places. The peculiarity of this particular spot is that someone, not the roads board or even the farmers and settlers has particularly moved the Lands Department to act as it has done.

Mr. Troy: Probably some member of Parliament.

Hon. T. WALKER: There are some members of Parliament who belong to the Farmers and Settlers' Association.

Mr. Pickering: There is nothing to be ashamed of in that.

Hon. T. WALKER: The hon. member ought to be proud of it. A genuine farmer and a genuine settler are indeed something to be proud of. I want to know what was the power that was able to turn adrift the common attitude of the Lands Department. What power was it that turned the heads of some of the most staid officers of that department?

Hon. P. Collier: The Honorary Minister misrepresented the whole position. It was Mr. King who gave the instructions and not Mr. Morris. They said they called upon Mr. King and he promised to do it.

Hon. T. WALKER: That is what I object to.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister did not mention the Under Secretary.

Hon. T. WALKER: Here is a minute addressed to "The Hon. Mr. Willmott," and it is as follows—

I note your wishes of the 10th inst., and care will be taken in future to avoid any semblance of giving instructions which were not intended in this case. Cabinet decided on evidence submitted by you that an hotel was necessary, and as it was not proposed to erect a State hotel the hotel site was thrown open under certain conditions. Before the licensing court sat the purchasers called and said the inspector of police at Northam had informed them that he had general instructions to oppose any license being granted, and asked whether I would advise the Commissioner of Police as to the conditions attached to the sale of the land. He minute said that "I would advise the Commissioner of Police."

Hon. P. Collier: There you are.

Hon. T. WALKER: The minute proceeds—  
I promised to do this, but said it would be for the Commissioner to issue what instructions he thought fit. Paragraph 2 of the minute was unfortunately worded, but no doubt the Commissioner of Police took it as it was intended, as he would know that this department had no power to give instructions in cases of this kind. I presume

the general instruction issued to the inspector of police to oppose any license was given when it was the policy to erect State hotels wherever possible, but as the policy was changed it might be thought that the instructions might have been revised. Signed, H. S. King.

Hon. P. Collier: It is the Under Secretary and not Mr. Morris. The Minister represented it as if it was Mr. Morris.

Mr. Pickering: There is another minute to which the Minister referred.

Hon. P. Collier: The Under Secretary takes the responsibility. They called upon him.

The Attorney General: These are the conditions of the lease.

Hon. T. WALKER: Here is a letter addressed to "The Hon. Mr. Willmott" by Mr. King who says—

Before the Licensing Court sat the purchasers called and said that the Inspector of Police at Northam had informed them that he had general instructions to oppose any license being granted, and asked whether I would advise the Commissioner of Police as to the conditions attached to the sale of the land.

The Attorney General: Precisely.

Hon. P. Collier: Of course.

Hon. T. WALKER: It will be observed that he says, "I promised."

The Attorney General: You read in a very low voice the thing that he did promise.

Hon. P. Collier: That he would instruct the police?

The Attorney General: No.

Hon. P. Collier: There is no other construction to be placed upon it.

The Attorney General: That he would advise the Commissioner of Police as to the conditions under which the land was sold.

Hon. P. Collier: That is what the Minister said that Mr. Morris did.

The Attorney General: No, Mr. Morris went beyond that.

Hon. P. Collier: No such thing.

The Attorney General: Mr. Morris's letter goes beyond that.

Hon. P. Collier: He must have had his instructions. What is the use of trying to wriggle out?

The Attorney General: I am not doing the wriggling.

Hon. T. WALKER: This complicates the position still more. I could understand the Minister not having a strict sense of the exactitude of speech, and making all kinds of blunders, and I can understand him even desiring to screen the Under Secretary, and to throw the blame upon Mr. Morris, and then trying to throw the blame off him, but I cannot understand the Attorney General—

The Attorney General: Read both documents. They speak for themselves.

Hon. T. WALKER: Will you pardon me, Sir, if I read this paragraph again?

Mr. SPEAKER: Very well.

Hon. T. WALKER: I desire to show the House that it is not I who am trying to shuffle, but that it is the Attorney General. I will read again Mr. King's letter—

Before the Licensing Court sat the purchasers called—

Hon. P. Collier: Upon Mr. King.

Hon. T. WALKER: It continues—and said the Inspector of Police at Northam had informed them—

That is, the purchasers—that he—

That is, the inspector—had general instructions to oppose any license being granted, and asked whether I—That is, the writer—would advise the Commissioner of Police as to the conditions attached to the sale of the land.

I will read this louder if the Attorney General desires.

I promised to do this, and said it would be for the Commissioner to issue what instructions he thought fit. Paragraph 2 of the minute was unfortunately worded, but no doubt the Commissioner of Police took it as it was intended, as he would know that this department had no power to give instructions in cases of this kind.

Mr. Pickering: What is that paragraph 2?

Hon. T. WALKER: Paragraph 2 reads as follows:—

I shall, therefore, be glad if you will instruct your liquor inspector, in the circumstances, that as the purchaser is only complying with the terms of approval, it would be inconsistent on the part of the Government for any opposition to be put forward.

Mr. Pickering: Whose minute was that?

Hon. T. WALKER: The Under Secretary for Lands.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Morris.

Hon. T. WALKER: Let us not obscure the fact of how the matter stands. We have the whole thing here. They, the purchasers, called on King; you cannot get behind that; King receives them—the Under Secretary receives them—they discuss the matter and they ask him, King, if they cannot write a letter to the Commissioner of Police. He promised he would write to the Commissioner of Police. That is the promise of King. Now, then: if Morris wrote that letter he wrote to fulfil a promise by King, the Under Secretary. There is no question about that. What does that reveal to us?

Mr. Pickering: You blamed Morris.

Hon. P. Collier: I did not; I said it was his signature.

Hon. T. WALKER: It is putting it upon Morris. I said from what I knew of Morris he would not write such a letter as I have quoted without instructions, and strong instructions.

Mr. Pickering: The leader of the Opposition asked the Minister whose was the signature, and he said he could not make it out.

Hon. P. Collier: Tell that kind of thing to children.

Hon. T. WALKER: Do not waste our time over little things like that. Get to the facts. Who received the deputation? The Under Secretary of the Lands Department. Who, therefore, promised to write to the Commissioner? The Under Secretary of the Lands Department. Whoever wrote the letter, wrote

in fulfilment of that promise, and then the man who is carrying out the promise is loaded with the dishonour or shame, or anything you like to call it.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): There is no dishonour or shame.

Hon. T. WALKER: There is.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): There is not.

Hon. T. WALKER: There is no mistake in conduct of this kind. It is an absolute violation of every rule of the Lands Department and every other department.

Hon. P. Collier: It is a subterfuge.

Hon. T. WALKER: I say it is more than a simple mistake. It is one of the things he could not make a mistake upon. He could not possibly do such a thing. He is an old, experienced, honourable officer and he could not do it without strong instructions, without directions from some superior that he must obey. He got the superior, the Under Secretary for Lands.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): The leader of the Opposition asked whose signature it was. I said I did not know but would take the trouble to find out, and Mr. Morris said it was his signature. The leader of the Opposition said it was a subterfuge.

Hon. T. WALKER: Let us see what this means. If anything condemns a Government this kind of conduct does. It means that was done behind the back of Ministers who knew nothing about it, who do not know the facts to this day, because after the matter questioned in the House the Minister cannot tell us who the purchasers were. Who called on the Under Secretary?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): The purchasers.

Hon. T. WALKER: Does he know who they are?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): If he said they did, his word is good enough for me. If he said "the purchasers, they called."

Hon. T. WALKER: Who were they? "they" may be their agent or agents, who called? Who were "they"? What were the names? However, these people called apparently, without submitting it to the Minister, the Under Secretary undertakes to interfere with another department.

The Premier: How did you know anybody called? Does the minute say so?

Hon. T. WALKER: He has just woke up. Yes. It could not have been A. L. Johnston if he is at the Front. Somebody else must have called. Who did call? This is the point. The Honorary Minister has not made inquiries of that vital part of this file.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): It was the first time I saw it.

Hon. T. WALKER: Has he got an explanation beyond the letter I have read from King?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): I have not.

Hon. T. WALKER: Did the letter fulfil his aim?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): What letter?

Hon. T. WALKER: King's minute. Is that perfectly satisfactory?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Certainly not.

Hon. T. WALKER: Why not have gone to the root of things so as to inform the House?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Inquiries are now being made.

Hon. T. WALKER: A matter of vital importance like that. It does not take two minutes to make inquiries. "Now being made"—always that answer. I want them made, and any Minister who is attentive to his real duties, of what is due to the House, would have made inquiries about it in less than five minutes. There is no good going the whole world over searching for a matter of that kind; content to leave it to some other department before making inquiries. His chief officer, the Under Secretary, takes upon himself to assure the department. What deputation was this, that he should step from his lofty height as guardian of the interests of the Lands Department, promising to interfere with the administration of other departments? What was the personal element of these purchasers, or agents, or claimants, that would take a man of King's experience out of his usual pathway to say, "I will undertake to write"?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): The only man who could talk him over would be the member for Kanowna.

Hon. T. WALKER: We see the marvels of administration. The Minister knows nothing about it.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): How can I?

Hon. T. WALKER: I suppose because you have not enough brains. I am saying what is the mere fact, if the member will listen. The Minister knows nothing about it.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): That is a fact.

Hon. T. WALKER: But these men, whoever they were, these mysterious characters who called on him, had power to direct that officer to go right out of his own department to interfere in the administration of justice of the State. Who are "they"? What position in the community do they hold? Evidently they dare not go to the Minister. They go to King and me, who is not a Minister, over the head of the Minister, in the Minister's complete ignorance, instructs the police. And not only does he instruct the police, but I want to know who is directly responsible for the wording of the conditions on the back of the title. Who framed that set of conditions?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): They were submitted to me and I approved of them.

Hon. T. WALKER: Who were the mysterious visitors who have more power than the Minister?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): I could not because I have no brains, according to you.

Hon. T. WALKER: I believe you are beginning to realise that.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): I am or I would not be sitting here.

Hon. T. WALKER: The persons who instructed the police are those who had something to do with the instructions to the police, possibly had something to do with the wording of the set of conditions on the back of the title. Whoever heard of such a thing? This is the worst kind of direction.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): You can blame me for it.

Hon. T. WALKER: I am blaming the hon. member for the whole lot, even of what he is ignorant, because he ought to know.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): What?

Hon. T. WALKER: Keep calm. He ought not to allow it to be possible for such a thing to occur in his department.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Nonsense!

Hon. T. WALKER: Ministers not only turn upside down the administration of the Lands Department, because that is what it means, but he puts conditions on the title.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Governments have been endorsing the backs of titles—Government after Government—with various conditions—"Shall not sell intoxicants" and things like that.

Hon. T. WALKER: One can possibly part with certain land under a contract that it shall never be used for specific purposes deleterious to the community. But where in the history of government is there to be found a direction that land shall be used for licensed premises?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Frequently.

Hon. T. WALKER: But where?

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): In the case of every hotel block sold.

Hon. T. WALKER: The hon. gentleman can show me not one instance of that.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott (Honorary Minister): Certainly I can.

Hon. T. WALKER: Never. He cannot do it. What is the use of his talking?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! This cross-firing must cease.

Hon. T. WALKER: Exhibitions of irritation on the part of the Honorary Minister are not becoming. There is more than that. It is not only that this man dares, in the ignorance of the Honorary Minister, to interfere with another department and with the administration of justice; but he undertakes to frame a policy for the Government; he undertakes to decide what is the policy of the Government; he makes a policy for himself. Observe this conclusion—

I presume the general instructions issued to the inspector of police to oppose all licenses was given when it was the policy to erect State hotels wherever possible. But as the policy has changed, it might be that these instructions have been revised.

That is deciding a policy for the Government—a thing peculiarly within the province of the Minister—and deciding it without previous submission to the Minister in charge. That is the abnormality. The officer pre-

sumes that one set of conditions obtained at a time when it was the policy to erect State hotels, and then he assumes that the policy has been changed. I have no information of its being changed; there has been no announcement of any change in policy. But the officer interprets the policy as changed, and says it might be that the instructions might be revised, and upon that he acts, and acts without the knowledge of his Minister. Have you, Sir, ever known such an outrage on government? Where is government to be found if this kind of thing is possible? We have no government. We have anarchy in our departments. The Honorary Minister complacently puts it forward as an excuse that he did not know of it, that he was not aware of it. This enormity can be perpetrated. The Minister pretends now that he knows something in this respect, that he had approved of these instructions, and that these instructions were in effect that a license was to be granted. It is no use his trying to get out of that.

Hon. P. Collier: He says that in the letter.

Hon. T. WALKER: When the police were informed of what they were to do in this matter, the instructions were as follows:—

I shall, therefore, be glad if you will instruct your local inspector in the circumstances that as the purchaser is only complying with the terms of the approval it would be inconsistent on the part of the Government for any opposition to be put forward.

Here is what is actually happening. The Under Secretary is presumed to be the Government. The Lands Department are given instructions on the lease, and to oppose the license afterwards would be to oppose the instructions given on the lease. In order that the Government may be consistent, the police must be silent and offer no opinion. And that kind of thing is possible in the Lands Department under the guidance of the present Minister! No wonder we see it stated in the Press that the country is absolutely going to anarchy, or going to the dogs. While that is going on, the Minister, who knew or should have known that King was the responsible party all through, tells us, in answer to a question—

A request was improperly made to the Commissioner of Police by an officer of the Lands Department, without the knowledge of the Honorary Minister controlling the Lands Department or the Minister in control of the police. The matter is being fully investigated.

And to-day, in his speech to this Assembly, the Honorary Minister said that that officer was Morris. We are absolutely at an end of our confidence; we can trust nobody if such things are possible, as the Minister misleading the House. Whether the Minister did it intentionally or unintentionally, purposely or in dire ignorance, I care not: the same effect is there—we are misled, we are deceived. King is supreme, who presumes to direct how the courts of justice shall be run and how the police shall act. I say there is room for fur-

ther inquiry. Whether Morris or somebody else wrote these minutes, we want to inquire exactly who they were and what they said during that interview. The files, so far as I have been able to discover, do not disclose up to the present what persons are concealed under the general term "purchasers." Does anyone mean to tell me that an applicant for an hotel up at, say, Trayning could come in and get King to interfere with the Police Department? Could a man from any other townsite in this State go in to King now and say, "Will you please give instructions to the police authorities not to oppose?"

Hon. P. Collier: It is absurd.

Hon. T. WALKER: Why, King would very quickly tell the ordinary man to go about his business, if he did that. But these people were men of more significance, and more influence, and more importance, evidently.

The Minister for Works: Does not the file state who it was who called?

Hon. T. WALKER: No.

Hon. P. Collier: The file simply says, "The purchasers."

Hon. T. WALKER: I have asked the Honorary Minister to tell us who those persons were. He does not know. He has not inquired. The Minister for Works, I venture to say would have made it his first business to inquire who they were.

The Minister for Works: On my files you will find the name of all callers.

Hon. T. WALKER: Undoubtedly. That is the difference. For business capacity I undertake to say not much fault is to be found with the Minister for Works in the conduct of his department.

Hon. P. Collier: He would know more about this business anyhow.

Hon. T. WALKER: But here we have "purchasers" covering we know not whom.

Hon. P. Collier: People who can move the Under Secretary for Lands to give instructions to the police.

Hon. T. WALKER: The "purchasers" are of such importance that they can set to work upon the Under Secretary for Lands to instruct the Police Department how they shall act, and that they can induce the Under Secretary to put upon the title issued a direction to the magistrate who is to adjudicate. It is no use saying that the decision is with the magistrate afterwards. I say that endorsement on the title is a direct instruction to the magistrate. And Mr. Canning, who presided at the Moora court, felt it as an offence, and commented upon this strange conduct. It is very humiliating for a magistrate not to have to go out of his way, but to find it the most natural thing in the world, to find fault with the Government for framing this title with conditions.

Hon. P. Collier: Conditions tying the magistrate's hands.

Hon. T. WALKER: Undoubtedly. I must compliment the magisterial body on having a man like Canning upon the bench, with the moral pluck to point out an absurdity and enormity of that kind put before him in the course of his administration of justice. But to think that such a thing is possible, and possible on the part of an Under Secretary

without consulting his Minister, without the Minister's knowing anything about it! King takes the responsibility, in spite of the Minister, who tries to shuffle it from King. When one writes a letter saying that it would be inconsistent for the Government to oppose, after their instructions on the title, what room is there for the magistrate to do as he thinks fit? He is obliged to follow those instructions. King takes the responsibility there. The Minister is trying to screen him.

Hon. P. Collier: That is it.

Hon. T. WALKER: I think there is room for very serious protest. What is the country coming to, I want to know, when unnamed, unmentioned persons can call at the Lands office and set that office running about in other departments, interfering with the Attorney General's department, in the case of the magistrate, by that absurd stipulation upon the title, interfering with the Colonial Secretary's Department, as to the conduct of the police without consulting the Minister or even the Commissioner of Police? Things are coming to a fine pass. We do not know what may happen any day. Who are the unmentioned persons referred to in this file? We ought to know.

Hon. P. Collier: They are the driving force in the Lands Department.

Hon. T. WALKER: If we have had no scandal of any moment up to now in the history of the government of this State, this is a most momentous scandal, a revelation of incapacity in government, and of influence in, I will not say, high places, for we do not know how high they were, but in some quarters, and evidence of mis-government such as would cause any self-respecting Cabinet at once, upon the exposure being made, to admit their incapacity to continue, and to cause them at once to make room for those who would know what was going on in the departments and who would take to task officers who presumed to shape the policy of the Government and to direct the departments of State not in the interests of justice but in favour of interested parties.

Mr. FOLEY (Leonora) [5.14 p.m.] : Before dealing with the few subjects I propose to touch upon, I desire to have a few words regarding the case upon which the last speaker has commented. Up to the present Australian politics, leaving party politics altogether aside, have had the reputation of being, and have in fact been, clean. But to my mind this case might give ground for thinking that politics are being dragged into the mud. I wish to make no charge against any Minister, nor against any officer. I have listened carefully to the member for Kanowna, and I think there is no man holding Ministerial office who ought to hold it very long, if he does not probe this matter to the very bottom. I hope the Honorary Minister will do that. If he does not, then I shall be one of his severest critics. There is another aspect of this question, the public servants of the State. In what position are they placed? Is it to be their duty or that of the Ministry to formulate a policy? Although not making a charge against the official, if there has been

any influence used to make any officer in the employment of the State take any action other than that he would have taken in ordinary circumstances, I contend that that officer should not occupy very long the post he holds. Another person about whom I would like to comment is the individual who would improperly use any power he might have above that of an ordinary citizen. If such power has been used by anyone in a position other than that of an ordinary citizen, he should be relegated to the place of an ordinary citizen and he should be reduced to the level of the lowest rung of the ladder of citizenship. I believe that an inquiry will be held and every hon. member will welcome it, and if it proves anything at all, I am sure hon. members will not forget that they are citizens of Western Australia and that they wish to see that everything is done cleanly, not only in politics, but in connection with administration. Many members have spoken with regard to the position in which the State finds itself at the present time. No matter what may be said to the contrary, the majority of public men are deeply concerned about the state of the finances. I am very pleased to think that I sat behind a Government a few years ago who spent money in the direction of laying a good deal of foundation work. But for that, we would not now be in the fortunate position in which we find ourselves. I believe those millions of loan money were well spent. Of course, there might be some controversy as to whether the money was wisely spent, but there is no doubt about the fact that the expenditure laid the foundation of primary and secondary industries. The other States which have had sinking funds have suspended the payment of them, a perfectly legal and justifiable action. But it is a better thing to my mind if a State can pull through without suspending the payment of its sinking fund. If we can manage that at the end of this year we shall have about £314,000 going towards the redemption of our loans, which would not be the case if we suspended the payment. But if we are forced to suspend the payment it should be the duty of the Federal Government to step in and tell the Ministry of this State that they will indemnify Western Australia against any loss in that regard. The question is as to how we can get out of our existing position. After all, almost every portion of Australia is in a bad way. We are suffering because we are not producing the same wealth which the Eastern States are producing. There are white hopes in politics here who believe in the one theme of retrenchment, a theme under which they think everything can be done. Many of us know what retrenchment did for some of the Eastern States, and that many people over there had to put up great battles just because a policy of retrenchment was adopted in place of a policy of good administration. In Victoria, in the richer parts of New South Wales and in Queensland, the very poverty of those States led to the establishment of an industry which in later years brought great pros-

perity. I refer to the dairying industry. In our own State I do not think we will ever get dairying until the people are pushed into it as was done in the other States.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Hon. P. Collier: What helped to establish the dairying industry in Victoria was the bonus system; it is against the Constitution now.

Mr. FOLEY: A few members in this Chamber have said that we should retrench. In what direction are we going to retrench? Are we going to retrench our educational efficiency? If so, we shall do an everlasting injury to future generations of this State. It has been brought vividly home to us during the past four years that educational efficiency has played a very big part in the attempt to gain world supremacy. If we too had not reached a similar stage of educational efficiency, I refer to Great Britain and her Allies, we should never have been able to combat that educational and scientific efficiency which has helped our enemy to put up such a battle against us. Last session I pointed out how the administrative costs might be reduced. We cannot compare the cost of education in the country to that of the metropolitan area, and any member who has been in any way responsible for the spread of educational facilities in outback centres can rest assured that he has assisted to do something that few of the other parts of Australia have done. I am sure that no hon. member would wish to curtail education in that way. So far as administration is concerned, I shall have an opportunity of saying something when the Estimates are brought down. I am going to see whether any alteration has been made, and if there has not been any change in the direction of improvements to effect a reduction of expenditure, I shall not hesitate to offer criticism. So far as health is concerned, we can neither economise nor retrench to any great extent. I think, however, that a better system of rendering help can be adopted so far as those are concerned who are not able to afford medical assistance by subsidising every hospital in the State under conditions similar to those adopted in connection with the hospitals which are already subsidised. I do not wish to appear parochial when I say that the system of subsidising has been a success in the Mount Magnet district, in the district I represent, and in the district represented by the member for Avon, as well as others. If the Government had been obliged to take over the whole of these hospitals, they would have been even more up against it than they are at the present time. In many of the outback places where people are far removed from the good things which the metropolis has to provide, married men are paying 1s. 3d. per week for medical facilities and hospital accommodation for their wives and families. If everyone were to pay this sum there would be brought about a state of things that would make administration of health matters and the hospitals of the State a great deal easier than it is at the present time.

Mr. Davies: You believe in nationalisation.

Mr. FOLEY: I believe that would be the first step towards the nationalisation of these institutions. Where the hospitals are subsidised, better treatment is afforded and the conditions generally are an improvement on those which exist in the metropolitan area. When the State is again affluent and can provide these facilities in the way that I have described, we will find it will be possible to save much money which can be spent in development in other directions. With regard to economy, a good deal can be done. Hon. members will no doubt have noticed that economy is already being practised in many of the offices. It will frequently be seen that one man is now doing the work that was done by two before, that a good deal of money has been saved in connection with the stationery which is used. But a good deal can yet be done in the metropolitan area where in these stressful times we should carry out what obtains in the outback centres. Take the mining registrars. They are doing all the work that has to be done for the Government as between the people of the district and the Government. That kind of thing does not obtain to the same extent in the metropolitan area, although alterations have been made with economy in view. I believe that even greater economies can still be effected. But in some directions it is almost impossible to economise to a greater extent than is being done at present. When all is going well we do not require any friends, but when we are right up against it we begin to look round for help. For a long time past I have believed that the chemist is the man who is going to help this State out of its difficulties. The chemist, the scientist, the man of research work; he it is who will do more than any other man to help us. But we are not going to get that assistance by retrenchment, by refusing to spend anything. We require to spend money to get the advantage of that work. Later on I will again refer to the necessity for the work of the chemist in certain industries, but before coming to that I have a few ordinary matters to touch upon. Regarding production, we are now producing in many directions, and we require to produce in more. Men in the remote parts of the State are being penalised for having gone out so far. If we had the zone system of charges on the railways it would lessen the handicap of those people outback. There is a certain freight on goods going to Armadale, a distance of 20 miles. Those goods have to be unloaded but once. Goods going to Bunbury, more than four times as far as Armadale, have to be unloaded only once, yet a greater charge is made upon them than on the goods to Armadale. Take my own district, Leonora, or take Meekatharra. If we had a 100-miles zone system, in which a certain charge would be made, we could then decrease the charge if the distance was greater, and so give the man away out back a chance of living under the same conditions as those closer in. The consumer of the goods that have to be hauled 600 miles is under an unfair handicap as compared with those in the



metropolitan area. If we had the zone system the burden of the railways would be spread in such a way as to catch that particular section of the community in the metropolitan area who make everything possible out of the produce for which, after all, they are only agents. In regard to the proposed three railway commissioners, I have had an opportunity of making a few inquiries in the East. I find that although we have only one Commissioner, there are many offices in our Railway Department which have not been created in the East. In Victoria the General Traffic Manager is one of the Commissioners, as is also the man who looks after the loco. department. If we are to have three commissioners, let us put in three good railway men. We shall then get better results than we have had up to the present. But if we are going to appoint three commissioners on top of the present expenditure on railway work, it will be bad business indeed. Regarding the sanatorium at Wooroloo, let me say that I know the conditions under which the men on the goldfields live and work. I know the ravages of miners' complaint. In my opinion we can never do too much for the men who have to live the few remaining years of their lives in such conditions as those men experience. When the Bill for the establishment of the sanatorium at Wooroloo was under discussion, I gave it every consideration. I do not think that institution has yet had an opportunity of proving its full value. I hope the Government will seriously consider the position before consenting to any radical change.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: All the bad cases at Subiaco were put in there.

Mr. FOLEY: I am aware of that. The hon. member himself went very fully into that. I do not see any justification for doing away with the sanatorium at Wooroloo. If a sanatorium is to be again established at Coolgardie, of course the men of the goldfields will prefer to go there. I have seen in the sanatorium men with whom I had previously worked, big-framed men now absolutely helpless. One cannot blame them for growling, for they have something to growl about. My heart goes out to them, and I would like to do something for them. I want the Government and the House to give every consideration to the institution at Wooroloo before making any radical change. We have heard something of the administration of the fire brigades in the metropolitan area. I have had an opportunity of seeing at work both the volunteer system and the permanent system. If we are to have an efficient fire service in the metropolitan area, we cannot afford to reduce the number of permanent men. The Government should see to it that their representative on the board votes against reduction.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why?

Mr. FOLEY: I am looking at it both as a member of this Chamber and as a member of the Perth city council. In both capacities I say that if we are to have efficiency we cannot reduce our permanent staff. I am convinced that the expenditure necessary under

the volunteer system will be even greater than would be necessitated by an increased permanent staff. Take Leederville, a thickly populated centre. Under the new system it is proposed to have only two permanent men at Leederville, where there is also to be a fire engine. If those in favour of the volunteer system get their way, it is intended to have only one man at Leederville to look after the engine and take it out when a fire occurs. Just recently we have had over here Mr. Lee, the superintendent of the metropolitan brigade in Melbourne, who knows as much about fire brigade work as any man in Australia. Mr. Lee distinctly stated that the present number of our permanent men is few enough, that indeed we are just now below the safety line in regard to fires. We do not want that, whether we are in favour of the volunteer or of the permanent system. Personally, I wish to see the present efficiency fully maintained. I think it is probable that the underwriters will have a little to say regarding efficiency. I feel convinced that it will cost more to equip and maintain a band of volunteers than it will if we keep two extra men at the station to which I have referred. I want the Government to consider whether they have in mind the financial aspect as well as the efficiency aspect of this matter.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: From the financial point of view there will be a saving.

Mr. FOLEY: I doubt that. I do not intend to deal at any great length with the mining industry, because this has already been touched upon by other hon. members well acquainted with the subject. The member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) spoke of a case in which some developmental work was being attempted by a company or syndicate. He said that a shaft had been sunk to a depth of 30 feet and that the people concerned had driven for a little over 260 feet from the shaft. I would think twice before I advocated that State aid should be given in a case of this sort, because I do not think enough work has been done to prove the stability of the show.

Mr. Green: They are not asking for State aid.

Mr. FOLEY: I contend that if they had had an opportunity of getting the experience of someone who had a knowledge of mining, they did wrong in driving 250 feet from a 30 foot rise. It was an absolute waste of money and material. The officials of the Mines Department should see, if any assistance is asked for from this company or syndicate, that this work is not gone on with, because it is not developmental work. If this is all that the syndicate or company can put forward as an argument as to why they should receive assistance, then I do not think they will get much from the Government. The member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey) referred to the amount of ore per man broken in the State at the present time, as compared with what was the case in past years.

Mr. Green: These people are not prospecting on the lead mine, but are driving along the lode.

Mr. FOLEY: They should have gone down further before driving in. I do not want to speak about the slowing down business, but I do want to say that the figures quoted by the member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe are no real indication that we are getting a better service to-day from our men, or that we have better men engaged in the mining industry than we had before our boys left it for the Front. We were breaking ore in this State before the war to a greater extent, and at less cost, than was being done by black labour in Africa. Most of the men who were breaking that ore are now doing tunnelling work, and we hope are breaking up the Germans on the battlefields of Europe. I know that the mining industry is right up against it regarding the cost of material, and also up against it regarding the efficiency of labour. This is not because of any desire on the part of the men working in the industry not to do their best, but arises out of the fact that these men have not had an opportunity of learning the mining business, and have not the same standard of knowledge that is possessed by those men who have gone to the war. Another reason for this state of affairs is that the men now engaged in the industry are breaking ore, but are not doing developmental work, and that is why the amount of ore broken per man has increased. It is not that the men who remain behind are more efficient than those who have gone away to fight for their king and country on the battlefield.

Mr. Lutey: The mines are deeper now.

Mr. FOLEY: There is not a great deal of difference in the depth from which that ore is being broken, compared with what was the case before these men went to the Front.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: What are you trying to get at? I do not understand you.

Mr. FOLEY: I think that members representing gold mining constituencies are thoroughly conversant with what I am saying. There is one case that I think the Taxation Department should take some notice of. It has been said that the gold mining companies get everything they can out of the State and take the money they have made to some other part of the world. Many of these companies do this, unfortunately. There is one company, however, the Sons of Gwalia G.M., which has put by £5,000 every year, not for developmental work but to use in prospecting for the purpose of finding something new. If there is any gold-mining company which is making money out of its mine, but putting it back into developmental work, I think such a company should be free of taxation. Every member representing gold mining interests will back me up in this. There are very few of these companies which will give back to the country more than they are forced to give.

Mr. Lutey: They have given us a drinking fountain in Kalgoorlie after all these years.

Mr. FOLEY: Ever since I have been a member of this Chamber not a single application for assistance for gold-mining that

I have backed up have I failed to have approved by the Minister for Mines of the day. I wish to give Ministers and their departmental officers every credit for what they have done in this direction. I have obtained everything I asked for in the way of assistance, but there were some things which I could not back up. If any member has a knowledge of mining, and an application is made through him, for Government assistance, it is his duty, no matter what party is in power, to see that so far as his knowledge shows him, that money is not being given away which should be kept in the coffers of the State. I wish to touch upon the question of repatriation. Ever since the outbreak of war I have had an opportunity afforded to no other member of the Chamber, of seeing what is expected of the soldier, what the soldier gets, and the conditions under which he goes away, the conditions under which he comes back, and the conditions under which his family live whilst he is away. I hold the position of transport officer for the State, and have visited every transport, not in the interests of the military authorities, but in the interests of those who were going away to fight our battles, as well as in the interests of those who were fortunate enough to come back, of the dependents of those who unfortunately will not come back, and in the interests of the dependents of those who are actually away. I also hold the position of hospital inspector for the military authorities from the civilian point of view, and I see what is necessary to be done there. I also hold the position of 'complaints' officer for returned soldiers in this State. I assure hon. members that so far as civilian officers are concerned, after the military authorities have been given an opportunity of settling anything, they have civilian rights over and above their military rights, which is only proper.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

[Hon. W. C. Angwin called attention to the state of the House; bells rung and a quorum formed.]

Mr. FOLEY: I hold these positions in an honorary capacity and have thus an opportunity of, to a great extent, seeing the seamy side of the war. Having seen that, and knowing the conditions, I would be wanting in my duty if I did not do all I could for those soldiers who came back and who really fought for our freedom abroad. I do not want my words to be misconstrued on this question of repatriation. The first thing Parliament has to do, and the first thing that Australia has to do, is to separate the unemployed from the unemployable. That is a problem.

Hon. P. Collier: Do you know if the system that was supposed to have been introduced some time ago, of sending cards for the soldiers to fill in before they landed here, is still in operation?

Mr. FOLEY: Yes. This question of separating the unemployed from the unemployable has got to be settled. I believe it would be madness, and worse than a crime, to send a man unless he was physically fit, and his health was good, on to the land. We have all heard the cry, "Go upon the land." Many men have made a failure on the land in this State, some because they did not possess the knowledge requisite for the tilling of the soil, and others because they were not able to stand the work. Many, of course, have got on well. Men have gone from the goldfields in the full bloom of manhood and in the freshness of youth, and have failed upon the land, not from any cause over which they had any control, but through force of circumstances. It would, therefore, be a sin and a crime to send any man who came back upon the land unless he was physically fit to go there. There has been some little done, but I do not say for a moment that everything has been done that should, or could, have been done. Like most hon. members who have spoken on the question, I believe it is the duty, not so much of the State but of the Commonwealth, to take on the work of the repatriation of our soldiers. I will tell hon. members why I think so. Those soldiers went away to fight for Australia, and Australia is the country to see them righted. I do not say that the States individually have no duty at all in the matter of repatriation. However, we know the number of soldiers who have returned and the number who have asked for assistance, and also the number who have made inquiries. Within my own personal knowledge there are dozens of soldiers who never have gone and never will go near the repatriation department, who have no need whatever for assistance. Many big-hearted employers have put on returned soldiers. On the other hand, there are many hip patriots who, having urged one of our boys to go and fight their battle, have on his return kept him from work because there was available an able-bodied man out of whom a little more work could be got than out of the soldier. As regards soldiers who left positions in the service of this State, I have never, in spite of inquiries I have made, heard of a case where such a man has been kept, on his return, out of the employment that is rightly his. Looking around this State, I believe Western Australia has done a great deal more than many of the Eastern States in the matter of repatriation, and that the situation of the returned soldiers here is better than it is in any other State. In a civilised country there is no need even in ordinary circumstances for any man to starve. But if the Repatriation Department will not do its duty by the soldiers, that duty will have to be done for Western Australian soldiers by this State. At present there are in the metropolitan area 267 men receiving sustenance, 23 under treatment at the Base hospital also receiving sustenance, nine totally incapacitated men receiving sustenance, and 83 men receiving assistance while undergoing vocational training. In addition, the wives and families of eleven men who are prospecting at present receive assistance. As regards vo-

ccational training I believe every member of this Chamber believes in it, and so I shall say nothing further on the subject except that a meed of praise is due to many big-hearted citizens of Western Australia who are placing the services of their business staffs at the disposal of our returned soldiers to afford them an opportunity of doing even a little better for themselves than they were doing before they went to the Front. There are many good officers in the Repatriation Department, notably Mr. Greenhill of the Medical Department, who is working every minute he has outside that department, and is indeed breaking down his health, in giving vocational training to returned soldiers with a view to qualifying them to become health inspectors. Perhaps, had those soldiers not gone to the war, that opportunity would never have been afforded them. When recently in Melbourne as representative of a mining district, and having been asked to do so by many returned soldiers with whom I came in contact, I interviewed the Minister for Repatriation, Senator Millen, with regard to repatriation of miners. In this connection I desire to say to some members who have read a certain article, that I did not miss the buss; and those members will know what I mean. Knowing that little or nothing had been done up to this time towards the repatriation of miners, I regarded it as my duty to state the position to Senator Millen. There was then just some spasmodic help being given in this direction through the Mines Department of this State, which was providing everything. I put it to Senator Millen, and I still hold, that if there is a returned soldier who wishes to go out prospecting, it is the duty of the Federal Government to maintain his wife and family in exactly the same conditions as the wife and family of a returned soldier settling on the land. For the man who wishes to go on the land the Federal Government propose to provide, through the State Government, £500. We all hope that the returned soldiers who do settle on the land will make a success of it. But if it is a good thing to develop our agricultural industry, it is a good thing also to develop our mining industry. I put it to Senator Millen that returned soldiers desirous of going out prospecting should be guaranteed at least a fair living wage, and should be granted sufficient equipment for twelve months, so that their prospecting enterprise might have a fair chance. Further, I suggested that in the event of a prospector returning unsuccessful, or only partly successful, at the end of twelve months, he should be granted an opportunity of obtaining a further supply of money and fresh equipment to enable him to continue prospecting. This much I hold to be the duty of the Federal Government; the State can step in and help the man in other ways. Soldier prospectors are being further assisted by having instilled into them a little knowledge—not a great deal: we know that in the time available they could not obtain a great deal—of geology and mineralogy, so as to enable them to tell in a casual way the different ores on our mineral belts. But where the State could step in with additional assistance is by engaging the services of a first-class

metallurgical chemist. Dr. McLaren was here recently, and he stayed in Western Australia long enough to demonstrate that there is a possibility of some of the ore shoots in our big mines cutting out. Dr. McLaren gave it as his opinion, based on scientific knowledge, that where a certain set of conditions obtained in different portions of our State it is absolutely certain that undiscovered ore bodies exist. Since that gentleman has left Western Australia he has applied his scientific knowledge in another country, with the result that large ore bodies were found there. In the circumstances it is a matter for general regret that that gentleman left Australia, and that he could not remain in our State for any length of time. But what we do want is that the State should get to business—not retrench, but secure the best man available and afford him every facility for doing his work. Whether in mining or any other industry, let the chemist do the exploratory work, and then better results will be achieved than are being obtained at present from our industries. The State Government have considered it their duty to assist industries, and they have assisted several. Whether that assistance will turn out as advantageous as is reckoned, it is not for me to say just now. We all hope so. But irrespective of whether certain secondary industries are established here now or later, I hope that when we do get them Western Australia will not sink to the level of the Eastern States in this respect. I left the Eastern States 26 years ago, and did not see them again until the other day; and I never want to see them again—Western Australia will do me: it is the best State of Australia. In the Eastern States, with their secondary industries and the wealth which has accrued from those secondary industries, one sees poor, dreadful-looking persons, degraded, drawing on the footpaths or lying in the gutter, begging to have a penny thrown to them. There they are, singing in the street for coppers, and beggars of every description.

Member: Where is that?

Mr. FOLEY: In Melbourne, Sydney, and other Eastern capitals. Every conceivable form of vice and lowness is there. I am sure that, irrespective of which side of the House we may sit on, none of us wishes to see that state of things reproduced here. I believe every man in this Parliament will do his utmost to ensure that such conditions shall never obtain in Western Australia. In conclusion, I hope that when the Government bring in their repatriation measure every member will do more than say that he intends to consider it from a non-party standpoint, but will actually consider it from a non-party standpoint. I hope the Government will not be long in bringing the measure down, even if everything else has to be thrown aside. All other matters should be subordinated to repatriation, so that we may speedily have definite action in place of words in connection with this subject.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. PIESSE (Toodyay) [7.35 p.m.]: It is not my intention to take up much of the time

of the House on the Address-in-reply because I feel that one can better express his views on the more important items when the special measures dealing with them come before the House. First and foremost is the question of finance. We can better deal with that when we have the Estimates before us. With regard to repatriation, a Bill will shortly be presented to the House and it will be possible to deal with it when that time arrives. I would like to compliment the Minister for Industries for his endeavours in the direction of establishing secondary industries. Although he may not succeed in all his efforts, he will be bound to collect data which will be useful. The State certainly has not been extravagant in assisting the Minister for Industries to carry out his desires, but I am hopeful that ultimate good will result from his efforts. I would like to congratulate the member for Swan (Mr. Nairn) on the excellent speech he made to-day on the subject of secondary industries, and also the member for Kalgoorlie (Mr. Green) who gave us some interesting matter with regard to mining. To members like myself who sit on the cross benches and who represent farming districts, the information supplied by the member for Kalgoorlie is certainly useful. The land policy of the State needs remodelling. We recognise with gratitude that the fullest consideration has been given to the men on the land by the present Government and that considerable reductions have been made in the upset prices of a good deal of the land which has been taken up under the conditional purchase sections. But there is more yet to be done in certain zones. When the consolidating measure is before us—and I hope that it will be introduced before the present session ends—provision should be made in it for dividing the State into zones. I venture to say also that it would pay the State, in those zones where settlement is so costly, to give the land to the people, provided those people lived upon it and developed it. It is of very little use, however, labouring this question when so little attention is paid to one's remarks. Therefore I shall spare myself the effort. This afternoon we had quite a sensational event in the House relating to the sale of a certain hotel site in the town of Perenjori. At the first blush the matter did not carry with it the best colour. Like a good many other members, I was of the opinion that the Minister had been indiscreet over the matter, but after perusing the file carefully, I am satisfied that no fault can be found with what was done, and that there was no occasion for all the excitement. There was nothing shady about the transaction; everything was clear and above board. There was no instruction to the licensing bench and I fail to see why the chairman of the bench should be commended for the action he took. I have had the honour of sitting as chairman of a licensing bench for three years. If a document of that kind had been placed before me I would have ignored it; I would have dealt with the application for a license irrespective of the conditions under which the land was sold. I consider the Honorary Minister has just cause for resentment at the action taken in regard to the sale of this block of land. I

must express pleasure at the manner in which the leader of the Opposition dealt with the party of which I happen to be a member. He was certainly not ungenerous in his remarks; in fact, he gave us an interesting half hour and I enjoyed it immensely. A great deal of what he had to say was true and for that reason only I regret that he should have had grounds for dealing with our party as he did. I feel sure, however, that the incident which took place at the Farmers and Settlers' conference will bear such fruit that we shall not have a repetition of it. We stand to-day free and unshackled men. Our party was launched under the most trying conditions. At first we lived under a sort of ban, criticised by our opponents and certainly not encouraged by our friends. But we stand here as a party to-day; we do not take instructions from an executive or anybody, or even the Press; we are here to give upport to the Government whilst they carry on the affairs of the country in a fair and honourable way. Neither are we one-eyed. Whilst we are farmers' representatives we also feel that we have an obligation to other sections of the community, and it is our duty to see that they get a fair deal. I have sought on every occasion to give credit wherever it is due. We are undoubtedly indebted to the Labour Government for the consideration they extended to the farming community during the period they were in power. That Government were the first to give us assistance of no ordinary nature during the drought period, but unfortunately whilst they did that they endeavoured to take back the whole of that aid from one harvest. That was too great a call to make on the resources of the farmers. Once again may I say that our party has decided that it shall remain a party distinct in its organisation, with the fullest recognition of its responsibilities to the State. We are no balance-of-power party. We support the present Government, and will continue to support them, so long as they behave themselves, until the end of the war, which God grant may come speedily. In time I hope we shall see this party, not the third, but the first party in the House. We feel, as the leader of the Opposition said the other night, that we are the salvation of the country. The hope of the country lies in the man on the land, and it is essential that the party representing the man on the land should maintain its identity.

Hon. P. Collier: That is what we have been condemned for.

Mr. PIESSE: I see no reason why the Labour party should not have its own identity. I have the idea that the time will come when we shall have—

Hon. P. Collier: The time may come when your party and our party shall join forces.

Mr. PIESSE: No, never while you have the member for North-East Fremantle in your ranks.

Hon. P. Collier: We will drop him for the sake of harmony.

Mr. PIESSE: I must again thank the leader of the Opposition for his kindly criticism of our party, but I hope that in future he will not attempt to belittle this organisation.

Hon. P. Collier: I have never done that.

Mr. PIESSE: At times the hon. member can voice nasty insinuations about the power behind the throne. We do not admit the power-behind-the throne theory. We feel that ultimately we must become the power, not behind, but on the throne. I hope the Government will hasten the introduction of the Vermin Bill, because the country is in great need of some machinery to compel all and sundry to deal with the rabbit pest. I see that the repatriation measure is first on the list. That is as it should be, but I must again impress on the Premier the necessity for bringing down the Vermin Bill as speedily as possible.

Mr. HICKMOTT (Pingelly) [7.49 p.m.] : Since last week-end I have had a little run around various parts of the State and I must say I have been agreeably surprised at the progress being made. Down the Great Southern I saw much that was gratifying, much that demonstrated the faith of the people down there in the future of the country. In many places I visited I saw flocks which have taken years to build up. In one place we saw a very nice little lot of 25 imported ewes which had cost the owner £250. We also saw a very excellent ram which had cost £400, and in many places in the same locality we saw that the people are doing great work by importing valuable stud sheep with which to build up their flocks. People who build up their flocks and herds in this way have very great faith in the future of the State, a faith that should be encouraged. A few years ago, when we were getting 8d. and 9d. per lb. for our wool, there was very little encouragement for breeders, but as soon as prices advanced we found men spending money in building up their flocks. Unquestionably the State must be enriched by the enhanced quality of the sheep. I have noticed the same thing going on in my own electorate, around Pingelly and other places. Many of our farmers are going in for stud sheep, a large-framed, good quality, strong wool sheep producing a class of wool much in demand at the present time. The tone of the people generally seems hopeful. They seem quite satisfied with the prospects of the season. The crops, although a little backward, are looking well. It is pleasing to move around amongst people who, notwithstanding the deficit, are by no means discouraged. The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) a few days ago drew a very dark picture indeed. We were to go in for drastic retrenchment, close down everything and wait for the future to help us out of our difficulties. In my opinion if we are to get out of our difficulties, we must do as any private individual would do in similar circumstances, namely, look around and see how we can improve the position by increasing production. That is the course for this State to follow, namely, the encouragement of production by all possible means. The Minister for Industries in his ventures has my hearty support all along the road, for I believe him to be on

the right track. But I would advise the Government not to build up too many small industries. If we are to be successful with the bacon industry, we require to have one large factory capable of turning out a uniform sample of good stuff. If we have little factories all over the State, then as soon as a larger factory is started in some big centre it is bound to wipe out the small factories, because they will not be in a position to go in for the better class material. In a State with a small population such as ours I believe in establishing a large central factory somewhere near a seaport town. The sending of the live stuff to market is not very costly, and I think it would prove more beneficial to establish one good factory than to have a lot of paltry little concerns. The same thing applies to the butter industry. We have had experience of small factories in the Eastern States. At one time we had creameries all over Victoria, but it was very soon found that this was not a good policy. When a man sends his cream to a big central factory he gets a uniform quality of butter which always finds a ready market, but when it is dished up in small factories all over the State the quality is not uniform, and so the enterprise proves a failure. In most of the large towns in Victoria we had good factories, and in consequence there was always a ready sale. We know what the butter and bacon industries have done for the Eastern States. I cannot agree with the member for Perth. He said that Jones & Co. would start a factory here for the manufacture of jam if they thought it was worth while. In my opinion, Jones, who has his plant and staff in Tasmania, will never come to Western Australia to manufacture our fruit into jam so long as we continue taking his products from Tasmania. No doubt it will be a struggle to overcome that competition, but once we get a good factory established in this State I think we shall be able to manufacture our own local products quite as cheaply as we can procure them from Tasmania. The same thing applies to all our secondary industries. We are the dumping ground for all the implement works of the Eastern States. It has been said that the Government, by establishing the State Implement Works, stopped other people from spending money in that direction. But up to the time the State Implement Works were established, we had very few industries, if any, of that nature, and it is not unreasonable to think that the agencies paid by the manufacturers of the Eastern States add considerably to the price of the machines sent over here. If the primary industries are built up on a sound basis the second industries must follow. By establishing various industries in our own State we are not only able to use our own locally produced stuff, but in addition we find employment for many of our workers. We have heard a good deal from goldfields members about the decline in the output of gold. The same thing has happened in all the gold-producing States of the Commonwealth. Gold is but a flash in the pan. It is a wonderful agency for attracting

population to a State. That is the case in the other States and it is the case here. It is admitted that every ton of gold taken out of the ground leaves a ton less in it, with the result that the mines must soon be worked out. The people engaged in that industry have therefore to look round for other avenues of labour. The establishment of the various industries which have been mentioned will be the means of affording employment and directing the people of the State to the manufacture of products for local consumption. I agree with what has been said in regard to the repatriation of our soldiers. I hope, when the Bill comes down, it will be passed through speedily, and that we shall do our utmost from all sides of the House to facilitate its passage. I express the same hope as that expressed by the member for Swan (Mr. Nairn) that all feelings of party strife and party bickering will cease, and that, as one united body, we will pull together to do the best we can for those who have done so much for us. I regret that the rabbit question has been so much delayed and was not dealt with finally last session. This is a very serious question indeed. During the last few days rabbits have been discovered on both sides of the Great Southern Railway, four or five have been shot at Piggelly on the west side of the line, and several young rabbits have been seen in the Eastern Piggelly district. There is no doubt that the rabbits are spreading fast. The sooner we can get a measure through Parliament to compel everyone to do his bit, regarding the destruction of rabbits, the better it will be for the people who are being eaten out at the present time, and the better it will be for the State as a whole. This question should be dealt with without further delay, and I urge upon the Government to take every measure in their command to bring this matter to a final issue. In the Eastern States for many years past, if people will not, after notice has been given to them, take steps to eradicate the pest the rabbit inspectors will put men on at the expense of the owners to dig out the rabbits or poison them, or eradicate them in some other way. This sort of thing should be insisted on here. I learn from letters I have received today that many of the settlers are doing nothing at all to stop the advance of the rabbits. In the Koonardin district, in my own electorate however, only recently the settlers bought some six or seven miles of wire netting, notwithstanding the present high price of that commodity. This indicates that the settlers must have considerable faith in that portion of the State, for the price of netting at present is between £70 and £80 a mile. They have carted this netting out and are putting up six or seven miles of fencing with this material. If uniform action could be taken by all settlers, I am convinced that poisoning would check the advance of the pest. I have had many applications for Toxo, or jam poison. At this time of the year, when there is so much green feed about, rabbits will not take phosphorous bait as well as they will take jam poison. Men who have been able to get a few cases of Toxo have told me that they have

had splendid results and have been able to check the pest. As soon as this jam poison was finished, the rabbits began to come out again and eat their crops. I have been informed on good authority that the department have a supply of Toxo on hand, although the officials deny this. I hope the statement is not correct. If they have a supply on hand it should be distributed. It appears to me that the Chief Inspector of Rabbits is not as diligent as he might be, and is not taking the action necessary to meet this great emergency. I do not wish to say anything derogatory to him, or anything that would reflect upon his character, but from what I can learn the Chief Inspector is not doing his duty in this matter. If this is the case, I hope that something will be done in the near future to ensure that someone else shall take his place, or that some other officer should be appointed to help him to stop the advance of this terrible scourge. If the pest is not checked some of our best men will leave the land. At this time in particular we cannot afford to lose any of those who are established on our land. I trust that the House will take some notice of this, and that the Government will urge the Chief Inspector to do his very best in this matter.

Mr. HARDWICK (East Perth) [8.7 p.m.]: I appreciate the applause of hon. members, but recognise that they are at all times prepared to listen to words of wisdom. At the tail-end of an important discussion like that upon the Address-in-reply, and after some 35 members have spoken, there are very few subjects of great importance left which have not been touched upon.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They lack originality.

Mr. HARDWICK: The member for Menzies (Mr. Mullaney) spoke in regard to a statement which had appeared in the "West Australian." He said, and rightly so, that the statement was not correct. I can assure the House that it was not correct. In the leading article of that journal the member for West Perth (Mr. Draper) was reported as having said or done something, whereas, as a matter of fact, he was absent from the meeting.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The article was true in that portion in which it states that you threatened members with a dissolution.

Mr. HARDWICK: I do not suppose any member would be more disappointed than the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) if the dissolution were to come along. At all events, they appear to have been in possession of some of the secrets of our party. I do congratulate the Opposition upon the way in which they keep their business to themselves. In these days of party conflicts and party fights it is absolutely necessary that there should be secrets in their party.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What about the closed door?

Mr. HARDWICK: In connection with that, if there was not the open door on the night of the meeting, there can be no doubt that members left the room with open minds. No one was bound by any vote whatever, and no one knew what the indictment of the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) was going to be. There was, therefore, no suggestion of unity

on that particular vote. There was no doubt, too, that the charge was a feeble one. I do not know that I take too much notice of the "West Australian." At one time I had the greatest admiration for that journal, for its loyalty to the people and to the Governments of the country.

Hon. P. Collier: Is that paper disloyal, too?

Mr. HARDWICK: I say that I had an admiration for its loyalty to the Governments in power. Members of the Opposition will no doubt recollect that when they occupied the Ministerial benches this paper, to which all credit is due, sat calmly by and gave its daily counsel. The party opposite even had the proprietor of that journal supporting them in another place. I have read that paper for the last thirty years, and have appreciated it for its loyalty to the Government of the day. In these troublous times Governments all over Australia, and throughout the British Empire, want the united support of the Press. It has been said in the past that the Press are the leaders of public thought. If we go on at the present rate I am sure that the Press will become more like the leaders of public nuisances. The Press have also attacked the Whip in their leading articles, and even cast aspersions on the member for East Perth. Of course, they were misled. I have known the policy of this particular paper so long that I do not think they would put in a statement if they knew it to be untrue.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You did threaten, you know.

Mr. HARDWICK: I am not going to threaten in any way except to say that some years ago another paper in Perth attacked me in my public capacity, and less than 12 months after it was in the bankruptcy court.

Hon. P. Collier: That is a serious outlook for the "West Australian."

Mr. O'Loughlen: You have no right to threaten.

Mr. HARDWICK: There is no doubt that members will agree with me that the debate on the Address-in-reply is of great advantage to them and to the country.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. HARDWICK: It is what I might term the bright spot in our Constitution. It allows members that freedom of speech which they are not in possession of when dealing with any other subject. It also allows them to discuss matters fully and to go into details. If they have any grievances to bring forward, it allows them to place these before the House. I often think, when sitting here, and especially when listening to the references of the member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker), and hearing his repeated attempts to direct the Government's policy, and when hearing his continual appeals to what used to be done in the dark ages, how much this discussion helps us to get out of our financial troubles to-day. I often wonder whether those things which take place here will be conserved in the archives of this State, and whether perhaps in three or four thousand years, as we pass along the corridors of time, posterity will look up the copies of "Hansard" in order to ascertain what was said on particular occasions so long a time before, and whether their doing so will assist

them in their deliberations upon the subjects of the moment. The hon. member is continually referring back to antiquity in an endeavour to find out how we should run this country. If posterity should investigate some of these most important debates, and should read up the remarks of the member for Kanowna, I have no doubt that the conclusion that will be arrived at will be that he was not responsible for his actions. And in reading through "Hansard" they also may find the speeches of the member for Murchison, and no doubt will come to the conclusion that he must have, according to his speeches, at some particular time in our history, been emptied off a fire brigade board. Also, following on, possibly they would read the speeches of our friend the member for Carnarvon and they would look to see what he had done some 3,000 years ago. They would be able to discover in that particular period that the North-West had been almost denuded of fruit, that they had no bananas, and perhaps they would discover bananas were growing wild there, and were a pest something like the prickly pear. They may pass on to see what the member for Northam had been doing, and would find that he was an amendment mover. The member for Perth might also have some attention. They would find according to reports in "Hansard" that he was a great financial genius; even they might give a little attention to the Minister for Works, and on looking up to see how Parliamentarians were paid in those days they would find from the speech of the Minister for Works that Ministers got £1,000 a year.

Mr. O'Loghlen: And the Whip got most.

Mr. HARDWICK: And looking through they might say that the Whip in those days had a good thing. They would find perhaps that the Whip in those days practically got half of it. They might also discover in looking through the pages of history that there lived a person by the name of Ananias. In all probability this great man stayed at the same boarding house as Mr. J. J. Holmes. They also might begin to think, if they read the "West Australian" repeatedly, that Ananias had a blood relation on the staff of that paper. However, I might say my hon. friend, the member for Perth, cast some reflection, in my opinion, on the Premier the other evening. He said he was of opinion that the Premier's intelligence was concealed somewhere at the back of his head. It has been my pleasure to know the Premier for nearly 40 years—I do not wish to give away my age, but I have known him—well for 30 years, and I knew him to be battling with every political and financial problem 30 years ago, and doing all he possibly could to assist the State. Thirty years ago. That would be many years before the hon. member for Perth had cut his wisdom teeth. Hon. members may have discovered through the columns of the Press that some time ago a new star presented itself in the heavens, called nova aquila. There was a popular belief some 300 years ago—I have studied history, I have not come down here not knowing what happened in the past; it is my duty to know a bit of the past to

judge of the present—it was a popular belief 300 years ago that when any stranger may it be a comet or a star, presented itself in the canopy of the heavens some great calamity was going to happen. That calamity, in my opinion, has happened. We have an invasion of rabbits in the farming districts, and we have had an invasion of lawyers into this Chamber. What makes me express myself in these terms? It may be a little personal prejudice, and perhaps it is just as well I may tell members in connection with that in order that the learned gentleman may forget the aspersions cast upon them. The fact of the matter is this: some few months ago a man came to me to change a cheque for 50s. Being or the alert, as most politicians are, I thought I would get out of it, so I assured the gentleman that I only had threepenny pieces. Unfortunately he said that would do, and unfortunately I changed the cheque for 50s., and presented it at the bank. It was returned me, so I placed it in a solicitor's hands, an old firm of solicitors—it may be fair to the learned gentlemen in this House to say it was not their firms—I placed the cheque for 50s. in this firm's hands to collect, and only yesterday I received an account from that firm of solicitors for £113s. 6d. for trying to collect the amount. It has been alleged in this House that the member for Perth is a shining light in his profession, a brilliant luminary in the legal firmament, and great canopy of the law. I would like to say in the light of recent happenings that I can hardly think the member for Perth will ever become the morning star of political reform. However, I still hold out hope for that hon. gentleman. I think it was said last night by a Minister of the Crown, speaking of somebody outside this Chamber, that he was a wrecker of Governments. I concur in that remark, but of course he is of athletic proportions, a rather big fellow. Apart from that, I have known this gentleman for a number of years and from my experience in this Chamber I do not regard him in any other light than that of a cuckoo politician. For the last 20 years he has been laying his eggs in the other birds' nests. He poses, according to the columns of the "West Australian" as a financial expert, and as a sympathiser of the National Government. I say that anyone can stand up to his enemies, but give me the individual who will have the courage to stand to his friends in times of political trouble and strife. There are a number of men in the State, I am sorry to say—it is reported there are some in the House—continually fanning the flames of political strife. They have adopted a system of perpetual fault-finding. A continual drip-drip of depression with an occasional outburst of hysterical abuse—

Mr. O'Loghlen: You are not indulging in any to-night.

Mr. HARDWICK: That is the one thing that can be said of the member for East Perth. We have these men in this life who



are continually disparaging the Government. This sort of man is a political blight on government and administration, and I say he is a danger to the community, in fact a greater pest to good government than the fruit fly to the orchardist or the tick to the poultry farmer. Referring to a matter that occurred in another place—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member—

Mr. HARDWICK: I was about to remark about the £22 per head of the population increase.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it this session?

Mr. HARDWICK: Yes, this session.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot refer to it.

Mr. HARDWICK: If I cannot refer to it in that way I may invent some other. I say this, if Ananias were to return to this planet from celestial regions, and suppose the lawyers did not know he was coming and happened to have a penny left to buy a "West Australian" with to read about the aspersions cast upon the Whip, and this great error of £22 per head being shouted from the housetops, Ananias would blush with shame, for he could no longer claim pre-eminence in the profession in which he became famous. I must extend my congratulations to the Minister for Industries, and I say I entirely disagree with what the member for Perth had to say on the important issue of secondary industries, because we have the tanneries of this State. I may say that for years and years it has been a struggle for the tanneries to exist. Why? For the simple reason that we have been unable to get the tannin necessary for the tanning of the leather. We have to import thousands and thousands of pounds worth of wattle bark annually from Eastern Australia, and of course it is more economical to send the hides to Eastern Australia to be tanned than to attempt to tan them in Western Australia. I remember years ago, before the abolition of the sliding scale, when we had various factories throughout East Perth, there was a boot factory employing 100 men. To-day that factory is defunct and the machinery has gone to Eastern Australia.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What has the member for East Perth been doing?

Mr. HARDWICK: The member has been looking well after his constituents, and they have shown their appreciation of his activities. However, we do not possess the best hides in this State. It does not necessarily follow that, because we have excellent beef in the North-West, the hides are of first class quality. It is a long line from the North to the South of this State, and as one gets further south the thicker does the hide become. I trust the member for Albany will not think me personal. I note with pleasure that the Minister for Industries intends to use his energies towards tapping the great wealth of our red gum forests. If that can be successfully accomplished—and I think there is every hope of it—if those great forests can be forced to disgorge their wealth through the aid of research, if we can only establish the utility of the red gum of Western Australia, that alone will more than jus-

tify the energy and trouble of the Minister for Industries. As the father of a large family I must say that one question which is of great importance, and which should be agitating the minds of public men to-day, is what we are going to do with our boys and girls. The fact that a position to be filled by a lad of 17 years drew 120 applications should make us think; and there is the further fact that for a position to be filled by a girl of about the same age there were 130 applicants. Evidently, in this connection there is something very much amiss. I was much interested in a remark of the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) the other evening. He pointed out that it was impossible for Western Australia to compete successfully with the industries of other parts of the Commonwealth. Perhaps he also demonstrated that the Arbitration Acts of the various States are not uniform. I consider that the Arbitration Act of this State is faulty, and needs amending in various directions.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What amendments do you suggest?

Mr. HARDWICK: For one thing, the provisions relative to apprentices should be amended. Western Australia is short of mechanics to-day because of the restrictions on apprenticeship. We cannot train our own mechanics. A friend of mine in the country, a mechanic, with a family of boys, is unable to apprentice them to his calling. That is unfair to them, and as a result they have possibly gone without a mechanical training. This is due simply to the hard and fast Arbitration laws.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the percentage to-day as regards journeymen?

Mr. HARDWICK: Absolutely too small. If it were possible to give the proper number of boys that apprenticeship which would afford them the opportunity in life to which they are entitled, we would not find 130 boys of 17 years making application for a job worth £1 per week. That fact is a demonstration of the truth of my statement. However, I shall hail with delight the day when our Arbitration Act, if it is not properly amended, will be footballed into oblivion, into the cemetery of useless and antiquated legislation. I wish to have one word with the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell), who I regret to observe is not in his place. When he went on his no-confidence stunt the other evening, I felt extremely sorry for him, because I have looked upon that hon. member as worthy to become the successor of that grand old man who has just crossed the great divide, whose memory we venerate and cherish. I looked forward with tenderness to the member for Northam developing some day into that class of statesman of which Australia became so much the poorer a few days ago.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You did not encourage him at all.

Mr. HARDWICK: When speaking to an intelligent audience in East Perth some time ago, I stated that I hoped soon to see the member for Northam in the Ministry again. Circumstances have prevented that, partly owing to the hon. member's own fault, perhaps. He may have thought that he dis-

agreed from this party on a principle; but when the best interests of the State are concerned, when the Empire is at war, let us get the best we can in the circumstances, allowing subordinate principles to stand aside for the time being. I may address the same remark to our friends opposite, who declared themselves unable to join the National Government. I have never believed that all the best intelligence of the House is centred on this side. In my opinion, the great organisation of Labour made one of its greatest mistakes when refusing to come into the ranks of the National Government and do the best for the country. I believe many hon. members opposite, and especially members on the front Opposition bench, feel that in the best interests of the welfare of the country they ought to join in a united Government. But there are certain powers which prevent that; and I am sorry for this because I believe that Western Australia would have been wealthier, and better in every way, if instead of caustic criticism the Government had had the united help of hon. members sitting in Opposition.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The Press turned your party down.

Mr. HARDWICK: At present the whole British Empire is abnormal. In my opinion this Parliament is abnormal. But in many respects the Press seems to have gone mad. A Ministry of which the member for Northam was one, some seven years ago, is fresh in my memory, because I can almost hear the echoes of the vituperation of the ex-member for Perth, Mr. Walter Dwyer—

Unprincipled robbers and pick-pockets. Cage of unclean birds which for wanton rapacity and unbridled greed are unprecedented in the annals of our history.

I would appeal to the member for Northam to be charitable, and to help the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: There is great need for charity.

Mr. HARDWICK: The leader of the Opposition might also be charitable, because that is good for the soul. It remains pretty green in the memory of members of this House that some years ago we had what was called an independent party, better known as the dauntless four.

Hon. P. Collier: Where are they now?

Mr. HARDWICK: I do not wish to alarm the member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) in any way, but I want to point out to the House that members who adopt an independent attitude may not improbably encounter the fate which overtook the dauntless four. The dauntless four went to the country, and I do not think they have been heard tell of since. A peculiarity of the Perth seat is that that constituency is hardly ever represented by the same gentleman in two successive Parliaments—quite unlike the constituency of East Perth, which never fails to return the right candidate. The member for Northam, unfortunately, has in this Parliament adopted the attitude of a freelance, of a political Ishmaelite, catering for the votes and hospitality of the alleged Bolsheviks in this

Chamber. However, thanks to the intelligence of the National party, when it came to that great division only one or two members of this party failed to remain loyal.

Hon. P. Collier: That was your whipping.

Mr. O'Loughlen: You threatened them all.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You say that you are not a party, that you do not believe in party.

Mr. HARDWICK: I mean loyalty to our chief. Such loyalty is very necessary in these days of party conflict. Indeed, I have heard the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) say on the floor of this House that he felt he ought to vote the other way.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Never in my life.

Mr. HARDWICK: The hon. member said that his conscience dictated to him that he should vote in a certain way, whereupon the late Mr. Connor observed that the hon. member ought not to be in Parliament. I do not wish to reflect on the hon. member, but in the face of recent party strife it is absolutely necessary for me to be loyal to my party.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Were you loyal to your former leader, Mr. Frank Wilson?

Mr. HARDWICK: Absolutely; and, so far as I know, the other members of this party were loyal to him also. Like other Parliamentarians, the Opposition to-day stand on a great principle, a bogey principle. They do not join us, and stand by the people, doing that which is necessary in times of great political stress and urgency.

Mr. O'Loughlen: But you should not talk about loyalty to your chief. You let down your last chief.

Mr. HARDWICK: There are certain things which happen in the march of political evolution that cannot be avoided. Let me point out to the Opposition how even before the war this State's problems of government and administration were somewhat perplexing. A Labour Government in six years caused the State to pass through perilous junctures, before the Wilson Government and the present Government came into power. The Labour Government doubled the national debt; and as the war rages on, those problems, political and financial, must multiply and increase. It is for Parliament to exercise its best thought and best energies to get the State out of the tangle.

Mr. O'Loughlen: What do you suggest?

Mr. HARDWICK: United action. The much despised Parliaments of the Empire are the sturdy pillars upon which our national fabric rests. Therefore, it is absolutely in the hands of the Parliaments of the Empire to-day to do that which is best in order to assist one another in achieving those ends necessary for our liberty and welfare.

Mr. O'Loughlen: Morrison is responsible for all this.

Mr. HARDWICK: I do not wish to asperse the character of Mr. Morrison. I have heard it mentioned in this House that he is a clever man and a good writer, but every person in the State does not hold a journalist up as a leader of thought. No doubt a journalist expresses opinions through the columns of the Press, but those opinions are sometimes actu-

ated by a little bit of spleen against the people about whom articles are written, in this case the present Government. Moreover, a journalist only expresses the view of one man. Here we have 35 members on this side of the House, all of the best intellect in Western Australia. We are the select of the selected. We went to the people and they returned us to conduct and manage their affairs for at least three years, and are we to subordinate our intelligence to the ink that may fall from the pen of a leader writer? No. We must not allow the Press to lead us. The Press will discover in the near future that Parliament will lead the Press. A great problem which confronts us is that of finance. I followed closely what happened during the administration of the late Labour Government. They got into power and endeavoured to make a name for themselves. They undoubtedly did so. I must confess that they were rather unfortunate in the first year of their administration because in that year they experienced a drought and many things happened to militate against successful administration. To-day, unfortunately, things are more than abnormal and we have to carry in addition a great burden of Commonwealth taxation as an auxiliary. I cannot see daylight through the problems which confront us, but what I would suggest is that we hold on with our teeth. I do not believe in drastic retrenchment; while so far as heavy taxation is concerned, I do not think that the people will be able to pay it. If my friend the member for North Perth (Mr. Smith) were here he would bear me out that it is a very difficult operation "to take the brecks off a Highlander." Therefore, if we have not the money we cannot pay.

Mr. O'Loughlen: How are we to get out if it?

Mr. HARDWICK: We have an assurance from the Treasurer that we can carry on to the end of 1918.

Mr. O'Loughlen: And then the deluge.

Mr. HARDWICK: Not at all.

Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): You are lucky to be able to see so far ahead.

Mr. HARDWICK: Owing to the Federal compact we are handicapped so far as the establishment of factories is concerned, and something will have to be done in the direction of getting a further measure of protection from the remainder of Australia. The Commonwealth Government will surely be reasonable; they will listen to us when the war cloud has passed away and if we can prove to them that the very fact of our having entered the federation has handicapped us to such an extent, they must allow us to continue to have the control of our markets for another 15 years, and permit us also to establish factories, employ our own people and turn out our own mechanics. That is the only hope I hold out for this, my native State. If I may use a racing term, those in authority in the other parts of Australia are sports.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They have not demonstrated it.

Mr. HARDWICK: They will do so, because it is to their advantage to demonstrate

it. What is the use of trying to carry on as a Commonwealth if they know that we are impoverished? We cannot pay, and if we do not get the protection we desire we shall not be able to pay.

Mr. O'Loughlen: They will take us over.

Mr. HARDWICK: They will not, and I do not think the people in this State will allow it to be done. The member for Leonora pointed out the many advantages the other States have over us, but he also declared that he never wanted to go there again, that he wanted to remain in Western Australia for all time. That is the sort of spirit which should animate us all here. The position as it exists to-day is an impossible one, and so far as we can see will not be improved until the war is over, when a measure of protection will have to be given us by the remainder of the Commonwealth. We can base our strong claim on our distance and isolation from markets, factors which go a long way to make our position impossible. One of the things which is a burden on the State at the present time is the fact that we have 30,000 of our best revenue producers fighting for our liberty across the seas. There has not been anything in the shape of increased population to our shores for some considerable time. The policy of immigration has ceased. Our centres have been depleted of people. We might argue and quarrel amongst ourselves inside this Chamber until the walls turn scarlet, but that will not assist the position in any way. Let us get back to the normal; let us try and take the Press with us when we do. Let us realise that we are not going to be led by people who do not know as much as the members who adorn this institution. I say with a pang of regret that some of the intelligence opposite was not displayed in helping this Parliament to carry on the affairs of the State under difficult conditions.

Mr. O'Loughlen: The Opposition have not prevented the Government carrying out their policy.

Mr. HARDWICK: The duty of the Opposition is to criticise and throw every possible obstacle in the way of Government.

Hon. P. Collier: If that is our duty we have not carried it out.

Mr. HARDWICK: How can we carry on successfully when a section of the community are fighting against us. There is always a class of people decriing the administration of the day. If something happens within the family circle the Government are to blame. That is the trouble Governments all over the world have to contend against, and in times like the present, when we are at grips with the enemy those troubles are multiplied, discontent grows rapidly, and everyone appears to have an idea of his own as to how the country should be run. In conclusion, I would like to say, let us not be unmindful of the many brave heroes who are sleeping to-day in lonely soldiers' graves beneath the blood stained fields of Gallipoli; let us not be unmindful of those Australian youths who lie buried beneath the fields of France; let us realise the importance of the existing situation and let us endeavour as far as possible to be united and assist each other in solving

the many problems of administration, by doing which we shall earn the gratitude of the people of the country for all time.

Mr. MONEY (Bunbury) [8.58 p.m.] : So many subjects have been touched upon in the Address-in-reply that I wish simply to give a few impressions as they have occurred to me, a new member of this House, who is not saturated as a party politician, at all events at present. I wish to remind the House that the Address-in-reply for the first session of this Parliament commenced on the 20th November, 1917, and ended on the 24th January, 1918. So far as I am able to find out, no further result has eventuated from all those weeks of talk.

Hon. P. Collier: We were not talking all those weeks.

Mr. MONEY: We certainly had an interval, but we were talking for weeks.

Hon. P. Collier: As a matter of fact the Address-in-reply only occupied two or three days.

Mr. MONEY: The debate on the Address-in-reply for the second session commenced on the 22nd August last and I hope, in fact I know, it will end to-night. That is practically three weeks, during which we have had a multitude of speeches, accurately reported in "Hansard," but I doubt whether the result of all the time taken up in the debate will have any better effect than the debates in past years. I refer to this because to-day we have much important business to transact. We spoil a whole week in the opening of Parliament, and I feel there is great necessity for Parliamentary reform. I do not say this as affecting only the present Parliament. If we refer to those copies of "Hansard" mentioned by the member for East Perth, we shall probably find that the same thing has been going on for many years past. This might be quite satisfactory to those who have been politicians for a great number of years, but I must confess that, coming fresh to the House, I do not accept it as being at all businesslike. I hope the Government will furnish an opportunity for full discussion in the House, with a view to securing some measure of Parliamentary reform either by reducing the number of speeches, or shortening the speeches, and by the devising of some different methods than we have for conducting the business of the State. The present methods were quite good enough in the old coaching days, but they are not up to date in times of railways, aeroplanes, telegraphs, and wireless communications. To-day we have the same methods as were employed by our predecessors of 50 years ago. But the world has changed, and I think it is up to us to remember that the clothes worn 50 years ago are not suitable for to-day. I will heartily support any reform which will enable 50 members of Parliament to accomplish some work and avoid the delays from which we have suffered for so long past. The time is more than ripe for this Parliamentary reform. A number of members were returned to the House with that as a plank in their platform, namely, Parliamentary reform, and I am surprised that we have not had this matter urged more strongly. Is there nothing to do, that we can

afford to waste this time? I look back and see certain questions that are acknowledged to be essential to the prosperity of the State, questions now 15 years old. Those questions have been shelved from session to session and from Parliament to Parliament. If we could avoid this waste of time we should be better able to deal with those subjects requiring careful and earnest attention. Take as an instance the provision of cheap lime for the agriculturist. The subject has been worn threadbare. For the last 15 years our agriculturists have been told that they must have cheap lime to get the best results from their land. Successive Governments have promised a solution of this small problem. It is a matter, not of finance but of action. The lime is there, the agriculturists are there, and all that are required are facilities. If past Governments had not promised those facilities for obtaining cheap lime, the people themselves would have provided it years ago. As to the necessity for the lime, let me refer the House to the report of the Agricultural Commission, page 7, where this passage occurs—

Wherever the land is drained and brought under cultivation, its improvement would be materially assisted by dressings of cheap lime. Indeed, practically no other agency is capable of producing so much result under intelligent application. and it is a reflection on the State's agricultural policy that the many deposits, which have for years been known to exist in a form available for immediate use, have not been made available long ere this. The deposits at Lake Clifton and Capel are, we find, in the hands of concessionaires, whose obligations, inter alia, are to supply certain quantities of lime to farmers at 10s. to 12s. per ton on rails. In the case of Lake Clifton the obligation is not insistent till after the declaration of peace. The lime deposits are, therefore, to a certain extent, locked up, and we can only express these opinions at this stage:—(1) That 10s. to 12s. per ton is too high a price for agricultural lime on trucks, say, Waroona, and in fixing such a price the State has sacrificed the interests of its farmers (2) That if the rates fixed are incapable of revision to something like 5s. per ton, the State should make the best of a bad job by arranging with the concessionaires for the early delivery of lime for the benefit of the limited number of settlers whose added rail age costs do not prohibit its use.

I think that is sufficient reference to confirm the importance of this lime question. On another page the Royal Commission have found that the lime should be delivered to the agriculturists at 5s. per ton. I am not aware at present of anything being done to put those recommendations into effect. I instance that as a matter which, perhaps, would have been attended to much sooner but for the unnecessary time taken up in the debate on the Address-in-reply. It is recognised that the most important subject we have to deal with to-day is the financial position. To my mind Western Australia has nothing to fear so long as we have an energetic, wise and far-sighted policy to follow. I am satisfied that there is no reason whatever for despondency or pessimism.

mism in Western Australia. On the last occasion of my speaking on the Address-in-reply, I took the trouble to investigate the national finances of Western Australia as contrasted with the Government finances of the State, and I was surprised to find the small difference in the national finances as before the war and as three years after the outbreak of war. To-day I am more than ever convinced that my conclusions on that occasion were right. It is not only our present finances that we must look to, but it is the natural progressive increase of wealth that must eventuate as time goes on. The deficiency is entirely a Government deficiency, and it is necessary to have a remarrying of our assets, and to look to those directions whence the wealth is derivable. When I say that the national finances balance, I mean this: we have suffered in respect of our timber of late, we have suffered in other directions, but however much we have suffered in our gold mining industry, or our timber industry, it has been compensated by the increase in the wool, the increased values of stock, and the increased values of wheat as compared with periods before the war. Why I desire to strike a note of confidence is this: if we only look back a few years in Western Australia we find we had no wealth of coal. That has been developed since. It is a wealth that is naturally and progressively increasing. And we have other wealth which will naturally and progressively increase by the development of our agricultural and pastoral properties. We are capable of carrying four or five times as many sheep as we have now, and we are capable of a similar increase in cattle. Our timber has gone up in value, our coal has gone up in value, in fact, everything is tending in the direction of a great increase in the value of the wealth of Western Australia. As prices go up, as values go up, so much better are the people able to bear the taxation. If for their sheep they receive 30s. instead of 10s., how easy it is for them to meet the financial troubles that face us to-day. Again, the depreciation of our currency is another great factor which will help us considerably in paying off our national debt. If only we can husband our national resources, our national State debt will be as easy to pay as the proverbial falling off a log. The mere natural increase in wealth, the depreciation of the currency and increased population, these three items will entirely clear off the State debt of Western Australia. There are no times for us to go about with our tails down. If it is necessary to put stiffness into the Government, by drugs or otherwise, we must try to do it. Although I have mentioned these matters which may give us the necessary optimism and spirit to go on, with the will to succeed—because I am convinced that if we are to succeed, half the success will be due to the tone and spirit with which we go about our work—there are other matters which require close attention. I know what I speak of. When I talk about sheep increasing in value, I know that, with the help of our refrigerating works, they will increase in value. When we

speak of the value of meat we know that meat must be of value. The world to-day is meat hungry. It is starving for meat. It is cold for the want of woollen goods. These are essentials. To show how scarce in Europe cattle and sheep are I would inform the House that there is a shortage there of no less than 28 millions of cattle, 54 millions of sheep, and 32 millions of pigs. The world's market for some years will be good for all the meat that Australia can possibly produce.

Mr. Harrison. That is absolutely correct.

Mr. MONEY: The world's market will be good for all the wool that Australia can produce for some years. With a prospect like this, if we had an ordinary business to deal with, we should say that we had excellent prospects indeed. A business producing as much as Western Australia might well view with pessimism the future if it was found impossible to sell the goods that were produced. Let us look at Western Australia in the light of a business proposition with markets like these before it. I say that the prospects could not be better, and that they never have been better in the history of Australia than they are to-day. I would go further and say that the prospects have never been half so good as they are now. The world's markets are there for the sale of all the produce that can be turned out by Western Australia. Having investigated our assets I say there is no reason to doubt the future, if we only go about our business by means of proper methods. I have some good intelligence to give to the House in reference to our coal production. For some years past it has been considered that Collie coal is not a good bunkering coal and not fit for railway purposes. Necessity has shown that it has met the requirements of most of our local railways. It has been used for bunkering purposes for some time past with the greatest success. The best information that I can give to members, however, is that it has been shipped from Western Australia as a full cargo, and has reached Mauritius in excellent condition. The boat conveying it took 31 days to reach its destination, and we have just heard that the only difference in temperature between that existing at the time the coal went into the hold at the south-west port and its arrival at Mauritius was ten degrees. I am sure that the Minister for Works will be glad to know that the efforts of the Government at the Collie coal port will not have been in vain, and that immediately these works are completed, which were promised by the Government in 1911 as part of their policy, but the completion of which has been delayed, involving considerable waste of money, there is every prospect of our getting the coal bunkering trade for the whole of Australia, as this will be the last port of call for boats going home via the Cape. This will not only mean increasing the value of the assets of Western Australia by converting Collie coal into cash, but will increase our railway revenue, and will be equal to building two new

ships to meet the shortage of shipping we have to-day. This will also help in other directions in getting our surplus food stuffs away, which have already been accumulating too long. When I speak of two ships I think I am within the mark. Ours is the first and last port of call for ships coming from and going overseas, via South Africa. Every boat that comes from the Eastern States on its way to Europe, via South Africa, will be able to carry so much more cargo by reason of the fact of its being able to bunker coal from this State, and if each boat can do this it is only a matter of calculation to show that this becomes a national and not a local question. There should, therefore, be no further delay than can possibly be helped. I am glad to see that this South-West port is one of the public works which it is the intention and policy of the Government to go on with. I am satisfied there will be no cause for regret if the work is done immediately. We shall then be able to obtain a depth of water of from 30 to 33 feet, which will enable any boat of any size coming to Australia to call there and get its coal. That in itself is a natural increase of our assets. There are other minor matters in which we might all assist if we would. I think we are suffering to-day from a lack of co-ordination amongst the various Government departments. I am speaking as much as possible in the abstract when I say that in our public departments we have sometimes one department refusing to do something on the ground that this is a matter affecting another department, and vice versa. It should be recognised that our departments stand in much the same light to the people as our finances stand to the State as a whole. We must regard the finances as being the total aggregate finances of Western Australia for the moment. Similarly our Government departments must regard themselves as being in existence for the benefit of all the people of Western Australia, not in their own interests or in the interests of any of their officers. I am also satisfied that there is a great want of economy in the administration of our local affairs, and that there is too much centralisation. We should do very much better if we could split up our Public Works Department into different districts, and have more local management of local affairs.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We already have district inspectors. What more do we want?

Mr. MONEY: As a rule the inspectors come from Perth. This means delay, and very often the work has to be inspected again. We are suffering from too much centralisation and should have more local management.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You will increase the cost considerably if you have offices in each place.

Mr. MONEY: We have the offices there already in the shape of our roads board offices. When I speak of local administration, I do not mean an agent from the head office in a country district. I mean that the people of

the State must take more interest in their local affairs, and that the roads boards must have power, if necessary, to take a bigger hand in the management and construction of their own works, instead of paying 30 per cent. more than they should pay owing to the system of administration from a central body.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I thought you were talking about the Public Works Department.

Mr. MONEY: It is no good bringing ideas forward in this House if they are not going to be taken any notice of. We have suffered too much in the past from delays. The object of parliamentary reform is to avoid this parliamentary delay, and these delays in despatch of Government business and the business of the country. I hope that some notice may be taken of the speeches which have been delivered on the Address-in-reply.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 17th September, 1918.

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

### ELECTION RETURN—CLAREMONT.

The SPEAKER announced the return to the writ issued for the election of a member for Claremont, showing that Mr. Thomas Duff had been duly elected.

Mr. Duff took and subscribed the oath, and signed the roll.

[For "Questions on Notice" and "Papers presented" see "Votes and Proceedings."]

### BILL—INTERPRETATION.

#### Second Reading.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. R. T. Robinson—Canning) [4.43] in moving the second reading said: This Bill proposes to amend the existing Interpretation Act of 1898 in two particulars: firstly, in respect of the provision in Section 11 of the existing Act that any by-law or regulation shall continue to have the force of law until disallowed by both Houses of Parliament, and, secondly, in respect of the absence in the existing Act of any provision for continuing a temporary Act during the passage through Parliament of a Bill for continuing such temporary Act. Opportunity has been taken to re-enact the principal measure and its amendments in consolidated and revised