

which appears with never-failing regularity on the first day of each session of Parliament. The passing of last year's Appropriation Act gave the Government supplies up till to-day. This Bill provides further supplies until the end of August. The measure requires no explanation from me. It is necessary in order to enable the public administration to be carried on, to provide funds for the continuance of public works already authorised by Parliament and to pay the salaries of civil servants and other Government employees. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.
Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etcetera.

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

Read a third time and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. M. Drew): I have given the matter of adjournment careful consideration, and come to the conclusion that it is advisable we should proceed with the business during the week, and not adjourn until next Tuesday. Members have come down from the country, probably at great inconvenience, and I presume they have come down to work. Instead of moving for the adjournment until Tuesday or Thursday next, I propose to move that we adjourn until to-morrow. I therefore move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 5.17 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 30th June, 1914.

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m., pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, which proclamation was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant). The Speaker took the Chair.

ELECTION RETURN— KALGOORLIE.

The Speaker announced the return to a writ issued for the election of a member for Kalgoorlie, showing that Mr. George McLeod had been duly elected.

Mr. McLeod made and subscribed the affirmation in lieu of the oath of allegiance and signed the roll.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Governor's Speech in formally opening the session of Parliament (*vide* Council report *ante*) and having returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber, the Speaker resumed the Chair.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: 1, Memorandum of agreement between the Government of Western Australia and the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank of Australasia, dated 30th June, 1914. 2, Workers' Homes Act, 1911, and Workers' Homes Act Amendment Act, 1912, amendments to regulations and schedule. 3, Land and Income Tax Assessment Act, 1907, amended regulations.

By the Minister for Lands: 1, Agricultural Bank, report for year ended 30th June, 1913. 2, Land Act Amendment

Act, 1902, permission to construct a timber tramway. 3, Licensed Surveyors Act, 1909, regulations. 4, Land Act, 1898, and amendments, regulations. 5, Cemeteries Act, 1887, by-laws.

By the Minister for Railways: 1 (a) West Australian Government railways, rates and general regulations for the conveyance of passengers, etc.; (b) By-laws 1 to 54 for regulating the use of the Government railways; (c) Amendment of by-law relating to leave of absence for military duty. 2, Government Railways Act, 1904, reports and returns for quarters ended 31st December, 1913, and 31st March, 1914. 3, West Australian Government tramways, rules and regulations for guidance of officers and men, etc.

By the Attorney General: Education Department, report for year 1913.

By the Minister for Works: 1, Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department, by-laws—(a) Cue-Day Dawn, (b) Goldfields Water Supply, (c) Pingelly Water Supply, (d) Leonora Water Supply, (f) Sandstone Water Supply, (g) Metropolitan Water Supply, (h) Pingelly, Meekatharra, Roebourne, Geraldton, and Derby Water Supplies. 2, Municipal Corporations Act, 1906, by-laws of (a) Geraldton, (b) Perth, (c) South Perth, (d) Kalgoorlie, (e) Leederville, (f) Victoria Park, (g) Albany. 3, Roads Act, 1911, (a) By-laws relating to heavy traffic, (b) regulating motor traffic. 4, By-laws of roads boards of (a) West Guildford, (b) Brookton, (c) Kalgoorlie, (d) Denmark, (e) Lawlers, (f) Merredin, (g) Wiluna, (h) Murray, (i) Gingin, (j) Kellerberrin, (k) West Guildford, (l) Gingin, (m) Kunjin, (n) Phillips River, (o) Sharks Bay, (p) Ashburton.

By Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): 1, Annual Reports of (a) Aborigines Department, (b) Inspector General of the Insane, (c) West Australian Fire Brigades Board, (d) Perth Observatory, (e) Fremantle Public Hospital, (f) Perth Public Hospital. 2, Fremantle Harbour Trust, amended regulations and additional regulations. 3,

Pearling Act, 1912, (a) Cancellation of Reserve, Egg Island Bay, (b) Closure of waters, Shark Bay Pearl Shell area. 4, Fisheries Act, regulations. 5, Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1912, regulations. 6, Game Act, 1912-13, regulations. 7, Interstate Destitute Persons Relief Act, 1912, amendment and regulations. 8, Criminal Code, 1903, regulations. 9, State Children Act, 1907, regulations. 10, Perth Astrographic Catalogue. 11, Workers' Compensation Act, 1912, additions to regulations. 12, Onslow Jetty, reduction of wharfage rates. 13, By-laws of Health Boards of (a) Maylands, (b) Black Range, (c) Hopetoun, (d) Narrogin, (e) Donnybrook, (f) Esperance, (g) Osborne Park, (h) Perth, (i) Harvey, (j) Weston, (k) Onslow, (l) Albany, (m) Fremantle.

BILL—INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

The PREMIER, by leave, without notice (by way of asserting privilege), introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for legislation and the repeal or rejection of laws or proposed legislation by means of the popular Initiative and Referendum and for other relative purposes.

Bill read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce that I have received a copy of His Excellency's Speech and that copies of the same have been distributed among hon. members of this Chamber.

BILL—SUPPLY, £1,379,650.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

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

Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and be dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Question passed.

Message.

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

In Committee of Supply.

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

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of services of the year ending 30th June, 1915, a sum not exceeding £1,379,650.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I was waiting to hear from the Premier particulars as to how this amount is based and for what term it will enable him to carry on. I presume that, as usual, it has been based on last year's expenditure or vote. How far it is going to carry through, I do not know.

The PREMIER: For the information of hon. members, I am asking for two months' supply based on last year's expenditure. I may explain that at first I thought it might be desirable to ask for supplies for a longer period, so as to avoid having to ask for supplies too frequently during the one session, which would mean the introduction and passing of several Bills; but, on further consideration, I thought it desirable that we should get sufficient supply probably to carry us over the session, and then, before the session closed, get additional supply, when members would be in a position to ask the Government their intentions between the closing of the session and the meeting of the new Parliament.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I take it, from the Premier's remarks, that it is not proposed to introduce Estimates. I gather that also from the Governor's Speech.

The Premier: It is not proposed to introduce Estimates; no.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I have no intention of attempting to oppose supply as asked by the Premier. We recognise that a Government must have funds to carry on with, not only from the Consolidated Revenue but also from Loan Funds, unless the machinery of the State is to be hung up and possibly serious consequences ensue. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Opposition, unless something serious crops up, to assist the Government in getting their Supply Bill through, in order that all the Departments may be carried on smoothly. However, I think it is right that I should just offer a few remarks whilst I point out, for public information, how serious is the financial position at the present juncture, and how we are drifting—and drifting, I am sorry to think, without the slightest indication—into something approaching financial chaos. I notice our old friend, Senator Pearce, in an interview the other day, said that some great thinker had stated that Government was finance. I am quite prepared to agree with Senator Pearce, that good government, sound government, is good sound finance; and, further than that, I will agree with him that Parliament is supposed to control the finances of the country. I am sorry to think we have neither one nor the other at present. My friends occupying the Treasury benches have on many occasions, year in, year out, decried the Administration of which I had the honour to be a member in past years.

The Premier: For a short period.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: For six years, for five years of which I had the honour to be a member of the Ministry, and one year as Premier.

The Premier: It took a long time to find you out.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Perhaps longer than the Premier will be.

The Premier: No.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: I am never tired of opposing the action of this Administration in spending money without the sanction of Parliament; in other words taking the finances out of the control of Parliament. We have had that exemplified during the existence of the present Administration.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): Very frequent in your time, was it not?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No, it was not very frequent; but it has been the order of the day since our hon. friends opposite assumed control of the affairs of the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin (Honorary Minister): When did you meet in June?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Of course, I think it is the duty of Ministers to order their sittings in Parliament to suit the requirements of their financial policy, and I cannot for the life of me understand why we have not met at least a week or a fortnight earlier, so as to get the Supply Bill through in the ordinary course of events, instead of rushing it, as we are doing on the present occasion, and as we did last year. It seems to me that the duty rests with the Premier and the Government of the day to see that they call Parliament together in plenty of time. When the Premier was in Opposition, he was going to meet Parliament not later than May; he was going to have his Estimates down not later than August; and there would be no such thing as the expenditure of public funds without authority first obtained from Parliament. Ever since he has been in office he has broken that promise, and never made the slightest attempt to conform with the principles he laid down on one occasion.

The Premier: We have till 12 o'clock to-night.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: The Premier has until 12 o'clock next week, if he wishes to sit until then. I shall do nothing to prevent him if that is his desire, but I do say that we are entitled to protest against the fact that Parliament was not called together earlier for the purpose of granting this supply. I recognise that it has to meet the necessary expenditure and that this, being the last day of the month, the Premier naturally wants his authority in order to pay the salaries next month, and the other current expenditure which he could not otherwise legally expend.

Mr. George: I do not agree with you that it is necessary.

The Premier: You emphasise that point.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: No; but I recognise the point that the Premier must want this authority to meet his liability within the next month. I do not say, however, that this is any admission that the Premier could not have called Parliament together earlier for granting supply. Of course, the electors expect Parliament, in the exercise of its control over the finances, to put a stop to extravagant government and reckless expenditure such as we have witnessed during the past three years; and I want the public also to understand on this occasion that, notwithstanding we are, without opposition, agreeing to the supply that has been asked for, we mark the passing of the measure with a protest against the expenditure that has gone on. On the last of this month we had a deficit of £527,000. It may of course, and I hope it will, be reduced somewhat as the result of the present month's figures. But this is not altogether the worst feature, possibly, although it is bad enough. A deficit of £527,000 in three years', or two years and 11 months' administration is a very serious item; but I want the people to understand the situation, and to take a comparative view of what occurred during the last three years of Liberal Administration, and what has occurred during the three years that are just now ending. In 1908-1909 our expenditure from revenue was £3,368,000; the next year it was £3,447,000; and in the succeeding year, 1910-1911—the last year of our occupancy of the Treasury bench—£3,743,000; a total of £10,558,000. We borrowed during those three years loan moneys to the extent of £3,210,000. We expended the whole of the money we borrowed, and a little more—about £200,000 or £300,000. But the total expenditure, when taking into consideration the exact balance on your loan funds—because you cannot do that unless you know exactly what was left you by your predecessors, and what you have carried forward—the total expenditure of loan moneys and revenue amounted to £13,764,000, which averaged per annum £4,588,000. Four and a half millions per annum is near enough for our argument. We finished up with a surplus. Now see how our friends have lavishly expended money, as

compared with those figures. The next year, 1911-1912, they expended from revenue £4,101,000; in 1912-13 they expended £4,787,000; during the present year, 1913-14, for 11 months they expended £4,637,000; a total of £13,525,000. If we give them an average for this present month of June, we find that the total expenditure is, in round figures, 14 millions of money for the three years. 14 millions against 10 millions during the last three years of our occupancy of the Treasury benches.

The Attorney General: That shows the prosperity of the State.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: Four millions of money more out of revenue. They borrowed—and let this be well remembered, and marked, and put on record—they borrowed seven millions up to the end of last year; and they have borrowed two millions since. That is nine millions of money. Adding that to the revenue expenditure, we have a total of 23 millions expended. Every penny of their loan is gone, and I suppose all that was left in the Treasury for them when they took office is gone too. A million of loan funds was left in the Treasury. So we have a total expenditure of 23 million pounds in three years, nearly 8½ millions per annum, against 4½ millions during the previous Liberal Administration. And what have we got for it?

The Attorney General: Prosperity.

The Premier: A fair majority.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: What have we got for it? A deficit of £527,000. That is true. A credit brought forward of £13,000 has been turned into a debit balance of £527,000 up to date.

Mr. George: We know it is more.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: And the interest and sinking fund bill has been increased during my friends' term of office by £340,000. It seems to me marvellous that the people of this State of Western Australia are going to sit back and allow this extravagance to go on, the expenditure of money, and the borrowing of loan moneys at any price. The expenditure on works, some of which are required, and others—many of them—not required, regardless of the cost, with the

result that the country must be hard up for many years to come.

Mr. Underwood: Which works are not required?

Hon. FRANK WILSON: There are a few of them. The State sawmills were not required, for one thing. Your steamers, a losing concern, were not required, for another thing. Your brick yards and your implement works, so-called, were not required; and I am satisfied that we would have a better service for our people who live in the suburb of South Perth if we had left the ferry service severely alone.

Mr. Lewis: You are decidedly wrong there.

Hon. FRANK WILSON: We have been promised an improved service since the taking over of the tramways, and hon. members sat quietly by and never said a word. The new steamer which ought to have been delivered some 12 months ago is not yet on the stocks. I advise hon. members to go down and inspect that boat and see when she will be ready to put into the water. I am afraid the vessel will have become obsolete before she gets launched. I do not want to labour the question. Of course, I will have plenty of opportunity; and possibly in speaking on the Address-in-reply I shall amplify the few remarks that I have made. But I do want the people to understand that a large amount of this money to which I have referred has been expended on unproductive public works, trading concerns. I want the people to understand that the Government are expending money at almost double the rate it was expended during the later years of our Administration, during which period so much was done for the advancement of the country and of the people generally. With this statement made I do not propose to keep the Committee any longer, nor do I propose to throw any obstacle in the way of the Premier having his Supply.

The PREMIER: I fully anticipated that the leader of the Opposition would take the earliest opportunity to repeat some of the statements he has been

making ever since the present Government have been in office.

Hon. Frank Wilson: It is not repetition.

The PREMIER: Yes, principally repetition; the figures are up-to-date, but the statements are not. The leader of the Opposition in his usual fashion has asserted that we are drifting into financial chaos. That is an old charge which I have heard hurled against the Labour Government, or possible Labour Governments, for many years past; but it was used from a very different standpoint altogether from that now contemplated by the leader of the Opposition. Not three years ago the leader of the Opposition told the people that we wanted a bold, courageous Administration which would be able to go on the market and get all the money necessary for the purpose of developing our various industries, that we did not want a Government coming into existence which would hold up all public works and bring about financial chaos. After two and a half years' experience he finds that we have in Western Australia an Administration bold and courageous even beyond his own expectations, and that, of course, is the burden of his complaint. What is unnerving the hon. gentleman most is the fact that the Labour Government have been able to obtain more money than he could get and are also courageous enough to expend it in directions which mean progress to the State.

Mr. George: But he could have got more money if he had wished to do so.

The PREMIER: No, the hon. member knows that is not so. The leader of the Opposition, when Treasurer, left it for his successor to get. I have since found the funds, and if we have expended more than they thought we would be able to do it only shows that it was false to say that we could not get the money.

Hon. J. Mitchell: What have you done with the money?

Mr. George: Wasted it.

The PREMIER: Yes, to the extent that the hon. member's salary is wasted. The leader of the Opposition could not

understand why I did not call Parliament together a fortnight earlier in order that there might be a proper discussion on the question of Supply, and he has said that I cannot legally spend the money after the 30th June without the authority of Parliament. That is an admission that he and previous Treasurers illegally expended public funds.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I do not see that.

The PREMIER: He asserts that we cannot legally expend public funds after the 30th June without the authority of Parliament. Will the hon. member tell the House when he as Treasurer met Parliament and obtained authority for expenditure before the 30th June? Not once. He has often gone as far as August and carried on without authorisation. Prior to the elections I drew attention to the fact that I would insist that every pound expended should be expended on the authority of Parliament. We have kept faith with that and have always got proper authority for expenditure.

Hon. Frank Wilson: In the case of the State steamers?

The PREMIER: We have thrashed that out long since. The hon. member has accused himself and confessed that he was illegally expending public funds in previous years.

Hon. Frank Wilson: No.

The PREMIER: The hon. member emphasised the point that one could not legally expend public funds after the 30th June without the authority of Parliament. He has since said that he did not emphasise it. Well, at all events he said it, and I am emphasising it now. In bringing down a Supply Bill before the Estimates, I am doing what all preceding Treasurers have done. We have never had the same opposition to the granting of Supply as we have had from the present leader of the Opposition with his impossible following, impossible from the point of view of preventing Supply. But of course he is not in earnest; he is merely seizing an opportunity of saying what he has been saying for years past. The hon. member said that during the last three years we have expended nearly double what was expended by the pre-

vious Administration in a similar period. Surely the hon. member will appreciate the fact that we in Western Australia are progressing. We are making progress, and he is hanging behind and, therefore, is not able to appreciate these things. If we were only to continue to expend the same amount of Revenue and Loan Fund we would soon be in financial chaos; but instead of facing financial chaos I am able to assert that by the wise expenditure of money during the last three years we have prevented financial chaos, not merely in the State Treasury, but in private treasuries as well.

Hon. J. Mitchell: By taking money from them.

The PREMIER: The hon. member ought to talk of taking money from the people. Let him go into that eastern agricultural district which he knows so well and ask the settlers who extracted money from them. It was the hon. member himself who, when Minister for Lands, increased the price of the land. Is it not a fact that the settlers refused to pay that increase? We have not extracted it from them, although we could legally do it under the law that he passed. The hon. member passed a law, but we have not put it into operation, because we recognised that it was an unfair tax on the community. The hon. member said we have built up a deficit of over £500,000.

Mr. George: That is what you own up to.

The PREMIER: Yes, and I am not ashamed of it either. But the hon. member, of course, was careful to take this opportunity, just before the close of the financial year, of drawing attention to the deficit, knowing that if he waited until after July the possibilities are that we will have less deficit than we anticipated at the beginning of the financial year. The possibilities are that at the close of the financial year our deficit will be less than we anticipated. The public knew very well that we would have a certain deficit at the close of the financial year, because we told them so, but we are going to have less than that amount. Let us compare the administration of the State by a Labour Government, governing a State which

everybody knows has had rather a trying period through no fault of any Government, through difficulties over which we have no control, with the Commonwealth Administration, a Liberal Administration, who bark so much, just as the leader of the Opposition, about the extravagance of Labour Administration; within the last 12 months they have built up a deficit greater than our own.

Hon. J. Mitchell: Paying Fisher's debts.

The PREMIER: They have built up in one year a deficit which is as large as that which we have built up in three years, and yet they talk about the extravagance of Labour administration. I have not borrowed in those three years sufficient money to build the works which the leader of the Opposition promised. This is an evidence that he was absolutely insincere when he made those promises. He never intended to give effect to those promises, or else to-day he would find something better to do than to complain of our Government having done something essential to the interests of the community. We have built railways that the hon. member committed us to. There are other works which the hon. member promised and which we have not yet undertaken. Is it not a fact that an ex-Treasurer of the State, Mr. James Gardiner, when standing as a Liberal member, drew attention to the fact that if the State had to find the money to keep faith with all the promises made by the then Treasurer, the present leader of the Opposition, it would mean an expenditure of 10 million pounds? And naturally everybody anticipated that certain unforeseen works would crop up which would require another five millions. Apparently, therefore, the hon. member committed the country to an expenditure of about 15 million pounds; and because we have undertaken to do a certain portion of the work he proclaims that we are extravagant. If we are he should be the last to complain, because he set us the example.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I mean extravagance in the cost of the works.

The PREMIER: We are to-day doing work as cheaply as ever.

Mr. George: Yes, as ever you have been able to do them.

The PREMIER: The hon. member on one occasion became Commissioner of Railways. He served only one term and his own party then kicked him out, showing how far they were satisfied that he was able to do things. He has had magnificent opportunities of showing his ability in many walks of life, and has not succeeded in any one. The leader of the Opposition, in answer to an interjection, asserted that some of the works undertaken might easily have been left alone. I take it as a declaration on his part of opposition to the works he mentioned. It is well the public should know that the hon. member objects to the construction of saw mills in the karri forests, and to the operation of State steamers in the North-West.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I object to your State steamers.

The PREMIER: Now we are getting near it. He does not object to State steamers, but merely to their being my State steamers. We recognise that he himself promised State steamers at the elections, and the burden of his complaint now is that they happen to be my steamers and not his; so after all his complaint is not very serious. Then he asserts that we should not have introduced the manufacture of State bricks. Well, it will be interesting to know that he is also opposed to the State brick yard.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I am, absolutely.

The PREMIER: And the member for Murray-Wellington will endorse his leader in that respect. The hon. member must of course support the policy of his leader; it is no good his announcing one policy and his leader announcing another, unless they are all leaders and there is no party—although I have an idea that such is the case. The leader of the Opposition also asserts that he is opposed to the establishment of implement works. He took an opportunity only recently of condemning the manager of these implement works at a Liberal rally of 13 down

at "bona fide" Claremont, but forgot how ever to reckon with his host on that occasion. He was asked a question, and a pretty pertinent one too, as to whether he was in a position to condemn the management of the implement works. He admitted that he had not even visited the works, and yet he has been talking a great deal about scrap machinery which he affirms has been introduced into the implement works. He has never seen the works. I admit that he is a better judge of what he does not see than he is of what he does see.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I was never asked such a question.

The PREMIER: I take it from the hon. member's declaration of opposition to the implement works that he proposes, if he ever gets an opportunity, that he will close down the works. I want hon. members who are sitting between the Liberal party and the Country party to note this fact in order that they may go back to the farmers and tell them that what we propose to give them in the shape of cheap machinery the hon. member proposes to take away in the interests of his friends, the machinery combine. He says we have no right to introduce the State ferry service for South Perth. Here again he is consistent. He is hopeful that some company or another will be started in Western Australia to open up the South side of the river and that such a company will be able to make big profits. We, however, considered that these were national services which should be under the control of the people themselves. We have carried this out not only to the satisfaction of the Government, but to the satisfaction of the people on the south side of the river. South Perth is quite ready to hear the hon. member's announcement in their centre upon that question. We can well imagine what kind of reception the leader of the Opposition would get there.

Mr. George interjected.

The PREMIER: The hon. member doubtless says what he does because I understand he is an aspirant for an agricultural seat at the next general elections,

and naturally he will want to show that he is up against any expenditure in the metropolitan area. The leader of the Opposition certainly took the opportunity recently of complaining that we were spending money in the metropolitan districts at the expense of the country districts. No doubt when he goes to South Perth he will drop every reference to the ferries and will get upon some subject altogether apart from that one. If there is one thing more than another about the leader of the Opposition, it is his consistency. How can anyone expect a party to follow him when they do not know where he is going? That is why we see so many leaders in the Opposition party who are anxious to form new parties of which they hope to have the sole or only leadership. The hon. member said something about the ferry boat which is being built by the present Government just now for the purpose of increasing the ferry facilities for South Perth. Evidently the hon. member has on this occasion been to have a look at the boat, but upon even that point I am extremely doubtful. He never refers to anything he has seen, and until he has heard something in St. George's-terrace, then only does he come here to unburden himself.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I inspected the steamer, the "Western Australia" in spite of Mr. Bath.

The PREMIER: I believe the hon. member crossed the top deck and subsequently joined in some festivities there.

Hon. Frank Wilson: I have seen this ferry boat also.

The PREMIER: Is this the only steamer service in the world where only one steamer shows a loss?

Hon. Frank Wilson: It is the only service in the world with such disgraceful management and in which there is a loss of so much money.

The PREMIER: The hon. member should not be so keen on condemning the management of the State service. Something may come up against him in the future and he should be more careful than he has been in the past about making condemnatory remarks upon the

management of the State service. What he needs is to be brought into contact with some of the officers concerned and the more he learns from them the more he will recognise that the service is well controlled and managed.

Mr. George: What about the money you want?

The PREMIER: I have already explained. This money is computed on the basis of the expenditure for last financial year and during the same period. I again say that it is in accordance with the Estimates of the past session. There are no new works of any magnitude that I know of that are likely to be commenced during the next few months, none anyhow about which Parliament has not been properly informed and about which Parliament has not recognised the necessity of their being undertaken. I want to again say that I recognise the fact that the leader of the Opposition must take every opportunity of saying something whether it is to the House, in Committee, or to the country, it does not matter which, and this is the earliest opportunity he has had of unburdening himself here on some matters which he previously threshed threadbare both in Parliament and out of it. But on none of these matters has he been able to throw any light, either upon the finances or upon the government of the State.

Mr. GEORGE: I have not much to say upon this question. I had hoped to have had from the Premier some sort of idea as to how this money was going to be expended, but he has not informed me.

The Premier: In accordance with the Estimates for the past session.

Mr. GEORGE: The Government cannot spend money upon items on which the money has already been expended. The estimates for the past year contained a number of items which have been finished with. I take it that the funds he is asking for are to cover every item of expenditure.

Mr. B. J. Stubbs interjected.

Mr. GEORGE: The hon. member should endeavour to be quiet for a minute or two. I gathered from the Premier's speech that it was not intended to lay any

Estimates before this Parliament. What I wanted to know about that matter is this. From the Minister for Works I have received, as other members have received, requests for different requirements that are needed in our districts. If there are no Estimates to be placed before the House this session then I and other members have been put to the trouble of getting together a number of items which are required in our districts, all to no purpose.

The Premier: In your case there is very little to fear in the way of trouble because that duty will devolve upon somebody else.

Mr. GEORGE: No doubt the Premier will find himself in agreeable company outside the precincts of the House. The Premier had—I am prevented by the rules of the House from saying the impudence—the effrontery to refer to my career as the Commissioner of Railways. In the course of a great number of years of employment in a private capacity I never had occasion to be sacked for falling asleep at my work, whereas I believe the hon. gentleman was sacked twice for being asleep at his work in Kalgoorlie when he should have been performing his duties.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Premier has not given us the information that we are entitled to expect. It must be remembered that the Estimates have not been brought down, and surely we are entitled to hear all that is to be heard on the Supply Bill. It is perfectly true that we must pass the Bill to-day because it is the last day of the financial year and the Premier desires to be in a position to pay his way. I should like to have an opportunity of protesting against the wasteful expenditure of loan funds in connection with public works. I want to protest against the expenditure of public funds on works which are not in the slightest sense reproductive. The Premier has talked about our expenditure. If one-third of the money which the Premier had raised had been spent on railways the construction of which had been authorised, they would have been completed by now. We spent nearly 14 millions in three years, and yet this country has never been really

prosperous for one day in the whole of that time. The condition of the country is not prosperous because we are spending our money on works that mean no additional employment. Our State steamers have not meant the employment of one additional man. The Government have their steamers and they employ just the same number of men. Not one additional man would be employed because of the million pounds which would be put into the Perth tramways, and no additional men would be employed in connection with our timber industry.

The Premier: That is incorrect, it is absolutely incorrect.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: It is not incorrect. I say that not a single individual more would be employed in these industries unless we except the last-named one. Now we are asked to vote funds to carry on these works. We are asked to vote funds without having had the matter properly considered or discussed. We raise the revenue magnificently and we expend it extravagantly. The Premier is a spendthrift of the worst order and nothing else. It is—borrow and spend, collect and spend. I venture to say that when the Premier is a little older he will see that if he had left more money in the hands of the people they would have spent it much more wisely and much more beneficially upon the works of the State. This additional million, if it had been spent by private people in the State, my friends in the back country, the farmers, would have provided work for all time. They would certainly have done more with the money. The Premier has gone for the farmer on every possible occasion. He has gone for every man to the fullest possible extent; everyone is made to pay. He boasts of the fact that he has increased the revenue of the State.

The Premier: What about the way that you increased the price of land?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: There is nothing to be proud of in the reckless extravagance of the Premier. Any fool can spend money. There is nothing easier than to spend money, but we want to get something for our money. The Premier, in his methods of expenditure, shows that he has very little knowledge, but a great

deal of confidence. He will presently find that a great deal of confidence is not so valuable as a little knowledge.

The Premier: A man is worse off with neither knowledge or confidence.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Premier's chief joy is to spend money. The Premier has stated that I had charged the settlers too high a price for their land. If he desired to help the people, let him reduce the price of land straight away.

The Premier: What did you raise it for?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Why do not you reduce it now?

The Premier: Why did you raise it?

Hon. J. MITCHELL: The Premier has been all-powerful for these three years, but the Government are still selling the land at the old rate. I will prove it in hundreds of cases if you like. The Premier, if he is sincere in his desire to help the people, will act now and not put the matter off until the day before the elections. It has rested with him for three years to afford the people that relief which he says they ought to have. I protest that the Premier is not capable of administering the finances of the country.

Hon. Frank Wilson: He has become hardened.

Hon. J. MITCHELL: Nothing at all seems to bother the Premier. The Premier's reply to the criticism of the leader of the Opposition ought to bring discredit upon him in every centre in Western Australia. The people should be asked whether they can afford to continue to have my friend Mr. Scaddan as Premier and Treasurer. If the Premier will be warned by me he will see that the expenditure of borrowed money is in the direction of reproductive works. If he does not do that he will find at no distant date that employment will be scarcer than it is to-day. Throughout the country the Minister for Lands can find the opportunity to spend money on reproductive works. The Premier has spoken about the farmers having in the past been compelled to pay additional prices, but has he himself not exploited them at every opportunity? Everything possible has been done to damn the agricultural industry.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Supply Bill introduced, etcetera.

Resolution in Committee of Ways and Means having been passed, the Supply Bill was brought in providing for the expenditure of £676,545 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £603,105 from General Loan Fund, and £100,000 from Loan Suspense Account.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

First Day.

Mr. McLEOD (Kalgoorlie): I rise to move the adoption of the Address-in-reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech, and in doing so I take the opportunity of saying a few words in commendation of many of the items which I find are outlined in that Speech. I shall also take the opportunity of making a few remarks on other matters which are not therein included. First of all, let me say that I think we all appreciate the fact that the Agent General saw fit to revisit the State after entering on his second term of office. It must be apparent to everyone that it is necessary for a gentleman occupying such a high position to keep as closely as possible in touch with the progress of affairs in this State. It is necessary for that purpose, I think, that should the term be a lengthened one, from time to time the gentleman holding the position should revisit the State, so as to personally acquaint himself with what is being done. We can therefore appreciate the fact that the Agent General saw fit to do that, and I suppose we may at least be permitted to express the hope that he will profit materially from the recent visit which he paid to Western Australia. I desire to congratulate the Government on the excellence of the appointments to the judicial bench. It is apparent to all that it would be difficult in this State, or even outside for that matter, to improve on the gentleman whom

the Government saw fit to appoint to the position of Chief Justice. The occupant of the position has a record behind him as a judge of the Supreme Court which is second to none, and in Mr. Justice Northmore we have a man who has proved himself in the legal profession in this State, and who has the additional qualification, which has not always been taken into consideration in making these appointments, of having been a citizen of the State. The Government are to be complimented on the fact that they saw fit to appoint a citizen of this country to a high office of that description. I desire also to say that I appreciate very highly the remarks that are in His Excellency's Speech with reference to the transference of the State banking accounts to the Commonwealth Bank. In my opinion these profitable accounts have been in the hands of private banking institutions for too long a period. They certainly have been a profitable affair so far as the private banks are concerned. If these profits continue, and I suppose they will, the people of Australia will receive the benefit of them, instead of a few shareholders interested in the private banks who controlled the accounts previously. The conditions under which the transfer has been effected will be at least as good as those which existed previously, and if the profits accruing are as great, they will go into the public revenue of Australia. If, as we assume, the conditions are considerably better than previously, then this State, in addition to the whole of Australia, will benefit materially. Another important matter which has been mentioned, and one which concerns me, as a representative of a gold mining constituency, rather closely, is the increase which has taken place during the last year or two in the gold production of the State. As one who has had some considerable personal experience of the administration of the Department of Mines, I think that the present Minister for Mines, or his administration, is very largely responsible for the increases which have been recorded. Material improvements were effected in the public battery system shortly after he assumed office.

and very material assistance has been rendered in the shape of water supplies. I might specially mention those of Ora Banda and Randalls, but Ora Banda more particularly, a centre of great promise, which was hung up for many years because previous Administrations could not see fit, or had not sufficient confidence to expend the necessary money to give it a water supply. Such assistance and the Minister's enterprise in other directions have led to this gratifying increase in the gold production. We have also the pleasing knowledge that the dividends paid during last year showed a considerable improvement, and this and the fact that the dividends are increasing over what they have been in recent years go a long way to discount the opinions of those pessimists, and I believe some of them have been prominent in this Chamber, regarding the future of the mining industry. Some of them are prone continually to deery the possibilities of our goldfields, and to say that they are worn out and that they have been worked until there is nothing but a few odds and ends to be gathered up. It must be apparent that increases such as have taken place both in production and in the profits discount any criticism of this sort. I hope that the Minister will go further with his policy so far as assisting the industry, or those who are endeavouring to expand it, is concerned, and I hope that before long, in addition to State batteries he will realise the wisdom of undertaking the erection of a sulphide plant in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder belt. From my personal knowledge I am satisfied that it will not be difficult for a mill of this description to be kept amply and continuously employed in this centre, and it would be of great advantage to the district and would add to the production of the industry in that belt. Before I leave the question of gold mining, I desire to refer to another side, which, as those who are acquainted with the lives of the miners know, is nothing like so pleasing as that to which I have just referred. We have to face the position that, despite the fact that this industry is much the largest in the State, despite the fact

that it produces a vast amount of revenue, and pays very large dividends bordering on a million pounds for the year, the men employed in it, in many instances, and particularly in the big mines, are working under conditions which are absolutely inhuman, to say the least of them. The Minister for Mines and his staff—I speak with personal knowledge in this regard—have done all they possibly could do under the defective Mines Regulation Act to remedy this state of affairs. Unfortunately, the Act which the Minister has been forced to administer seems to have been drafted solely with the object of allowing it to be broken easily and preventing punishment from being brought home to those who refuse to comply with its conditions. It is to be regretted that the session will not last sufficiently long to permit of the consideration of an amending measure, but it will be necessary, in the very near future, to effect some improvements in this direction. I have had a good deal of experience of the industry, and during the last two or three years have been in a better position than any other citizen of the State to appreciate its effect on the lives of the miners. As secretary of the largest union of miners in Western Australia, this matter has been brought home to me very clearly and distinctly. We are faced with the position that, although this industry is prospering in every direction, the men employed are working under conditions which mean that a very short term of employment in the mines, at the outside 10 years continuous employment, means that for ever afterwards they will not be of any use. If they are not mercifully hurried out of the world, as a result of a fall of ground, they will be left to die on the industrial scrap heap, while their lungs are slowly eaten away by the dust they have inhaled during their occupation in the mines. I view with considerable favour the Government's proposal to deal with the question of providing for the miners and the dependants of miners who are incapacitated through following this industry. This is a matter which should have been taken in hand many years ago. The miners in this State dur-

ing the last seven or eight years, or longer, have pointed out time after time that the vast majority of them were condemned to an early death, that the average age of death among miners, as a result of all kind of complaints and diseases, was not more than 40 years, and as time went on and the mines became deeper, the conditions of employment became worse and a greater number of men were being laid aside. Despite all these protests, it was not until the present Government took the matter in hand that anything was done to try to alleviate their condition. I am sorry that when the Royal Commission in connection with the ventilation and sanitation of mines reported some 10 years ago, the Government of the day did not see fit to give effect to their recommendations. Had they done so, the burden which the present Government now have to carry, and will have to face in the future, would have been lighter. Unfortunately for the miners, the Government who were saddled with the responsibility of giving effect to the recommendations did not see fit to do so, and the result has been that we have the Mines Regulation Act on the statute-book, presumably for the prevention of unnecessary danger, and for the protection of miners, but really a measure which is practically useless. Another Commission subsequently sat to investigate the question of miners' phthisis, and to suggest means for providing for those workers who were incapacitated, or for their dependants in the event of death. Had that Commission adopted the proposal made by the workers' representatives, and recommended the Government of the day to make provision in the Workers' Compensation Act for those who were incapacitated as a result of these diseases, there is little doubt that Parliament would have agreed to it. The fact that the proposal passed this Chamber and was defeated in another place by, I believe, only one vote, is sufficient to support my statement, especially as the whole of the argument against it was that the Royal Commission had failed to endorse it. The miners' proposal was to saddle this prosperous industry, which was pay-

ing huge dividends, with the burden of paying for the disease which it created, but Parliament rejected the proposal for the reason I have mentioned and now the present Government have to face the position. While assertions are being made regarding an accumulating deficit, the Government are confronted with the responsibility of providing for these unfortunate individuals who have been incapacitated in this calling, while those who should have borne the responsibility have been allowed to escape the payment of two-thirds of that amount. I understand that the proposal is that the miners, the mine owners and the Government will contribute to this fund. In my opinion the mining industry should have borne this burden without making any demand on either the State or the miners. Unfortunately this cannot be done, and the Government have taken the next best step by proposing to inaugurate a fund to which the mine owners will contribute at least something, and in view of the benefits derived from the industry by the people of the State in other directions, there might be some justification for asking them to contribute their quota to the fund. It is unfortunate that, where men are following a calling which inevitably leads to incapacitation, they should be called upon to provide against the day when they cannot continue their work, whilst the mines in which they are working are paying huge and handsome dividends. However, we are compelled to face this position and I can only commend the Government for having realised what lies in the future and for having had the courage to take in hand a problem which should have been grappled with 10 years ago, and which, if tackled then, would not have been so appalling as it is to-day. I desire to refer to some of the State enterprises upon which the Government have embarked. I cordially support the establishment of all these enterprises and I venture to predict that it will not be many years before the most prominent of the Government's critics of to-day will consider that the State was fortunate in having had a Government

who were prepared to engage in these enterprises.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. E. B. Johnston: They will say that they started them.

Mr. McLEOD: Possibly so, and possibly the various enterprises which to-day are so much criticised will be returning huge profits to the exchequer of the State and proving beneficial to the community, and those who are suffering from exploitation by trusts and combines will be pleased to get out of the wet and seek the protection of the enterprises under the supervision of the Government. Let me say that so far as saw mills are concerned, it has been suggested that they will not be successful, or that they are not going to be of advantage to the State. I desire to express my opinion that had this State not been grossly betrayed in another sphere by those who were in a position to see that the interests of Western Australia were properly looked after, by those, I might say, who were responsible for keeping the Federal Government in office during the last 12 months, if the members from this State who were responsible for that action had been seized with the importance of this calling so far as the State is concerned, and had been prepared to place the interests of the State before those of their own party, as we had a right to expect of them when a matter of this magnitude was at stake, there is not the slightest doubt that even to-day the saw mills instituted by the Government of this State would be proving a handsome success. Despite the betrayal, despite the fact that the success of the enterprise may have been delayed a little by reason of that betrayal, it is my opinion that at no distant date we are going to see the State saw mills returning a handsome profit to the people who have invested in them, and prove a material advantage to the community.

Mr. George: You will have to alter the management.

Mr. McLEOD: We will not necessarily have to alter the management, either. So

far as I can see, and am in a position to judge—I may say that I have no personal knowledge of the matter, not having yet been able to make a personal investigation—the management of the State saw mills will compare favourably with the management of those conducted by private enterprises in any part of Western Australia. There is another matter that has been the subject of a considerable amount of criticism, and that is the fact that the Government saw fit to embark in State brick works. Here again, I think we shall not go far before we shall find that those who criticise will be very glad indeed to appreciate. We know that the price that has been charged to the Government for bricks is something like £3 per thousand, and it is estimated that the works will turn out bricks at a cost of 25s. per thousand; and not only that, but that their output will be at least 180,000 bricks a week. Therefore it does not require a very fertile imagination to see that there is a material benefit, so far as the State is concerned, from Government enterprise in that direction. We have there at least a clear gain—if the Government themselves use the bricks, and I suppose they intend to use a considerable proportion, if not the whole, of them—a clear gain of a quarter of a million pounds per week in the output of these brick works, if this estimate of 25s. per thousand can be maintained. From our experience in this respect I venture to say that the estimate of what the bricks are going to cost per thousand will prove considerably higher than the actual result, because time and again we have it on record that the output of these various classes of undertakings is produced at considerably less cost than was originally estimated by those responsible. The reason of this is that the estimator is cautious of his own reputation, and does not like afterwards to be faced with an estimate that so much work could be done for a pound while it cost 25s. He is, therefore, likely to estimate rather that so much work could be done for 25s. in the hope that it will be done for a pound; and with the State enterprises it

usually has been the case that 25s. has been estimated and the actual cost has been 20s.

Mr. George: How much a week did you say we were going to make out of the brick works?

Mr. McLEOD: We will make at least a quarter of a million a week on an output of 180,000 bricks.

Mr. George: At that rate we will soon wipe out the deficit.

Mr. McLEOD: I have hopes, and pretty confident hopes, that before the present Government leave the Treasury benches the deficit will be wiped out, and a very handsome surplus be found in its place.

Opposition Member: You are looking a long way ahead.

Mr. McLEOD: It is not necessarily a long way ahead. True, it may be looking a long way ahead to look for the time when the present Government leave the Treasury benches, but not a long way ahead to the time when the present deficit will be turned into something else.

Hon. Frank Wilson: How do you calculate that quarter of a million?

Mr. McLEOD: I wish also to say just a word or two in connection with the State implement works, and I venture to predict here also that when these works are properly under way they will be such a standing credit to the Government responsible for their initiation that they will probably go a great deal further than any possible argument could go, to prove not only that the Government is to be credited with an achievement in instituting them, but also that the farmers of this State have been unnecessarily and unduly exploited by machinery agents and machinery merchants for many years past. I may refer to some events that transpired just recently, when the manager of the State implement works was prepared to back his opinion with an offer to donate £50 to a charity if that opinion proved to be wrong. I think the leader of the Opposition was one who had the temerity to criticise the manager's estimate. I think we are at least justified in standing by that estimate when the

manager himself is prepared to risk £50 on its correctness. His estimate of this year's working is that he will make a profit of £5,400; and, in addition to that, the farmers of this State will have received implements at from 20 per cent. to 40 per cent. less than they have hitherto been charged. It will not require a very large distribution of implements among the farming industry of this State to convince the farmers that their true friends are on the Treasury benches at the present time, and that if the farmers desire not to continue to be at the behest of any exploiter coming along they must see that those friends who did them a good turn with machinery will remain in power to do them many another good turn. Still another point on which a good deal of criticism has been levelled at the Government is one which, when we come to analyse it, will perhaps show a great deal more clearly than any other the justice of what the Government have been doing. Most of the enterprises which the Government undertook necessitated working up. They were new enterprises, new businesses. The Government had to find their feet in connection with these, and had to work the business up. However, there was one enterprise which the Government saw fit to buy which was already worked up. I refer to the Perth tramways. The Government saw fit to purchase these tramways at a cost of £475,000. Since then they have purchased other tramways, such as the Victoria Park and Nedlands, and the cost up to date for the purchase of tramways amounts to £489,056. Now just let us for a moment make an analysis of what has transpired since those trams were taken over. I will make the comparison for the eleven months ended 31st May of this year, and the eleven months ended 31st May of last year. For the term ended on the 31st May, 1913, the earnings of the trams were £98,054. For the term ended 31st May, 1914, the earnings of the trams were £107,495, being an increase of £9,441. The mileages for the same period are: 1,324,068 miles in 1913, and 1,441,168 miles in 1914, being

an increase of 117,100 miles. I desire to emphasise that increase because it goes to show that even in the short time the Government have had this concern under control they have effected very material improvement so far as the service to the public is concerned. They have given a better service, and I may say incidentally also that the returns are just a trifle, if only a trifle, better per car mile under the Government than they were previously. The passenger traffic also will help us to gauge just how much better the present arrangements are than those existing previously. In 1913 to the time I mentioned before, namely, 31st May, there were 8,964,368 passengers carried on the trams in Perth. For the same period ended this year there were 9,761,809 people patronised those trams, being an increase of 797,441.

Member: Increase of population.

Mr. McLEOD: As my friend interjects, that will go on as population increases; but there has not been any very material increase in the city population between one term and the other, and the increase is mainly attributable to the Government giving a better service than was given previously. We come now to another aspect of this matter, and of course I realise that perhaps the figures I am now about to quote may excite the same resentment as did some of the figures published by the Minister for Mines recently. Various critics will be found to suggest that there is something further behind the figures, and that the figures do not contain the whole story. However, I think that the more the critics investigate the figures in connection with the business of the Perth tramways, the more convinced they will be that what I am now about to say is correct. The operating costs for 1913 were £48,413. The operating costs for 1914 were £57,313. In addition to that there was an expenditure on belated repairs, on repairs that had been neglected by the previous owners, that should have been carried out in previous years, of £9,166, making a total expenditure to the 31st May, 1914, of £66,479; considerably more, of course, than was spent in the previous year, but

we have to take into account the 117,000 odd extra miles that were run and also the fact that the employees were working under slightly better conditions during the latter period. There is more than justification for that increased expenditure when allowance is made for the amount, not properly chargeable to the year, for belated repairs. Now we have this position, that with an income of £107,495 and an expenditure of £86,479, we have a credit balance of £41,016. Let us make the allowance—and I think it is a liberal allowance—of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount invested for interest and sinking fund, and we then have a balance of £20,516 which is clear profit to the State as a result of the Government having embarked on the enterprise of working the Perth tramways. This alone will go to show that where the business is there, where it is not a new business requiring to be built up, the Government is capable of conducting it with greater advantage to the general public than previously was the case. It goes also to show that whilst the profit previously was going out of Western Australia into the pockets of shareholders in other countries, it is now going into Consolidated Revenue, and will be used to relieve the burdens that have been existing in the past in other directions, and will probably, I hope, be available for the purpose of enabling the Government to embark in further enterprises of this description with equal benefit to the people of the State.

Mr. ELLIOTT: What about the interest on the loan?

Mr. McLEOD: I have allowed $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The loan expenditure in this connection amounts to £489,000.

Mr. ELLIOTT: What about depreciation?

Mr. McLEOD: The depreciation will be more than covered by the balance left. As a matter of fact, there is a considerable charge for the ordinary depreciation included in repairs which have been carried out during the year; and the increased facilities will more than compensate for any other contingency that is likely to arise. Now, I want also to express my appreciation of the fact that

the Government are continuing their vigorous policy of railway building, and, further, that they are embarking on a decentralisation policy so far as our harbours are concerned. It is a matter for regret, I think, from many points of view, that a policy of this description, giving proper harbour facilities to every section of our State, has not been in existence many years previously. Further than that, I want to say that I am very pleased indeed to see it is now intended to again introduce the Esperance railway proposal. I trust that that Bill on this occasion will be received in another place with a great deal more favour than has been its fate hitherto. If any railway in this State is worthy of being constructed, it is the Esperance railway. Settlers have been down there for many years existing on the promise of the construction of the line for a considerable time, and the work that they have been engaged on has certainly justified the building of it. I hope that when the line has been carried the short distance north of Esperance, it will not be long before it is continued to Norseman, and that the people of the goldfields will no longer be denied that access to the southern coast which should be theirs. Then it will be no longer necessary for them to travel the extra distance in order to reach the sea coast. They will have a port of their own within easy range, and a good climate to spend the summer months in. The action of the Government, so far as this railway is concerned, is to be commended, and I hope that the persistency which they have displayed over the matter will have its reward, and that before this Parliament closes the Bill for the construction of this line, which has failed to pass so often, will become law. There is another matter to which I desire to refer, and I think it is unique so far as any Parliament in the world is concerned, namely, the system of free education to which reference has been made in the Governor's Speech. So far as I am aware, there is not another Government in existence that can say that it has been responsible for a free education policy right from the kindergarten to the University. I am convinced it is an action

which will lead the way for many other Parliaments in this continent and in other parts to follow, and it will stand for all time as a monument of the statesmanship and foresight of the Seaddan Government that they saw fit, immediately they had the opportunity of doing so, to carry into effect proposals which they had espoused for many years previously, namely, to make education free in reality as well as in name, and free also in the sense that the sons of the poorest would be placed on an equality with the sons of the richest so far as higher education is concerned. It is pleasing to know that this alteration has been responsible for a material increase in the number of students attending the secondary and higher educational institutions, and the School of Mines as well. This matter, in itself, would be more than sufficient to justify the existence of any Government if it were necessary for that Government to pin their faith to a single proposal carried out by them. Before I conclude, I desire briefly to express my appreciation of the fact that the programme as outlined in His Excellency's Speech contains proposals to effectively deal with the biggest problems facing Western Australia. In the forefront, we have the proposal for Constitutional reform. In this matter, we have the experience of the past to guide us, and I think we are justified in assuming that the Government are sufficiently alive to the position to enable them to amend the Constitution so that the people of Western Australia may be the real rulers of the country. I trust that the Government will be prepared to face this proposal as it inevitably must be faced, fully determined to see it carried into effect. It would be impossible to continue the state of affairs which has existed during the past two or three years. The Government have a big majority behind them, and they enjoy the confidence of a vast majority of the people, and yet we see them unable to give effect to this policy by reason of the opposition of another Chamber, representing bricks and mortar and broad acres, preventing the programme from being carried into effect. I will also deal briefly with the proposal to introduce the meas-

ure to provide for the Initiative and Referendum. Anyone who claims to be democratic will agree that this proposal is probably one of the most advanced to be placed before Parliament.

Mr. George: What about the recall?

Mr. McLEOD: If the recall were in existence, the hon. member might find that his constituents would be a considerable nuisance to him. The members on this side of the House would have nothing to fear from it. I hope also that this measure will succeed in passing this and the other Chamber as well, and that the Government of this country will, as a result of these two measures passing, be placed in the hands of the people of the State, in the hands of those who are saddled with the burden of providing the revenue and carrying on the affairs of the State, the people who should be given an effective voice. I do not desire to go on at any further length. I think I have said sufficient to show that there is every justification for the matters to which I have referred, and which are mentioned in the Governor's Speech. The other matters to which I have not alluded, like many of those I have touched upon, more than justify themselves. I have much pleasure in moving the following Address-in-reply to His Excellency's Speech—

May it please Your Excellency—We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. TURVEY (Swan): In seconding the motion which has been moved by the latest addition to the ranks of the Labour party, I desire to congratulate that hon. member on the lucid and eloquent manner in which he carried out the task entrusted to him. It was only fitting, representing as he does the important gold-mining constituency of Kalgoorlie, that he should devote a considerable portion of his remarks to the mining industry. When we speak of our primary industries, we must not forget that they have received an im-

petus from the mining industry. The member for Murray shakes his head, as much as to doubt the assertion. I regret that on other occasions members sitting on the Opposition benches, some of whom owe very much indeed, or in fact their all, to the mining industry, have been most pessimistic in their utterances regarding the great gold-mining industry. It is indeed pleasing to learn from the Governor's Speech that the renewal of activity on the older goldfields, such as the Murchison and Yilgarn, has been responsible for an increased output; in fact, I understand that so far as Yilgarn is concerned the output to-day is considerably greater than it has been for many years past. Nothing further is required to show the value of the splendid assistance which has been given the industry and to prospectors by the Government in power. The increased output is a tribute to the sympathetic administration of the present Minister for Mines, Mr Collier, and the able staff in the Mines Department. While touching on the pessimistic utterances of hon. members opposite, I cannot forget the remarks of the member for Pingelly (Mr. Harper) made last session in regard to this industry. The hon. member then suggested that if we wanted to save the mining industry, it was essential that we should import kaffirs to work it; in fact, he went so far as to say that the alien was a better worker than the Britisher. A worthy patriot indeed is the hon. member. While speaking of the goldfields, and particularly Yilgarn, I may allude to the controversy which has recently taken place in connection with the water supply. Indeed only to-day when the Premier was speaking, an interjection was made by the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) to this effect, "What about the water charges?" I desire to say a few words in connection with the water charges before I finish with the Yilgarn goldfields. I paid a visit to the eastern agricultural area some time ago, and there I found the farmers were saying they were being charged an excessive price for water, and that the present Government were spoon-feeding the mining industry, so far as the water supplies were concerned, at the cost

of the agricultural industry. Subsequently I proceeded to the Yilgarn goldfield, and I discovered there that the mining people were condemning the Government because they were spoon-feeding the agriculturists so far as the water supplies were concerned, at the expense of the mining industry, and, in order to prove their case, these men on the goldfields produced the latest report of the goldfields water supply, a perusal of which revealed the fact that so far as the agricultural reticulation extensions were concerned, 276 miles of piping had been laid at a capital cost of £60,000, or £225 per mile. The working expenses on the 276 miles of piping were estimated at about £22, and the receipts were £18, showing a loss of about £4 per mile. And not showing, of course, one penny being repaid, so far as the initial capital cost of £60,000 was concerned. On the other hand, one extension of 22 miles, in the Yilgarn district, at a capital cost of £4,049, returned to the department in one year £7,672. It more than paid the whole of the capital cost of the scheme in one year, or returned a sum of no less than £348 per mile, whilst the pipe laid in the agricultural areas showed a loss of £4 or £5 per mile. I know some hon. members will say the agricultural industry is there forever, and they will tell us that the bottom is dropping out of the mining industry. The fact that the Yilgarn field shows to-day an output almost equal to Coolgardie in its boom days proves that mining will go a long way yet before arriving at the stage suggested by the hon. member for Pingelly (Mr. Harper). In the wheat belt the water scheme is showing a loss of £4 or £5 a mile, while on the mining pipe track I referred to the return is a most profitable one. The goldfields contribute about three-fourths of the revenue received by the department, and therefore the people in the mining areas have justification in asking that they might be given a water supply at a cheaper rate, in order that some of the low-grade propositions might be treated. I do not suggest that the farming industry should be charged an excessive rate, but I mentioned those fig-

ures to prove that there is nothing in the parrot cry which we hear from some hon. members to the effect that our farmers are being charged exorbitant rates for water. The losses are made in the agricultural belt, and I would advise the member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell), and others who are continually making these accusations against the Government, to study the latest report issued by the Goldfields Water Supply Department. Whilst on this question it is as well that the people of the State should know what the Government have had to face in connection with the goldfields water supply. As hon. members are aware, a great deal of corrosion has taken place in the 30-in. main, and it was essential that some miles of that piping should be taken up and renewed. New pipes were laid down between Nos. 1 and 2 pumping stations, and the corrosion was so bad in places that the Government were faced with the position of constructing a 10-million gallon reservoir at Kalgoorlie at a cost of £40,000. Not only have they thus safeguarded the supply of the goldfields, but they have constructed another 10-million gallon reservoir at Mount Eliza, at a cost of something like £35,000, in order to give the metropolitan area an assured supply. Then, in the northern suburbs, at Mount Hawthorn, another reservoir is in course of construction and will soon be completed. So the Government have taken every precaution to ensure to the agricultural areas and the goldfields that they shall have a definite supply of water. Let me here say, too, that I understand the Government have recently put down bores in the Mundaring Weir, with a view to testing the wall to see if it be possible to add a few more feet to its height, so as to impound a greater quantity of water and then supply the metropolitan area. I would urge upon Ministers to give the matter the most serious consideration. I do not like the idea of putting all the eggs in one basket, so to speak. Already we have the goldfields dependent on Mundaring. Year after year they are becoming more and more dependent on it, while year after year our agricultural areas, particularly those east of Northam, also are becoming more and more dependent

upon that supply. If we tap that supply for the metropolitan area we will have, in addition to the goldfields and the agricultural districts, the metropolitan area also becoming dependent on that one source. I think we have ample proof that walls in other parts of the world, supposed to be as good as that at Mundaring, have broken, with disastrous results. I hope no such disaster will ever overtake the wall at Mundaring, but, should it do so, what a calamity it would be if we had the metropolitan area, the agricultural districts, and the goldfields district all dependent on that one water supply. I have always advocated the establishment of another supply in the Canning River. By the construction of a dam there a bigger body of water could be impounded than is impounded in the Helena River to-day, and there is this advantage, that the two schemes could become interdependent, that is to say, with one additional pumping station, water could be pumped from the Canning to the Mundaring scheme, and thus, if any mishap should overtake the Mundaring wall, the goldfields and the agricultural areas could be temporarily supplied from the Canning, and *vice versa*, if disaster should overtake the Canning scheme, the metropolitan people could then draw temporarily from the Mundaring reservoir. I hope the Government will give that scheme consideration and hesitate before adding to the Mundaring wall. I desire to congratulate the Government on having faced the question of the amalgamation of the Water Supply Departments. Since the offices have been amalgamated there has been greater concentration on the part of the officers; apart altogether from any saving in actual cash by way of salaries and rent, there has been greater concentration of effort on the part of the officers, with results beneficial to the people of the State. We have heard to-day the repeated parrot cries to which we have been listening ever since the Labour Government came into office, namely that they have done nothing for the farmers. Questions were asked to-day as to what was going to be done with the money represented by the Supply Bill. The member for Northam (Hon. J. Mitchell) deplores the fact that no-

thing is being done for the farmers. I want to say, not only has the Government been assisting them in the matter of water supplies, but also they have been assisting the farmers considerably more than previous Governments through the Agricultural Bank. It was left to the Labour Government to increase the capital of the Agricultural Bank and also to increase the amount that could be advanced to settlers. Prior to the Labour Government coming into power, or in 1910-11, the sum of £283,000 was advanced to farmers through the Agricultural Bank and £243,000 was returned by way of repayments, leaving only £40,000 additional capital to be found. But on top of that came a bad season and in 1911-12 a bigger sum, nearly double, or £405,000, was advanced through the Bank, but only £102,000 was returned in repayments. This was due to the sympathetic administration of the present Minister for Lands and his officers. Instead of pressing the farmers for their repayments, and their interest and rents, only £102,000 was returned, leaving the Labour Government in its first year to find, not £40,000 additional capital, but no less than £303,000. In the following year there was a larger sum still to be found, but I am glad to say that the better season following has improved the position. However, the position to-day is that during the last two years of Liberal Administration the sum advanced to farmers through the Agricultural Bank was £535,556, while during the time the Labour Government has been in power, a little over two years, £1,507,147 has been advanced to the settlers through the Agricultural Bank, or a little over twice as much as was advanced during the two years referred to. Not only have the Government assisted the farmers in this direction by refraining from pressing them for repayments and interest, but they have assisted in other ways, and it must be patent to every hon. member, including the member for Northam, who continually wants to know what is going to be done for the farmers, that the Government have advanced seed wheat, supplied the farmers with manures, and have even arranged for stores accounts in many districts. In regard to

the reclassification of land, it will be remembered that when the member for Northam was Minister for Lands he raised the price of land. It was not a fair proposition to classify our lands on the boom seasons that then existed. The classification should have been made on the fair average season. I am glad to know that it was left to a Labour Minister to appoint the reclassification board to inquire into this matter, and I am sure that when their recommendation comes before the Government, it will be that a classification should be made on a fair average season and not on the best of seasons. For years past we have heard that it was necessary that the farmers should have assistance in the way of bulk handling of grain. Again credit is due to the Labour Government for having appointed a board to go into this matter, and I believe that board has recommended that the system be introduced. This is thanks to the Labour Government. I mention this in passing in order that the member for Pingelly (Mr. Harper) may not overlook the fact that this Government have done more to assist the farmers than have any previous Governments.

Mr. Harper: By increasing taxation.

Mr. TURVEY: For what purpose did the Labour Government erect those magnificent works at Rocky Bay, if not to assist the farmers, who have been sending £250,000 a year out of the State for agricultural implements which could be manufactured, and which are being manufactured at Rocky Bay? Those workshops are turning out a good article at about 25 or 30 per cent. less than that which the farmers previously had to pay for it. Further, I am pleased to know that the men engaged at Rocky Bay are working under good conditions, which is an important factor. Then again the Government have seriously taken up the matter of encouraging agricultural education. An agricultural farm school has been established at Narrogin and others will be established in various centres, so that to-day, so far as agricultural education is concerned, our young men are placed on an equal footing with those residing in the Eastern States. In connection with agricultural railways, I have yet to learn

that any hon. member on the Government side of the House has ever raised his voice or voted against a genuine proposition of this kind, and I have yet to learn that hon. members of the Opposition who can see so much harm in State enterprises have had very much to say against State-built agricultural railways. Members of the Opposition do not demand that State agricultural railways should pay from their inception, or that they shall be established as profit-making concerns within three years.

Mr. Underwood: The hon. member for Geraldton would not say that.

The Minister for Mines: Some of these railways are not paying after seven years.

Mr. TURVEY: But let the State dare go to the assistance of the North-West people who cannot be afforded railway facilities and hon. members want to know at once whether it is a paying proposition.

Mr. Underwood interjected.

Mr. TURVEY: There is one hon. member opposite who last session rose in his place once a week, I think, to ask that the balance-sheet regarding the State steamship service be produced. Again, so far as the agricultural industry is concerned the Government set about resuming land at West Perth in order to build markets to benefit the producer. It was undoubtedly for the benefit of the producer that these resumptions took place, and I understand that the whole of the market proposition is at present under consideration with a view to its early erection. If these things are not for the benefit of the primary producer of Western Australia I would like hon. members to point out whom they are to benefit. I desire to pay tribute to the good work which is being done by Mr. Sutton, the Commissioner for the Wheat Belt.

Mr. Harper: He was not appointed by the Labour Government.

Mr. TURVEY: I care not by whom he was appointed. He is an able man and and it is pleasing to be able to pay tribute to his good work. I trust that he may long continue with the staff he has at present to carry out the good work he has taken in hand. I am pleased that

he, under the policy of the Minister for Lands and his colleagues, has undertaken to supply the farmers with pure seed wheat.

Mr. Broun: It is pure too!

Mr. TURVEY: Our State farms ought to be capable of doing much in this direction.

Mr. Broun: You ought to try it.

Mr. TURVEY: And I believe Mr. Sutton has already revolutionised the State farms in this direction.

The Minister for Lands: Anything of Sutton's is absolutely pure.

Mr. Broun: No.

Mr. TURVEY: The hon. member for Beverley knows quite well that the Minister is correct.

Mr. Broun: No, I do not.

Mr. TURVEY: Hon. members opposite—or some of them—are at all times ready to point out that the same progress is not being made in the selection of land at present as was made one or two years ago. I am glad that the Minister for Lands has taken the stand he has in regard to this matter, and that he views his land policy, not in the light of the acreage selected, but of the acreage put to good use and development, and so long as he can show an increase in the area of land ringbarked, cultivated, and developed generally, this is all that is required. In fact, the action of the Government in withdrawing from selection some of the subdivisions remote from a railway and some not likely to be served for many years, has had the effect of restricting selection, but it has not had the effect of stopping the development of selected areas, and it is gratifying to know that there has been a considerable increase in this direction.

The Minister for Lands: A record increase.

Mr. Harper: To whom do you attribute that?

Mr. Munsie: To the administration of the present Government.

Mr. TURVEY: The very fact that to-day there is under cultivation $1\frac{1}{4}$ million acres compared with a quarter of a million acres ten years ago, and the fact that we are exporting wheat, is sufficient proof

of the soundness of the Minister's policy. Ten years ago Western Australia had to import wheat in order to make up the shortage in consumption over production. This year it is estimated that our export of wheat will amount to about nine million bushels. It is gratifying also to know that there has been a considerable increase in the quantity of flour exported. This is a matter of considerable interest to the farmers and particularly to the people who are engaged in the dairying industry and in pig raising, because it means that the offal from the mills is available and that the prices of bran and pollard are brought down to the level of those ruling in the Eastern States, a condition of affairs previously unknown in Western Australia. The Government have not confined their energies solely to the wheat belt, but have also been very active in assisting the dairying industry, and those who are engaged in it should appreciate the whole-souled enthusiasm of Mr. Connor, the Commissioner for the South-West. After Mr. Connor has spent a few years in the good work he is doing in the South-West, much will have been accomplished to successfully establish in Western Australia the dairying industry which we so much require. Much has been said by hon. members in this House and on the public platform to the effect that we are sending out of this State something like £2,500 a day for dairy products which could be produced in Western Australia, but when the Government took the earliest opportunity to check this outgoing and retain the money in the State, members of the Opposition and their friends in another place did their level best to damn the proposition. I intend to deal with this particular matter later on. Not only has the dairying industry been assisted by the Labour Government, but the fruit industry also has received very great help from them. Through the efforts of the expert staff connected with the Department of Agriculture the high prices on the London and Continental markets for our fruits have been maintained. This is to a large extent due to the good work done by the

growers in the first place, and also to the careful supervision of the packing and marketing of the fruit; but some credit is also due to the experts connected with the department. Last year about 140,000 cases were exported from this State. So far as the local distribution of fruit is concerned I would welcome the establishment of markets at West Perth.

Mr. Harper: The liberals gave the fruit industry a good start.

Mr. TURVEY: I recognise the value of these markets, particularly to the fruit growing industry. I am glad to learn that the Government have established a State orchard, and I think there is ample scope for them to start a State nursery. A large number of young trees are being brought into this State. A considerable area of land is being planted every year. At the present time there are 22,164 acres of land under orchards and vines. This area is being added to year by year. Young trees are being brought in from the other States, and I believe that the people engaged in the fruit growing industry would be pleased if the Government established a State nursery, because it would be possible to supply them with trees guaranteed to be true to name. We have many reputable nurserymen in this State, and probably nurserymen in the Eastern States are to blame for the loss which has been occasioned by supplying trees not true to name. Frequently men after clearing their land, have purchased 500 or 1,000 trees of a marketable or export variety, and, after waiting for three or five years, have discovered that the trees were not true to name and were absolutely worthless. In consequence of these blunders I have seen trees taken out after having been in the ground for three or four years, and others planted in their places. I trust that the Commissioner for the Fruit Industry, Mr. Moody, will now direct his attention to the drying, canning, and preserving of fruits. It is essential to protect our fruit growers, and particularly growers of soft fruits from the effect of glutted markets, and judging by the quantity of jams and preserved fruits imported from the Eastern States there is ample scope for the es-

tablishment of this industry locally, and the time has arrived when the commissioner could with benefit, not only to the fruit growers but also to the people of the State as a whole, devote attention to the drying, canning and preserving of fruit. I would like to impress upon that official also, through my remarks in the House, the necessity for coping with the most dreaded pest which has ever infested the orchards of Western Australia. I refer to the fruit fly. Recently there was an outbreak of codlin moth in the orchards of Katanning, and it is indeed a tribute to the good work of the commissioner and his staff that they were able to check that outbreak as they did. Though the codlin moth is a most serious pest in the orchard, we have unfortunately a far more serious one in the fruit fly. The people of Western Australia generally do not recognise the ravages it is causing in our orchards. I have seen whole orchards—certainly not very large ones—absolutely devastated through the ravages of the fruit fly. It has been necessary to strip every single fruit off the trees, and not one was fit to send to market. So far the departmental officials have been able to cope with it only by adopting the very primitive method of putting kerosene in traps or saucers or something of the kind. If the commissioner and his staff redoubled their energies it might be the means of saving many thousands of pounds to the fruit growers of Western Australia. May I now ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for permission to continue my remarks at the next sitting of the House?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not possible for me to grant permission to the hon. member, but if it is the desire of the House that the hon. member be given such leave it is solely in the hands of the House to grant it, but a motion to that effect will be necessary.

The PREMIER: It is not usual, on the opening day, to sit after the tea hour. Therefore I move—

That the hon. member be given leave to continue his remarks at the next sitting of the House.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Will that be on Thursday or on Tuesday next?

The PREMIER: On Thursday.

Hon. Frank Wilson: Why not make it Tuesday?

Motion (leave to continue) passed; the debate adjourned.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker desires me to announce that he has nominated the members for Coolgardie (Mr. McDowall), Albany (Mr. Price), and Kimberley (Mr. Male), as temporary Chairmen of Committees for the session.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan) moved—

That the House at its rising do adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, the 2nd July.

Question passed.

House adjourned at 6.16 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 1st July, 1914.

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

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: 1, Report of the Education Department for the year 1913. 2, Amendment to the Regulations under the Mining Act, 1904 (regulations relating to fees for gold dealers' licenses