

I join with the mover of the motion in expressing regret that His Majesty the King will not be able to visit us in the coming year, but any feeling of disappointment has been minimised by the announcement that he has been restored to health, and everybody in the British Empire must have felt pleased at that news. His Majesty has proved himself a great king. His task has been a hard one to perform, but he has carried out his duties in such a manner as to appeal to all his subjects. When the Princess and Duke arrive, we shall give them a reception equal to that accorded them elsewhere. We have read how popular their visit to Canada has been, and I am satisfied that their visit to Australia will be no less popular.

His Excellency the Administrator, in his Speech this afternoon intimated that we shall be asked to consider certain legislation. We shall see that it is well discussed and I have no doubt that the House will arrive at a wise decision.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

*As to Presentation.*

On motion by the Minister for Transport, resolved:

That the Address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

*House adjourned at 5.4 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 16th October, 1951.

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at 4.30 p.m., pursuant to proclamation by His Excellency the Administrator, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. F. E. Islip).

### SUMMONS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

*Section "A," 1951.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the Auditor General a copy of Section "A" of his report on the Treasurer's statement of the Public Accounts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1951. It will be laid on the Table of the House.

### CHAIRMEN (TEMPORARY) OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to announce that I have appointed Mr. Hill, Mr. Rodoreda and Mr. Yates to be temporary Chairmen of Committees for the session.

### QUESTIONS.

#### RAILWAYS.

*As to Engineer's Report on Welshpool-Bassendean Chord Line.*

Mr. J. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

Will the Minister make available the report of Mr. Brisbane, the independent engineer, regarding the respective merits of the two proposed railway routes through the Belmont district?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

It is intended to make the report available to the members representing the districts affected in any way, and therefore the hon. member may rest assured that a copy of the report will be made available to him.

#### BUTTER.

*As to Price in Other States.*

Mr. J. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Attorney General:

Is he aware that a statement was made in the Commonwealth Parliament last week that the price of butter in three States—South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania—is 3s. 1½d. and as the price in Western Australia is 3s. 2d. per lb., can he explain the difference between the prices charged in this State and elsewhere?

The ATTORNEY GENERAL replied:

I have not seen the reference in the report of the debate in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Mr. J. Hegney: I heard the Minister's statement over the air.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: At any rate I have not seen the statement in print.

The prices in the several States were fixed after consideration by the Prices Commissioners and as a result of the report received from the investigation committee, which was established under Commonwealth jurisdiction to determine the cost of butter production. It was thought fit in those States to give the producers the cost of production whereas in the other States the authorities still thought that the producers should have the benefit of the cost of production but that the Commonwealth should subsidise them.

#### BILL—NURSES REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House—

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: If any.

Mr. Graham: Yes, question!

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: I think I had better start again! In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Nurses Registration Act, 1921-1947.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S OPENING SPEECH, DISTRIBUTION.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to announce that, with hon. members of this House, I attended His Excellency the Administrator in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Adopted.*

MR. GRIFFITH (Canning) [4.55]: I move—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Par-

liament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

MR. GRAYDEN (Nedlands): I formally second the motion.

HON. A. R. G. HAWKE (Northam) [4.56]: Had the suggested rent Bill been before the House or even nearly at that stage, I would certainly not have spoken to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply. However, I understand that the Bill to amend the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act is not likely to be with us today and most likely will not be before us at any stage this week. Therefore there is not now the urgency for the completion of the debate on the Address-in-reply that would have existed had the rent Bill been with us or close to us. The fact that Parliament this afternoon commences a new session is, in view of all the circumstances, nothing short of extraordinary. If the member for Mt. Marshall were asked to describe the proceedings that have taken place since we agreed last Wednesday afternoon to the motion for the adjournment of this House, I think he would, in his famous way, have described it as being "Pygmalion marvelous."

Last Wednesday, Mr. Speaker, as you will remember, this House was adjourned, by motion carried unanimously, until 4.30 p.m. today. From the time we adjourned last Wednesday up till 4.30 p.m. today, a remarkable procedure has been adopted, and the decision of the Legislative Assembly on the question of the adjournment of the proceedings was wiped out, in effect, by Executive action. In other words, the decision of the House, as then constituted, to meet at 4.30 p.m. today for the purpose of continuing the then existing session has gone by the board. The session that we were then participating in has, by Executive act, been brought to an end, and this House was in no way consulted with regard to the proceedings.

Instead of the Assembly meeting normally today at 4.30 p.m. to continue the session, as it was determined last Wednesday, we find ourselves meeting today for the purpose of taking part in the opening of a new session of Parliament. Everyone will agree that the circumstances are somewhat unusual. Because it was anxious concerning the rent legislation, the Government doubtless felt that it had some right and justification for closing down the then existing session without coming back to Parliament to ascertain the will of Parliament as to what the Government had in mind. If the procedure adopted by the Government has been within the Constitution in every respect, it seems to me

to expose Parliament to the danger of being ignored at any time by a Government which might find itself in some difficulty with either House of Parliament, or might find itself in a ticklish spot in regard to being able to carry on in Parliament.

I was not aware previously that the Government could, in the situation which existed last Wednesday, close down Parliament without any reference back to Parliament and then set moving a new session. If what has been done has taken place absolutely within the Constitution and within the law, it poses some very serious questions for our consideration. Most important of all is the fact that the Government could have the adjournment of the House moved this afternoon until 4.30 p.m. tomorrow and, because of some trouble or difficulty it happened to find itself in with the House, could have Parliament prorogued without coming back to Parliament again and could leave it prorogued for some considerable time. That appears to be a very dangerous situation and one which should not exist.

In other words, in my opinion, the Government should be under compulsion again to consult the House before the session is actually closed and should, in fact, obtain the approval of the House for such closure. I know that what the Government has done on this occasion has been done on the grounds of urgency, the Government being anxious—it would appear on the surface at any rate—for a new session of Parliament to commence as early as possible in order that a new rent Bill might be brought before members for consideration and decision. We find today, however, that there is no very great urgency in regard to that measure.

We have been told through the newspapers that a Rent Bill is not likely to be introduced into this House even this week. Obviously, therefore, the Government could very easily have allowed the session, which was under way last Wednesday, to continue until today. It could have come back to this House today and explained the situation; and when we adjourned today, it could have been on the understanding that we would not meet again in the then existing session, but that Parliament would be closed down, and a new session commenced within a day or so. It might very well be that the Government, in adopting the procedure it has followed, has trampled underfoot in more than one respect some features of the Constitution and probably some Standing Orders of the House. If the Government has done that, it owes some explanation to the House as well as an explanation as to why the House has been ignored in regard to the closing of the session which existed last Wednesday when we adjourned until today, and as to why the new session was brought into existence by the Government in this way.

If the rent Bill had been available for discussion today, or even tomorrow, I would have agreed that the Government was bound to act in the most speedy manner possible and would have probably allowed the procedure, as now adopted, to pass without any comment. As no rent Bill is available, the Government appears to me to have acted without giving the House the consideration it deserved and perhaps without paying due and complete regard to the requirements of the Constitution and certain of our Standing Orders.

I want to say a few words about the attitude of the Government towards the matter of amending the rent control Act. Having read the newspapers over the last two or three days, it appears to me that the Government has not only weakened considerably in its attitude towards amendments to the rent Act, but has done much worse by publishing to the world its softening attitude. Members of this House who have read a statement published in "The West Australian" newspaper in recent days must have been very disturbed to find the Government advertising to the public, and especially to members of the Legislative Council, an indication that it proposed to adopt a much more lenient attitude in trying to amend the Act in this new session.

The Premier: Are you referring to the statement alleged to have been made by the Deputy Premier?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: No, not so much to that, because I know that the Deputy Premier issued a statement to "The West Australian" subsequently on that matter and explained to the public that what he had said to a reporter of the newspaper had been said not for publication at all, but in the way of ordinary unofficial conversation as between the Deputy Premier and the reporter.

The Chief Secretary: And, in any case, it was not a true representation of the talk between the two.

Mr. Rodoreda: How would you know?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I think the Chief Secretary is not justified in saying that. Even the Deputy Premier did not say that in the statement which he subsequently gave to "The West Australian" newspaper. I would be inclined to think that the reporter with whom the Deputy Premier spoke would have a much better knowledge of what was said than would the Chief Secretary. I would go even further than that and say I would be prepared to accept what the reporter gave to his principals in the matter rather than any explanation of the occurrence which could be given by the Deputy Premier.

The Premier: To what statement is the hon. gentleman referring then, in connection with the Government's weakening attitude?

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I am coming to that. As I was moving towards it a few moments ago the Premier took me away

to the other matter which I have just finished discussing. There was a statement in "The West Australian" to the effect that the Government realised it would have greater difficulty in getting a Bill through the Legislative Council to amend the rent Act in this new session than it had experienced in the session which has just come to a close. The statement was not published over the name of any Minister. It was published in a general way as being an expression of opinion from someone representing the Government.

The Premier: No, I do not think so. Not that I am aware of.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I know that "The West Australian" newspaper does some terrible things to Labour members, but I would not for one moment believe it would cook up a statement and attribute it to the Government without someone in the Government having given a representative of the newspaper a lead in connection with the matter so reported upon.

The Premier: Newspaper men very often form their own opinions and publish them.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: But they do not say they were told by a Minister.

The Premier: They did not say they were told by the Minister this time.

The Chief Secretary: The Leader of the Opposition has had experiences; he would know.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I know I have had a considerable amount of anxiety as to the attitude the Government might adopt during this session in respect of an amendment of the rent Act, and also in regard to the attitude the Government might adopt towards the Legislative Council in connection with the matter. We see signs in several directions of a strong attempt to stiffen up the opposition of members in the Legislative Council to reasonable amendments to the rent Act. In that regard, we have only to read the leading article in the "Sunday Times" of last Sunday and the leading article in "The West Australian" of today. There can be no doubt at all that a considerable effort is being made and will continue to be made greatly to stiffen the attitude of those in the Legislative Council who voted a few days ago to defeat the rent Bill then before the Council.

So I am particularly keen and anxious that members of the Government shall realise what is ahead of them in regard to this matter. The pressure which was operating during recent weeks to bring about the defeat of the Bill we had before us previously will be nothing to the pressure that will be exerted from now on, during the next two or three weeks, to encompass the defeat of the Bill to amend the Act which the Government proposes to introduce early next week. What attitude does the Government propose to adopt towards the Legislative Council in

the event of this proposed Bill being emasculated or defeated? The Premier would be quite justified in saying that the Government will have a look at that problem when it arises, if it arises; but we have seen a lot of that in the past.

We saw this Government, some three years ago, presumably and professedly in accordance with the election policy of both parties to the Government, bring down a Bill to liberalise the franchise for the Legislative Council in one or two respects. Members of the two Government parties in the Legislative Council treated that Bill with complete contempt, and threw it out without consideration. As far as I am aware, the Government said and did nothing at the time, nor has it since, about the matter. Certainly, it has never on any occasion since then made a move to introduce further legislation of that kind. In all the circumstances, it is an urgent requirement of the situation in which we now find ourselves that the Government should be prepared to take the strongest possible action to ensure the successful passing through both Houses of Parliament of legislation to amend the rent Act so that it will be fair and reasonable to all parties concerned.

Judging by what has appeared in the leading articles of newspapers in recent days a strong attempt will be made in the Legislative Council to bring about a further increase in rents. I should hope that the Government will have none of that, but that if at the present moment it is giving consideration to the possibility of including in its proposed new rent Bill a provision further to increase rents, it will forget about it now and for some considerable time to come.

The Premier: For how long do you consider a certain section should have its income pegged when all other sections are getting rises; and when, indeed, there is a rising of costs all round? Why should you say that one section of the community should be penalised?

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: You can see what the Bill is going to be like.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I say in reply that the legislation which came into force early this year provided for a 20 per cent. increase, which could be automatic, in rents, and that, where a landlord was not satisfied with a 20 per cent. increase, he had the right to go to the court to obtain a greater increase. So, in the legislation which became operative only this year, the landlords had a fair and reasonable opportunity to obtain what they might consider to be a correct rental. I would say that rentals generally went up at least 20 per cent. this year.

The Premier: On the 1939 basis.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Yes, I think it would be on that basis.

The Premier: It is the only basis you can reckon on.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: That is the time at which rents were pegged.

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: So, every landlord had the opportunity this year to have rentals brought up to a reasonable figure. In my judgment, therefore, there would be absolutely no justification for providing for further increases in rentals at this stage. As I said before, if the Government has been considering this question, and is still considering it, then it should immediately forget about it because there is no justification at present for granting further increases in rents; and the economic result of doing so could easily be disastrous to our community as a whole. There is no doubt that every day, now, we will find plenty of pressure brought to bear upon the Government, and plenty of propaganda favourable to an increase in rents and to allowing the legislation governing rents to cease altogether at the end of this year. We will find all sorts of letters, no doubt, being written to the newspapers.

The Premier: There are plenty of those.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Yes, plenty of them and most of those to be published. I feel sure, will be letters advocating a certain line of action.

The Premier: I do not know about the newspapers; I mean letters written to me.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I have no doubt that the people who are organising this move to ease or if possible abolish the legislation to which I have referred will write letters—

The Premier: Yes, letters containing many conflicting opinions.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: I would hazard a guess that most of the letters being received by the Premier on this subject are one-way letters.

The Premier: I can assure you that that is not so.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE: Then I will go to the Premier's office tomorrow and we will conduct a scrutiny. I am sure that if that could be done it would be found that most of those letters were in the direction of asking for increased rentals and an easing, if not complete abolition, of the protection that has been afforded to tenants in the matter of evictions. In the circumstances I thought it necessary to say what I have said in regard to the two matters I have discussed. I hope the Premier will give both those questions serious consideration. If he is in a position to give the House any advice on the two points I have raised, without waiting until tomorrow or some other day, I am sure members will be interested to hear what he has to say this afternoon.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.22]: I do not propose to speak at length on this occasion but, as the parliamentary representative of the people of Mt. Hawthorn, I feel I should make my protest against the happenings of the last few days. In this I speak for myself and, I think, for other members on this side of the House and I feel it my duty to say that I believe that, as members of this Parliament, we have been treated in a most shabby fashion. When we left this Chamber last Wednesday the Premier had moved, as the Leader of the Opposition has indicated, that the House adjourn until today at 4.30 p.m.

On Thursday and Friday of last week I was in my electorate endeavouring, among other things, to soften the blow for people who were about to be evicted from their homes, and trying to secure a decent bus service for the people of the Tuart Hill district, as well as attempting to secure payment for containers for the produce of the market gardeners. In the meantime I read in "The West Australian" that Parliament was likely to be prorogued. That was an indication to members, at second hand. When I came to Parliament House the first official intimation I had of what was being done was a note from the Clerk of the Assembly. As I interpret the Constitution the Governor has power to dissolve the Assembly at any time.

The life of a Parliament is three years, unless dissolved by the Governor before the expiration of that period. As far as I am aware there is no limitation or qualification of what the Governor can do. Under the Royal instructions to the Governor he is to be guided by the Executive Council and I have no doubt that on this occasion it advised the Administrator to prorogue Parliament, but the Administrator could, if he so desired, over-ride the decision of the Executive Council, as far as I can see.

My point here—I make no apology for saying it—is that I feel that the Government has insulted me, as the representative of the people of Mt. Hawthorn and as a member of this Parliament, by having advised me second-hand, through the Press, and at the last minute by a note from the Clerk of the Assembly, of what was to be done. What was Parliament prorogued for? It was for the purpose of overcoming a certain difficulty which arose through the Legislative Council throwing out the measure commonly known as "The Rent Bill". If there was such a great degree of urgency about the matter why was not the new Bill prepared and brought down today? Probably it is not here today because it was impracticable for the Parliamentary Draftsman effectively to draw it up in time.

Could not Parliament have met today as usual? The Premier could then have advised this House that it was proposed to prorogue Parliament. He could then have indicated to members, directly and officially, what the position was. "The West Australian" should not have been the medium through which members were advised of what the Government proposed to do with regard to the functioning of Parliament. What guarantee—if any—has the Government that the same position will not arise again next week or a week after that? I read, in "The West Australian" that Parliament was to be prorogued, and also that a member of the Legislative Council had indicated that that House might adopt the same attitude in regard to another Bill as it did towards the measure that it recently defeated.

Can the Premier inform the House what he proposes to do? When he introduced the customary privilege Bill earlier this afternoon he prefaced his remarks by saying, "In order to exercise our undoubted rights and privileges."

Mr. Marshall: Where are they?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If this House passes legislation in regard to rent control or the control of building materials and another place insists that this Assembly swallow the ideas of another place, what is the Government going to do? Is it going to bend the knee to the Legislative Council, as the Government has indicated it will, or are we prepared to assert our undoubted rights and privileges in the interests of the majority of the people of this State? I have on a number of occasions in this Chamber, since I was first elected to Parliament, referred to what I considered to be a most undemocratic institution. I have pointed out, though nominally the people of this State were enjoying democratic Government, how in actual fact they were ruled by a minority, and, of course, that is the position today.

The more we can focus public attention on the constitution of this State the better it will be, eventually, for democratic government in Western Australia. I obtained figures from the Registrar's publication, the Quarterly Abstract of Statistics in Western Australia, in regard to a question I asked earlier this evening. From that publication I discovered that there were 310,000 people on the Legislative Assembly rolls in Western Australia. That means that over 300,000 people have the right to vote for members in this House and only about 85,192 people are entitled to vote for the Legislative Council.

Mr. Graham: And some of them have plural votes.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Yes, I thank the member for East Perth for that interjection. If a person has land in ten different provinces, and each piece of land is worth

£50 or more unimproved value, then that person can exercise ten votes. Yet one must be 30 years of age before one can take one's seat in the Legislative Council, or nominate for a seat in that Chamber. Also, a person must pay rent before he or she is entitled to a vote for the Legislative Council. If a person owned property in ten different provinces and then sold out and put his money, from those sales, into Commonwealth bonds, and the value of those bonds was £10,000 or £50,000, he would not be entitled to vote for the Legislative Council unless he still retained certain property or rental qualifications. There are plenty of people in the South-West and other parts of this country who are rearing big families, and because they are not paying at least 6s. or 7s. a week rent they are not entitled to vote for the Legislative Council.

The constitution of the Council is such that it can reject repeatedly any legislation which this House introduces. Over the years we have tried to amend the franchise for the Legislative Council and on occasions we have tried to introduce a facsimile of the British Parliament Act, 1911, to try to overcome the obstacle so that if this House passes legislation on a certain number of occasions within a certain period, and the Legislative Council still rejects it, it will become law. But the Legislative Council threw out that measure; it has thrown out measures for referenda and measures covering adult franchise for that House.

Mr. J. Hegney: It would not agree to a case being put before the Privy Council.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The position today is that a minority of the people in this State can dictate to the people as a whole, as far as their views are interpreted in this House.

Mr. Graham: We had better have another war for democracy.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I obtained from "The West Australian" my information that Parliament would be prorogued and that I would be expected to be here today to hear His Excellency the Administrator's Speech. From that paper I also obtained information that one member of the Legislative Council indicated that a similar position to that which confronts us today might arise within two or three weeks. Therefore I want to know what this Government intends to do if that position arises. I also read in the paper that the Liberal and Country League was well and truly behind the attitude of the Legislative Council in throwing out the measure referred to.

Mr. Graham: The Premier is out of step with his own party.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If members of the Government are not going to be Dumb Doras all the time I want to know what

the members of the Country Party had to do with it. Were they called into consultation with the Liberal and Country League?

Mr. Mann: You had better ask them.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: They are living in adultery with them.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Why do not members of the Country Party make decisions of their own, or are they just content to be dragged behind the tail of the Liberal and Country League in regard to this measure? The time is long overdue for this House to take some action to overcome the undemocratic set-up of the Legislative Council. All I want, at any stage, is the right of the majority of the people of this State to determine their own destiny.

Mr. Hutchinson: Do you advocate the abolition of the Legislative Council?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Speaking personally, I would say, without any hesitation, that if I had my way I would abolish the Legislative Council.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Queensland gets on all right without it.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It is my personal opinion that the Legislative Council should be abolished. I thank the member for Cottesloe for his interjection and I would remind him that in one State of Australia, namely Queensland, the Legislative Council has been abolished. For many years in that State there were two Chambers. In 1859 Queensland was set up as a separate State with a nominee Chamber. I think that a referendum to abolish the Legislative Council was held in 1920 and the people actually turned down the proposition, but subsequently the Council was abolished in 1921 or 1922. With the exception of only three years, from 1929 to 1932, when the Moore Government mismanaged Queensland, the people of that State have returned Labour Governments.

The Premier: That is the best—

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I know what the Premier is about to say; he is going to bring up the question of jerrymandering. I think the Premier should be the last—

Several members interjected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Premier should be the last one to bring up that question.

The Premier: The last Senate vote, and the Senate vote before it, does not bear out your proposition.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will deal with the Senate vote in a moment. The point is that from 1929 to 1932 an anti-Labour Government held office; with that exception, since the time the Legislative Council was abolished, Labour has held office for 30 years, 20 of which have been since the Moore Government was defeated in 1932. The Premier made some reference to the Senate.

The Premier: The Senate vote.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If the Premier reads the history surrounding the inauguration of Federation in 1901 he will realise the differing opinions in regard to the franchise for the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia. Eventually it was decided that it would be democracy personified—that means that the vote would be taken on the adult franchise and the people of this country would thus be permitted to elect their representatives to the national Parliament.

The Premier: The Senate vote was overwhelmingly against the Government of Queensland.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Under the Commonwealth Constitution the minimum number of members for each State had to be five and those members were not elected on the basis of the electors having £50 worth of real estate, or paying 7s. a week rent, but on the basis that the electors were citizens of this country. In those days the Senate was set up as the State's House; in other words, for the protection of the smaller States. But the framers of the Constitution did not make any limitation in the franchise and decided that the Senate of Australia would be elected on the adult franchise basis. As the younger members sitting behind the Government are inclined to be a little more democratic and may thus be able to argue the older members into a more democratic way of thinking, I put it to them that if it is good enough for the Senate of Australia to be elected on an adult franchise basis, and indeed all members of the Commonwealth Parliament, surely it is good enough for the Legislative Council of this State.

Important matters are discussed in the national Parliament, including international affairs, and many other important subjects, and not matters of State or of a parochial character. If it is good enough for elections for the national Parliament to be held on the adult franchise basis then surely it is good enough for State Parliaments. Those are the points I put to the Premier in an endeavour to try to stiffen him—I do not mean to lay him out—in his arguments for the purpose of trying to ensure that what this House, in its wisdom and by a majority, decides upon shall not be emasculated and rejected repeatedly by the Legislative Council. We who represent the people as a whole should not have to bend the knee to another place.

The Premier: I think it is unfortunate that you took us to Queensland to show us how democracy works.

HON. J. B. SLEEMAN (Fremantle) [5.40]: I want to enter my protest against the way Parliament has been flouted. We left here last Wednesday and were told, without having an opportunity to agree, that we were to meet here at 4.30 p.m. today. Instead of approaching Parlia-

ment, explaining the position and doing the thing in the proper way, the Government rode roughshod over us. You know, Mr. Speaker, that it should have called Parliament together and explained the position and then adjourned to a date to be fixed by you. We would then have known where we stood. We decide on one thing and then half a dozen others decide on something else. There was no necessity for this.

The Government could have had the legislation it wanted without proroguing Parliament and then starting a new session. It could, without doing that, have brought down another Bill that was not substantially the same as the last one, but, of course, its wish was to prorogue Parliament and introduce the Bill it desired. We know we have been told in fairly plain language that there is not much chance of a Bill of any magnitude being passed by another place. We have also been told by the Press that the L.C.L. highly commends another place on its decision to reject the Bill to amend the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act, 1939-50. So it is just so much eye-wash for the Government to bring down another rent Bill when it knows that if it is anything like the previous one it will not go through another place. Here is a sample of what has already been circulated. The pamphlet I have here reads—

“There is No Substitute for Victory.”

Property Owners  
Abolish “War” Rent Control.  
Including Returned Soldiers Who  
Own Property.  
Join in the fight for an immediate  
50 per cent. rise in rents to be included  
in the new Rent Bill to operate  
forthwith  
and the abolition of rent control after  
31/12/1951.

A 50 per cent. increase is advocated by these people. I do not know whether the Government is prepared to agree to that.

The Premier: Who are “these people.” to start with?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The home-owners. I should say that they are supporters of the present Government. They are certainly not supporters of the Labour Party or members of the Trades Hall, but the Premier is going to say that.

The Premier: I do not know them.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Well, they are in the Premier's corner, so he soon will know them.

The Premier: They may not be when the Bill is introduced.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Here is another one. Evidently, they have plenty of money to waste because they could not publish this without money. This pamphlet reads—

Rejection of the Rent Bill, makes sad reading for the Socialists.

So it does not look as if it is one of our publications. Then they go on to say—

Home Owners are long suffering, and are kind, and can be relied on to do everything in their power to defeat Communism.

Because the Labour party stands for a rent control Bill its members are going to be branded as communists. It is just as well the referendum was not passed because we would all have been declared by now.

The Chief Secretary: Is there a signature on it?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: No, but it has been printed by the Home Owners' Association and the address is 207 Beaufort-st., so it is not the Trades Hall. These people are the friends of the Government. First we have the rejection of the rent Bill by another place, approved by the L.C.L. and then we have the home owners in favour of abolishing rent control and advocating that a 50 per cent. increase in rents be provided in the new Bill. I think the whole matter is a Gilbert and Sullivan affair. The Government brings down a Bill and, if I may be permitted to use a bit of Australian slang, I would say it is not “dinkum.” The Government knows that the proposed Bill will not go through another place in the same way as it knows that other Bills will not go through. We have the spectacle of passing the Bill here and sending it on to another place, with every member of this House supporting the Minister and his Government, and then members of their own party in another place being instrumental in throwing it out.

Did you ever see such a ridiculous thing in all your life, Mr. Speaker? Fancy the Minister relying on Labour members to put a Government Bill through! The Minister said before that he could not go on with a Bill because all his supporters had gone to the Goldfields. What do you think of that, Mr. Speaker? We know that another place is not only responsible for throwing the rent Bill out, but also is responsible for throwing out others that would have been a God-send to the people of this State. You, Sir, were here when the Willcock Government put through a Bill to build homes for the people and when it went to another place it was thrown out, the excuse being that the members there were not prepared to allow the Government to become a landlord. If that Bill had been passed there would not have been a lag in housing now.

The Willcock Government wanted to build houses when things were bad and in order to provide work for the unemployed. However, another place threw it out on the pretext that it was not pre-

pared to allow the Government to become a landlord. Well, the Government today is a pretty big landlord and it has a hard job to find sufficient houses for the people. In view of the fact that we have not much chance of getting a Bill of any magnitude through another place, the Government could have brought down a continuance Bill. Although it might not have been everything that was desired its passing would have been much easier. It could have introduced a one-clause Bill to alter the date from the 31st December, 1951, to the 30th November, 1952. The Government would have had no difficulty in getting it through this House and might have had a good chance of its being passed in another place.

When the proposed Bill is finally disposed of in another place, the Government will not have much left. I hope it will be more open in future and introduce a measure that has a reasonable chance of being passed. When the member for Northam brought down a Bill for adult franchise for the Legislative Council, the Government stepped in and pushed him out. It said, "You cannot do that; this is our policy. You will have to stand down and we will put it through," knowing full well that it did not have a dog's chance of getting it through, because when it did introduce the Bill another place did not agree with the Government's policy and simply threw it out.

I do not think we are going to get very far until we abolish another place or until we get an adult franchise for the Legislative Council. It is just a Gilbert and Sullivan opera we are going through. I noticed in the "Sunday Times" the other day an article stating it was not true that it was proposed to get some of the boys in another place to act as contortionists and tumblers in the circus. There is no doubt that some of them there would be well suited for a circus. There is one thing I wish to remind the Government about.

Mr. Graham: It would not be the Fremantle harbour, would it?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: No. I will deal with the harbour next Wednesday, and I hope we will have two more votes then so that my motion will be carried, instead of its being rejected by two. The member for East Perth need not smile because with all the twisting and turning that is going on here, similar to that in another place, I would not be surprised to wake up one morning and find that the Government has twisted right round into my corner and will say that the harbour, instead of going upriver, will be going seaward. I hope the member for East Perth will not be absent next Wednesday or the Wednesday following in order that he may be able to record his vote, and ensure that the harbour extensions will be built in the right place. Before sitting down I

would like to refer to the question of the high school at Fremantle. This has been promised for many years. I notice that high schools are being established at several places; one has been established at Bunbury and the most recent is that at Narrogin.

Mr. Marshall: That is long overdue!

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I hope it will not be long before we have a high school established at Fremantle. It is all very well for the Chief Secretary to clap his hands: he has got his high school for Narrogin. Fremantle was promised one many years ago and I cannot understand why the department should change its mind as it does. I think it was as far back as 1927 when we were told that the next high school was definitely going to be established at Fremantle, but we find that the Government has not gone on with its decision.

The Chief Secretary: Unfortunately there were two or three other definite promises.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I defy the Chief Secretary to produce a more definite proposal than this one, whether it be at Northam or anywhere else. What could be more definite than the report of the late Mr. Drew which is as follows:—

Mr. Drew said that the request for a high school at Fremantle had his complete sympathy. He realised that the establishment of a Fremantle high school could not be long delayed and for that reason he had refrained from making additions to the central schools. Whether the new school could be financed at present was a matter beyond the control of himself or the Treasurer. However, Fremantle had waited patiently for a long time and he would do his best. He had had frequent requests from country districts and in all his replies he had given them clearly to understand that the next high school must be at Fremantle.

The Premier: What Minister was that?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The Minister for Education at the time, the late Mr. Drew.

The Chief Secretary: Is it a definite promise to which you refer?

The Premier: We have had the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as Minister for Education since the late Mr. Drew. What did he have to say?

Mr. Brady: He said it should be at Midland Junction and I agree with him.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Mr. Drew's report continues—

He could promise nothing immediately except his vigorous support. He would interview the Treasurer as soon as possible, and he trusted he would have no difficulty in getting his

sanction to the placing of a sufficient amount of money on the Estimates to make a start with the building.

I think the Premier will agree that it would be impossible to have a more definite statement than that. It is high time that Fremantle had a high school. I notice the member for Cottesloe smiling and I think he should get up and tell us what he knows about the business. He has been in the Education Department and I trust I will have his support in getting a high school at Fremantle.

Mr. Hutchinson: Can you tell me where the site is?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: It is just where the Technical School is at present and this site has been reserved for many years for this purpose.

Mr. Brady: Just in case the hon. member wants to know, the Midland Junction site is near the Grammar School.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I hope the member for Cottesloe will rise in his place and tell us what he knows about the business, because I will admit that he does know something about the Education Department.

The Premier: Let him wait until the Budget.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: He can have a go on this and again on the Budget; if he fails in one he might succeed in the other. There has been a little controversy lately about S.P. bookmakers and it seems to me that this Government appears to be frightened to do anything. If the Government is not going to prosecute the "nice" people, I think the least it could do is to see that we had a little justice. The Premier can go to Ascot and bet all he wants.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: And Pinjarra.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: And Pinjarra when he has the time.

The Premier: But he would not and does not.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I think the Government should either prohibit bookmakers from carrying on at the races or legalise them around the town; it should do something.

The Chief Secretary: What particular type of something would you suggest?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I would suggest the Government legalise the S.P. bookmaker and permit him to carry on and be registered, in order that we can make sure that the poor punter gets his odds and is not "scaled" by some unscrupulous bookmaker. But he should be allowed to conduct his business.

Mr. Manning: And rob the workers.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: Just as the producers rob the workers, though we do not hear much about them. We all

know that there is no bigger robbery than that conducted by the stocks and share market, but we never hear anybody advocating that that should be done away with. We know that people on the Goldfields first of all write a bad report, get the prices of shares down and then buy as many of them as they can. After this they write a good report and "up she goes", and as soon as the price reaches its peak they sell out. Of course that is not considered gambling at all! One is considered quite a respectable member of society if one belongs to the stocks and share market. There are also quite a lot of other things which are just a gamble.

Some of the business conducted in the church bazaars is nothing but a gamble. One goes along and is asked how many peas there are in a particular bottle and one endeavours to find out just how many there are. That is as much a gamble as is anything else. The time has arrived when something should be done. It is ridiculous that people should be prosecuted for obstructing the footpath; they are not doing anything of the kind. The police will go around to Jones and say, "Well Jonesey, we will be around to pick you up on Saturday." But when Saturday comes around Jones has Brown in his place and he is picked up instead of Jones and is fined £20, £30 or £40. Tom Smith can go out and bet his hundreds and thousands of pounds and the club gets its fee. The club should be prosecuted for doing that unless we allow it to be done everywhere else. One can go to the racecourse and bet to one's heart's content, because there it is considered to be the sport of Kings. The Premier and all his Ministers stand idly by and, in fact, also go out and bet.

The Premier: No, that is not right.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: They should patronise the only legal betting machine; that is the tote. I believe it might be possible to have totes in the town if it is not possible to get S.P. bookmakers licensed. The man who does not work on Saturday can go to the racecourse, but what about poor Bill Jones, who happens to be working on Saturday? He cannot go to the racecourse.

The Minister for Lands: They finish work on Friday night.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: There are quite a number of people who work on Saturday. If the Minister does not want them to, we should give everybody Saturday morning free.

Mr. Manning: Only the producers work on Saturday.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The producers say "If you do not give us the money we want we will throw all the milk down the drain." At Fremantle, however, if the men say "We do not like tug boats and

we are not going to work on tug boats," they are fined for that. But the producers go on strike and nothing is said to them. I hope something is done about S.P. bookmakers because I feel there is no harm in a man having a bet, provided he does not bet to excess, and he should not be required to go to a racecourse in order to get a bet. What about the thousands of people represented by my friends of the Country Party, the people on the Goldfields and the people in the North-West who have no races except, perhaps, a meeting once a year? Are they to be prevented from having a bet? The position is ridiculous. Everybody seems to be afraid to touch the betting problem and, seeing that the method suggested by the Minister for Supply and Shipping has failed, we should try something else. The only alternative is to arrange for the S.P. bookmakers to be registered, and we should insist upon the bookmakers on the racecourse being licensed and should not allow the racing clubs to collect money in respect of something that is illegal.

I appeal to the Premier to do something sensible and not have these S.P. bookmakers arrested when they are really committing no offence at all. They are not obstructing the traffic in any way. People can form queues to book for theatres and pictures and outside of Nicholson's, and no one interferes with them. Even the policemen walk off the footpath to enable the queues to occupy it, but when dealing with S.P. bookmakers, it is quite a different story. The member for Murchison brought down a betting Bill and so did the Labour Government, but both measures were defeated. We should make another attempt to see what we can do to render conditions a bit more sensible instead of having people prosecuted for obstruction, as they are at present.

Mr. Marshall: Bills were introduced on four occasions.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I can remember two.

Mr. Marshall: One was introduced by me and two by Labour Ministers.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I trust that action will be taken to render the position reasonable and not the farce that it is now.

I should like to hear what the Government has to say about the present Gilbert and Sullivan opera and the manner in which it has circumvented Parliament. Parliament has given a decision and, if this sort of thing is to occur, we do not know what might happen. Members supporting the Government might find themselves sitting in Opposition and, if a no-confidence motion were moved, the Premier, following the usual course of securing an adjournment in order to consider

his position, might have Parliament prorogued and thus escape from these vultures of the Opposition.

The Chief Secretary: You are putting ideas into the Premier's head.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: I am pointing out what could happen if the positions of parties were reversed, because the precedent would have been established. I do not say that we would act in that way, but the present Government, judging by the way it has treated Parliament on this occasion, is likely to come at anything. If the Premier speaks to the motion, I hope he will explain the reason why he has acted in this slipshod manner and attempted to evade the wishes of Parliament by proroguing.

This afternoon we have listened to the Speech of His Excellency, the Administrator. It reads—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

The Third Session of the Twentieth Parliament has been summoned for the transaction of public business in order that consideration may be given to matters arising out of the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act, and other measures.

It is rather remarkable that there has not been argument on the use of the word "may."

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours in the interests of this State.

I trust that the time is not far distant when the opening form of address will be altered. Bearing in mind what the Legislative Council has done in the last few years, I cannot see why its members should be addressed as "Honourable Members" any more than are members of the Legislative Assembly. The members of this House are just as honourable as are those of the Council, and I consider that His Excellency should be told that in future we also should be addressed as honourable members.

If another place continues along the lines it has been following, I hope that a move will be made to secure adult franchise for that House. Given adult franchise for the Council we could alter quite a lot of things, and I believe that many of the present members of that House would find themselves without seats. I understand that the Country Party in Victoria has agreed to adult franchise for the Legislative Council there, and many people here would support it for our Legislative Council.

Mr. Ackland: Do you want us all to speak on it?

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN: The step taken in Victoria was by a Country Party Government, not a Labour Government, and if adult franchise can be introduced in Victoria, especially bearing in mind the abolition of the Upper House in Queensland, it might be possible to get adult franchise here, or even to abolish the Legislative Council. For years various efforts have been made with the Old Country to get the powers of the Legislative Council defined, but without result, and so the Council goes merrily on throwing out the measures sent to it by this House. I hope that on this occasion the Council will treat the rent Bill in a reasonable manner. The Premier should explain why he took the step of having Parliament prorogued instead of dealing with the situation in a straightforward manner.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [6.7]: I support the protest made by the member for Fremantle. It is some years ago since I was first elected to Parliament, and I know that for a period of 14 years during my previous sojourn here, at which time the Labour Government was in office, it had difficulty with the Legislative Council, when it endeavoured to get through the Chamber radical measures of great importance to the people of Western Australia. Frequently the Legislative Council pre-emptorily rejected such legislation.

I put it to members opposite that for years they have been to a large extent opposed to the extension of Commonwealth powers and against unification. They believe in the maintenance of State Parliaments. There is no question, however, that since I have come into this Parliament that attitude has declined, and more and more the Commonwealth Parliament has been built up, to such an extent that people look to it for assistance to a greater degree than they do to the local legislature. They do that since, as a result of reactionary forces in the Legislative Council, a long struggle has been involved in trying to have beneficial legislation passed through this Parliament.

There is no doubt that the proposed rent Bill is of importance to the people of Western Australia. It is important to every fair-minded person and there is no doubt that it will be of considerable importance at election time to supporters of the Government in this Assembly who represent metropolitan constituencies, if they are not prepared to support a reasonable proposition in regard to fair rents.

An attempt has been made by the Leader of the Opposition to find out from the Premier whether he intends to recede from the position he took up last session on this matter. It appears that the proposed Bill will represent a considerable watering down of the original proposal, and its passage will have little effect in providing fair and reasonable protection to tenants. It is rather ludicrous that in

the Legislative Council this Government has to depend to a large extent on the support of Labour members to have carried what might be called ordinary democratic measures. As a matter of fact, six Labour members, together with six anti-Labour members, voted for the defeat of the proposal submitted in another place that the rent Bill be read in six months' time, and one of the Liberal representatives, the President, gave his casting vote against the proposal to reinstate the Bill on the notice paper. There are forceful members of the L.C.L. in another place who are Council representatives of my territory, and who voted against the rent legislation.

The Council is often referred to as a house of review; as providing a check on hasty legislation, and as being non-party, etc. But what is the position? The members of that Chamber did not give even reasonable and fair consideration to the legislation under discussion. It was pre-emptorily moved that the Bill be read in six months' time, simply because certain members represent the landlords of Perth. The measure was introduced by the Government as a continuance Bill to give protection to tenants and to endeavour to see that they are dealt with as fairly as possible; and there is no doubt that if such legislation is not carried great hardship will be imposed. We do not know what the new Bill will contain.

It is rather strange that on Wednesday last, when we finished the sitting, we were told that we would be coming back to continue the session today; but in the meantime authorities have evidently been consulted, with the result that Parliament was prorogued and we received notices in our letter boxes telling us to attend Parliament House today for the beginning of a new session. I support the protest made by the Leader of the Opposition and other members because I think the time has long since past when there should have been a radical change in the composition of the Legislative Council. We are going back to the dark ages. In eastern countries an awakening is taking place. The people there are demanding that the suzerainty that existed in days gone by should be lifted and that they should have the right of self-expression and independence. For too long, they maintain, has repression taken place in those countries.

We know that the British Government took action in India. Sir Stafford Cripps was sent to that country to investigate the position, when he was a member of the composite government in England. Subsequently India was granted self-government as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. But in this State, the archaic Legislative Council can reject or restrict measures of great importance to the people of Western Australia and nothing can be done about it.

I remember when the Labour Party was in office some years ago, it tried to persuade the Legislative Council to agree to the submission of a case to the Privy Council with a view to deciding where the powers of the Legislative Assembly began and ended with regard to finance, and where the powers of the Legislative Council came in. But the Council was unwilling to state a case. I regret that I will not be here after tea to continue my remarks, but I take this opportunity of voicing strong opposition to the manner in which the new session was inaugurated.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

**MR. BRADY** (Guildford-Midland) [7.30]: In connection with the calling together of Parliament as a consequence of the action of the Legislative Council, I also want to add my criticism of the Council for throwing out the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act Amendment Bill. Unless the Government is careful it will be in a serious position if the Legislative Council cannot be convinced that it must pass a Bill which will substantially come up to what the previous measure contained. I understand that under the present legislation approximately 500 applications are in the Courts for the eviction of people. If the legislation is finished after December next these figures will probably run into tens of thousands, because I believe the normal course of action of giving a week's or a fortnight's notice in regard to an eviction will suffice. There are other aspects to be considered. Housing is not keeping up anywhere near with the demand. I think many people have lost sight of the fact—I am positive the Legislative Council has—

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order! I want to refer to two Standing Orders in connection with this debate. The first is Standing Order No. 130 which provides—

No member shall allude to any debate in the other House of Parliament, or to any measure impending therein.

The other is Standing Order No. 132 which states—

No member shall use offensive words against either House of Parliament or against any statute unless for the purpose of moving for its repeal.

I do not say for a moment that any hon. member has yet exceeded these provisions, although some have strongly criticised the finding of another place. The old method employed, when one wanted to be vitriolic was to say "another place" and not the "Legislative Council."

**MR. BRADY:** I do not intend to be vitriolic in connection with another place, but I do not mind saying I have some mental reservations in regard to what I think of the members there. I point out

that anything between 30,000 and 40,000 New Australians have come to this State in the last three or four years, and nowhere near all of them are housed; and, in addition, many thousands of applications for houses, lodged with the Housing Commission, are not yet settled. As a matter of fact, only last Tuesday a man who has had an application with the Housing Commission since 1944 had an eviction order issued against him in the Local Court at Midland Junction. I rang up the Commission and said I thought it was a shocking thing that a man who had an application in since 1944 should have an eviction order issued against him now. I said I thought he should have had a house many years ago.

The Attorney General: He should have got a permit many years ago.

**MR. BRADY:** He is not in a position to get a permit to build because his wages are not sufficient.

The Attorney General: Is he not employed by the Government?

**MR. BRADY:** Yes, in the Government workshops, but he receives only a small margin over the basic wage.

The Attorney General: He gets a big margin.

**MR. BRADY:** I remind the Minister that the cost of building a house has gone up to such an extent that whereas it was possible at one time for a basic wage earner to build a house, he has, in the present circumstances, absolutely no chance. I sat as chairman of the housing committee of the Midland Junction municipal council in 1936 and 1937, and I recollect that then a four-roomed asbestos house could be built for £400. In fact, as chairman of the committee, I passed plans and specifications for houses at that amount. Today the same four-roomed house would cost £1,600. I also remind the Minister who made the interjection that whilst the basic wage in 1935-36 was about £3 5s. 0d., it is only £9 16s. 0d. today. It has not gone up 400 or 500 per cent. as has the cost of building materials.

It is of no use the Minister trying to make out that the working man today can build a house. If he got a permit to-morrow he could not get the material, and if he could get the material he could not get the manpower. Whilst the Government might be treating the position lightly at the moment, I can see a staggering effect resulting in December next and February of the following year, if it does not pay heed to some of the remarks made from this side of the House.

**Hon. J. B. Sleeman:** The Council does not mind that.

**MR. BRADY:** In addition to the man to whom I have referred who has had an eviction order made against him, another man came to me. He has a family of ten,

and he was evicted last week. He has been applying for years for a house, but has not been able to get one. When the Commission finally made accommodation available to him, one house was not sufficient; two had to be provided, such are the houses the Government is building today under the pretext that it is building decent homes. He had to be issued with two homes so that his family could be catered for. At least, that is what his wife told me. The railwaymen in my electorate are at my house or office every day in the week complaining that they cannot get houses and are giving away the job, or want transfers to the country where they think there is a remote possibility of their being housed.

Not a day goes by that a railwayman does not come to me and say there is not sufficient housing in Midland Junction. They are urging me to get the Minister for Railways to push on with the 400 or 500 houses which have been promised for the electorate. I hope the Minister will take notice of this, because the railways are getting into a serious position with respect to manpower. The Railways Commission has now reached the stage where it is offering boys of 15 and 16 years of age, £6 5s. a week to ensure that it will get cleaners, and the possibility of having railwaymen to do the job. I criticise those in another place, too, because with the restricted franchise in connection with the voting for that House, I think they have a very poor appreciation of where they stand.

The action that those in the Upper House have taken is most undemocratic. I am reminded that one member there, who was the major force in having this legislation turned down, many years ago led an argument for Western Australia to be a separate State; he argued that Western Australia should be separated from the rest of Australia and that we should have our own control, deal with our own revenue, and so on. I would hate to think what sort of State we would have here had he got his way. He did, I believe, go to the Old Country as a consequence of a democratic vote of people over 21 years of age. But in the particular Chamber where he sits, a person has to be over 30 before he can be returned there.

A soldier who goes away prepared to give his all cannot, on his return to Western Australia, be elected to the Upper House unless he is over 30 years of age. Many persons have not even the privilege of voting for members in that Chamber. Yet these are the people who have said that the legislation controlling rents and so on should be turned down. I remind members that, even though that legislation may not have been 100 per cent. satisfactory, none is, and, while our judges and magistrates may have criticised that measure they managed, in their interpretation of it, to give the public a considerable degree of justice in their various

courts. Both tenants and owners of property had, under that statute, opportunity of going to the court to receive justice, and the courts were doing a reasonable job.

Another aspect of the matter is that, if an international conflict broke out tomorrow, those in another place, who would deny many of our citizens a roof over their heads, would expect those same men, the fathers of families, to go away and fight for this country. I do not think the Legislative Council has increased the goodwill of the people towards Parliament, or the prestige of Parliament, by defeating the legislation that was of considerable protection to a large portion of our community. Under that Act an owner who was not satisfied with a tenant or who wished to regain possession of his property for his own use had the right of appeal to a court, just as the tenant had in certain circumstances, and I do not think Parliament can build up much goodwill among the people of the State if another place, which is representative of the banks and other large financial interests, is allowed to say that men, women and children may be evicted on to the streets without regard to circumstances.

If Parliament fails to pass legislation to replace that which is to expire on the 31st December next, not only returned soldiers from the first world war or the recent war, but also our men who are at present fighting in Korea, will have no protection for their wives and children. Another matter to which the Government must give consideration is the effect that failure to pass such a measure would have on the basic wage. If the Legislative Council is instrumental in allowing rents to be increased by anything from ten per cent. to 20 per cent., as has been forecast in some quarters, or if it fails to pass protective legislation, thus giving landlords an "open slather" in the matter of rents, the basic wage will increase accordingly.

The rent factor taken into consideration in the computation of the basic wage is at present, I believe, 22s. 10d., but members know full well that very few homes in the metropolitan area can be rented at that figure today. If the landlords of this State are allowed an open go after December next it is almost certain that many rentals will be increased to £2 10s. or £3 per week, which are the rents already being paid in many cases to the State Housing Commission. That will have a very serious effect on the economy of the State, because it will result in the basic wage being increased to such an extent that manufacturers here will be hard put to it to meet competition from the Eastern States, and those who are sending their goods overseas will be placed at a disadvantage as compared with manufacturers elsewhere.

I hope the Government will urge its supporters in another place, in order to save the manufacturers and large build-

ing enterprises, as well as the workers in industry, not to allow rents to be increased above their present rates. There is an old saying, that it is the last straw which breaks the camel's back, and I believe that the last straw, in the case of the industrial workers in this State, will be the increasing of rents next year to high levels if protective legislation is not placed on the statute book. Our railway workers are already complaining of insufficient housing and if they are to be evicted in hundreds or thousands—as will be the case if we fail to provide the necessary legislation—together with workers in other industries, that will give rise to stop-work meetings, strikes and other action of that description.

Industry will be brought to a state of chaos and the people responsible for that state of affairs, if it is brought about early next year, will be members of another place. I hope the Government will urge its supporters in the Legislative Council to do the right thing and pass the necessary legislation in a form similar to that of the existing Act. I will have one or two amendments to suggest when the new Bill is being dealt with in this House. A woman in my electorate, who has built up a business over five or six years, told me she has been informed by her landlord that he wants the business for his son and wishes her to move out with no compensation for goodwill. That is a rank injustice to that woman and I hope the Government will see its way clear to insert in the proposed new legislation a provision to protect in that regard the interests of persons who are put out of their businesses as a consequence of the action of members in another place.

A business-man in my electorate also told me that he has been notified that the owner of the property on which he conducts his business requires it for his own use. The goodwill of that business will be lost to the man concerned unless there is contained in the legislation proposed to be brought down a provision to protect the interests of persons such as that. I would be failing in my duty to my electors if I did not on this occasion refer to two or three matters that have arisen since I spoke to the debate on the Address-in-reply during the session that has just ended. One is, of course, tempted to deal with a number of questions when an opportunity such as this arises, but I will have some consideration for the feelings of the Government in regard to the legislation it desires to bring forward to regulate rents and so on. I will give the Government my co-operation in that direction as I believe it is making a genuine attempt to bring forward a workable measure.

I wish now to deal with both road and rail transport in the Bassendean area and in my electorate generally. I hope the Minister in this House representing the

Minister for Railways will give attention to a letter that I received on the 25th September last, reading as follows:—

Dear Jack,

No doubt you read my recent letter in the "West" with regards to no passenger train from Midland to Perth from 8.11 a.m. till 9.16 a.m. daily and the railway secretary's reply to the effect that they thought the majority of people were being served best by the present time table. I did not write the letter until I had represented the matter to one of their superintendents (who thought that the matter justified an alteration) and he brought the matter under the notice of the Transport and Time Table Branch with a view to getting it done; but it failed. The facts of the matter are that if anyone at West Midland, Guildford and Bassendean want to travel to Bunbury or any station south thereof such as Busselton, Bridgetown, Manjimup, etc., by the Australind—leaves Perth 9.35 a.m. daily—they must leave by the 8.11 a.m. ex Midland.

If I may interpolate, I would say what a farcical position it is when people living at Bellevue, Midland Junction or Guildford, if they want to go to Bunbury or some such place, have to sit on the Perth platform in the train for over 1½ hours. This is the up-to-date time table that the Minister for Railways, and his staff, put forward for the travelling public of Western Australia. I hope that the Minister for Railways will take notice of this complaint and try to improve the service. Last year I spoke about rail transport as against road transport. I said then that the buses were running a 20 minute service while the railways were running an hourly service. Under that system the railways are being sacrificed to road transport operators. I will continue with this letter which states—

They must leave by the 8.11 a.m. ex Midland and wait on the Perth station for a connection from 8.39 a.m. until 9.35 a.m.—56 minutes. Passengers from Midland and East Guildford can catch the Mundaring train leaving Midland at 8.21 a.m. and wait at Perth from 8.46 a.m. to 9.35 a.m. Irrespective of this connection most of the outpatients' appointment hours at the Children's and Royal Perth hospitals are fixed at 10 a.m. daily, so that patients, or parents with sick children, are obliged to catch the 8.11 a.m. and hang around Perth waiting till the appointment time of 10 a.m.—the next train (9.16 a.m. is too late) usually arrives at 9.55 a.m.

In addition to the people who travel to Bunbury and south thereof being inconvenienced by having to come to Perth and

wait on the platform for an hour or so, there are outpatients who visit the Royal Perth Hospital. Other people, too, have children and frequently have to take them to the Children's Hospital for treatment. They also have to wait for an hour and a half before they can attend their appointments at 10 a.m. The letter continues—

Also there are a number of people who want to do early shopping after getting their menfolk and others of the family away to work and school and then return home in time for the mid-day meal—the 8.11 a.m. is too early and the 9.16 a.m. is too late. The break between trains of 65 minutes at that hour of the day is far too long yet there are three trains in the next 66 minutes—viz. 9.16 a.m., 9.45 a.m. and 10.22 a.m. A large number of people are squealing about it and have been for a long time. Both the station masters at West Midland and East Guildford have requested that the 9.16 a.m. be advanced to leave Midland at 8.55 a.m. and it has been refused. It's just pigheadedness on the part of the people in charge of the Transport and Time Table Branch in my opinion.) In addition to the people I have already mentioned quite a number of people working in Perth have to work staggered hours and commence duty at various times from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. to spread the working week over six days—there are at least 20 in the G.P.O. alone. The excuse that the railways want to tell me is that the engine men have to have their crib at Bellevue or Midland Junction on this train. (It actually arrives at Bellevue from Perth at 8.34 a.m. and departs again at 9.12 a.m. leaving Midland at 9.16 a.m.) I contend that it can be done by a re-arrangement of engine rosters involving the 9.45 a.m. ex Midland. The railway people try to tell me that to provide the train, or a train to leave Midland at 8.55 a.m. to connect with the Australind, it would mean running an additional train. I contend that it can be done otherwise by a re-arrangement of time tables and engine rosters. However, the railways are a public utility and a necessity and I contend that they should serve the travelling public (taxpayers) to the best advantage—they are not attempting to do it in this case. You have a word with Jack Doyle at West Midland and see what he thinks about it. Holiday time at the Grammar School is another good example, the boys crowding into the 8.11 a.m. (already a very heavy train with city workers). See if you can talk the matter over with one of the Ministers and get together and see the Minister. If he

won't talk business bring the matter up in the House. Anyway do your best to get something done please Jack.

That is a letter from a railway man who served over 20 years on one of our railway stations. He says that the time table can be arranged to give people better transport. I am quite convinced that if the Premier, or the Minister for Transport, said that it had to be done, it could be done. I cannot see why hundreds, and sometimes thousands of people have to be inconvenienced week in and week out, month in and month out and year in and year out because some officer in the Railway Department in Perth says it cannot be done. With regard to road transport, I am very annoyed at the service being provided for the people in Bassendean.

The Premier: Why do you not leave it until later on?

Mr. BRADY: I think this is an opportune time to speak about it.

The Premier: You have already had one Address-in-reply and there is still the Budget to go.

Mr. BRADY: I have had the opportunity all right, but I have not had any results from speaking about it.

The Premier: This is not the way to get results.

Mr. BRADY: If the Premier had been able to do something about the Bill before sending it on to the Legislative Council, instead of doing things like this, this delay would not be taking place. I want to do the right thing by my electors irrespective of what the Premier or anybody else thinks.

Mr. Marshall: That's the way. That is what you are paid to do.

Mr. BRADY: The people in Bassendean are receiving very poor service by way of road transport. I receive letters every week from people complaining about the road transport in that area. I was told that when the new service was set up conditions would be improved. Instead of the service being improved, it has become almost as bad as it was under the regime of the old companies—this state of affairs exists after at least two companies have been brought in to try to improve the position. I cannot see why the Government bus service now running to Bayswater should not be extended to Bassendean.

Almost daily I come into the city and on almost every occasion I see buses waiting at Bayswater for up to 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour. Those buses could extend their routes through to Bassendean and so pick up passengers in those areas. By making this protest in the House I hope the Premier will try to improve the position and endeavour to get the Transport Board to do something about it. At the moment the bus operators

are only mucking around with the position, and I am not too sure whether the Minister for Transport would not be withholding his rights in asking some members of the Transport Board to send in their resignations.

The service is absolutely rotten in that area and, instead of the Government trying to do the right thing by the people, it seems as though it is merely pandering to private bus companies. Probably some of these operators are Government supporters, financially and otherwise. Therefore I hope the Government will take notice of my protest and I am tempted to speak for hours this evening in an endeavour to press home my points.

People around the back areas of Bassendean are dependent solely upon road transport and they are receiving very poor treatment. The people in the area are protesting because of this service, as are the people in the districts of the member for Middle Swan and the member for Mt. Hawthorn. As I stated earlier, I think the Premier is earnest in his endeavours to try to get something on to the statute book in regard to the rent legislation, and in that regard I want to support him. But I warn the Government that if it does not do something to bring its members in the Upper House into line we will have a basic wage in Western Australia greater than in any other State of the Commonwealth. Coupled with that fact there will be industrial chaos and so I hope that the Premier will be warned by even a young member like myself.

**MR. GRAHAM** (East Perth) [8.0]: The Premier will probably recall that some two years ago I was one who protested most strongly against a certain course of action taken by his Government which denied members an opportunity of speaking to the Address-in-reply. I hasten to assure him that it is not my intention now to speak along the same lines or at the same length as I did on that occasion. It was exceedingly bad taste on the Premier's part to display that outburst of bad temper which he did against the member for Guildford-Midland who, after all, had a perfect right to express himself on any matter on which he felt inclined to speak.

I would like to hear from the Premier his comments about another place. Surely all of us have a right to expect some statement or utterance from the Leader of the Government. I repeat that it is all very well to twit a member who is merely exercising his democratic right, but we have the position of where a non-democratic body has made a decision contrary to the wishes of, I should say, 95 per cent. of the people of Western Australia. So far as I am aware, the Government has made no comment, offered no criticism and given no indication whatever of what its plans or proposals are to deal with that undemocratic place.

The Premier can be assured that if he and his Government are contemplating any plans to implement a system of democracy in politics in this State, they will have the whole-hearted support of members on this side of the House. The measure, regarding which this session has been called, was defeated in another place because members there have no conception of the problems confronting the people of this State.

Hon. E. Nulsen: Hear, hear!

**MR. GRAHAM**: They care nought for the feelings of the people of Western Australia. They do not rely upon a democratic vote, not that of the average person but a select few only, for their election to Parliament. I think an examination of the figures would show that the number of persons who record votes for the election of members to another place would be approximately equal to the number I represent in the small electorate of East Perth. The peculiar part of it is that those privileged persons who are able to exercise a vote for the election of members to another place, elect not one but three members to each province.

Members of that House are completely out of touch with the feelings, wishes and the situation of people in this State. They have complete, unfettered power to dislocate the legislative programme of any Government, irrespective of its political complexion or how overwhelming might be its mandate from the people. Yet, I repeat, we have the Premier exhibiting an outburst of impetuosity against the member for Guildford-Midland and wracking his fit of temper against that member instead of speaking to this Chamber and the people of the State, in respect of that negation of democracy shown by those at the other end of this building. I wonder whether the Premier wants to govern, or wants to be governed.

**MR. MARSHALL**: What does it matter, so long as he is Premier?

**MR. GRAHAM**: I am coming to the same conclusion. So long as it is possible to hold the sweets of office, that is the prime consideration. I sincerely hope and trust that the Premier, before this motion is agreed to, will give some indication to members and to the people at large of what he thinks about the attitude of another place and about what he proposes to do in regard to the matter. I join with other members in protesting against the manner by which members of this House—I am not concerned with members of another place—are informed of the intentions of the Government. Surely we are entitled to some better notice than a statement in the Press. Surely this is the place where decisions should be made.

This is the place where statements of a public character should be made, not only in respect to the decision of the Government regarding how and when we are

going to meet, but also when the Government has an important announcement to make in regard to public works or any other matter, surely this is the place where it should be made, where the representatives of the people are assembled. Why should there be all this currying to the Press and a newspaper be the first to hear of an important decision by the Government rather than the elected members of this Parliament? Private members, no matter what their political colour may be, are treated merely as a convenience. When division bells ring then and then only, are private members treated as being of any consequence, provided the Government has sufficient supporters sitting behind it. So we are treated with scant respect and in a cavalier fashion by the Government.

As was pointed out by my Leader earlier this evening, notwithstanding the last decision made by this House last week—and made unanimously—that the then sitting be adjourned until the following Tuesday, the Government calls a meeting of its Ministers and decides to ride counter to that unanimous decision and call this afternoon a new session of Parliament. I wonder what would have been wrong with completing the notice paper that was before us, and announcing in the Chamber this afternoon the Government's intention of proroguing Parliament and next week calling a new session of Parliament. We could have cleared up the existing business. There would have been plenty of time to do that because, if we can believe the Press, the new rent Bill will not be ready for introduction until next week. But no, the desire was to pander to the Press rather than to treat members of this Chamber as responsible representatives of the public. We were interested in the extremely short address made by the Administrator this afternoon, and I was somewhat amused by the last two lines. Sir John Dwyer said—

I now declare this session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours in the interests of the State.

I think some mistake was made. It should have read—

I now declare this session of Parliament open and trust that the Legislative Council may bless your labours in the interests of the State.

I sincerely hope and trust that before this session is concluded, steps will be taken in a determined fashion to demonstrate to the people of Western Australia, at least, that we are prepared to tolerate no longer the situation by which 30 individuals, the great majority of whom have no association with the ordinary citizen, can show irrespective of how the public declare themselves at elections, that the words and viewpoint of the people count for exactly nothing. This Government is deserving of the severest censure unless it

is prepared to tackle or support any move that is made in that direction. When I say support, it goes beyond the confines of Parliament House. If the Premier is really sincere in his alleged disappointment at what the Legislative Council has done—and I take it he has some power and authority and is held in some respect by his own political organisation—and if a few members of the Liberal Party are prepared to thumb their noses at this Government then surely that organisation is prepared to discipline those dissident elements.

Fancy in the year 1951 anybody being in the position of protesting that the Government of the day is unable to govern because of a handful of individuals who are able to frustrate and disorganise the business of the State! I hope and trust I have made myself perfectly clear in this matter. It is the intention and desire of the Premier to introduce the Budget this evening and whatever influence I have—which is probably very little—I inform him that he could before 8.30 p.m. this evening be on his feet reading to members that somewhat lengthy document which appears to be necessary in the introduction of the Estimates.

Before this motion is put I sincerely hope the Premier will show members, on this side of the House at any rate, sufficient courtesy by indicating what he thinks of the Legislative Council's attitude, and what he intends to do to prevent a recurrence of the problem from which we are suffering at the moment so far as it rests in his power and the power of the Government.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1951-52.

### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

The PREMIER (without notice): I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a resolution for this House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year ending the 30th June, 1952, to be moved without notice.

Mr. GRAHAM: The only reason I rise to speak is because I am not going to accept without protest the attitude of contempt displayed by the Premier—

Hon. J. B. Sieeman: That is all he is treating us with, contempt.

Mr. GRAHAM:—in respect of the protest made not only by private members on this side, but also by my Leader. As a special session has been called to deal with the situation arising from the attitude of the Legislative Council surely all members of this Chamber—not only of the Opposition—are entitled to some comment by the Premier in connection with that. Here is a state of affairs where

the business of the State has been dislocated, and the Premier is prepared to carry on as though there has been no interruption whatever. Nobody is endeavouring to bait the Premier; nobody is suggesting that he should make a lengthy speech, but I am certain that common decency demands that he pays a little attention at least to some of the things said by members on this side of the Chamber.

The PREMIER (in reply): There is no intention on my part to be discourteous. I thought that as we proceeded with the Budget I would be able to make some reference to the remarks that had been passed. I did intend to preface my speech with some remarks before I got on to the actual Budget. I think the Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that there had been some discourtesy on the part of the Government in not informing him that it was intended to open a new session of Parliament.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: I did not say that at all.

The PREMIER: I am sorry; it was said from that side of the House. As I say discourtesy was not intended nor do I think that there was any discourtesy. I know that the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, did discuss this proposal with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and indicated to him what was in the Government's mind, and I presume that the Deputy Leader discussed the matter with the Leader of the Opposition. I was away from Perth on Friday last, but it was agreed with the Deputy Premier before I left that he should let the Leader of the Opposition know what was in the Government's mind. I think the Leader of the Opposition was also out of town on Friday last, and if I am correct I think the Deputy Premier conferred with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

The Minister for Education: A mixture of the two, first the Leader and then with the Deputy afterwards.

The PREMIER: So I do not think the charge of discourtesy can be substantiated in view of the discussions that took place with both the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I heard the member for Mt. Hawthorn state that it was only when he came here today that he found a notice in his letter box informing him of the opening of this new session of Parliament. I do not see that the hon. member suffered the least inconvenience, because when I adjourned the House on Wednesday last I did say that it was adjourned till 4.30 p.m. today. So every member expected to be here at 4.30 p.m. today. All members know the circumstances which led up to the adjournment of the House on Wednesday last. After due consideration the Government considered that it was necessary to intro-

duce a new rent Bill. As mentioned by the member for Fremantle one of our Standing Orders says—

No question shall be proposed which is the same in substance as any question which during the same session has been resolved in the affirmative or negative.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: It did not have to be the same in substance.

The PREMIER: I admit the hon. member is an authority on the Standing Orders of this House—

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: I have not been too far wrong up-to-date.

The PREMIER: —and I know he has had long experience as Speaker. I admit his knowledge of Standing Orders. But there is a difference of opinion and the only thing the Government could do was to follow what it considered to be a safe course and call a new session of Parliament.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: With whom was the difference of opinion? The Government consulted a number of people and the Premier raced back two or three times, and then said they had made a mistake and we were right.

Mr. Hoar: Did you consult the Legislative Council?

The PREMIER: I do not think I will reply to that. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that a Bill be brought in that is fair and reasonable to all parties. I think those were his exact words. That is the desire of the Government—to bring in a Bill that will be fair and do justice to all parties. This matter of rent control and of landlord and tenant is most complex and not easy for any Government to handle. I do not care what class of legislation we introduce—there will be some people who will consider it unfair. We have to give consideration to all the matters that have been referred to during the time this particular question has been debated, and see if we can place before Parliament that fair and reasonable measure the Leader of the Opposition hopes for. I cannot myself see that any good purpose would be served by bringing a measure to Parliament that we know will not be accepted by Parliament—and, of course, the Legislative Council is part of Parliament.

Mr. Graham: More is the shame!

The PREMIER: No matter what members may say, the Council has certain constitutional rights, which it has full power to exercise.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Has it power to dictate?

The PREMIER: I do not want it said that I am pandering to the Legislative Council because I am not doing anything of the sort. To be perfectly honest, I will tell members that the drafting of the Bill

has not yet been completed. Cabinet has been considering it. There has been much discussion and a great deal of thought given to it, which is necessary before conclusions can be arrived at. We know the urgency of the matter and we are giving full consideration to all the arguments and suggestions advanced during the time this legislation has been debated. That is the explanation I offer, and I hope it will prove acceptable to members.

Mr. SPEAKER: To pass the motion, an absolute majority will be requisite.

Question put.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no dissentient voice and an absolute majority of members being present, the question is passed in the affirmative.

Question thus passed.

#### *Message.*

Message from the Administrator received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1951-52, and recommending appropriation.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1951-52.**

##### *In Committee of Supply.*

The House resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1952, Mr. Perkins in the Chair.

**THE PREMIER AND TREASURER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray) [8.24]: In this Budget, which is the fifth that I have been privileged to present to Parliament, revenue and expenditure are expected to follow broadly the same pattern of change as in previous Budgets of recent years. Substantially increased commitments are expected as a consequence of higher costs, while, on the revenue side, the main variations provided for are in the payments received from the Commonwealth to bridge the widening gap between our revenue resources and requirements.

##### *Relief of Inflationary Situation.*

While not anticipating that there will be any overall relief this year from the cost increases that have been pressing so heavily on Budgets during the last 12 months, I am none the less hopeful that their peak will have been reached before 1952-53. There have been several recent developments which will undoubtedly tend to relieve the present inflationary situation, notably the reduction in export incomes and measures being taken by the Commonwealth Government to discourage demand. This, and the more cautious attitude about the future that is developing in the community generally, may be expected to have important effects on the economy at no distant date.

##### *Lot of State Treasurer.*

In the meantime, the lot of a State Treasurer is not a happy one.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Not much.

The PREMIER: Rising costs affect all sections of our expenditure, but the main avenue of revenue available for adjustment to meet these rising costs is that of the charges imposed by our business undertakings and public utilities. A substantial increase in such charges must either impose an unduly heavy burden on a section of our people who cannot pass on the burden in the sale price of their commodities, or be passed on by those who can do so and thus add to the inflationary uplift which we all so earnestly desire to avoid. Because of its inflationary effects, a large revenue deficit is also most undesirable. I am, therefore, caught between the need to balance the Budget without increasing charges and the effect of rising costs and expanding commitments.

##### *Difficulty Confronting States.*

The great difficulty which besets us, and, of course, all the Australian States, is that the war has left large accumulations of work to be undertaken, much of it of such a nature that it has to be borne by Revenue. On top of this accumulation, we have to shoulder heavy burdens for defence, and, as an aid to defence, the Commonwealth Government has embarked on a vigorous migration programme. While no one would deny the urgent need that exists to people Australia, a heavy inflow of migrants imposes severe burdens on the State Governments. All the new arrivals have to be housed, their children educated, their sick cared for—in fact, all the amenities that are required by a developed democratic community have to be supplied for them quickly and at a rate far in excess of what would be required to meet the normal growth in our population. Hence, in addition to finding the necessary capital equipment, such as school and hospital buildings, we have to secure the services of more teachers, nurses, orderlies, etc., all of whom are, of course, paid from Revenue.

##### *Need to Curb Government Expenditure.*

The need to curb Government expenditure as a means of countering inflation, therefore, poses very real problems for a State Treasurer. It has to be recognised, of course, that if inflation is not checked the ultimate results could be disastrous to our economy, but I am sure all State Treasurers must long for a day when conditions are stable. In presenting the figures showing last year's revenue and expenditure and the estimates for this year, I shall not attempt to go into detail on items, but shall deal only generally with them. Members will have opportunities to dis-

cuss any item in which they are interested when the departmental estimates are introduced by the different Ministers.

#### *Budget Results, 1950-51.*

When introducing the Budget last year, I provided for a deficit of £485,000, without allowing for the effects of any special basic wage increase that might be granted in connection with the case then before the Federal Arbitration Court. The actual Budget result was a surplus of £159,000, or a net improvement of £644,000 on the estimate.

Mr. Marshall: Did you say that the lot of a State Treasurer was not a happy one?

The PREMIER: I did.

Mr. Marshall: Those figures do not indicate it.

The PREMIER: Of the factors contributing to this result, the most important was the additional payment of £1,000,000, made available by the Commonwealth, as the State's share of a supplementary tax reimbursement grant to assist in meeting the increased costs arising from the Arbitration Court's award of an additional £1 per week to the male basic wage. This payment, plus the buoyancy of taxation and departmental revenue generally, and the increase in railway charges, improved our financial position.

#### *Revenue, 1950-51.*

Actual revenue for 1950-51 amounted to £28,156,000 or £1,902,000 more than estimated receipts. Excluding the income tax reimbursement payments and the special grant made by the Commonwealth, revenue totalled £15,958,000, at which level it was £896,000 greater than the corresponding estimate. Notwithstanding this substantial advance, revenue raised last year from local sources fell short of total expenditure by £12,039,000, or by substantially more than the deficiency of £10,990,000 in 1949-50. This was a further widening of the revenue gap, which, from 1945-46 to 1950-51, increased by £7,532,000, or at an average rate of about £1,500,000 annually.

#### *Taxation.*

Taxation collections other than income tax reimbursement, amounting to £1,956,000, bettered the estimate by £341,000. Stamp duty collections, estimated at £720,000, actually yielded £924,000—an advance of £204,000—while probate duty, reflecting increased valuations of estates, rose £93,000 on the anticipated return of £370,000. Minor increases occurred in the other tax fields.

#### *Income Tax Reimbursement.*

From the Commonwealth we received £7,176,000 by way of income tax reimbursement, or approximately £1,000,000 more than the amount anticipated in the Estimates. Total payments under Commonwealth tax reimbursement legislation in 1950-51 were substantially greater than the amounts which would have been received by the States had they been limited to the amounts provided for under the formula, viz. £70.4 million. Of this last-mentioned sum, this State would have received not more than £5,767,000.

In view of the manifest inadequacy of the aggregate grant as disclosed by the operation of the formula, the State Premiers pressed the Prime Minister to increase the amount to be distributed to the States, and he agreed to add an amount of £5,000,000, the additional payment being distributed on the basis set out in the formula.

Following the increase in the basic wage, when it became apparent that all States would be in serious financial difficulty failing further assistance, the Commonwealth decided to make available an additional grant of £15,000,000, thereby raising the total reimbursement payment to £90.4 million. This second additional payment was distributed amongst the States on a basis determined by the Commonwealth—our share, as I have already said, amounting to £1,000,000.

#### *Special Grant.*

Upon the recommendation of the Grants Commission, we received from the Commonwealth a special grant of £5,839,000. In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Commission in the previous year, the grant consisted of two elements, viz.—

- (a) a "first part" grant of £1,089,000, representing the amount by which the grant paid to meet our indispensable needs in 1948-49 fell short of our requirements for that year, as subsequently assessed by the Commission; and
- (b) a "second part" grant of £4,750,000 based on a tentative estimate of requirements for 1950-51.

Of the total sum made available an amount of £817,000 was credited to the deficit for 1948-49, and the balance taken into revenue for the servicing of the year's expenditure.

#### *Territorial.*

In Territorial revenue, there was a decline of approximately £25,000 on the estimated Lands collections, due to the effect of the heavy alienations that have occurred in recent years. This decrease was partly offset by increased revenue from timber.

*Departmental, etc.*

Collections of fees and of the various charges for the miscellaneous services rendered by the departments exceeded the estimates in nearly all cases. Departmental revenue as a whole, amounting to £2,955,000, exceeded anticipated collections by £269,000. In Miscellaneous Treasury revenue, the advance was £60,000, the bulk of which represented increased recoveries of interest and sinking fund from various Government instrumentalities and agencies. Due to a general improvement in collections and to increased activity at the Fremantle slipways, Public Works revenue showed an advance of £27,000, and another noteworthy variation occurred under the heading Lands and Surveys, where the increase amounted to £29,000, including a Commonwealth recoup for capital expenditure at the Point Walter Immigration Hostel.

*Public Utilities and Business Undertakings.*

With few exceptions, revenue from public enterprises exceeded the amounts anticipated in the Estimates. Profits and other recoveries from State Trading Concerns, estimated at £127,000, advanced to £178,000, mainly as a result of improvements in the net earnings of the State Saw Mills and the State Engineering Works, while revenue of public utilities rose £219,000 to £9,543,000.

Of the variations in public utility earnings, the largest was in railways, where increased traffic and an adjustment of 30 per cent. in freights and fares operating as from May, resulted in an increase of £271,000 on the estimated revenue.

Another substantial increase was in tramways, the revenue of which exceeded by £77,000 the amount anticipated in the Estimates. This variation was largely attributable to the increase in fares, which operated as from the 1st February of this year.

Revenue from the Fremantle Harbour Trust, which comprises net earnings after meeting working expenses, decreased £166,000 below the estimate. The decline was caused by a charge against the revenue of the trust for depreciation. This provision had not been allowed for in the Estimates.

Earnings of State Batteries, estimated at £96,000, showed a decrease of approximately £10,000, reflecting reduced mill tonnage and tailings extractions.

*Estimated Expenditure Exceeded.*

Amounting to £27,997,000, actual expenditure for 1950-51 exceeded the estimate by £1,257,000. Of the factors responsible for the variation, the most important was the increase in costs resulting from the £1 increase in the basic wage, for which, as I have said, no provision was made in the Budget. From the date of operation of the judgment to the

end of the financial year, the direct cost to the Revenue Fund of the increased payments for wages and salaries is estimated to have amounted to approximately £800,000. Additional to this burden was the cost of the secondary effects of the judgment, such as rises in the prices of materials. While it is not possible to make a satisfactory estimate of these indirect costs, they were undoubtedly of some significance.

Turning now to details of expenditure, I would remind members that the estimates of the individual departments were based on the rates of wages and salaries operating at the beginning of the year. In 1950-51, as in the previous year, provision for increases in wages rates, resulting from the quarterly adjustments of wages, was made not in the individual estimates of the departments, but in a special item under the Vote "Treasury—Miscellaneous Expenditure." Any expenditure arising from increases in rates, however, is met not from this Vote, which is not operated upon, but from the Votes of the departments concerned. In view of this, the figures of actual expenditure by the departments are not strictly comparable with the estimates.

*Cost of Quarterly Adjustments of the Basic Wage.*

In anticipation of an accelerating increase in the cost of living, an amount of £700,000 was set aside in last year's Estimates to cover the cost of quarterly wage adjustments, and to make some provision for marginal increases. Actual quarterly adjustments effected during the year lifted the weekly basic wage rate by £1 4s. 3d., and was estimated to have resulted in an additional direct cost to the Budget of approximately £640,000 or £60,000 less than the overall provision made in the Estimates. This balance was more than absorbed by the reclassification of teachers' and public service salaries and by other increases in secondary wages and salaries.

*Public Utilities and Business Undertakings.*

In the Estimates, it had been anticipated on the basis of the wages and salaries operating at the beginning of last year, that the Public Utilities would spend some £10,301,000 during 1950-51. Compared with the estimate, actual expenditure, amounting to £10,987,000, increased by £686,000, due largely to variations in wages and salaries.

Railways expenditure totalled £8,849,000, or £507,000 more than the estimated amount, the variation being largely attributable to basic wage increases and new awards. Other public utilities showing substantial increases in expenditure were the Goldfields Water Supply and Other Hydraulic Undertakings, where there were advances of £83,000 and £45,000 respectively.

As well as sustaining general cost increases, these undertakings were obliged to use increasing quantities of imported materials—notably steel and cement—in place of locally produced goods. In contrast to the other major undertakings, the Tramways spent less in 1950-51 than the amount provided in the Estimates. The decrease, amounting to approximately £4,000, was due in part to savings effected in the operation of motor buses.

#### *Departmental.*

Excluding the overall provision of £700,000 for the basic wage adjustments, departmental expenditure was expected to amount to £10,217,000. This was £1,285,000 less than actual expenditure, which, in the case of virtually all departments, showed substantial increases on the amounts provided for in the Estimates.

Under the division "Miscellaneous Services—Treasury," there was a net increase of £591,000 in items other than the basic wage provision. The major elements in this variation included payments on behalf of the State Electricity Commission for the recoup of losses and for assistance to meet increased costs. In addition to these payments, which totalled £172,000, other noteworthy increases under the division were in respect of the State Shipping Service loss, £85,000; Hospital Fund subsidy £58,000; exchange on overseas remittances, £78,000; and the subsidy on the road haulage of superphosphate.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: That is a big one!

The PREMIER: Yes. In the Estimates, an amount of £180,000 had been provided to meet the cost of the superphosphate subsidy, but this provision was subsequently found to be some £60,000 less than the amount required. I shall refer again to this subsidy when outlining the Estimates for the current year.

Of the other increases, the more important were those in Education, Public Works and Police, each of which incurred substantial additional expenditure through basic wage and other wages or salaries increases. In the case of the Education Department, where the reclassification of teachers' salaries was estimated to have cost approximately £100,000 during 1950-51, expenditure totalling £2,634,000 exceeded the vote by £359,000.

Public Works expenditure, amounting to £122,000 more than the estimate, reflected increases in costs generally and some additional unrecouped expenditure on harbour maintenance. Expenditure on Police, which showed a rise of £96,000 on the estimate, was increased by the cost of the new award which operated as from mid-December, and by additional payments for maintenance of motor vehicles and for car hire.

The only decreases of note were in Lands, Agriculture and Mines. Amounting to £24,000, the decline in Mines ex-

penditure was largely attributable to the interruption of drilling operations at Colliie.

In Agriculture, the decrease amounted to £22,000, and was mainly due to the transfer from the Agriculture vote of certain expenditure on vermin destruction, which, as from the 1st March, 1951, became a charge against the Agriculture Protection Act.

Included in the expenditure of the Department of Lands and Surveys, which was £32,000 below the estimate, is the cost of immigration administration and of building grants to institutions responsible for the maintenance of child migrants. Fewer migrants passed through the depots than had been anticipated, and there were delays in the completion of arrangements for certain grants which had been provided for in the Estimates.

#### *Special Acts.*

Total actual expenditure under Special Acts, amounting to £5,509,000, was £13,000 less than the amount provided for in the Estimates. Under Loan Acts, expenditure of £4,554,000 had been anticipated on account of interest and sinking fund payments, but, mainly as a result of the conversion loan, actual expenditure was £57,000 less than this amount. Other Special Acts showed a net increase of £44,000 on the estimate, the principal variation being an increase of £35,000 under the Agriculture Protection Act.

#### *Review of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations.*

Following the Premiers' Conference last year, when it was decided that the Prime Minister and the Premiers should meet to examine means for improving the financial relations of the Commonwealth and the States, a close investigation of this difficult problem was made by the officers of the respective Treasuries with a view to submitting proposals for the Premiers' consideration. A report of great interest and value was produced by the officers in July last, but so far, the Premiers have not had the opportunity of discussing it.

The report gives in some detail the history of Commonwealth-State financial relations since Federation, and reviews the main implications of developments during the period. It has been prepared on the understanding that the proposed conference of Commonwealth and State representatives desires to be furnished with a report which not only comments on the present financial arrangements, but offers for consideration, alternatives which might improve those arrangements. Various alternatives are discussed under two broad approaches. In one approach consideration is given to measures aiming to achieve a closer correlation between the functions and financial resources available to the States.

Under another approach, an examination is made of measures seeking improvements within the general framework of the present system. In this case, substantial Commonwealth payments would continue to represent an integral feature of Commonwealth-State financial relations. I think it will be agreed that after fifty years of Federation, there is undoubtedly need for review of the Constitution, particularly its financial provisions, and I have no doubt that when such a review is made, the factual and objective survey contained in the officers' report will be regarded as an authoritative starting point.

It is to be hoped that the question of constitutional review will not be pushed into the background as a result of the pre-occupation of Governments with the urgent financial problems of the moment. Unfortunately, there was necessarily no opportunity for such a review during the recent Premiers' Conference. The proceedings at the conference had to be dovetailed in with those of the Loan Council, and, in the result, the discussion of financial relations were confined to the immediate problem of achieving a satisfactory basis for the amount and distribution of the payments which the Commonwealth will make to the States this year by way of income tax reimbursement. I shall deal later with these payments.

I feel that unless the broader issues of financial relations are fairly quickly faced, we may find ourselves drifting into unification. We have already reached a position where the expanding revenue requirements of Commonwealth and State Governments are tending to approach the safe limits of available resources, thereby rendering increasingly difficult the problems of their apportionment.

In this situation, the Commonwealth, through its superior financial power, has become in effect the final arbiter as to how those resources are to be shared. It is true, of course, that the actual Budget results of most of the States during the post-war years do not suggest that Commonwealth power has been used to stifle the legitimate aspirations of the other members of the Federation. On the other hand, however, no-one who considers that a healthy Federal system provides the best scheme of Government for this country, can have any confidence about the future of our present system so long as the distribution of financial power remains so far out of balance.

#### *General Economic Conditions in 1950-51.*

As a consequence of bountiful seasonal conditions, production of the main rural industries was generally greater in 1950-51 than in the previous year. Factory employment and output increased and there was notable expansion in building activity and coalmining. Population showed a considerable natural increase and this

growth was reinforced by substantial gains from migration, the flow of which was maintained at a level only slightly below that of the previous year. In the result, there was a significant expansion of the working population, as a reflection of which the numbers of wages and salary workers rose from 177,000 persons in June, 1950, to 183,000 in June of this year. From my observations in Britain, I feel sure we can attract the additional population we need from that source, provided we overcome our housing difficulty.

Reflecting the combined effects of an excellent season and a record peak in the general level of export prices, rural incomes as a whole made tremendous gains during the year and were largely responsible for the remarkable increase which occurred in the total and per head income of the community. Estimates prepared by the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics indicate that in 1949-50, total personal income accruing to individuals in this State amounted to £144,000,000, but for 1950-51, the figure had risen to £210,000,000. This was equivalent to £368 per head of population, at which level the figure was higher than that of any other State, and £17 greater than the Australian average.

In the previous year, our per head income was appreciably less than that of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This relative advance, arising from a fortunate combination of factors beyond our control, is a reminder of the dependence of our economy on income from exports and of its vulnerability if those incomes should suffer a serious reduction.

#### *Wool.*

Of the economic developments occurring in 1950-51, the most noteworthy in any specific industry was the spectacular advance in wool values, which brought to growers the enjoyment of a period of unprecedented prosperity. Compared with the previous year, the prices realised at the local auctions more than doubled, greasy and scoured wool averaging 137.7d. and 155.9d. per lb. respectively, as against 61.6d. and 75.6d. for offerings in 1949-50. Clearances comprised 94.9 million lb. of greasy and 1.2 million lb. of scoured wool, the total realisation from which amounted to approximately £55.3 million.

The total quantity of wool produced during the season is estimated to have amounted to 102.9 million lb., valued at £59,000,000, which sum was £35.4 million greater than the estimated value of the clip in 1949-50. At the opening sales of the current season, there was a recession from the abnormal prices of 1950-51, though later sales have shown a tendency for prices to rise.

When in England, I held discussions at Bradford with the British Chamber of Commerce and individual companies interested in the purchase and manufacture of wool. They were not very informative

about future prices, but I found them completely in favour of continuing the auction system. It was gratifying to hear from the Bradford authorities that, in recent years, Western Australian wools had shown the greatest improvement of all Australian wools, and that some Murchison lines compare favourably with any in the world.

#### *Wheat.*

Last season was remarkable for the exceptionally favourable conditions it provided for cereal growth. Wheat-growers sowed to grain about 3,200,000 acres, from which was harvested 49.9 million bushels for an average yield per acre of approximately 15.6 bushels.

Hon. E. Nulsen: That must be the highest we have ever had.

The PREMIER: This harvest was the second highest on record, being exceeded only by that of the 1930-31 season. Average yield per acre, however, bettered all previous returns. Crop growth during the current season has been generally satisfactory, and there is now promise of a satisfactory harvest.

#### *Dairying.*

Production in the dairy industry during the 1950-51 season showed improvement on the previous year. Output of butter and cheese for the 12 months ended June last, amounting to approximately 15.6 million lb. and 1.7 million lb. respectively, compared with 15 million lb. and 1.6 million lb. for 1949-50. Pastures did not show up to full advantage in the early part of the season, but they carried through until later than usual, maintaining stock in excellent condition.

Although the high incidence of frosts somewhat retarded the excellent pasture growth evidenced at the beginning of the current season, this has not been reflected in the production of the last few months, which is increasing steadily and is higher than at the corresponding period last year. To provide for the needs of our rapidly growing population, and to meet our obligations to provide a surplus for export abroad, the Government is anxious to assist in every way in securing an expansion of dairying output. A recent measure, with this aim in view, is the Government's decision to establish a machinery pool and to make loans available to farmers for the hire of machinery for clearing purposes. With the co-operation of farmers, this should materially assist to bring a great deal of relatively undeveloped land into quick production for a minimum expenditure.

#### *Secondary Industry.*

Although there were no outstanding developments in factory industry during the year, employment rose to 44,000 at June last, or 1,600 more than the number engaged at the end of the previous year. Heavy contracts let for the con-

struction of railway rollingstock have brought about new developments in the heavy industries. Tomlinson Steel Ltd. and Hoskins Ltd. are establishing extensive works at Welshpool and Bassendean respectively, while the Commonwealth Engineering Co. and Bradford Kendall Ltd. have decided to extend their activities to this State. To co-operate with the engineering firms for the supply of wagon stock joinery, leading sawmillers have combined in a venture to operate a joinery works.

Other engineering developments include the establishment of a car and truck assembly plant at Subiaco and new works for J. & E. Ledger Ltd., at Welshpool. Developments commenced or projected in other directions, include fellmongering and wool scouring and carbonising extensions; fire protection engineering; production of white glass containers; the establishment of a jam factory by H. Jones & Co. and new clothing and paint manufacturing plants.

The shore-based whaling industry is reporting satisfactory catches. The processing of frozen crayfish tails continues to expand and last year this industry earned 1½ million dollars from exports to the United States. During 1950, the fish canneries also had a successful season with a pack of about 900 tons, of which the bulk was salmon.

Output from the wood distillation and charcoal-iron and steel plant at Wundowie is at present at about capacity. Pig-iron is being produced at the rate of about 13,000 tons per annum, acetic acid 400 tons, methanol 250 tons and sawn timber at the rate of 5,500 loads. Plans are well advanced to raise production of pig-iron to 16,000 tons annually, and during the past few weeks daily production has exceeded 40 tons.

While abroad, I had the opportunity of meeting representatives of a number of institutions in England concerned with secondary industry in Australia and particularly Western Australia, who were anxious to discuss prospects with me. Favourable developments may result from these discussions, which, however, are still at a confidential stage.

#### *Fisheries.*

I also had detailed talks with the directors of Anglo-Australian Fisheries, who control the trawling venture that was established at Albany. So far, it has not been possible to find a satisfactory solution of the difficulties which the industry is undergoing, but investigations and negotiations are proceeding in an endeavour to place matters on a more satisfactory basis.

#### *Building Materials.*

Production of building materials showed further expansion last year. Compared with the last pre-war year, brick output was up 45 per cent. and tile output 50 per

cent., while corresponding increases for cement and fibrous plaster sheet were 36 per cent. and 69 per cent. respectively. Substantial gains were also made in sawn timber output, which for 1950-51, is estimated to have amounted to 160 million super feet, compared with 137.3 million super feet in the previous year, and 123.9 million super feet in 1938-39.

As members know, Western Australian hardwoods have won a very high reputation abroad, and when I was in England I was approached by our agents who were most anxious to resume imports even if on a token basis only. I was reluctantly obliged to tell them that there was no prospect of this being done in the near future because of the requirements of the local market.

#### *Building.*

Remarkable progress was made last year in building construction when 5,160 houses were completed, or approximately 1,650 more than in 1949-50. Houses commenced in 1950-51 numbered 6,970, compared with 5,031 in the previous year, and the excess of commencements over completions resulted in the number of houses under construction rising from 3,957 in June, 1950, to 5,764 in the corresponding month this year. Other building activity during the year included the completion of 308 dwelling units, such as flats and shops with living accommodation attached, additional to the aforementioned houses, and of other buildings to the value of £704,000.

#### *Mining.*

Gold production for 1950-51, amounting to 632,000 fine oz., valued at £9,796,000, showed a small improvement on that of the previous year, when 617,000 fine oz. were won, valued at £9,051,000. Rising production costs and a static price, however, have been causing serious concern in the industry and to those who appreciate the significance of goldmining as the main pillar of our economy over great areas of the State.

When in London I was asked to address the Western Australian Gold Mining Association on the policy of the Government in regard to the industry. I was able to assure the meeting, which was somewhat apprehensive about the future, that the State Government was fully seized of the necessity for positive support of the industry and of our intention to press its case with the Commonwealth. The Government has made strong and repeated representations to the Commonwealth on behalf of the industry, asking for an increased price for gold, a free market, or for assistance to individual mines where justified.

A delegation to the Commonwealth Treasurer, representative of the industry throughout Australia and led by the Minister for Mines, was arranged by the Government last August. The delegation was ad-

vised by the Commonwealth Treasurer that his Government was continuing to support, in international discussions, proposals for an increase in the official world price of gold, and that when the outcome of these proposals was known the Commonwealth Government would re-examine the position. Meanwhile, he undertook to bring the industry's requests before the Commonwealth Cabinet for early consideration of the whole question of assistance to the goldmining industry in its present difficulties.

Hon. E. Nulsen: All your efforts have been without avail up to date.

Mr. McCulloch: Missed the bus.

The PREMIER: It looks as though early action will be taken.

Mr. McCulloch: You are too late.

The PREMIER: Not at all. I suppose the hon. member, being from the Goldfields, knows the position intimately; but surely if the companies, or the gold producers, are to get a premium on their gold it will be of great assistance to them. Since then the International Monetary Fund has announced that it will permit member countries to sell gold other than for monetary purposes at premium prices. This decision means that the gold industry of this State will be able to share in the premium sales, provided the Commonwealth is prepared to give its approval.

Mr. Kelly: Do not you think the free market will soon be flooded if all markets are under that same heading?

The PREMIER: I do think the free market may have a limit. I heard it said some considerable time ago that there would be a limit for this market. But I would think that the free market is very considerable and, if available to our producers, must be beneficial to them. So far, the Commonwealth Government has made no announcement of its policy in the matter, but following a telegram, which I sent to the Prime Minister immediately the decision of the Fund was made known, I have received a reply from the Federal Treasurer advising that the matter is being given urgent consideration. I have again communicated with the Commonwealth Government emphasising the need for quick and sympathetic action, and suggesting certain arrangements in connection with the administration of sales that we believe would be acceptable to producers and in the best interest of the industry.

New developments are still proceeding in the industry. At Bullfinch, progress is being made by the lessee company on a project of considerable size for the establishment of a modern mine, plant and township. A new mine is being opened at Horseshoe, near Peak Hill, and a new company has been formed to test by drilling the southern end of the Kalgoorlie deposits. In non-auriferous mining, activity has been greatly stimulated by the

State of the world market under pressure of defence requirements, and lead, asbestos, tin, copper and manganese are being produced on a large scale, as are likewise pyrite and gypsum.

At Yampi Sound, developments began to come to fruition in July last, when the first shipment of iron-ore, comprising 10,000 tons, was made from Cockatoo Island.

Hon. E. Nulsen: What does the State get out of the export of iron to the Eastern States?

The PREMIER: If I remember rightly, the royalty is 6d. per ton.

### *Coal.*

Coal production continues to increase, some 835,000 tons being raised in 1950-51, compared with 782,000 in the previous year. In order to promote further expansion of output, the Government is rendering all the assistance it can, and to this end, is purchasing a second diamond drill for work at Collie. This will be for the shallower drilling to be undertaken, the existing one being a deep drilling plant. Investigations of the suitability of Collie coal for various purposes are proceeding through the Fuel Technology Section of the Mines Department. Already a great deal has been achieved, including the use of Collie coal for gasification purposes.

### *Oil.*

A further step in the search for oil will shortly be taken when the Ampol Coy., in conjunction with the California Texas Coy. of America, proceeds with the drilling of a deep test hole in the North West Cape area. For this work, the two companies propose to provide an amount of £1,500,000. Further north in the Kimberleys is an area which is considered by the Commonwealth and State geologists to have oil possibilities. Negotiations are being conducted between the Freney company and the State and Commonwealth Governments with a view to sinking a deep bore hole in this area at Neerima.

### *Other Geological Developments.*

With generally satisfactory results, a concentrated geological examination of the metropolitan area has just been completed, for the purpose of locating and testing suitable deposits of lime, clay building sands and the like, for building and industrial requirements. Other important geological work during the year has included the examination of water supplies in various parts of the State.

### *Estimates for 1951-52.*

Anticipating revenue of £33,096,510 and expenditure to the amount of £33,158,375, I have budgeted for a deficit of £61,865. While this is only a small deficiency,

nevertheless, I recognise that at the present time any deficit tends to add to the inflationary forces at work in the economy. Every endeavour will accordingly be made to improve on the estimate. Members will appreciate, however, that a State Budget is not a flexible instrument which can be readily adapted to the requirements of high policy in the economic field.

Revenue from such taxation as is still under our control, for example, is relatively small and rates in many cases have already been pushed to the maximum practicable level. Other revenues from State sources consist in the main of the earnings of public utilities, the charges for which in most cases enter into costs of production of industry, thereby affecting the general level of prices and the competitive ability of local firms. On the expenditure side too, there is generally a similar lack of opportunity for adjusting the budget.

Commitments for the service of our public debt are irreducible; public utilities must be operated on the scale necessary to provide essential services to the community; and the social services provided by the State for maintenance of law, order and public safety, and for education and the like, are not of a kind that lend themselves to variation in accordance with a fluctuating economic situation.

### *Revenue (£33,096,510).*

Compared with the collections for last year, the revenue estimate anticipates an increase of £4,940,329. Increases in income tax reimbursement payments and in earnings of the railways account for the major part of the increase, which is based on the same rates of taxation and service charges as those operating at the end of last year.

### *Income Tax Reimbursement.*

This year the Commonwealth will pay to the States, as income tax reimbursement, a total sum of £120,000,000, of which this State will receive £9,400,000, compared with £7,176,000 received in 1950-51 from an aggregate Commonwealth payment of £90,398,000. The total reimbursement grant, which is to be distributed by the Commonwealth this year, is estimated to be approximately £33.4 million greater than the amount which the States would receive were payments limited to the sum calculated under the existing reimbursement formula, namely, about £86.6 million. On such a basis, our reimbursement grant for the current year would amount only to £7,000,000.

An unsatisfactory feature of the present income tax reimbursement arrangement is that each year since the existing formula came into operation, it has been

found necessary either to amend the formula itself or to supplement the amounts calculated under the formula with special Commonwealth grants. Last year, for example, when the formula produced an aggregate grant of only £704 million, the Commonwealth found it necessary to augment this amount with two non-recurring payments, totalling £20,000,000, while in the previous year, there was also a non-recurring additional payment of £8,000,000.

The manifest shortcomings of the formula arise from several causes. The base amount adopted as the starting point in the calculations is obviously inadequate. Moreover, the method used to vary the base year payment in order to arrive at the reimbursement for subsequent years, can be reconciled with neither the realities of the changing financial position of the States, nor their claims to receive equitable compensation for the loss of their tax rights.

Under the present formula the base amount is varied with reference to changes in population and average wages. The percentage variations in the grant are considerably less than the changes which would occur in receipts from income tax if the States were still raising their own tax revenues. It is not possible to make any calculation of the income tax which the States would raise in the absence of uniform tax, but at the rates imposed prior to the introduction of uniform tax, it would be substantially greater than the amount yielded by the formula.

Under the uniform tax system, the States are entitled to claim equitable compensation for the loss of their tax rights. One of the first measures for the improvement of financial relations, therefore, should be a review of the formula to place it on a more satisfactory basis. Another factor emphasising the increasing urgency of the need for such a review, is the growth of the additional payments made at the discretion of the Commonwealth as supplements to grants under the formula.

In 1949-50, these discretionary payments represented 11.3 per cent. of the total reimbursement payments; in 1950-51, 22.1 per cent.; while for the current year, they are estimated at 27.8 per cent. Their magnitude increases the uncertainties of State revenue budgeting, and to some extent renders forward planning impracticable. In the report of the Commonwealth and State treasury officers, it was emphasised that it would be unwise to expect any formula to meet requirements for any lengthy period. The officers expressed the view, however, that—

Provided the fundamental principles underlying a formula were regarded as equitable and only altered substantially when major changes occurred, Governments would be encouraged to maintain financial respon-

sibility and to formulate their annual budgets in the light of available revenue.

I think it is obvious that the requirements stated in the officers' report are not met by the existing formula, and when opportunity offers, I propose to press strongly to have it placed on a more realistic and equitable basis.

#### *Special Grant for 1951-52.*

For the current year, the special grant paid by the Commonwealth on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission will amount to £5,088,000. In accordance with the revised procedure of the Commission, which I explained last year, the recommended payment consists of two parts. The "first part" grant consists of an amount which is being paid by the Commonwealth to adjust an advance payment or "Second part" grant received by the State in 1949-50.

As members know, when the Commission makes its recommendations of the amount needed by a claimant State for its requirements in the year of payment, it is obliged to base its calculations on preliminary figures and estimates. For this reason, such current payments are treated as advances, and these advances are subsequently reviewed when final audited figures become available for this purpose. In its current report, the Commission has now determined that the advance which we received in 1949-50 was £88,000 less than the amount actually needed to enable this State to function at the standard of the non-claimant States. This balance due is accordingly being paid to us as a "first part" grant in the current year.

The remainder of the payment for the year consists of a "second part" grant of £5,000,000, which is the amount the Commission estimates as necessary to meet our current requirements, pending a more precise assessment of our needs for 1951-52 on the basis of final audited figures for the year. Compared with the total grant of £5,839,000 received in 1950-51, the amounts recommended for payment in the current year show a decline of £751,000. This change, however, does not indicate any lessening of our current requirements in 1951-52 as compared with the previous year.

In this connection, I would remind members that of the total amount of £5,839,000 made available last year as Special Grants, some £817,000 was for the purpose not of meeting current requirements, but of extinguishing the 1948-49 deficit. This year we have no previous deficit commitment to extinguish, and the whole amount of the grant, namely, £5,088,000, will be available for the service of the year, compared with the somewhat lesser amount of £5,021,739 in 1950-51.

I have received an advance copy of the 18th Report of the Commission containing its recommendations for 1951-52 and, when additional copies come to hand, I will arrange to have them made available to members. The report indicates that the Commission has been extending its investigations of State revenues and expenditures, and has given particular attention to certain special items of expenditure in 1949-50, including the subsidy paid in this State for the road haulage of superphosphate. The Commission states that a similar item of expenditure does not appear in the accounts of any other State and that it intends to discuss the item at the next hearings, and to explore ways and means by which the effect of such an item on the amount claimed as a special grant may be eliminated in future.

#### *Public Utilities.*

Earnings of Public Utilities are expected to yield £11,981,848 or £2,439,289 more than in 1950-51. Significant increases are provided for in the revenue of the Tramways and Metropolitan Water Supply Departments but the major contributor to the overall advance is the Railway Department.

#### *Railways.*

A rise of £2,229,304 is anticipated in railway earnings, which are estimated to yield £9,200,000. Most of the increase is attributable to the operation for a full twelve months of the 30 per cent. increase in fares and freights which became effective on the 1st May last, but some allowance has been made for an improvement in the department's ability to handle additional traffic. Providing there are no unforeseen shipping difficulties, the whole of the new "W" locomotive stock should be in service before the end of the year, resulting in some betterment of train performance. Deliveries of new wagons on order, which will not commence until later in the year, are not expected to have much influence on operations in 1951-52, but are expected to improve carrying capacity substantially in the following year.

#### *Metropolitan Water Supply.*

Revenue from the Metropolitan Water Supply, estimated at £880,000, shows an advance of £75,970 on the actual collections of 1950-51. Of the increase, approximately one-third is due to a rise in the sewerage rate from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. in the £, while the balance will be derived from ratings on new buildings, water main extensions, new sewerage areas and valuation reviews.

Mr. Marshall: And the general increase in charges. Don't forget to mention that.

#### *Tramways (£800,000).*

The PREMIER: Compared with actual revenue for last year, the earnings of the Tramways are expected to increase by

£128,284. The variation is due to the operation for a full twelve month period of the increase in fares, which came into operation as from the 1st February last.

#### *State Abattoirs and Saleyards (£179,623).*

Under State Abattoirs and Saleyards, there is an estimated increase in revenue of £23,777. Slaughtering is expected to be greater than last year, and additional revenue will accrue from the increased saleyard fees which became effective in March last.

#### *Goldfields and Country Areas Water Supply Scheme (£392,000).*

It will be noticed that in the Estimates for this year, the operations of the Goldfields Water Supply are not shown separately, but are merged with the operation of certain other supplies under a new heading, namely Country Areas Water Supply Schemes. This is intended eventually to cover all water supplies forming part of the comprehensive scheme. For the current year, it covers, in addition to the Goldfields Water Supply, the Collic and Bruce Rock schemes, which were formerly included under the heading "Other Hydraulic Undertakings." Total estimated revenue under the new division amounts to £392,000, and includes provision for additional collections due to a change in the rating year at Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and for improved collections from farming lands.

#### *Fremantle Harbour Trust.*

Amounting to £240,000, estimated collections from the Fremantle Harbour Trust are £63,648 less than the revenue which accrued from this source last year. The variation which is the only revenue decrease expected under the heading "Public Utilities" reflects the effect on net earnings of an increased provision in the operating account for the depreciation of the fixed assets of the Trust.

#### *Other Variations.*

Minor increases in revenue are anticipated in the receipts of the remaining utilities, including rises of £7,950 and £7,163 for Other Hydraulic Undertakings and States Batteries respectively.

#### *State Trading Concerns (£157,270).*

Recoveries of profits and of interest and other charges from trading concerns show an estimated decrease of £21,186 on the figure for last year. The variation is due to a reduction in the profits of the State Saw Mills, the operating expenses of which will be adjusted to allow for an adequate provision for depreciation.

#### *Departmental Revenue.*

Including revenue from the courts and the Mint, departmental revenue is estimated to yield £3,379,460, or £186,945 more than the actual collections in 1950-51.

Among the more important variations, there is an estimated increase of £83,307 in the revenue of the Public Works Department, which is expected to total £360,000. Most of this increase is expected to accrue from bulldozer land clearing, but there is also a substantial increase in the anticipated revenue from tile-making for the Housing Commission. Another substantial increase occurs under Public Health, where revenue estimated at £216,175 exceeds by £45,510 the actual collections of last year. The major element of health revenue is the Commonwealth recoup of maintenance expenditure on T.B. treatment. For the current year, this recoup is expected to be about £42,000 greater than in 1950-51.

#### *Industrial Development Returns.*

An increase of £27,232 is anticipated in the revenue of the Department of Industrial Development, mainly as a result of higher earnings from the Lake Chandler plaster production lease. From this source, a revenue of £40,000 has been budgeted for, compared with £17,324 in 1950-51. Included in these collections are gross earnings from rents and the various trading activities operated in the township, as well as royalties on increased gypsum production. Outgoings incurred in town trading operations are included in the expenditure vote of the department. An estimated increase of £19,060 in collections of the Forests Department anticipates additional revenue from pine conversion, while another increase worth noting is in the revenue of the Harbour and Light Department, which is expected to be £14,856 greater than last year.

#### *Minor Revenue Decreases.*

Such decreases as are provided for in the Estimates of departmental revenue are generally of a minor nature. In Treasury Revenue, however, a decrease of £28,548 is expected, which is more than accounted for by reduced collections of interest from the agency section of the Rural Bank. There are also decreases in anticipated collections under Lands and Surveys and Education respectively. Under Lands and Surveys, the estimated decrease of £11,585 is due largely to the fact that revenue in 1950-51 was inflated by certain non-recurring recoups by the Commonwealth on account of migration. Education revenue—£8,709 less than in 1950-51—reflects an anticipated reduction in recoups from the Commonwealth on behalf of C.R.T.S. trainees at the Teachers' College.

#### *Taxation Returns.*

Excluding income tax reimbursement, taxation collections for the current year, which are based on the rates of tax operative in 1950-51, have been estimated at £1,991,500, or at a figure of £35,675 greater than the corresponding actual collections in 1950-51. Stamp duty, amounting last year to £923,788, is expected to increase to

£950,000, and an increase of £13,126 is anticipated in collections from liquor licenses.

#### *Territorial (£625,000).*

Territorial revenue from land, mining and timber is anticipated to show an overall increase of £9,771. The establishment of additional mills and increased output from other establishments promise additional revenue from timber, collections of which are expected to rise by £19,859. Partially offsetting this increase is a reduction of £9,846 in anticipated territorial revenue from land. At a time when land in process of alienation is increasing in area, it may seem anomalous that territorial revenue from land should be decreasing. The fact is, however, that a large proportion of the new lands in process of alienation is still within the rent-free period of five years and provides, as yet, no revenue to offset the effect of the heavy alienations that have occurred in recent years.

#### *Expenditure for 1951-52.*

In budgeting for an increase of £5,161,541 on the expenditure of last year, I have anticipated that the total expenditure will rise to £33,158,375 for 1951-52. This considerable increase is largely a reflection of the impact of additional costs, but I have necessarily been obliged to make some provision for normal expansion of services to meet the needs of a growing population. Expenditure of last year included only part of the additional annual commitments resulting from the various rises in costs that occurred during the period, including the £1 increase and the several quarterly adjustments of the basic wage. Operating for a complete year in 1951-52, these basic wage increases of 1950-51 will cost about £1,650,000 more than during the year in which they took effect.

#### *Special Provision for Wage Variation.*

Additional to these increases is the cost of actual and prospective adjustments of the basic wage during the current year. So far, only one quarterly adjustment has been announced, namely, the increase of 12s. 5d. per week, which operated as from the end of July last. This adjustment alone will involve additional disbursements of about £750,000 during 1951-52. In the Estimates, provision has been made of £1,250,000 to meet the cost of this and further wage variations.

Following the procedure adopted in several previous Budgets, this special provision for wage variations, £1,250,000, appears as a separate item under the heading of "Treasury—Miscellaneous Services," and not in the Estimates of the departments concerned, which take account only of the actual wage changes that had been made up to the end of last financial year. To this extent, the

amounts indicated in the printed Estimates, as the anticipated expenditures of the individual departments, are understated.

#### *Public Utilities (£12,610,195).*

Approximately 40 per cent. of the total expenditure, excluding the provision for wage adjustments, will be absorbed in the operation of public utilities. Requirements for these operations have been estimated at £12,610,195 on the basis of costs operating at the beginning of the year, which amount is £1,623,373 greater than actual expenditure incurred in 1950-51. Although the Estimates anticipate some expansion of activities, they reflect in the main the effect of increased costs.

Excluding any debt charges or allowance for basic wage increases in the current year, estimated expenditure for the operation of public utilities exceeds anticipated earnings by an amount of £628,347. On adding to this figure the net revenue loss on the operation of the various trading concerns and the State Electricity Commission, the overall deficiency of these enterprises becomes £961,000, even without allowance for the effect of the new wage increases that will be incurred during the year. It is probable therefore, that the actual revenue gap which will arise this year in the operation of utilities and business undertakings will be of the same order as that of last year, when the deficiency amounted to approximately £1,830,000.

#### *Railways (£10,158,000).*

As in 1950-51, the loss on the railways accounts for virtually the entire deficiency estimated to be incurred in the operation of our utilities and business undertakings. Last year the Railways deficit, exclusive of debt charges, amounted to £1,897,000. This year, as a result of the recent adjustment of charges, the railways deficit will be reduced, but it is likely to be still substantially in excess of £1,000,000. Comparing Railways revenue and expenditure figures as set out in the Estimates, the deficit indicated for the current year is £958,000.

The estimates of expenditure, however, which show a rise of £1,308,800, due mainly to the effect of basic wage adjustments and new awards made last year, take no account of the wage increases that may be made in the current 12 months. These increases will obviously have important effects on railway expenditure, which, even exclusive of such additional costs, is estimated at £10,158,000.

In the Traffic Branch, where the estimated increase is £708,762, provision has been made for increases in the cost of fuel and for the payment of arrears due in connection with the adjustment of coal prices, as well as for some extra

staff required to handle additional traffic. The Railways also anticipate being able to undertake some additional track maintenance by the transfer of men previously engaged on certain loan work.

For depreciation of fixed assets, a sum of £580,000 is provided, or £104,417 more than was set aside last year, the increase being due to changes in the remaining values and average remaining lives of the department's capital equipment. Members will recall that under the procedure introduced last year, portion of this provision for depreciation is appropriated to Treasury revenue for the purpose of meeting sinking fund payments on the capital liability of the Railways, and the balance transferred to Loan repayments. Each of these transfers results in a corresponding reduction in the loan liability of the department.

It will be noticed that, whereas last year an amount of £45,000 was provided for depreciation of the Munitions Annex, the provision for the current 12 months is only £9,000. These moneys are paid into a special trust account in order to conform with an undertaking given by the Government when the annex was passed over to the State by the Commonwealth. As part of that undertaking, provision was made last year for depreciation accrued over a period of five years. The expenditure for this year represents current depreciation only.

#### *Tramways (£911,000).*

A rise of £139,037 is expected in Tramways expenditure, including an increase in the provision for the depreciation of plant and equipment, amounting to £24,519. Basic wage increases and the higher cost of materials account for the balance of the variation.

#### *Other Public Utilities.*

Each of the remaining public utilities is expected to incur substantial additional expenditure during the current year. The estimated expenditure on Metropolitan Water Supply is £47,592 greater than the actual figure for 1950-51, and includes provision for the operation of 10,000 additional water meters, which will be installed at an early date for the purpose of conserving water and increasing revenue. Under "Other Hydraulic Undertakings," the increase of £50,267 contemplates provision for cost increases and expansion of maintenance activities.

An amount of £450,000 is anticipated to be required for the operation of Country Areas Water Supply Schemes, which comprise mainly the scheme operated previously as the Goldfields Water Supply undertaking. Additional maintenance and other activity, as well as normal cost increases, are provided for in this estimate.

The amount estimated to be spent this year on behalf of abattoir and saleyard operations shows an increase of £23,493 on the expenditure for 1950-51. Part of this variation is due to the inclusion in the estimate of operating costs for a full 12 months for the Kalgoorlie Abattoirs. Last year this establishment was closed down for a period of approximately six months. The only other noteworthy change in public utilities expenditure is an increase of £7,541 in State Batteries, which are expected to mill greater tonnages than were treated last year.

#### *Departmental Expenditure.*

In departmental expenditure, the cost of "Miscellaneous Services" to be met from the Treasury Vote is estimated at £3,710,146, excluding the provision for basic wage increases to which I have already referred. This is an advance of £205,247 on the corresponding figure for last year. The largest of the individual variations anticipated under this head is an increase of £300,000 in the grant to the Hospital Fund, which is expected to require Treasury assistance to the amount of £1,692,047. This requirement has been growing in recent years at such a rate that it is now almost double the amount provided in 1948-49.

#### *University Grants.*

Other anticipated increases in expenditure on Miscellaneous Services include a rise of £41,019 in the University grant. The University will also receive assistance from the Commonwealth in accordance with an arrangement whereby, under certain stipulated conditions, the Commonwealth will provide £1 for every £3 provided from State grants and fees.

#### *State Electricity Commission.*

This year the Budget will be relieved of the cost of a special non-recurring grant of £145,000, which was made last year for the purpose of enabling the State Electricity Commission to meet part of the cost of the basic wage increases which it incurred during the year. There is a rise, however, in the provision made to recoup the losses of the Commission in connection with the South-West Power Scheme and the operation of auxiliary power plants at Welshpool and Midland Junction. The amount provided this year is £81,000 and is for the purpose of meeting losses incurred in 1950-51.

Corresponding actual expenditure for last year was £26,921. Losses from the South-West Power Scheme may be expected to increase during the next few years.

#### *Road Transport of Superphosphate.*

It has been determined that the total payments to be made in subsidising the road transport of super. shall be limited this year to an amount of £100,000. Orig-

inally intended as a temporary measure, pending improvement in the carrying capacity of the railways, the subsidy has been operating since 1946-47, during which period it has cost Revenue an amount of £656,000.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: How has the new maximum figure of £100,000 been arrived at?

The PREMIER: The Government has asked the Treasury to try to formulate some estimate. Discussions have taken place with the Railway Commissioners and a certain formula has been presented to the Government in regard to the carriage of super. by rail and by road. It is on that basis that the £100,000 has been arrived at.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Does that mean the Railway Department will carry that much more than last year?

The PREMIER: We are hoping that the Railway Department will carry a considerably greater quantity than last year. As the hon. member knows, new locomotives have been coming to hand, and also rollingstock, though not at the rate we would like. Last season, when 181,070 tons were hauled by subsidised road transport, the cost to revenue was £240,381 or £140,000 more than the Government is prepared to provide for the current year in the light of its other financial commitments. When introducing the Estimates last year, I told members that, while the Government had agreed to continue the subsidy during 1950-51, it was obvious that this heavy and increasing expenditure could not continue, and that a substantial reduction or cessation of the subsidy would be necessary in the year now current.

Mr. May: What will happen if the railways cannot carry the extra?

The PREMIER: As the hon. member knows, we must get the super. out.

Mr. May: I know! That is what I am worrying about.

The PREMIER: It is a position that will have to be met should it arise. It is anticipated that no subsidised road haulage will be necessary until January next, and before that date an announcement will be made of the means whereby it is proposed to effect the suggested limitation on payments. On present indications, over 130,000 tons of super. will require to be transported by the controlled road haul, and this implies a scaling down of the basis of the subsidy in order to keep payments within the amount of the maximum proposed.

#### *Education, £3,161,495.*

Amounting to £527,034 more than last year, Education expenditure is estimated to increase to £3,161,495. Of the increase, approximately £100,000 represents the additional cost of operation for a full year of the reclassification of teachers' salaries

made in 1950-51, while basic wage increases are another important factor in the variation. Under a new arrangement operating this year, the department will reimburse the Railway Department for the difference between ordinary and concession fares for school children. An amount of £50,000 has been provided in the Education estimates for this purpose.

Provision has also been made for the employment of additional teaching staff and for increased payments for bus contracts due to the expansion of schools, and to school consolidation and higher bus operating costs respectively.

#### *Public Works, £989,610.*

Estimated Public Works expenditure shows a rise of £122,752 compared with the previous year. Included in this estimate is a new provision of £20,000 for additional watering points on Kimberley cattle stations, the purpose of which is to encourage the development of meat production in the area. Grants will be made to pastoralists on a £ for £ basis for expenditure incurred in providing suitable bores and improving existing water supplies on their properties.

Bore sites have been investigated by the Government Geologist, and the department will carefully investigate all applications made for assistance. Additional expenditure of £10,038 is also contemplated for improvements to town water supplies and stock routes in the North-West generally.

#### *Police, £872,476.*

In the Police estimates allowance has been made for additions to the Police Force. Expenditure, anticipated to show an increase of £122,051, will also be affected by the additional cost of the operation for a full year of the new police award.

#### *Public Health.*

In the Public Health and Medical Department, the Estimates provide for an overall increase of £134,785. Under "Medical and Homes," there is a rise of £40,781, which is largely accounted for by the provision for a full year of expenditure on the Mount Henry Home, opened in February last. Minor increases in health services are contemplated, provision being made in the Estimates for additional school dentists, health inspectors and laboratory staff. Argentine ant control is also expected to absorb additional expenditure, depending upon the availability of insecticides and sprays.

#### *Mental Hospitals (£440,000).*

Expenditure on behalf of mental hospitals shows an estimated increase of £76,770, and provides for additional medi-

cal and nursing staff. The major variation, however, is due to increased costs of provisions and normal salary and wages increases.

#### *Lands and Surveys (£375,210).*

Lands and Surveys expenditure is anticipated to rise by £79,840. Factors responsible for the increase include additional grants to institutions caring for child migrants and the appointment of additional survey staff.

#### *Other Departments.*

Other noteworthy variations in departmental expenditure occur in Agriculture and Crown Law. In the estimate for the Department of Agriculture, which contemplates a rise of £67,529, the usual provision has been made for the supply of various unfilled vacancies on the professional staff. With the transfer of the cost of vermin control to the Agriculture Protection Board, the department—but not the Revenue Fund as a whole—will incur substantially less expenditure this year than would otherwise be the case. An increase of £59,251 has been budgeted for in Crown Law expenditure, mainly on account of salary increases.

#### *Special Acts (£6,142,572).*

Under Special Acts expenditure is anticipated to increase by £633,905. Reflecting the growth of the public debt under an expanding loan programme, the commitment for interest and sinking fund is estimated at £4,932,796, and amounts to £435,747 more than the actual expenditure incurred last year. Compared with expenditure during 1950-51, the provision under other statutes, including the Constitution Act, shows an increase of £198,158. There is a rise of £70,000 in payments under the Agriculture Protection Board Act, representing the additional cost of providing for a full year's expenditure under this statute, and lesser increases in payments under the Forests Act, and for the Fire Brigades Contribution Act.

Payments under the Superannuation Act of 1871, the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act of 1938, and the Government Employees' Pension Act, 1948, will be increased because of greater benefits it is proposed to pay under amending legislation which will be introduced shortly. I shall not go into the details of the legislation now, because I shall deal fully with the subject on the second reading of the Bill, but for the information of members, I shall state the extent of the increased benefits. Pensions under the 1871 Act will be increased as follows:—

- (a) Existing pensions up to £260 per annum will be increased by 20 per cent;

- (b) pensions between £260 per annum and £650 per annum will be increased by £52 per annum; and
- (c) pensions between £650 and £702 will be lifted to £702 per annum.

Under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act of 1938, the benefits will be made more liberal by raising the value of the first eight units of pension from 12s. 6d. to 15s. per unit. Thus a pensioner, who has contributed for eight or more units of pension, will receive an additional pension payment of £52 per annum. It is also proposed to raise the limit on the number of permissible units for which a contributor may subscribe from 20 to 26. This latter amendment will not, of course, affect existing pensioners but it will enable present officers to make more adequate financial provision against their retirement.

Pensions payable under the Government Employees' Pension Act of 1938 will be increased by 20 per cent., thus raising the maximum pension from £130 to £156 per annum. It is proposed to pay the additional pension from the 1st of this month, if the legislation is approved by Parliament, and the estimated cost this year is about £77,000. For a full year's payment, the amount involved is £102,200. These additional benefits are in line with what have been granted by most other States.

Enquiries are being made to ascertain whether any additional benefits are contemplated, and, if as a result of these inquiries, it is found that we are substantially less generous than other States in our treatment of pensioned officers, I shall be prepared to consider what further payments should be made.

An actuarial valuation of the Parliamentary Superannuation made recently disclosed that the contributions were inadequate to meet the benefits. The deficiency could be overcome either by a substantial increase in contributions or an annual subsidy from the Government. It has been decided to increase the contributions slightly from the existing one of £48 per annum to one of £52 per annum—

Mr. Marshall: You had better repeal the Act, confiscate what is in the fund and finish with it.

The PREMIER: —and to provide for an annual payment of £4,160 from the Treasury. The necessary amending legislation will be introduced at an early date.

#### *General.*

That completes my survey of our financial position. All that remains for me to do now is to express the fervent hope that the efforts Australia is making—in common with the other free nations of the world to maintain peace—will be effective. It seems to be abundantly clear that one way to pre-

vent war is to be so strongly prepared for it that a possible aggressor would hesitate before committing himself to what, for him, would be at best a very doubtful issue. If, then, all the sacrifices we are called on to endure, and all the delays we have to suffer in the development of our economy fit us to take our place with the other democracies in resisting war, the price we pay will not be too high.

I have a great faith in the future of this State. I believe it has possibilities for development equal to, if not greater than, those possessed by any other State in Australia, but a vast amount of developmental work remains to be done. This work can be done, however, only through the utmost co-operation of all sections of the community and through the achievement of freedom from international disturbances.

#### *Conclusion.*

Before I conclude, I wish—as I have done on previous occasions—to thank all those engaged in industry in this State for our continued freedom from industrial unrest; also the employees of the Government for their loyal and efficient service during the year. I move the first division of the Estimates, namely—

*Vote—Legislative Council, £4,955.*

Progress reported.

#### **ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 17th October.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.*

**CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND.  
ESTIMATE FOR 1951-52.**

	£	£	£	£
<b>SURPLUS FOR YEAR 1950-51</b> .....	.....	.....	.....	<b>159,347</b>
<b>Add Increases in Estimated Revenue—</b>				
<b>Taxation :</b>				
Land Tax .....	.....	4,677		
Income Tax .....	.....	2,223,574		
Stamp Duty .....	.....	26,212		
Liquor Licenses .....	.....	13,126		
			<b>2,267,530</b>	
<b>Territorial:</b>				
Timber .....	.....	.....		<b>19,559</b>
<b>Departmental :</b>				
Agriculture .....	.....	13,288		
Forests .....	.....	19,060		
Harbour and Light .....	.....	14,856		
Medical .....	.....	7,937		
Printing .....	.....	7,818		
Public Health .....	.....	45,510		
Public Works .....	.....	83,307		
Industrial Development .....	.....	27,232		
<b>Treasury Miscellaneous :</b>				
Plant Suspense Interest .....	.....	3,808		
State Electricity Commission Interest .....	.....	4,068		
Railways—Sinking Fund .....	.....	18,777		
Tramways—Sinking Fund .....	.....	2,766		
Government Workers' Compensation Surplus .....	.....	43,029		
Savings Bank Profits .....	.....	5,745		
Superannuation—Departmental Charges .....	.....	5,325		
			<b>83,518</b>	
<b>Royal Mint :</b> .....	.....	.....		<b>302,526</b>
				<b>13,673</b>
<b>Commonwealth—Grant under Section 96</b> .....	.....	.....		<b>66,261</b>
<b>Public Utilities :</b>				
Country Areas Water Supply Schemes .....	.....	28,325		
State Abattoirs .....	.....	23,777		
<b>Metropolitan Water Supply</b> .....	.....	75,970		
Other Hydraulic Undertakings .....	.....	7,950		
<b>Railways</b> .....	.....	2,229,304		
Tramways .....	.....	128,284		
State Batteries .....	.....	7,163		
			<b>2,500,773</b>	
				<b>5,170,631</b>
<b>Add Decreases in Estimated Expenditure—</b>				
<b>Miscellaneous Services :</b>				
Alexandra Home—Mothercraft .....	.....	2,300		
Civilian Maimed and Limbless Association .....	.....	2,000		
Reforestation Fund .....	.....	12,000		
Jubilee Celebrations .....	.....	14,000		
Transport of Superphosphate by Road .....	.....	140,381		
Difference between Landed and Normal price of Imported Potatoes .....	.....	21,443		
Purchase of Land for Public Purposes .....	.....	10,152		
Loan Management Expenses .....	.....	4,056		
Exchange .....	.....	17,331		
Mechanical Appliances .....	.....	4,250		
Provision for Loss on Guaranteed Accounts .....	.....	5,250		
Recomp to Wyndham Meatworks .....	.....	3,492		
State Electricity Commission—Basic Wage Increases .....	.....	145,000		
			<b>381,653</b>	
				<b>331,657</b>
				<b>5,711,634</b>

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—*continued*.

	£	£	£	£
<i>Less</i> Decreases in Estimated Revenue—				
Taxation:				
Totalisator Duty .....			7,398	
Territorial:				
Land .....			9,846	
Departmental:				
Education .....		8,709		
Government Stores .....		3,371		
Inspection of Machinery .....		2,666		
Lands and Surveys .....		11,585		
Treasury Miscellaneous:				
Rural Bank—Government Agency Interest .....	68,110			
State Electricity Commission—Interest and Sinking Fund .....	19,958			
Government Stores—Surplus Stores .....	3,000			
Agricultural Land Purchases .....	20,000			
Government Property Sales .....	3,242			
		114,310		
State Trading Concerns:			140,641	
Profits recovered .....			19,260	
Public Utilities:				
Fremantle Harbour Trust .....			63,648	
<i>Less</i> Increases in Estimated Expenditure—				
Special Acts:				
Interest and Sinking Fund .....		435,747		
Fire Brigade Contribution .....		8,720		
Agriculture Protection Board .....		70,000		
Forests Act—Transfer from Revenue .....		19,686		
Judges' Salaries and Pensions .....		3,502		
Parliamentary Allowances .....		6,824		
Pensions and Retiring Allowances .....		15,399		
Superannuation and Family Benefits Act .....		60,854		
Minor Variations .....		4,178		
			633,905	
Departmental:				
Legislative .....		4,129		
Premiers .....		20,592		
Treasury .....		10,082		
Audit .....		4,595		
Government Printer .....		25,429		
Government Stores .....		7,253		
Education .....		527,034		
Child Welfare .....		27,840		
Public Works .....		122,752		
Lands and Surveys .....		79,840		
Crown Law .....		59,251		
Police .....		122,051		
Chief Secretary .....		10,745		
Prisons .....		11,248		
Registry and Friendly Societies .....		7,179		
Harbour and Light .....		13,725		
Local Government .....		5,378		
Native Affairs .....		10,000		
Medical .....		40,781		
Public Health .....		94,004		
Mental Hospitals .....		76,770		
Mines .....		35,711		
Agriculture .....		67,529		
College of Agriculture .....		3,299		
Forests .....		24,459		
Housing .....		3,972		
Minor Variations .....		22,927		

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND—*continued.*

	£	£	£	£
<b>Miscellaneous Services :</b>				
Kindergarten Union ....	11,294			
Royal Mint ....	21,500			
University ....	41,010			
Air Transport of Beef ....	4,922			
East Perth Cemetery ....	14,000			
Refunds from Revenue ....	3,123			
Payroll Tax ....	14,657			
Hospital Fund ....	300,000			
Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Fund ....	8,000			
State Shipping Service ....	87,238			
Basic Wage Increases ....	1,250,000			
State Electricity Commission—Loss ....	34,079			
Concessions Rail Freight on Export Flour ....	13,653			
State Electricity Commission—Administering Regulations ....	12,000			
Sundry Railway Concessions ....	14,000			
Parliamentary Superannuation Fund ....	4,160			
Minor Variations ....	3,255			
		1,836,902		
			3,275,477	
<b>Public Utilities :</b>				
Country Areas Water Supply ....	44,595			
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ....	50,267			
Abattoirs ....	23,493			
Metropolitan Water Supply ....	47,592			
Railways ....	1,308,800			
Tramways ....	139,037			
Batteries ....	7,541			
Minor Variations ....	2,048			
			1,623,373	
				5,773,548
ESTIMATED DEFICIT, YEAR 1951-52 ....				61,865

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[Return No 1]

## BALANCE SHEET OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AT 30th JUNE, 1950, AND 30th JUNE, 1951.

	30th June, 1950.	30th June, 1951.		30th June, 1950.	30th June, 1951.
	£	£		£	£
Public Debt ... ..	109,550,142	123,186,766	Invested in Works and Services, etc. ...	108,240,504	117,915,136
			Balance—General Loan Fund c/d. ...	1,309,638	5,271,630
	109,550,142	123,186,766		109,550,142	123,186,766
Balance General Loan Fund ... ..	1,309,638	5,271,630	Consolidated Revenue Fund ... ..	736,066	....
Consolidated Revenue Fund ... ..	...	240,542	Commonwealth Government—Tax Arrears	650,033	657,364
State Taxes, Arrears ... ..	584,078	590,917	Advances (under Appropriation "Advance to Treasurer") ... ..	964,010	1,380,838
Hospital Fund Contributions, Arrears ...	65,955	66,447	Expenditure in Suspense ... ..	42,464	94,658
Reserve Accounts ... ..	901	1,034	Stores on hand ... ..	2,245,485	3,024,042
Suspense Accounts ... ..	202,070	816,005	Trust Fund Investments—		
Trading Concerns ... ..	130,736	66,029	Governmental ... ..	2,123,337	2,241,651
Trust Funds—			Private ... ..	3,758,808	4,126,825
Governmental ... ..	6,592,114	7,105,744	Banking Account ... ..	960,113	1,202,503
Private ... ..	4,408,243	4,992,161	Cash in hand, etc.—		
			Banks Current Account ... ..	112,261	1,173,594
			Banks in Eastern States ... ..	57,531	16,835
			Debenture Deposit ... ..	1,559,000	5,027,960
			In London ... ..	66,268	97,102
			In Transit ... ..	15,240	24,823
			In Hand ... ..	3,119	82,314
	13,293,735	19,150,509		13,293,735	19,150,509

[Return No. 2.]

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1950-51, COMPARED WITH ESTIMATE.

## SUMMARY.

	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Revenue .....	26,254,061	28,156,181	1,902,120	
Expenditure .....	26,739,549	27,996,834	1,257,285	
Deficit .....	485,488			
Surplus .....		159,347		
Net Improvement £644,835				

## DETAILS.

Revenue.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Taxation .....	7,784,100	9,132,251	1,348,151	
Territorial .....	626,000	615,229		10,771
Law Courts .....	122,000	135,770	13,770	
Departmental .....	2,686,530	2,955,418	268,888	
Royal Mint .....	90,000	101,327	11,327	
Commonwealth .....	5,495,171	5,495,171		
Trading Concerns .....	127,020	178,456	51,436	
Public Utilities .....	9,323,240	9,542,559	219,319	
Total Revenue .....	26,254,061	28,156,181	1,902,120	

  

Expenditure.	Estimate.	Actual.	Comparison with Estimate.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
SPECIAL ACTS—				
Constitution Act .....	22,010	16,810		5,200
Interest—Overseas .....	1,212,084	1,215,448	3,364	
Interest—Australia .....	2,376,650	2,365,135		11,515
Sinking Fund .....	965,000	916,466		48,534
Other Special Acts .....	946,109	994,358	48,249	
GOVERNMENTAL—				
Departmental .....	10,516,428	11,023,339	506,911	
Exchange .....	400,000	478,331	78,331	
Unemployment Relief .....	138	124		14
PUBLIC UTILITIES .....	10,301,130	10,986,823	685,693	
Total Expenditure .....	26,739,549	27,996,834	1,257,285	

[Return No. 3.]

## REVENUE.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1942-43 TO 1950-51 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1951-52.

Heads.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	Estimate 1951-52.
<b>TAXATION—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Land Tax .....	132,102	122,519	118,134	111,353	112,465	111,113	132,243	160,840	130,323	185,000
Income Tax Reim- bursement .....	2,546,000	2,546,000	2,546,000	2,546,000	3,384,000	3,307,000	4,494,632	5,172,433	7,176,426	9,400,000
Totalisator Tax .....	61,870	115,210	121,374	172,141	152,650	163,787	177,817	181,520	207,398	200,000
Stamp Duty .....	209,087	221,813	250,829	325,776	417,491	462,122	530,885	704,913	923,788	950,000
Probate Duty .....	179,288	233,400	275,477	262,230	262,326	309,487	362,168	412,816	462,848	462,000
Entertainment Tax .....	106,691	98,189	98,334	98,196	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Licenses .....	82,641	83,780	91,924	96,530	124,166	125,682	138,495	160,012	131,468	194,500
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>3,317,679</b>	<b>3,420,911</b>	<b>3,502,072</b>	<b>3,612,276</b>	<b>4,463,098</b>	<b>4,984,191</b>	<b>5,830,240</b>	<b>6,792,534</b>	<b>9,132,251</b>	<b>11,391,500</b>
<b>TERRITORIAL AND DE- PARTMENTAL—</b>										
Land .....	157,730	199,254	190,613	193,405	252,181	322,035	328,104	320,449	284,846	275,000
Mining .....	21,707	21,873	20,089	26,306	37,750	36,606	42,318	43,512	43,242	43,000
Timber .....	137,566	128,732	137,840	134,749	236,442	242,363	182,654	248,684	287,141	307,000
Royal Mint .....	60,759	78,099	89,814	47,323	51,794	53,240	63,610	78,965	101,327	115,000
Departmental Fees, etc. ....	1,248,651	1,434,100	1,700,904	1,259,492	1,552,644	1,787,356	2,282,239	2,866,457	2,955,418	3,126,460
Law Courts .....	68,389	50,857	60,341	75,655	76,981	98,569	114,745	121,748	135,770	138,000
Commonwealth .....	800,000	850,000	904,000	950,000	1,245,000	1,977,000	3,600,000	5,180,000	5,021,739	5,088,000
Do. Special Grant .....	....	....	....	912,559	628,000	1,000,000	....	661,677	....	....
Do. Interest Contributions .....	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432	473,432
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>2,968,264</b>	<b>3,236,347</b>	<b>3,557,033</b>	<b>4,072,921</b>	<b>4,554,224</b>	<b>5,990,601</b>	<b>7,087,102</b>	<b>9,994,994</b>	<b>9,302,915</b>	<b>9,565,892</b>
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>										
Bunbury Harbour Board .....	5,000	5,500	3,500	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fremantle Harbour Trust .....	287,241	259,140	326,229	292,209	208,544	263,312	357,478	461,980	303,648	240,000
Goldfields Water Supply (c) .....	273,779	270,277	306,384	305,033	341,798	363,270	349,574	352,425	363,675	392,000
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs Metropolitan Abat- toirs and Sale Yards .....	6,307	5,654	81,689	79,010	89,839	98,038	140,236	133,805	155,846	179,623
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewer- age .....	563,768	577,660	600,517	592,584	608,395	649,313	704,090	756,124	804,030	880,000
Other Hydraulic Undertakings .....	82,210	84,057	87,054	86,925	101,787	108,089	121,628	131,453	152,050	160,000
Railways .....	4,446,370	4,419,766	4,271,288	4,143,413	3,979,404	4,545,376	5,161,218	6,371,770	6,970,696	9,200,000
Tramways, Perth Electric .....	469,751	515,163	509,530	521,908	480,522	509,303	591,466	593,928	671,716	800,000
Electricity Supply .....	477,904	540,932	577,979	580,148	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
State Ferries .....	11,337	11,546	12,141	10,562	9,878	10,406	11,879	12,665	10,294	10,500
State Batteries .....	42,723	29,674	20,272	25,196	49,002	56,081	60,257	57,667	80,562	93,725
Cave Houses, etc. ....	13,955	11,719	12,184	14,408	15,278	18,038	17,973	23,938	24,042	26,000
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>6,759,027</b>	<b>6,812,813</b>	<b>6,808,767</b>	<b>6,651,416</b>	<b>5,884,447</b>	<b>6,621,226</b>	<b>7,515,799</b>	<b>8,895,755</b>	<b>9,542,559</b>	<b>11,981,848</b>
<b>TRADING CONCERNS</b> .....	<b>106,708</b>	<b>119,104</b>	<b>85,958</b>	<b>70,944</b>	<b>89,106</b>	<b>114,292</b>	<b>121,505</b>	<b>127,678</b>	<b>178,456</b>	<b>157,270</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> .....	<b>13151678</b>	<b>13589175</b>	<b>13953830</b>	<b>14407557</b>	<b>14980875</b>	<b>17,710,310</b>	<b>20,560,646</b>	<b>25810961</b>	<b>28156181</b>	<b>33,096,510</b>

(a) Included Income Tax Reimbursement.

(b) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission.

(c) Operating from year 1951-52 as "Country Areas Water Schemes."

[Return No. 4.]

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1942-43 TO 1950-51, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1951-52.

Head.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	Estimate 1951-52
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Special Acts ...	4,595,471	4,580,235	4,034,700	4,054,844	4,709,004	4,826,367	4,947,537	5,188,288	5,508,667	6,142,572
Parliamentary ...	16,209	16,332	18,227	19,049	20,037	25,535	28,830	31,688	37,161	41,200
Premier ...	12,459	10,549	9,923	14,285	21,270	23,248	26,367	22,211	27,247	47,844
Treasury ...	31,053	30,445	30,148	32,460	35,761	39,728	45,899	52,006	62,801	72,883
Governor ...	2,644	2,733	2,870	3,268	3,336	3,385	4,111	4,708	7,041	9,141
London Agency ...	9,043	10,319	9,601	9,930	15,061	14,450	16,334	16,750	22,298	21,598
Public Service Commis- sioner ...	1,564	1,654	1,832	2,322	2,724	3,238	4,428	4,842	6,400	8,026
Government Motor Cars ...	1,589	1,313	2,748	3,841	2,679	4,786	4,290	11,249	6,914	5,962
Audit ...	17,273	18,799	17,909	18,272	21,337	23,737	28,757	32,430	39,355	43,950
Compassionate Allow- ances ...	3,056	4,679	4,024	4,716	2,578	3,616	5,153	6,318	2,737	5,620
Government Stores ...	18,194	18,710	19,568	21,672	24,073	28,914	37,456	51,117	58,394	65,647
Taxation ...	12,441	12,087	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
State Housing Com- mission ...	...	...	...	4,702	10,006	22,095	24,521	39,007	52,033	50,005
Superannuation Board ...	2,500	3,259	3,233	3,216	3,411	4,579	6,298	7,493	8,697	9,850
Printing ...	66,415	70,038	71,065	86,161	102,184	137,821	155,839	184,867	236,621	262,050
Tourist and Publicity Bureau ...	1,489	482	749	2,467	11,521	12,080	15,028	18,412	21,539	26,784
Literary and Scientific Miscellaneous and Re- funds ...	10,550	11,550	13,150	13,241	15,989	21,952	21,947	27,467	32,968	34,480
Forests ...	1,336,831	1,359,102	1,533,811	1,278,720	1,403,057	1,890,819	2,896,322	4,005,909	3,504,599	4,960,146
Public Works ...	77,949	137,106	171,390	151,023	84,056	77,272	90,245	108,868	123,491	152,950
Local Government ...	251,977	233,052	222,370	258,285	276,341	318,488	536,010	655,576	866,858	989,610
Town Planning ...	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	16,921	22,299
Unemployment Relief ...	1,635	1,684	1,831	2,211	2,457	2,939	3,602	4,095	5,649	5,960
State Labour Bureau ...	8,865	3,334	2,975	3,611	2,331	1,871	1,050	861	...	...
Lands and Surveys ...	55,353	61,392	65,122	85,028	119,910	159,584	186,183	223,834	295,370	375,210
Farmers' Debts Adjust- ment and Rural Relief ...	2,679	2,002	1,440	1,360	1,273	1,051	428	448	318	(e)
Rural and Industries Bank ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Agriculture ...	105,370	112,529	132,920	168,618	182,292	211,863	257,363	345,789	400,394	471,222
College of Agriculture ...	1,183	1,701	2,025	1,990	3,110	4,623	3,847	4,519	5,305	8,520
Factories ...	7,520	7,796	7,824	8,415	9,420	11,784	13,416	13,724	17,178	21,250
Arbitration Court ...	5,075	5,594	5,490	6,152	7,620	10,181	11,906	12,909	14,700	17,210
State Insurance ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Department of Industrial Development ...	4,680	7,412	5,909	16,975	21,107	21,058	24,499	65,859	118,035	120,363
Child Welfare ...	78,936	72,674	77,465	76,903	83,142	94,575	112,320	124,380	153,140	180,980
Mines, Explosives, Geo- logical, etc., ...	112,264	113,507	128,016	133,482	162,539	185,657	193,802	208,362	246,789	232,500
Medical and Health ...	88,837	104,030	95,203	104,483	115,875	165,406	229,499	454,340	577,846	712,631
Mental Hospitals ...	140,240	148,796	147,107	159,468	176,969	217,893	255,564	318,759	363,270	440,940
Office of Chief Secretary ...	40,173	40,866	39,162	43,762	47,673	53,771	69,724	80,632	97,841	115,683
Prisons ...	38,465	46,682	48,482	51,637	53,741	64,652	74,040	88,932	101,220	112,468
Education ...	813,439	873,737	888,944	1,002,520	1,223,746	1,648,768	1,759,635	2,079,781	2,634,461	3,161,495
Police ...	292,070	292,563	291,695	302,764	337,326	418,425	618,338	591,877	750,425	872,476
Crown Law & Branches ...	87,127	104,977	98,966	120,810	149,884	157,911	229,979	290,213	319,477	379,339
Natives ...	40,250	41,250	50,200	60,000	64,800	73,736	95,102	129,008	143,704	153,704
Harbour and Light and Jetties ...	32,243	42,600	39,155	40,658	42,863	44,313	51,776	62,035	71,210	84,935
Fisheries ...	7,141	8,145	7,521	9,466	11,029	13,151	17,556	28,844	31,580	31,900
North-West ...	34	243	183	181	140	...	...	...	...	200
Supply and Shipping ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	670	2,198	6,396
<b>Total, Departmental...</b>	<b>3,843,416</b>	<b>4,035,724</b>	<b>4,282,603</b>	<b>4,340,026</b>	<b>4,986,668</b>	<b>6,238,115</b>	<b>8,070,190</b>	<b>10,480,439</b>	<b>11,501,345</b>	<b>14,405,608</b>
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES.</b>										
Goldfields Water S'ply (d)	134,642	141,875	178,602	180,930	195,887	229,024	270,819	313,871	405,405	450,000
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	5,235	5,877	62,640	61,072	69,434	77,083	103,721	99,743	121,417	144,910
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	49,401	57,738	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	126,552	131,860	131,801	159,144	180,780	217,908	239,649	299,343	372,208	419,800
Other Hydraulic Under- takings ...	74,878	74,239	80,620	83,021	99,412	113,308	158,626	211,804	236,343	336,810
Railways ...	3,490,171	3,624,320	3,652,094	3,853,437	4,314,899	5,072,312	6,737,862	8,065,616	8,849,200	10,158,000
Tramways ...	345,401	386,908	392,106	427,832	406,243	572,133	685,385	996,613	771,963	911,000
State Ferries ...	10,628	10,585	10,348	18,690	15,583	13,539	15,454	16,935	15,502	16,000
Electricity Supply ...	392,853	451,761	479,250	569,373	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
State Batteries ...	47,413	38,702	33,434	44,663	75,283	78,708	80,525	91,209	140,709	148,230
Cave House ...	11,502	11,280	11,237	12,425	15,234	18,895	17,939	24,092	23,875	25,425
<b>Total Public Utilities</b>	<b>4,688,356</b>	<b>4,935,195</b>	<b>5,032,031</b>	<b>5,412,687</b>	<b>5,432,755</b>	<b>6,997,910</b>	<b>8,360,180</b>	<b>10,118,476</b>	<b>10,968,822</b>	<b>12,610,195</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>13,127,242</b>	<b>13,551,154</b>	<b>13,949,340</b>	<b>14,407,557</b>	<b>15,028,427</b>	<b>18,062,392</b>	<b>21,377,907</b>	<b>25,787,203</b>	<b>27,996,834</b>	<b>33,158,375</b>

(a) From 1st July, 1946, taken over by State Electricity Commission. (b) Previously included in Public Works.

(c) Transferred to Supply and Shipping. (d) Operating from year 1951-52 as "Country Areas Water Schemes."

(e) Included in Lands and Surveys.

[Return No. 5.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND  
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1900-01 TO 1950-51.

Published Details.			Published Annual.		(a) Adjusted Annual.	
Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1900-01	3,078,033	3,165,244	....	87,211	....	....
1901-02	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	....	....	....
1902-03	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	....	....	....
1903-04	3,550,016	3,698,311	....	148,295	....	....
1904-05	3,615,340	3,745,225	....	129,885	....	....
1905-06	3,558,939	3,632,318	....	73,379	....	....
1906-07	3,401,354	3,490,183	....	88,829	....	....
1907-08	3,376,641	3,379,006	....	2,365	....	....
1908-09	3,267,014	3,368,551	....	101,537	....	....
1909-10	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	....	....	....
1910-11	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	....	....	....
1911-12	3,966,673	4,101,082	....	134,409	....	....
1912-13	4,596,659	4,787,064	....	190,405	....	....
1913-14	5,205,343	5,340,754	....	135,411	....	....
1914-15	5,140,725	5,705,541	....	565,816	....	....
1915-16	5,356,978	5,705,201	....	348,223	....	....
1916-17	4,577,007	5,278,764	....	699,757	....	....
1917-18	4,622,536	5,328,279	....	705,743	....	....
1918-19	4,944,851	5,596,866	....	652,015	....	....
1919-20	5,863,501	6,531,725	....	668,225	....	....
1920-21	6,789,565	7,476,291	....	686,725	....	....
1921-22	6,907,107	7,639,242	....	732,135	....	....
1922-23	7,207,492	7,612,856	....	405,364	....	....
1923-24	7,865,595	8,094,753	....	229,158	....	....
1924-25	8,381,446	8,439,844	....	58,398	....	....
1925-26	8,808,166	8,907,309	....	99,143	....	....
1926-27	9,750,833	9,722,588	28,245	....	....	....
1927-28	9,807,949	9,834,415	....	26,466	....	....
1928-29	9,947,951	10,223,919	....	275,968	....	....
1929-30	9,750,515	10,268,519	....	518,004	....	....
1930-31	8,686,756	10,107,295	....	1,420,539	....	....
1931-32	8,035,316	9,593,212	....	1,557,896	....	....
1932-33	8,332,153	9,196,234	....	864,081	....	....
1933-34	8,481,697	9,270,609	....	788,912	....	....
1934-35	9,331,430	9,498,525	....	167,095	....	....
1935-36	10,033,721	9,945,343	88,378	....	....	....
1936-37	10,185,433	10,556,638	....	371,205	....	....
1937-38	10,819,042	10,829,735	....	10,693	....	....
1938-39	10,949,660	11,170,102	....	220,442	....	....
1939-40	11,119,943	11,266,768	....	146,825	....	....
1940-41	11,432,068	11,420,957	11,111	....	....	....
1941-42	11,940,149	11,938,381	1,768	....	....	....
1942-43	13,151,678	13,127,242	24,436	....	....	....
1943-44	13,589,175	13,551,154	38,021	....	....	....
1944-45	13,953,830	13,949,340	4,490	....	....	....
1945-46	14,407,557	14,407,557	....	....	....	....
1946-47	14,980,875	15,028,427	....	47,552	38,448	....
1947-48	17,710,310	18,062,392	....	352,082	....	....
1948-49	20,560,646	21,377,907	....	817,261	....	....
1949-50	25,810,961	25,787,203	23,758	....	....	....
1950-51	28,156,181	27,996,834	159,347	....	....	....

(a) Budget result after bringing to account moneys received on behalf of deficit extinguishment and forming part of the Special Grant paid by the Commonwealth on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission under Sec. 96 of the Constitution (see Chapters 4 and 5 of the Sixteenth Report of the Commission for details of the change in procedure enabling these adjustments to be made) and of their significance in overcoming the difficulties caused by the time-lag in assessment.

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1950-51 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

(Up to 1945/46 Loan Suspense Expenditure was not charged to Loan Fund until the year following that in which it was incurred. The figures for 1946/47 and after include Loan Suspense Expenditure incurred during the year.)

Undertakings.	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions	102,153	102,478	29,899	23,781	17,856	72,936	72,037	288,370	280,548	362,344	2,211,093	2,304,360
Tramways—Perth Electric	125	9,109	29,857	71,949	9,389	6,260	1,388	3,273	54,418	97,537	43,279	325,600
Electric Power Stations	1,087	15,125	22,578	56,130	25,358	15,193	115,081	166,054	735,897	1,066,343	2,345,719	3,295,712
Fremantle Harbour Works	15,845	51,853	97,108	63,817	5,228	24,372	31,393	49,049	69,490	61,375	73,115	204,866
Harbours and Rivers generally	36,081	24,518	3,261	3,401	5,917	9,315	0,765	37,584	89,480	163,595	329,100	400,425
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle	242,105	115,433	71,112	17,404	6,473	10,717	39,831	115,897	168,624	227,886	217,546	314,478
Sewerage—Country Towns										7,709	23,638	27,849
Water Supplies (a)	611,559	754,457	270,451	73,003	52,595	90,112	202,925	628,749	549,208	600,338	769,895	1,730,438
Development of Goldfields (b)	55,806	43,453	17,790	137,854	99,490	99,270	231,722	255,357	281,535	326,224	357,689	460,771
Development of Agriculture	205,011	165,747	91,814	28,997	26,529	15,024	59,235	51,948	73,936	125,103	309,277	317,309
Assistance to Settlers, Industries, etc.	9,198	12,895	8,429	0,948	3,050	2,000	2					
Land Settlement for Soldiers	417	679	8	121	210	1,207						
College of Agriculture	443	1,116	775	41					1,159	4,775	1,903	3,427
Rural and Industries Bank—Working Capital											500,000	
Purchase of Plant (Suspense)								125,000	75,000	50,000	180,000	320,000
State Brickworks												135,000
State Saw Mills								50,000		37,550	70,000	197,450
Steamships	3,000	417										42,500
Workers' Homes—Working Capital	10,000	10,000				120,000						
Workers' Homes Board—War Housing												
State Hotels	9,173	20,702	147	1			3,000		609	986	911	1,302
Ferries		1,646	2,843	2,211							2,833	
State Engineering Works		7,671	38,429	15,571	5,000	4,030					10,000	
Public Buildings	103,535	57,231	35,289	53,151	38,803	81,217	116,607	132,045	216,088	(d) 585,902	(d) 718,082	d1,036,492
Hospital Buildings and Equipment, including Grants	3,194	300,000	59,291	75,000	45,000	40,000	110,000	255,000	367,131			
Roads and Bridges	325,000	41,734										
Sundries	9,415	5,000	613	130					10,724	20,841	2,021	1,960
Bulk Handling of Wheat	4,478	5,204				31,822	35,903	30,301	781	116	5,028	2,377
Boya Quarries	2,045											
Air Raid Precautions				60,000	22,303							
West Australian Meat Export Works				85,000	14,064	70,936	50,000			10,000	20,000	10,000
Welshpool Industries								46,328	64,366	71,100	29,246	161,880
Native Stations, Hospitals, etc.	8,204	14,000	11,207				5,000	15,000			10,000	20,000
Totals	1,759,174	1,760,366	791,931	774,606	377,330	695,229	1,081,549	(e) 2,230,964	3,030,793	3,818,724	8,351,015	11,404,253
Less Expenditure from Loan Repayments Receipts	101,080	140,203	89,867	184,706	198,806	222,494	210,595	192,818	282,155	538,204	208,639	258,991
Net Expenditure from Loan Raisings	1,658,093	1,620,163	702,064	589,900	178,524	472,735	870,954	2,038,146	2,748,638	3,280,520	8,052,376	11,145,262

(a) Including Goldfields Districts. (b) Excluding Water Supplies. (c) Excludes Recoup to Loan Suspense Account 1945-46. Development of Goldfields £350; Purchase of Plant (Suspense) £40,000; W. A. Meat Export Works £30,811; Total £71,161. (d) Includes Hospitals.

[Memo No. 7.]

## PUBLIC DEBT.

## (a) LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1950 .....	....	147,156,141	
Authorisations, 1950-51 .....	....	14,376,323	
		<u>161,532,464</u>	
Flotations—			
Inscribed Stock, Debentures, Treasury Bonds, etc., issued in Australia and Overseas—Net proceeds:—			
	£		
For Works and Services .....	132,180,028		
For Funding Deficits .....	12,115,087		
	<u>144,295,115</u>		
Discounts and Flotation Expenses (including Cost of Conversion Loans), net:—			
On Works Loans .....	5,232,396		
On Deficit Loans .....	753,279		
	<u>5,985,675</u>		
		150,280,790	
Short Term Debt current at 30th June, 1951—			
London .....	....	2,959,714	
		<u>153,240,504</u>	
Total Flotations .....	....		153,240,504
Balance available for Flotation .....	....		<u>8,291,960</u>

## (b) LOAN INDEBTEDNESS.

	£	£	£
Total Amount raised to 30th June, 1950 .....	....	....	138,525,304
Flotations during the year—			
Counter Sales .....	....	134,200	
Instalment Stock .....	....	2,581,000	
Commonwealth Loans (Aust.) .....	....	-12,000,000	
		<u>14,715,200</u>	
			153,240,504
Redemptions—			
Total to 30th June, 1950 .....	....	28,975,162	
During the year—			
National Debt Commission:			
Securities repurchased .....	851,579		
Instalment Stock redeemed (Australia) .....	39,348		
Inscribed Stock redeemed at maturity .....	117,457		
Special Deficit Loans redeemed .....	70,192		
	<u>1,078,576</u>		
			30,053,738
Gross Public Debt at 30th June, 1951 .....	....		123,186,766
Sinking Fund .....	....		<u>8,346</u>
Net Public Debt at 30th June, 1951 .....	....		<u>123,178,420</u>

[Return No. 7—continued.]

## (c) SUMMARY OF GROSS LOAN RAISINGS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

<i>Raisings.</i>	£	<i>Disbursements</i>	£
Total Flotations, as per Return 7 (b)—		Discounts and Expenses—	
To 30th June, 1950 ...	138,525,304	To 30th June, 1950 (Net) ...	5,204,436
During Year 1950-51 ...	14,715,200	During Year 1950-51 ...	27,961
		Redemption of Agricultural Bank Mortgage Bonds ...	1,566,000
Receipts from Loan Repayments—		Deficits Funded (including Discount and Expenses) ...	12,868,366
To 30th June, 1950 ...	4,237,090	Expenditure on Works and Services ...	133,219,004
During Year 1950-51 ...	1,085,803		
		Balance of General Loan Fund	5,271,630
		Commonwealth Loan Advance ...	406,000
	158,563,397		158,563,397

## (d) NET PUBLIC DEBT FOR HEAD OF POPULATION ON 30th JUNE EACH YEAR.

Year.	Debt per Head.			Year.	Debt per Head.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1920 ...	119	7	3	1936 ...	199	7	10
1921 ...	*124	15	11	1937 ...	201	15	2
1922 ...	137	1	0	1938 ...	202	19	8
1923 ...	142	9	6	1939 ...	204	7	1
1924 ...	146	13	6	1940 ...	203	15	7
1925 ...	146	3	11	1941 ...	204	18	7
1926 ...	155	14	8	1942 ...	202	17	4
1927 ...	157	14	4	1943 ...	202	1	11
1928 ...	165	10	7	1944 ...	198	19	2
1929 ...	162	6	9	1945 ...	195	9	0
1930 ...	163	9	9	1946 ...	195	3	1
1931 ...	174	2	6	1947 ...	195	16	11
1932 ...	180	3	8	1948 ...	194	5	11
1933 ...	187	4	8	1949 ...	194	10	10
1934 ...	193	7	6	1950 ...	†196	4	7
1935 ...	197	11	11	1951 ...	212	0	3

\* Compared with the previous year, £2 16s. 11d. of the increase is due to an adjustment in the figures of the population at the Census. † Adjusted on corrected figures of population

## (e) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AT 30th JUNE, 1951.

	Securities Issued.	Re-deemed.	In Circulation.	Funds Invested.
Metropolitan Market Act ...	19,000	4,285	14,715	...
Workers' Homes Act ...	189,000	36,317	152,683	...
Agricultural Lands Purchase Act ...	557,471	501,649	85,822	3,853
	795,471	547,243	248,228	...
Bank Guarantees in force ...	...	...	2,934,328	...
Total, Contingent Liabilities	...	...	3,182,556	...

[Return No. 8.]

## LOAN LIABILITY—STATEMENT SHOWING AMOUNTS MATURING EACH YEAR.

Earliest Date of Maturity.	Latest Date of Maturity.	Interest Rate.	Repayable in—		
			London.	New York.	Australia.
		%	£	£	£
...	1951	2½	*2,959,714	...	...
...	1951	3½	...	...	3,942,870
...	1952	2	...	...	242,120
...	1953	2	...	...	4,353,546
1952	1954	3½	...	...	570,190
1952	1954	3½	...	...	3,167,950
1935	1955	3½	3,204,904	...	...
1953	1955	3½	...	...	2,467,805
1952	1955	5	...	1,498,444	...
1950	1956	3½	...	...	899,800
1950	1957	3½	...	...	2,510,271
...	1957	3	...	...	136,310
...	1957	3½	...	261,379	...
1950	1958	3½	...	...	2,147,390
...	1958	3	...	...	157,544
1955	1958	3½	...	...	1,462,360
1950	1959	3½	...	...	824,830
...	1959	3	...	...	341,317
1956	1959	3½	...	...	4,583,845
...	1960	3	...	...	419,370
1950	1960	3½	...	...	907,030
1957	1960	3½	...	...	1,300,810
1950	1961	3½	...	...	5,210,750
1956	1961	3½	1,739,527	...	...
...	1961	3	...	...	289,011
...	1962	3	...	...	171,579
...	1962	3½	...	...	6,228,810
...	1963	3	...	...	181,269
1960	1963	3½	...	...	11,819,010
...	1964	3·1	...	...	1,566,000
...	1964	3	...	...	147,133
1961	1964	3½	...	...	17,653,632
...	1965	3	...	...	29,933
...	1966	3	...	...	426,424
...	1967	3	...	...	512,646
...	1967	3½	...	261,173	...
...	1969	3	...	...	374,936
1965	1969	3½	8,049,250	...	...
...	1970	3	...	...	377,285
...	1971	3	...	...	379,565
1967	1971	2½	3,150,661	...	...
...	1972	3	...	...	381,778
...	1973	3	...	...	557,038
...	1974	3	...	...	759,311
1964	1974	3½	8,494,200	...	...
1972	1974	3	3,786,250	...	...
...	1975	3	...	...	255,325
1970	1975	2½	4,100,003	...	...
...	1976	3	...	...	2,339,000
1975	1977	3	627,700	...	...
...	1983	1	...	...	4,957,768
Average Rate 3·057			36,112,209	2,020,996	85,053,561
			123,186,766		

\* Floating Debt.

[Return No. 9.]

## SINKING FUND.

## TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1950-51.

<i>Receipts:</i>		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward, 1st July, 1950—					
National Debt Commission	.....			70,980	3 4
Contributions:					
State—					
5s. per cent. on loan liability	.....	303,342	13 2		
15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan	.....	40,425	0 0		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	.....	572,698	12 1		
Special contribution under clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement	.....	864	2 7		
Commonwealth—					
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on loan liability	.....	245,034	1 2		
Net earnings on investments	.....	3,768	19 5		
				1,166,133	8 5
				1,237,113	11 9
<i>Disbursements:</i>					
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc., at net Cost (including Exchange)				1,228,767	19 1
Balance, Sinking Fund, 30th June, 1951				8,345	12 8
				1,237,113	11 9

## TRANSACTIONS FROM 1ST JULY, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1950.

<i>Receipts:</i>		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balances brought forward—					
1st July, 1927—Endowment Policy (M.V. "Kangaroo"), Premiums paid	.....	57,697	10 0		
1st July, 1929—Crown Agents	.....	897,347	0 10		
				955,044	10 10
Contributions:					
On account M.V. "Kangaroo"		47,250	0 0		
On account, Crown Agents		40,312	13 5		
State—					
5s. per cent. on loan liability	.....	5,588,823	4 1		
15s. per cent. on Special Deficit Loan	.....	282,975	0 0		
4½ per cent. on cancelled securities	.....	5,758,636	3 6		
Under Federal Aid Roads Act	.....	373,084	13 1		
Special contribution on account loan for purchase of M.V. "Koolama"	.....	206,905	8 4		
Exchange on contribution re M.V. "Koolama"	.....	52,502	5 0		
Payment under Clause 12 (20) of Financial Agreement as amended	.....	75,602	9 0		
Profit arising out of Conversion of a Loan in London	.....	8,812	15 0		
Commonwealth—					
5s. and 2s. 6d. per cent. on Loan Liability	.....	3,872,269	14 7		
Net earnings on investments	.....	410,635	9 9		
Accretions to Endowment Policy at maturity	.....	35,052	10 0		
Exchange on remittances	.....	29,504	6 1		
				16,782,366	11 10
				17,737,411	2 8
<i>Disbursements:</i>					
Redemptions and Repurchases, etc.		16,419,419	15 5		
Repurchases from Special Sinking Fund		83,477	6 9		
Contributions refunded to the State		630	17 11		
Contributions to Crown Agents		39,934	2 8		
Premiums on Policy account M.V. "Kangaroo"		47,250	0 0		
Repayment of 1934 Loan (Crown Agents)		998,353	7 3		
Repayment of 1936 Loan (M.V. "Kangaroo")		140,000	0 0		
				17,729,065	10 0
Balance, 30th June, 1951 —					
National Debt Commission				8,345	12 8
				17,737,411	2 8

[Return No. 10.]

## SUMMARISED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS, 1950-51. (a)

Undertaking.*	Loan Liability. (b)	Capital Charges (c).			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	De- ficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Exchange.			
FULLY REPRODUCTIVE.							
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wyndham Meatworks .....	1,071,545	31,986	8,320	3,553	45,000	631	
State Engineering Works .....	152,257	4,546	1,266	505	18,349	12,032	
State Saw Mills .....	537,390	16,046	3,339	1,782	81,823	60,656	
State Hotels .....	66,898	1,907	550	222	10,068	7,289	
West Australian Meat Export Works	262,578	7,841	2,116	871	12,232	1,404	
Rural and Industries Bank—Gov- ernment Agency .....	1,529,071	45,670	16,820	5,072	118,110	50,542	
Abattoirs, Sale Yards, Grain Sheds and Cold Stores .....	701,535	20,048	5,051	2,326	34,429	6,104	
Bulk Handling, Bunbury .....	74,406	2,222	619	247	7,698	4,010	
Metropolitan Markets .....	151,842	4,534	1,265	503	8,685	2,383	
Small Loans Scheme .....	647	19	7	2	31	3	
	4,548,769	133,825	39,853	15,033	330,425	145,664	
PARTIALLY REPRODUCTIVE.							
Electricity Supply .....	8,255,021	246,494	42,331	27,369	218,038		98,156
Harbours and Rivers (d) .....	7,931,319	236,828	59,921	26,295	275,073		47,971
Water Supply, Sewerage and Drain- age .....	22,300,300	665,834	167,052	73,934	242,499		664,371
State Brickworks .....	187,197	5,590	429	621	2,046		3,694
Soldiers Land Settlement (f) .....	1,937,262	57,846	16,240	6,423	18,495		62,014
Rural and Industries Bank .....	6,293,774	187,931	49,031	20,866	185,932		71,696
Agriculture Generally .....	3,653,430	109,091	29,563	12,112	7,983		143,083
Mining Generally .....	1,167,859	34,872	8,661	3,872	7,048		40,357
Assistance to Industries .....	213,761	6,383	1,762	709	20		8,834
Loans to Public Bodies .....	80,991	2,418	680	269	2,475		892
Pine Planting and Re-forestation .....	1,365,744	40,781	9,570	4,528	10,977		43,002
Plant Suspense .....	902,365	26,945	5,202	2,992	31,192		3,947
Road and Bridges .....	3,431,660	102,469	28,248	11,377	83,733		58,961
Tourist Resorts .....	120,805	3,607	990	401	29		4,969
State Housing Commission .....	665,427	19,870	5,538	2,206	19,209		8,405
Welshpool Industries .....	351,243	10,488	1,659	1,164	10,903		2,408
	58,858,158	1,757,497	427,177	195,138	1,116,552		1,263,260
TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.							
Railways .....	19,256,386	574,993	146,781	63,842	†1,789,231		2,574,897
Assessed Expired Capital—(h) .....							
Railways .....	12,043,039	359,604	99,060	39,927			498,591
Tramways .....	97,630	2,915		324			3,239
Electricity .....	1,272,066	38,002	10,468	4,210			52,689
Tramways .....	1,698,857	50,728	12,962	5,632	† 92,598		161,920
Frequency Changer—Metropolitan District .....	131,211	3,918		435			4,353
State Quarries .....	34,766	1,039	286	115			1,440
State Shipping Service .....	388,896	11,612	2,849	1,339			15,750
Group Settlement .....	2,956,495	88,281	24,319	9,802			122,402
Rabbit Proof Fence .....	332,527	9,929	2,735	1,103	†18,980		32,747
Kent River Mill .....	61,950	1,850		203			2,055
State Batteries .....	443,485	13,242	3,612	1,470	†54,148		72,472
Public Buildings, including Schools, Police Stations, Gaols, Court Houses, Hospitals and Institutions	7,689,671	229,613	55,008	25,494	†425,529		735,644
Aborigines Stations .....	144,152	4,304	1,022	478	†123,949		129,763
Bulk Handling, Albany .....	2,377	71		8			79
Ferries .....	12,485	373	110	41	†5,208		5,732
Miscellaneous .....	225,877	6,745	1,852	749	†2,844		12,190
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry .....	1,131,518	33,787	6,827	3,751			44,365
Campion Alunite Deposits .....	692,934	20,001	5,573	2,297			28,566
	48,616,952	1,451,697	373,469	161,181	†2,512,537		4,498,884
SUMMARY.							
Fully Reproductive .....	4,548,769	133,825	39,853	15,033	336,425	145,664	
Partially Reproductive .....	58,858,158	1,757,497	427,177	195,138	1,116,552		1,263,260
Totally Unproductive .....	48,616,952	1,451,697	373,469	161,181	†2,512,537		4,498,884
Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings .....	527,489	15,751	3,473	1,749			25,978
Special Deficit Loans .....	4,957,768	50,280	56,717				106,997
Balance of General Loan Fund (i) .....	5,677,030	169,533	10,772	18,823			199,128
	123,186,766	3,580,583	918,466	391,974	†1,059,560		5,948,583

Public Debt, 30th June, 1951 .. £123,186,766

NET DEFICIENCY £5,948,583

\*For details see Return No. 11. †Debit.

(a) This statement distributes the net cost of loan charges for the year over the various assets. (b) Total expenditure from loan funds (including the proportionate cost of raising), after allowing for sinking fund redemptions and other adjustments. (c) Actual expenditure averaged over all assets. (d) To this should be added £451,725 included in Railway Capital. (f) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates. (g) Includes £451,725 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Department. (h) Capital Charges met by Treasury. (i) Includes £406,000 advance Loan proceeds.

[Return No. 11]

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1950-51\*.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges. (a)			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	De-ficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Ex-change.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways (b) .....	19,256,336	574,993	146,781	63,842	†1,789,281	....	2,574,897
Railways—Assessed Expired Capital (a) .....	12,043,039	359,604	99,060	39,927	....	....	498,591
Tramways .....	1,608,857	50,728	12,062	5,632	†92,598	....	161,020
Tramways—Assessed Expired Capital (a) .....	97,630	2,915	....	324	....	....	3,239
Electricity Supply .....	8,255,021	246,494	42,331	27,369	218,033	....	98,156
Electricity Supply—Assessed Expired Capital (a) .....	1,272,666	38,002	10,463	4,219	....	....	52,689
Frequency Changer—Met. District .....	131,211	3,918	....	435	....	....	4,353
	42,754,310	1,270,654	311,602	141,847	†1,663,841	....	3,393,845
<i>Harbours and Rivers.</i>							
Fremantle Harbour Trust .....	3,119,590	93,151	24,485	10,343	303,648	175,669	....
Fremantle Other .....	753,720	22,506	6,163	2,499	48,297	17,129	....
Bunbury Harbour Board .....	795,955	23,767	5,015	2,639	†19,989	....	51,410
Bunbury Other .....	285,671	8,530	2,350	947	†844	....	12,671
Geraldton (c) .....	709,573	21,188	5,837	2,352	581	....	23,796
Albany (c) .....	454,890	13,583	1,635	1,503	†379	....	17,105
Esperance (c) .....	15,851	473	130	52	139	....	516
Busselton (c) .....	23,600	706	168	73	†2,588	....	3,540
North-West Ports (c) .....	598,609	17,874	4,911	1,985	†34,197	....	53,967
Swan River .....	551,632	10,472	4,464	1,829	†2,930	....	25,755
Dredges, Steamers and Plant .....	466,646	13,934	3,499	1,547	†138	....	19,118
Other Jetties and Works .....	155,522	4,644	1,264	516	†10,467	....	22,891
(c)	7,931,319	236,823	59,921	26,295	275,073	....	47,971
<i>Water Supplies.</i>							
Metropolitan .....	10,199,804	304,565	77,400	33,816	431,822	16,041	....
Goldfields Water Scheme .....	4,292,435	128,173	31,038	14,231	†47,255	....	220,777
Country Towns .....	1,336,820	41,410	10,428	4,598	†18,168	....	74,604
Country Areas .....	1,649,412	49,251	10,830	5,469	†31,138	....	96,688
Goldfields Areas .....	963,558	28,921	7,957	3,211	†5,372	....	45,461
Irrigation and Drainage .....	3,514,217	104,934	27,464	11,651	†33,028	....	227,077
Other Works .....	199,725	5,964	1,625	662	†4,332	....	12,533
Sewerage for Country Towns .....	89,279	2,666	260	296	....	....	3,222
	22,300,300	665,884	167,052	73,934	242,499	....	664,371
<i>Trading Concerns.</i>							
Wyndham Meatworks .....	1,071,545	31,996	8,320	3,553	45,000	631	....
Quarries .....	34,796	1,039	286	115	....	....	1,440
Brickworks .....	187,197	5,590	429	621	2,946	....	3,694
Engineering Works .....	152,257	4,546	1,266	505	13,349	12,032	....
Saw Mills .....	537,390	16,046	3,339	1,732	31,823	60,656	....
Kent River Mill .....	91,950	1,850	....	205	....	....	2,055
Shipping Service .....	383,896	11,612	2,349	1,290	....	....	15,750
Hotels .....	66,898	1,997	550	222	10,068	7,299	....
West Australian Meat Export Works .....	262,573	7,841	2,116	871	12,232	1,404	....
	2,763,507	82,517	19,655	9,163	170,418	59,083	....
<i>Development of Agriculture.</i>							
Soldiers' Land Settlement (d) .....	1,937,262	57,346	16,240	6,423	18,495	....	62,014
Rural and Industries Bank .....	6,293,774	187,931	49,031	20,866	185,932	....	71,896
Rural and Industries Bank—Govern- ment Agency .....	1,520,671	45,676	16,820	5,072	118,110	50,542	....
Group Settlement .....	2,956,495	88,281	24,319	9,802	....	....	122,402
Rabbit-proof Fence .....	332,527	9,929	2,735	1,103	†13,980	....	32,747
Generally .....	3,653,430	100,091	29,863	12,112	7,983	....	143,083
	16,703,159	498,754	139,008	55,378	311,540	....	331,600

\* See footnote (a) on Return No. 10.

† Debit.

(c) Capital Charges met by Treasury.

[Return No. 11—continued.]

## DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF LOAN ASSETS 1950-51—continued.

Undertaking.	Loan Liability.	Capital Charges. (a)			Net Earnings.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
		Interest.	Sinking Fund.	Ex-change.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Abattoirs, Saleyards, etc.</i>							
Metropolitan Abattoirs .....	548,026	16,304	3,867	1,810	37,621	15,640	.....
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs .....	83,727	2,500	504	278	†3,192	.....	6,564
Generally .....	71,782	2,144	500	238	.....	.....	2,972
	701,535	20,948	5,051	2,326	34,420	6,104	.....
<i>Development of Mining.</i>							
State Batteries .....	448,485	13,242	3,612	1,470	†54,148	.....	72,472
Generally .....	1,167,859	34,872	8,661	3,572	7,048	.....	40,357
	1,611,344	48,114	12,273	5,342	†47,100	.....	112,820
<i>Public Buildings.</i>							
Education (including Narrogin School of Agriculture and Muresk College of Agriculture) .....	3,105,227	92,722	21,332	10,295	†191,660	.....	316,009
Police Stations, Quarters, etc. ....	197,026	5,910	1,319	656	†26,476	.....	34,561
Court House, Quarters, etc. ....	47,055	1,405	355	156	16,540	.....	8,458
Gaols .....	88,824	2,652	732	298	†106,524	.....	110,236
Hospitals .....	2,669,803	79,720	18,957	8,651	25,168	.....	52,360
Institutions .....	680,898	20,332	5,434	2,258	†20,355	.....	48,419
Buildings generally .....	898,938	26,842	6,619	2,030	†99,102	.....	135,573
	7,680,671	229,613	55,008	25,494	†425,529	.....	735,644
<i>All Other.</i>							
Aborigines Stations .....	144,152	4,304	1,022	478	†123,949	.....	129,753
Assistance to Industries .....	213,761	6,383	1,762	709	20	.....	8,834
Bulk Handling—Albany .....	2,377	71	.....	8	.....	.....	79
Bulk Handling, Bunbury .....	74,406	2,222	619	247	7,698	4,610	.....
Ferries .....	12,485	373	110	41	†5,208	.....	5,732
Loans to Public Bodies .....	50,001	2,418	680	269	2,475	.....	592
Metropolitan Markets .....	151,842	4,534	1,265	503	8,685	2,383	.....
Miscellaneous .....	225,877	6,745	1,852	740	†2,844	.....	12,190
Pine Planting and Re-forestation .....	1,365,744	40,781	9,570	4,528	10,977	.....	43,902
Plant Suspense .....	902,305	26,945	5,202	2,092	31,192	.....	3,947
Roads and Bridges .....	3,431,660	102,469	28,248	11,377	83,733	.....	58,361
Small Loans Scheme—State Housing Commission .....	647	19	7	2	31	3	.....
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry .....	1,131,518	33,787	6,827	3,751	.....	.....	44,365
Tourist Resorts .....	120,805	3,607	900	401	29	.....	4,969
State Housing Commission .....	665,427	19,870	5,538	2,206	19,209	.....	8,405
Canyon Alluvial Deposits .....	692,934	20,601	5,575	2,207	.....	.....	28,566
Welshpool Industries .....	351,243	10,488	1,659	1,164	10,003	.....	2,406
Capital Adjustments and Unallocated Costs of Raisings .....	527,480	15,751	8,478	1,749	.....	.....	25,978
Special Deficit Loans .....	4,957,768	50,280	56,717	.....	.....	.....	106,997
Balance of General Loan Fund .....	5,677,030	169,533	10,772	18,823	.....	.....	199,128
	20,731,121	521,271	146,896	52,204	42,951	.....	677,510
TOTAL .....	123,186,766	3,580,583	916,466	301,074	†1,059,560	.....	5,948,583
Public Debt, 30th June, 1951 .....	123,186,766	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

† Debit.

(a) Actual Expenditure averaged over all assets.

(b) Includes £451,725 being part of Capital Expenditure on Harbours and Jetties controlled by Railway Dept.

(c) To this should be added £557,948 included in Railway Capital in respect of the following Harbours and Jetties: Busseton, £35,088; Geraldton, £329,271; Esperance, £63,225; Port Hedland, £24,142.

(d) Represents expenditure by P.W.D. on roads, bridges and drainage, and by Lands Department on repurchased estates.

(e) Includes £406,000 Advance Loan Proceeds.

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 12-13 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 12.]

## RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

—				1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
				miles. 4,348	miles. 4,348	miles. 4,321	miles. 4,252	miles. 4,228
Number of Miles Open	...	...	...					
				£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	...	...	...	26,659,050	26,951,413	27,312,438	29,530,921	19,256,385*
Revenue Capital	...	...	...	631,140	632,284	637,143	640,062	....
Total	...	...	...	27,290,190	27,583,697	27,949,581	30,170,983	19,256,385
Working Expenses	...	...	...	4,423,801	5,570,000	6,702,254	7,501,395	8,618,863
Interest	...	...	...	1,032,990	1,046,333	1,063,023	1,093,087	741,592
Depreciation	...	...	...	....	....	....	412,834	520,583
Total Annual Cost	...	...	...	5,456,791	6,616,333	7,765,277	9,007,316	9,881,038
Gross Revenue	...	...	...	4,045,935	4,598,896	5,214,844	6,472,049	7,196,214
Loss	...	...	...	1,410,856	2,017,437	2,550,433	2,535,267	2,684,824

\* Excludes £12,326,349 non-interest bearing Capital.

[Return No. 13.]

## RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

—				1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
				£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital	...	...	...	1,251,124	1,304,274	1,427,804	1,575,819	1,796,685
Working Expenses	...	...	...	476,314	595,027	668,823	(a) 1,017,574	790,036
Interest	...	...	...	48,516	50,976	53,277	32,685	37,056
Total Annual Cost	...	...	...	524,830	646,003	722,100	1,050,259	827,092
Gross Revenue	...	...	...	481,100	509,054	589,539	603,778	744,890
Profit	...	...	...	....	....	....	....	....
Loss	...	...	...	43,730	136,949	132,561	446,481	82,202

(a) Includes £285,188 for Replacement of Transport Equipment.

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Returns 14-15 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 14.]

RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

—	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	1,038,612	1,774,310	2,795,836	5,141,555	8,255,022
Working Expenses ... ..	756,948	911,019	1,365,550	1,948,317	2,617,899
Interest ... ..	35,407	37,648	65,039	108,400	146,903
Total Annual Cost ... ..	792,355	948,667	1,430,589	2,056,717	2,764,802
Gross Revenue ... ..	669,590	765,397	1,134,667	1,977,699	2,694,610
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Loss ... ..	122,765	183,270	295,922	79,018	70,192

[Return No. 15.]

RETURN RELATING TO METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE.

—	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	9,509,253	9,818,546	10,259,125	10,768,267	11,655,733
Working Expenses ... ..	157,973	169,049	195,680	271,207	347,568
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	426,904	440,578	459,509	421,192	450,508
Total Annual Cost ... ..	584,877	609,627	655,189	692,399	798,076
Gross Revenue ... ..	791,526	615,851	678,414	727,069	776,995
Profit ... ..	6,649	6,224	21,225	34,670	...
Loss ... ..	...	...	...	...	21,081

*In Return 11 the average cost of servicing the Public Debt has been applied to all undertakings. In Return 16 the figures as shown have been prepared in accordance with the published Commercial Accounts of the Utilities.*

[Return No. 16.]

### RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

—	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	3,266,444	3,520,316	3,642,096	3,762,485	4,202,884
Working Expenses ... ..	193,748	247,832	289,112	327,805	420,884
Interest, Sinking Fund and Depreciation	203,216	232,739	244,739	238,809	252,434
Total Annual Cost ... ..	396,964	480,571	533,851	566,614	673,318
Gross Revenue ... ..	(c) 343,500	338,892	341,052	346,660	359,468
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Loss ... ..	53,464	141,679	192,799	219,954	313,850

(c) Includes Commonwealth Grant, £562

[Return No. 17.]

### SUMMARY OF TRADING CONCERNS.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	2,326,156	2,404,401	2,451,826	2,317,105	2,295,648	2,346,890
Revenue Capital ... ..	49,713	49,713	49,713	10,026	10,026	9,154
	2,375,869	2,454,114	2,501,539	2,327,131	2,305,674	2,356,044
Gross Revenue ... ..	1,807,909	1,912,251	2,102,680	2,579,444	3,007,084	3,257,551
Increase in Stocks ... ..	19,522	270	16,949	17,544	42,296	12,879
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	853	5,234	5,657	5,944	303	4,099
	1,826,578	1,907,287	2,113,972	2,591,044	3,049,057	3,266,331
Working Expenditure (a) ...	1,751,934	1,846,802	1,951,453	2,378,935	2,874,896	3,033,659
Interest and Sinking Fund ...	124,767	126,758	116,330	115,754	64,987	103,238
Depreciation ... ..	47,014	50,617	55,451	60,026	105,711	87,200
Superannuation ... ..	683	796	859	954	1,203	1,219
Total Annual Cost ... ..	1,924,398	2,024,973	2,124,093	2,555,669	3,046,797	3,205,316
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	35,375	2,260	61,015
Loss ... ..	97,820	117,686	10,121	...	...	...

(a) Includes provision for Bad Debts and Bad Debts written off.

*Note.*—Wyndham Meat Works—Financial year ends 31st January; State Shipping Service—Financial year ends 31st December.

[Return No 18.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE BRICKWORKS.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	52,097	52,097	52,097	52,097	52,197	52,197
Revenue Capital ... ..	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774	1,774
	53,871	53,871	53,871	53,871	53,971	53,971
Gross Revenue ... ..	39,997	49,898	55,921	60,250	69,692	75,236
Increase in Stocks ... ..	90	270	...	14	...	...
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	...	...	250	...	303	63
	40,087	50,168	55,671	60,264	69,389	75,173
Working Expenditure ... ..	38,723	45,933	50,041	54,112	60,742	68,106
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	2,813	2,813	2,682	2,686	2,689	2,425
Depreciation ... ..	1,619	2,074	1,884	2,590	2,626	3,213
Superannuation ... ..	683	796	859	954	1,203	1,219
Total Annual Cost ... ..	43,838	51,616	55,466	60,342	67,260	74,963
Profit ... ..	...	...	205	...	2,129	210
Loss ... ..	3,751	1,448	...	78	...	...

[Return No. 19.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE ENGINEERING WORKS.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	180,348	178,107	176,968	145,888	144,948	153,924
Gross Revenue ... ..	397,914	281,436	286,077	271,889	270,748	341,306
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	...	1,716	...	21,256	...
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	853	1,006	...	5,944	...	3,994
	397,061	280,430	287,793	265,945	292,004	337,312
Working Expenditure ... ..	379,789	261,023	241,742	238,881	269,007	294,556
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	(b) 9,413	(b) 9,486	(b) 9,012	(b) 8,081	(b) 7,504	(b) 6,987
Depreciation ... ..	7,544	9,517	14,313	14,090	15,231	26,007
Total Annual Cost ... ..	396,746	280,026	265,067	261,052	291,742	327,550
Profit ... ..	315	404	2,726	4,893	262	9,762
Loss ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...

(b) Includes Sinking Fund charged, in the accounts of the Concern as follows :—

£456	£531	£1,002	£971	£939	£994
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[Return No. 20.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE QUARRIES.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50. (a)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	37,634	37,324	36,142	36,142	35,612	....
Revenue Capital ... ..	872	872	872	872	872	....
	38,506	38,196	37,014	37,014	36,484	....
Gross Revenue ... ..	81	79	94	68	68	....
Increase in Stocks ... ..	...	...	....	....	....	....
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	...	...	....	....	....	....
	81	79	94	68	68	....
Working Expenditure ... ..	82	24	100	132	7	....
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	2,061	2,011	1,896	1,894	1,824	....
Depreciation ... ..	...	...	....	....	....	....
Total Annual Cost ... ..	2,143	2,035	1,996	2,026	1,831	....
Loss ... ..	2,062	1,956	1,902	1,958	1,763	....

(a) Removed from State Trading Concerns Act.

[Return No. 21.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE SHIPPING SERVICE.

	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	346,396	346,396	346,396	346,396	346,396	386,396
Gross Revenue ... ..	281,719	195,266	270,154	534,035	779,149	681,052
Working Expenditure ... ..	328,971	280,055	276,727	515,411	791,497	681,344
Interest and Sinking Fund (a)	18,940	18,714	16,333	16,982	18,266	16,784
Depreciation ... ..	12,075	12,320	12,114	9,322	9,415	9,361
Total Annual Cost ... ..	359,986	311,089	305,174	541,715	819,178	707,489
Loss ... ..	78,267	115,823	35,020	7,680	40,029	26,437

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern as follows:—

£866	£866	£866	£1,732	£1,732	£1,832
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[Return No. 22.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE HOTELS.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	76,482	74,609	72,735	70,805	68,855	66,836
Gross Revenue ... ..	70,771	89,097	105,644	112,193	129,302	145,005
Working Expenditure ... ..	61,976	73,524	90,130	96,162	116,038	133,226
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	6,288	5,696	5,229	5,203	5,148	4,773
Depreciation ... ..	328	1,568	318	2,144	874	384
Total Annual Cost ... ..	68,592	80,788	95,677	103,509	122,060	138,383
Profit ... ..	2,179	8,309	9,967	8,684	7,242	6,622

[Return No. 23.]

## RETURN RELATING TO STATE SAW MILLS.

—	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	262,867	260,996	308,219	305,168	339,504	405,958
Gross Revenue ... ..	548,263	612,882	689,096	823,723	862,044	1,054,912
Increase in Stocks ... ..	13,069	...	15,233	17,504	21,030	12,879
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	...	3,301	...	...	...	...
	561,332	609,581	704,329	841,227	883,074	1,067,791
Working Expenditure ... ..	538,647	573,741	645,359	767,657	819,654	975,625
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	15,024	15,645	16,166	16,923	17,482	17,865
Depreciation (a) ... ..	5,086	10,751	13,646	18,543	16,549	14,312
Total Annual Cost ... ..	558,757	600,137	675,171	803,123	853,685	1,007,802
Profit ... ..	2,575	9,444	29,158	38,104	29,389	59,989

(a) On new assets only. Temporarily suspended on existing asset.

[Return No. 24]

## RETURN RELATING TO WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

	1-2-45 to 31-1-46.	1-2-46 to 31-1-47.	1-2-47 to 31-1-48.	1-2-48 to 31-1-49.	1-2-49 to 31-1-50.	1-2-50 to 31-1-51.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	1,072,322	1,072,322	1,072,322	1,072,322	1,072,272	1,027,272
Gross Revenue ... ..	278,776	405,810	451,339	550,464	667,880	786,395
Increase in Stocks ... ..	6,363	...	...	26	10	...
Decrease in Stocks ... ..	...	927	5,407	...	...	42
	285,139	404,833	445,932	550,490	667,890	786,353
Working Expenditure ... ..	251,464	372,335	413,153	509,141	618,227	723,411
Interest and Sinking Fund (a) ...	56,300	50,488	48,254	48,254	45,125	42,891
Total Annual Cost ... ..	307,764	422,823	461,407	557,395	663,352	766,302
Loss ... ..	22,625	17,940	15,475	6,905	...	...
Profit ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,538	20,051

(a) Includes Sinking Fund not charged in the accounts of the Concern, as follows:—

£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681	£2,681
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[Return No. 25.]

## WEST AUSTRALIAN MEAT EXPORT WORKS.

	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Loan Capital ... ..	298,010	382,550	386,003	287,519	235,864	254,307
Revenue Capital ... ..	47,067	47,067	7,600	7,380	7,380	7,380
	345,077	429,617	393,603	294,899	243,244	261,687
Gross Revenue ... ..	190,388	277,783	264,355	226,822	228,164	173,645
Working Expenditure ... ..	152,282	240,167	234,201	197,439	199,707	157,391
Interest and Sinking Fund ... ..	13,928	21,905	16,758	15,731	12,074	11,513
Depreciation, etc. ... ..	20,362	14,387	13,176	13,337	15,891	13,923
Total Annual Cost ... ..	186,572	276,459	264,135	226,507	227,672	...
Profit ... ..	3,816	1,324	220	315	492	...
Loss ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	9,182

## [Return No. 26.]

## DISSECTION OF CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND EXPENDITURE, 1943-44 TO 1950-51.

Item.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest ....	3,486,511	3,413,765	3,354,082	3,247,497	3,224,378	3,255,839	3,367,761	3,580,583
Sinking Fund ....	606,060	711,623	729,732	758,381	819,393	851,885	886,343	916,466
Exchange ....	503,219	506,164	471,997	494,251	523,755	608,008	980,526	478,331
Unemployment Relief	645	591	271	331	744	958	861	124
Salaries and Wages ....	5,031,048	5,224,667	5,685,002	6,076,692	7,582,266	9,355,748	10,561,725	12,343,948
Materials ....	1,472,251	1,622,746	1,876,115	1,844,285	2,350,837	2,731,697	3,402,508	3,271,864
Grants ....	172,449	215,849	625,538	950,948	1,177,453	1,396,536	1,742,765	2,209,322
Pensions ....	272,206	325,331	318,842	360,009	417,896	508,524	563,352	555,926
All other ....	2,006,765	1,928,604	1,345,978	1,295,983	1,960,172	2,668,622	4,281,272	4,640,270
Total	13,551,154	13,949,340	14,407,557	15,023,427	18,062,392	21,377,907	25,787,203	27,996,834

## [Return No. 27.]

## LOAN REPAYMENTS.

## RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Year ended 30th June.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance in Hand.
	£	£	£
1928 ... ..	154,108	...	154,108
1929 ... ..	235,404	33,297	356,215
1930 ... ..	153,583	216,647	293,151
1931 ... ..	84,248	...	377,399
1932 ... ..	112,361	171,800	317,960
1933 ... ..	91,751	249,275	160,436
1934 ... ..	100,935	215,740	45,631
1935 ... ..	150,507	97,064	99,074
1936 ... ..	107,906	74,791	132,189
1937 ... ..	122,975	78,376	176,788
1938 ... ..	134,462	154,825	156,425
1939 ... ..	147,040	153,105	150,360
1940 ... ..	127,470	101,086	176,744
1941 ... ..	127,889	140,202	164,431
1942 ... ..	171,232	89,867	245,796
1943 ... ..	281,355	184,707	342,444
1944 ... ..	256,153	198,896	399,701
1945 ... ..	207,075	222,493	384,283
1946 ... ..	287,043	210,595	460,731
1947 ... ..	190,503	192,818	458,416
1948 ... ..	498,087	282,155	674,348
1949 ... ..	242,820	538,204	378,964
1950 ... ..	252,183	298,639	332,508
1951 ... ..	1,085,802	258,991	1,159,319

## [Return No. 28.]

## SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS OF FUNDS, THE EXPENDITURE OF WHICH IS NOT SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROPRIATION, FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1951.

Fund.	Balance, 1st July, 1950.	Receipts during Year.	Payments during Year.	Balance, 30th June, 1951.
	£	£	£	£
Hospital Fund ( <i>see</i> Return No. 30)...	774	1,394,090	1,394,864	....
Forest Improvement and Reforestation Fund ( <i>see</i> Return No. 31) ...	947	321,493	321,980	460
Road Funds ( <i>see</i> Return No. 32) ...	1,789,039	2,939,265	2,736,452	1,991,852
Metropolitan Markets Trust ...	12,532	26,731	(a) 27,281	11,982
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	29,722	1,670,167	(b) 1,671,262	28,627
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	2,308	27,994	26,597	3,705
	1,835,322	6,379,740	6,178,436	2,036,626

(a) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £6,150 Sinking Fund, £1,898 and Profits, £637

(b) Includes payments on account of—Interest, £119,067 Sinking Fund £34,517 Replacement Fund, £1,833 and Surplus Cash, £150,063

## [Return No. 29.]

## HOSPITAL FUND.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEARS 1946-47 TO 1950-51.

	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year ...	28,174	46,549	....	....	774
Hospital Tax Collections ...	325,750	325,750	325,750	325,750	325,750
Treasury Grants ...	143,000	259,007	581,656	794,603	1,068,297
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,678	7,436	7,435	1,865	2,043
	499,602	638,742	914,841	1,122,218	1,394,864
<i>Payments.</i>					
Administration Expenditure ...	7,392	9,721	16,419	15,607	21,048
Hospitals Expenditure—					
Departmental ...	175,121	260,005	345,081	347,778	410,811
Non-Departmental Subsidies, etc.	262,321	353,187	531,399	728,066	921,166
Miscellaneous ...	8,219	15,829	21,942	29,993	41,839
Balance at end of year ...	46,549	....	....	774	....
	499,602	638,742	914,841	1,122,218	1,394,864

## [Return No. 30.]

FORESTS IMPROVEMENT AND RE-FORESTATION FUND—TRANSACTIONS DURING  
THE YEARS 1946-47 TO 1950-51.

	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
<i>Receipts.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Balance from previous year ...	1,402	57,703	39,374	393	947
Appropriation from Revenue Fund ...	(d) 161,393	129,755	(e) 124,072	(f) 217,914	262,314
Sundry Receipts ...	29,799	37,233	57,849	52,346	59,179
	192,594	224,691	221,295	270,653	322,440
<i>Payments.</i>					
Expenditure on Forest Improve- ments and Re-forestation during the year ...	134,891	185,317	220,902	269,706	321,980
Balance at end of year ...	57,703	39,374	393	947	460
	192,594	224,691	221,295	270,653	322,440

(d) Includes Special Grant, £30,000.

(e) Includes Special Grant, £33,000.

(f) Includes Special Grant, £87,000.

(g) Includes Special Grant, £112,000.

## [Return No. 31.]

## ROAD FUNDS.—TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR 1950-51.

Particulars.	Main Roads Trust.	Common- wealth Aid Roads, 1947.	Common- wealth Aid Roads, 1950.	Metropoli- tan Traffic Trust Account.	Total.
Balances from year 1949-50 ...	£ 356,849	£ 1,373,894	£	£ 58,296	£ 1,789,039
Receipts during year—					
License Fees and Permits ...	...	...	...	379,678	379,678
Recoups by Local Authorities ...	97,677	...	...	...	97,677
Commonwealth Government Recoup ...	827	...	...	...	827
Commonwealth Grants ...	...	102,074	2,358,689	...	2,460,763
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Receipts in Suspense ...	320	...	...	...	320
	456,673	1,475,968	2,358,689	437,974	4,728,304
Transfer to Other Funds ...	...	128,979	35,877	19,000	183,856
Transfer from Other Funds ...	183,856	...	...	...	183,856
Totals ...	630,529	1,340,989	2,322,812	418,974	4,728,304
Payments during year—					
Administration, Plant, Office Equipment, etc. ...	101,437	...	...	40,000	141,437
Transferred to Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	...	...	...	76,337	76,337
Treasury—Interest and Sinking Fund ...	7,396	...	...	...	7,396
Road Construction, Maintenance Surveys, etc. ...	286,215	914,006	1,067,569	...	2,267,790
Distribution to Local and Statutory Authorities ...	...	...	...	243,492	243,492
Other Payments in Suspense ...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	395,048	914,006	1,067,569	359,829	2,736,452
Balances in hand at 30th June, 1951 ...	244,481	432,983	1,255,243	59,145	1,991,852

## Return No. 12.]

TOTAL NET COLLECTIONS OF STATE TAXATION TAKEN TO THE CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND, TRUST ACCOUNTS, AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1950.

Particulars.	Paid to C.R. Fund.	Paid to Trust or Special Accounts.	Total.	Taxation per Head. (c)
	£	£	£	£ s. d.
Probate and Succession Duties ... ..	460,112	....	460,112	0 16 0
Other Stamp Duties ... ..	889,223	....	889,223	1 11 2
Land Tax ... ..	179,700	....	179,700	0 6 3
Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement (a)	7,176,426	....	7,176,426	12 11 5
Liquor Licenses ... ..	171,374	....	171,374	0 6 0
Racing—				
Stamp Duty on Betting Tickets ... ..	32,396	....	32,396	0 1 4
Totalisator Duty ... ..	207,398	....	207,398	0 7 3
Totalisator Licenses ... ..	2,501	....	2,501	0 0 1
Stamp Duty on Tote Dividends ... ..	2,116	....	2,116	0 0 1
Motor Taxation ... ..	35,178	918,615	953,793	1 13 5
Other Vehicles ... ..	....	3,690	3,690	....
Entertainments—Commonwealth Reimbursement	(b)	....	(b)	....
Vermin Tax ... ..	....	37,673	37,673	0 1 4
Fruit Fly Eradication ... ..	....	5,169	5,169	0 0 2
Licenses, not elsewhere included ... ..	22,430	....	22,430	0 0 10
	9,178,854	965,147	10,144,001	17 15 4

(a) This amount includes arrears of State Income Tax, £122; Goldmining Profits Tax, £ ....; Financial Emergency Tax, £17; and Hospital Tax, £8; Total, £147. From this Commonwealth Reimbursement Grant an amount of £1,392,047 was paid to Hospital Trust Fund.

(b) Now part of Income Tax—Commonwealth Reimbursement.

(c) Based on estimated mean population for year 1950–51, viz. 571,000.

[Return No. 33.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH, 1901-02 TO 1950-51.

Year	Contri- bution to Sinking Fund.	Contri- bution towards Interest.	Surplus Revenue Re- turned.	Payment per Head, 25/-.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Trans- ferred Prop- erties.	Grant Under Sec. 96.	Total.
PERIOD COVERED BY BRADDON CLAUSE.								
1901-02 to 1910-11	£ ...	£ ...	£ †8,872,722	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ 8,872,722
PERIOD COVERED BY PER CAPITA PAYMENTS AND SPECIAL PAYMENT TO W.A.								
1911-12 to 1926-27	...	...	...	6,632,264	2,556,248	462,010	565,905	10,216,427
PERIOD COVERED BY FINANCIAL AGREEMENT ACT.								
1927-28 ....	77,908	†483,286	....	....	....	25,775	300,000	886,969
1928-29 ....	91,598	†463,578	....	....	....	47,868	300,000	903,044
1929-30 ....	97,863	473,432	....	....	....	...	300,000	871,295
1930-31 ....	106,166	473,432	....	....	....	...	300,000	879,598
1931-32 ....	118,946	473,432	....	....	....	...	300,000	892,378
1932-33 ....	126,781	473,432	....	....	....	...	500,000	1,100,213
1933-34 ....	136,826	473,432	....	....	....	...	600,000	1,210,258
1934-35 ....	143,871	473,432	\$133,000	....	....	...	600,000	1,350,303
1935-36 ....	151,247	473,432	\$35,000	....	....	...	800,000	1,459,679
1936-37 ....	157,016	473,432	\$33,000	....	....	...	500,000	1,163,448
1937-38 ....	162,524	473,432	....	....	....	...	575,000	1,210,956
1938-39 ....	167,013	473,432	....	....	....	...	570,000	1,210,445
1939-40 ....	174,765	473,432	....	....	....	...	595,000	1,243,197
1940-41 ....	177,423	473,432	....	....	....	...	650,000	1,300,855
1941-42 ....	181,808	473,432	....	....	....	...	630,000	1,285,240
1942-43 ....	183,295	473,432	....	....	....	...	800,000	1,456,727
1943-44 ....	183,922	473,432	....	....	....	...	850,000	1,507,354
1944-45 ....	192,447	473,432	....	....	....	...	904,000	1,569,879
1945-46 ....	185,900	473,432	....	....	(a) 912,559	...	950,000	2,521,891
1946-47 ....	188,838	473,432	....	....	....	...	1,959,000	2,621,270
1947-48 ....	197,132	473,432	....	....	....	...	3,329,082	3,999,646
1948-49 ....	204,685	473,432	....	....	....	...	4,417,261	5,095,378
1949-50 ....	219,261	473,432	....	....	(b) 661,677	...	5,180,000	6,534,370
1950-51 ....	245,034	473,432	....	....	....	...	5,839,000	6,567,466
Total, 24 years ....	3,872,269	11,362,368	201,000	....	1,574,236	73,643	31,748,343	48,831,859

\* First complete year under Federation. † Including £868,963 from Special Tariff provided under the Constitution of the Commonwealth for 5 years after the imposition of uniform Customs duties.

‡ Special payment under States Grant Act, pending passing of the Financial Agreement Act. Proportion of Commonwealth Surplus distributed to States.

(a) Special payment under the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act, 1942.

(b) Special payment on account of Coal Strike.

## GRANTS FOR ROADS, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRIES FOR YEAR 1950-51—PAID TO TRUST FUNDS.

Commonwealth Aid Road Act—  
Contributions from Petrol Tax  
For Roads ....

£

2,480,763

Service.	Loan Li- ability.	Expenditure :					Receipts.	Net Ex- penditure.	Cost per Head.  (*)
		Indirect.		Direct.		Total.			
		Interest and Ex- change.	Sinking Fund.	Con- solidated Revenue Fund.	Trust and Special Accounts.				
<b>1.—Education—</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.
(a) Education Department and Schools ...	2,671,967	88,044	17,869	2,502,200	....	2,608,713	47,137	2,561,576	4 9 9
(b) University ... ..	55,005	1,824	399	211,364	....	213,587	....	213,587	0 7 6
(c) Technical Education ... ..	231,180	7,669	1,886	339,000	....	348,555	16,620	331,935	0 11 7
(d) Agricultural Education ... ..	147,075	4,880	1,178	80,541	....	86,599	39,177	47,422	0 1 8
(e) Library, Museum, Observatory ...	35,956	1,193	296	35,024	....	36,513	470	36,043	0 1 4
(f) Deaf, Dumb and Blind ... ..	884	30	7	3,092	....	3,129	....	3,129	0 0 1
<b>Total 1 ... ..</b>	<b>3,142,067</b>	<b>104,240</b>	<b>21,635</b>	<b>3,171,221</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>3,297,096</b>	<b>103,404</b>	<b>3,193,692</b>	<b>5 11 11</b>
<b>2.—Health, Hospitals, and Charities—</b>									
(a) Public Health ... ..	7,919	262	65	377,612	....	377,939	177,393	200,546	0 7 0
(b) Care of Sick and Mentally Afflicted, Health of Mothers and Children	3,197,335	116,073	23,129	463,312	1,556,483	2,158,997	85,299	2,073,698	3 12 7
(c) Recreation Facilities ... ..	....	....	....	20,500	....	20,500	....	20,500	0 0 8
(d) Relief of Aged, Indigent and Infirm, Child Welfare ... ..	90,851	3,014	748	260,998	....	264,760	77,716	187,044	0 6 7
(e) Miner's Phthisis ... ..	....	....	....	64,206	....	64,206	946	63,260	0 2 3
(f) Natives... ..	144,152	4,782	1,022	176,641	....	182,445	26,117	156,328	0 5 6
(g) Unemployment Relief ... ..	....	....	....	124	....	124	....	124	....
<b>Total 2 ... ..</b>	<b>3,440,257</b>	<b>124,131</b>	<b>24,964</b>	<b>1,363,393</b>	<b>1,556,483</b>	<b>3,068,971</b>	<b>367,471</b>	<b>2,701,500</b>	<b>4 14 7</b>
<b>3.—Law, Order and Public Safety—</b>									
(a) Administration of Justice ... ..	47,055	1,561	385	219,442	....	221,388	220,858	530	....
(b) Police ... ..	218,537	7,249	1,689	764,909	....	773,847	89,353	684,494	1 3 11
(c) Gaols and Reformatories ... ..	89,824	2,980	732	111,201	....	114,913	10,813	104,100	0 3 8
(d) Public Safety ... ..	....	....	....	59,612	....	59,612	26,236	33,376	0 1 2
<b>Total 3 ... ..</b>	<b>355,416</b>	<b>11,790</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>1,155,164</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>1,169,760</b>	<b>347,260</b>	<b>822,500</b>	<b>1 8 9</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>6,937,740</b>	<b>240,161</b>	<b>49,405</b>	<b>5,689,778</b>	<b>1,556,483</b>	<b>7,535,827</b>	<b>818,135</b>	<b>6,717,692</b>	<b>11 15 3</b>

(\*) Based on estimated mean population for year 1950-51, viz., 571,000.

(†) Includes £162,393, Patients' Fees paid to Hospital Fund.

## RAILWAYS.—STATEMENT SHOWING TONNAGE AND EARNINGS ON GOODS CARRIED.

Class of Goods.	1946-47.		1947-48.		1948-49.		1949-50.		1950-51.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	342,188	18.23	361,507	12.65	376,816	13.77	413,537	14.54	486,130	10.02
Ores and other Minerals	249,522	9.68	190,208	6.87	226,985	9.29	244,774	8.61	258,676	8.53
Wool	82,655	1.28	38,148	1.28	38,433	1.40	36,562	1.29	41,009	1.35
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	31,619	1.22	30,074	1.05	31,371	1.15	28,017	.99	26,240	.67
Wheat	448,093	17.43	583,911	20.43	509,786	18.63	575,653	20.25	599,330	19.78
Other Grain and Flour	170,777	6.62	215,342	7.54	195,046	7.13	171,388	6.03	212,294	7.00
Firewood	84,521	3.28	105,219	3.68	91,580	3.35	77,692	2.73	51,279	1.60
Local Timber	254,273	9.87	272,234	9.53	230,464	8.42	225,293	7.92	228,666	7.54
Imported Timber	405	.03	443	.02	779	.03	1,108	.04	433	.01
Fruit and Garden Produce	107,052	4.15	99,864	3.49	115,801	4.23	104,035	3.66	105,579	3.48
Fertilisers	220,873	8.57	268,482	9.43	233,815	8.54	235,271	8.27	210,385	7.23
All other goods	634,058	24.60	687,143	24.05	685,844	25.06	730,057	25.87	804,192	28.62
Total	2,576,936	100.00	2,857,573	100.00	2,736,729	100.00	2,843,292	100.00	3,033,213	100.00

Class of Goods.	1946-47.		1947-48.		1948-49.		1949-50.		1950-51.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal	218,797	8.03	£ 230,162	7.50	£ 300,862	8.54	£ 367,637	8.19	£ 479,786	9.19
Ores and other Minerals	119,386	4.38	137,823	4.50	140,710	3.99	189,243	4.22	228,188	4.37
Wool	93,620	3.44	104,890	3.42	127,018	3.60	151,821	2.94	151,032	2.90
Hay, Straw, and Chaff	25,607	.94	23,845	.76	31,600	.89	31,925	.71	38,919	.75
Wheat	291,072	10.68	361,257	11.79	373,795	10.61	650,799	14.61	687,014	13.16
Other Grain and Flour	100,404	3.68	130,502	4.26	147,637	4.19	177,540	3.96	220,865	4.23
Firewood	30,675	1.13	40,738	1.33	45,849	1.30	49,780	1.11	39,066	.75
Local Timber	239,000	8.55	245,965	8.02	245,720	6.97	303,937	6.78	360,623	6.91
Imported Timber	585	.02	586	.02	1,198	.03	2,426	.05	1,242	.02
Fruit and Garden Produce	127,143	4.67	114,480	3.74	151,471	4.30	157,407	3.61	134,382	2.63
Fertilisers	68,366	2.61	82,827	2.70	83,865	2.38	163,969	3.66	181,134	3.47
All other goods	1,416,482	51.97	1,591,955	51.94	1,874,442	53.20	2,257,297	50.36	2,646,967	50.72
Total	2,725,067	100.00	3,065,009	100.00	3,524,067	100.00	4,483,781	100.00	5,219,218	100.00

## TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, ETC.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.
Railway and Tramway Revenue .....	£4,301,502	£4,916,122	£4,934,929	£4,780,818	£4,665,321	£4,459,926	£5,054,677	£5,752,684	£6,965,698	£7,642,412
Railway Mileage (Route) ....	4,381	4,381	4,381	4,381	4,381	4,348	4,348	4,321	4,252	4,228
Wool exported .....	£5,433,041	£2,378,527	£5,879,587	£4,553,439	£9,957,030	£10,260,373	£16,621,984	£21,534,904	£25,461,582	£56,279,477
Wool produced (c)*— (quantity—lbs.)	77,627,000	95,718,000	102,759,000	84,140,800	82,067,200	80,524,000	89,527,500	93,769,000	92,750,000	102,900,000
(value)	£4,164,000	£5,967,000	£6,371,000	£5,256,000	£5,212,000	£8,047,000	£14,638,000	£18,660,000	£23,619,000	£59,027,896
Wheat produced (bushels)	37,500,000	20,600,000	16,550,000	15,929,000	20,929,000	23,800,000	34,500,000	36,250,000	38,500,000	49,900,000
Wheat produced (value) ....	£7,344,967	£4,754,380	£4,523,479	£3,963,936	£7,898,763	£10,890,000	£24,921,000	£18,049,000	£21,528,700	£25,574,000
Hay produced (tons) .....	414,115	277,957	314,359	338,912	287,476	280,252	267,901	277,329	272,052	(e)
Gold produced (b) (value)	£10,770,979	£7,167,716	£6,058,476	£5,018,100	£5,363,214	£7,419,077	£7,322,192	£7,468,877	£9,051,302	£9,794,388
Coal produced (value) ....	£431,005	£475,078	£523,724	£598,694	£632,180	£771,351	£847,082	£930,525	*£1,150,081	£1,313,458
Other Minerals produced (c)	£157,621	£160,868	£201,999	£250,231	£327,082	£323,778	£446,454	£548,001	£632,318	(e)
Timber exported .....	£699,661	£605,940	£613,994	£570,028	*£722,061	£863,140	£1,099,073	£1,006,760	£1,002,150	£918,485
Timber produced .....	£1,333,967	£1,269,932	£1,343,973	£1,339,182	£1,412,677	£1,714,149	£2,114,257	£2,346,464	£3,023,703	(e)
Number of Sheep†	9,722,780	10,424,385	11,102,936	10,049,587	9,765,973	9,787,002	10,443,798	10,872,540	10,923,187	11,374,020
Number of Cattle†	839,731	831,231	870,939	852,563	833,567	811,949	815,610	864,131	864,936	841,921
Number of Horses†	124,402	112,782	106,743	96,528	88,180	80,746	74,537	68,521	59,166	55,453
Area of land selected (acres)	172,129	123,944	197,373	231,400	229,022	558,676	703,160	804,128	870,802	1,385,380
Area of land leased (acres)	2,244,369	1,655,497	1,902,737	1,960,825	1,168,645	5,128,710	5,233,085	6,785,119	3,415,545	4,963,089
Area of land under cultivation (d) ....	16,085,051	(e)	(e)	13,627,548	13,860,553	14,621,424	15,223,328	15,901,130	16,555,472	(e)
Area of land under crop (acres) .....	3,816,522	2,784,000	2,744,000	2,756,000	2,375,048	3,532,445	3,936,118	4,102,348	4,292,730	(e)
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,545,823	1,435,241	1,585,935	1,590,820	2,378,266	2,532,759	3,378,006	*4,632,678	5,232,760	4,147,991
Tonnage Shipping, Outwards	2,507,742	1,467,495	1,579,656	1,528,336	2,472,948	2,646,285	3,431,319	*4,677,867	5,287,050	4,154,797
Exports, incl. Gold Bullion	£25,351,484	£16,362,003	£19,532,146	£19,403,033	£26,544,880	£29,720,015	£55,731,230	£55,593,840	*£61,865,636	£111,840,115
Exports, excl. Gold Bullion	£15,056,434	£8,489,776	£15,907,198	£19,403,033	£26,544,880	£29,720,015	£51,903,380	£55,593,840	£61,864,466	£111,840,115
Imports (Australian Currency) .....	£18,250,537	£16,093,080	£17,199,337	£18,039,357	£21,628,149	£30,591,097	£42,819,781	£52,628,846	£69,443,677	£88,176,453
Savings Bank Deposits	£12,153,422	£17,468,535	£20,346,899	£21,262,769	£32,917,664	£26,140,983	£26,773,839	£28,389,145	£33,528,416	£42,950,423
Savings Bank Withdrawals	£11,000,730	£11,626,377	£13,786,931	£15,826,571	£26,974,891	£28,426,316	£27,810,784	£27,634,325	£32,072,387	£38,531,063
Population end of Financial Year .....	476,983	475,281	481,530	487,892	492,510	502,480	515,302	532,667	557,918	581,000

\* Revised. (Figures exclude Wool exported on skins)

† Preliminary figures, liable to revision.

‡ As at 31st March of year last mentioned.

(b) Australian Currency Value.

(c) Calendar year first mentioned.

(d) Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc.

(e) Not available.

[16 October, 1951.]