

in the Commonwealth bank. I wish it were possible to do away with the Commonwealth Savings Bank altogether or, as an alternative, that some arrangement could be entered into whereby at least 75 per cent. of the money deposited in that bank should be made available to the State Government for developmental purposes. It would be preferable to delete the clauses dealing with this position and legislate simply to say that there should be no private savings banks in operation in Western Australia in opposition to the State Savings Bank.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN: I cannot conceive that it is right that the State should have a monopoly over all the savings bank funds in Western Australia and that we should wipe out every little building or mutual benefit society, merely because the State does not carry on the savings bank operations in a business-like way. Some time ago when it was ascertained that the Commonwealth intended to raise the interest rate, we went to the then Treasurer and told him that the Commonwealth were taking the State's money. He said, "It is all right." We told him that he was paying  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest in Hay-street and 5 per cent. interest in Barrack-street and that it was affecting the business of the savings bank. The then Treasurer said again, "It is all right." Shortly afterwards it was found that the Commonwealth Savings Bank had attracted a large proportion of the State Savings Bank money. That was because the Government were not awake and now Parliament is asked to pass a Bill setting out that no one shall receive savings bank deposits. The corollary will be that once the Government get the monopoly, they will pay what rate of interest they like.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: This point can be discussed from all aspects, but the fact remains that from the savings bank deposits we have been able to provide Agricultural Bank clients and others with money at a low rate of interest. That interest has been based upon the rate the savings bank has had to pay. So long as those loans to the Agricultural Bank clients are in force, the existing rates must continue. At present 8 per cent. is paid for borrowed money, but clients of the Agricultural Bank who received their loans years ago are paying a much lower rate of interest, for in those days the State Savings Bank paid 3 per cent. only for that money. If we alter the system radically the position will become more difficult. Savings banks that have endeavoured to pay a high rate of interest on floating deposits, have always failed.

Hon. H. Stewart: State savings banks?

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: Of course not. State savings banks have never been foolish enough to pay a higher rate of interest than they could afford.

Hon. A. Lovekin: When there is opposition, if you do not raise your rates of interest you do not get the goods.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: To-day 4 per cent. is the market rate and the State is paying  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. and the Commonwealth 4 per cent.

Hon. G. W. Miles: If the State does not increase the interest rate to 4 per cent., we will lose the business.

Hon. F. E. S. WILLMOTT: I agree with Mr. Ewing that the Bill proposes a circuitous way of reaching the objective and that it would be better to say that we will allow no other savings bank, apart from the Commonwealth Savings Bank, to operate in opposition to the State Savings Bank.

Hon. H. SEDDON: There is one point that ought to be cleared up. References have been made to the funds of the State Savings Bank being used for the development of the State. The latest report dealing with the Government Savings Bank shows that of the funds totalling £6,022,782, £3,123,303 have been invested in local inscribed stock certificates and £240,954 in debentures under the Agricultural Lands Purchase Act. It is interesting to note that the greater portion of the money deposited with the State Savings Bank remains there for a considerable period and the operations are not high.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to make it clear to hon. members that the Bill has come to me from another place and I have no power to withdraw it. I would not suggest that it should be withdrawn; it is here for the consideration of hon. members.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 6.17 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 9th October, 1924.

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

### QUESTION—GOVERNMENT PREFERENCE.

Mr. PANTON (for Mr. Lambert) asked the Premier: 1, Is it the policy of the Government—all things being equal—in ordering supplies, to give preference to local companies with their registered offices in Western Australia, as against firms who are operating here with their registered offices in the Eastern States? 2, Is it the policy of the Government to give preference to goods manufactured in Western Australia? 3, If so, have instructions been issued to the different departments to this effect?

The PREMIER replied: 1 and 2, In the discretion of the Tender Board a preference of 10 per cent. is given to goods wholly of local manufacture. 3, Yes.

### QUESTION—KELLERBERRIN HOSPITAL.

Mr. E. B. JOHNSTON (for Mr. Griffiths) asked the Honorary Minister: 1, Is he aware that the late Government promised to subsidise on a £ for £ basis an X-Ray plant for the Kellerberrin Hospital, and that the present Government have also confirmed this? 2, That on the strength of this the Kellerberrin hospital committee ordered the plant, which is now at Fremantle and awaiting delivery? 3, Such being the case, will he endeavour to assist the Kellerberrin hospital committee to finance this X-Ray plant as promised? 4, If so, can he indicate when?

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE (Honorary Minister) replied: 1, Yes, such approval was recorded in January, 1923. 2, The previous approval was confirmed in July, 1924, but on the understanding that no funds would be available until this year's Estimates were passed, and the committee was so informed. 3 and 4, No funds are now available, nor, unfortunately, are funds likely to be available during the current financial year, unless available from the proposed State lotteries.

### QUESTION—TRAFFIC FEES.

Mr. RICHARDSON (for Mr. Sampson) asked the Minister for Works: 1, Does the amendment of the metropolitan area, in respect of the levying of heavy traffic fees, mean that owners of vehicles engaged in heavy traffic in that area are not required to pay the special tax? 2, Is he aware that this imposes an undue burden on carters located in other districts? 3, Will he take steps to correct this anomaly?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The regulations imposing heavy traffic fees do not apply within the metropolitan area as amended, nor did the previous regulations apply to the metropolitan area. 2 and 3, It is recognised that the special tax

should apply to vehicles licensed within the metropolitan area, and action is shortly being taken which, it is expected, will correct the anomaly.

### QUESTION—LICENSING LEGISLATION.

Mr. RICHARDSON (for Mr. J. H. Smith) asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill this session to amend Section 62 of the Licensing Act of 1922 by deleting the words "three-fifths majority" and inserting in lieu thereof "simple majority"? 2, If so, when? 3, If not, will he state whether he will introduce it next session?

The PREMIER replied: 1, 2, and 3, The matter is receiving the consideration of the Government.

### QUESTION—STATE IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Lands: 1, Is he aware that settlers who have placed orders recently with the State Implement Works for wagons have been debarred by the I.A.B., unless the difference between the State Implement Works' price and that of other firms is paid in cash? 2, If so, will he see that the practice is discontinued?

The MINISTER FOR LANDS replied: 1, The Industries Assistance Board each year invites tenders for the supply of wagons. The amount that may be advanced to any borrower for this purpose is fixed on the basis of the lowest tender, but any settler can purchase a more expensive wagon provided he makes his own arrangements with the builder for payment of the difference in price. A settler who is in credit can buy any wagon he likes. 2, The matter is controlled by the Industries Assistance Board, the members of which are appointed under statute, and, it being primarily a question of control of borrowers' credit, the Minister is unable to interfere.

### BILLS (3)—FIRST READING.

1. Land and Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment.
2. Dividend Duties Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Premier.
3. Industries Assistance Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Lands.

### BILL—STATE LOTTERIES.

*In Committee.*

Resumed from 7th October; Mr. Lutey in the Chair; Hon. S. W. Munsie (Honorary Minister) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 3—Application of proceeds:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: When these funds are collected they are to be distributed at the Minister's discretion. I should like the Minister to say why this unusual power is sought to be taken by him. These will be public funds collected for a public purpose, yet the Minister is to be superior to the Treasurer. Will he even allow the Treasurer to hold the funds?

Mr. Chesson: He would be a fool if he did.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: It is possible that he will open an account, not at a Government bank, but at some other bank, and so will be able to defy the Treasurer. The Treasurer is not even to see the money. It is a most unusual provision in a most unusual Bill. I hope the Treasurer will vote with me against this clause. I do not know why there should be this want of confidence in the Treasurer, as disclosed in the Minister's provision.

Mr. Corboy: You do not know him. We do.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: My young friend has not given much thought to this.

Mr. Corboy: All Treasurers are alike. You were the same.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: This money ought to be distributed as Parliament may direct. I move an amendment—

*That in line 5 of Subclause (1) the words "in his discretion he may think fit" be struck out and "as Parliament may decide" inserted in lieu.*

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I question the desirability of leaving to the Honorary Minister the task of defining what are charitable institutions. That is too big an obligation to place upon his shoulders. If we are going to raise money by this means, we should say definitely that it shall be used for those institutions, the finances of which are the responsibility of the Government. Such institutions will be under the control of Parliament, and equal consideration will be given to all sections of the community. If the Minister has discretionary powers to decide what is a charitable institution, an appeal may be made to him in such a form that he will have to give way on one occasion, thus establishing a precedent which may lead to his being inundated with all kinds of appeals. I should like to see the funds confined to Government institutions, and "charitable institutions" defined in the regulations.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: I already have discretionary power as to the distribution of funds to charitable institutions. I have to decide what is a charitable institution, or a charitable cause. I shall not have to do any more under this Bill. I do not intend to define by law what a charitable institution is. If I did so, I might deprive certain worthy objects of participa-

tion in these funds. If an institution that is not of a charitable nature applies for assistance, it will not receive any.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: You are making a sweeping statement.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: To-day I have nothing to give anyone, but under this Bill I should be able to satisfy some of the requests made to me. If the amendment is passed I may formulate a lottery scheme that may be run soon after Parliament rises, but I would be unable to spend a penny of it until Parliament met again. I want to be able to disburse the money as the occasion demands.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Treasurer can decide how the money is to be spent, and can have that expenditure confirmed later by Parliament. That sort of thing is done every day.

Amendment put and negatived.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Why should these prizes be exempt from State income tax, and how much of the money collected will be given away in prizes? I find that the Golden Casket people endeavour to sell 100,000 tickets a fortnight.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: I do not anticipate selling anything like that number.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: If the Honorary Minister gets in £25,000 a fortnight and the prize winners pay no tax at all, the Treasurer will find that he will lose money.

The Premier: Goodness knows, I cannot afford that!

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: We ought to deal with this rebellious Minister. If the Treasurer proposes any increase in taxation, this exemption will defeat his object, for if a tax is not required upon these prizes, it cannot be wanted for anything else. I know the Honorary Minister desires to encourage people to gamble.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: The question whether winnings in the lottery should bear State income tax was fully discussed by the Government prior to the introduction of the Bill. Queensland, instead of levying income tax from a person who wins a prize, charges 3d. extra on each ticket, which 3d. represents income tax. We are not going to do even that. The results from the Queensland "Golden Casket" have been as follows: First year, Federal Government 12½ per cent. income tax £41,688 2s. 7d., State revenue £28,631 19s. 6d.; second year, Federal income tax £52,560, State revenue £30,000; third year, Federal £40,000, State £25,000. If any such results were anticipated to accrue to the State of Western Australia from this Bill, the Opposition would immediately hurl at the Government the allegation that we wanted to augment our revenue by this measure. However, we do not want to save the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the extent of a single penny derived from the Bill. The guarantee of exemption from State income tax will be some inducement to our people to speculate

in this lottery rather than in Tattersalls. On the second reading I said that a firm in Western Australia sent about £220,000 a year to Tattersalls in Tasmania. I have since had a letter from the firm stating that they did not know where I got my information, but that it was certainly incorrect. The information I now have is that the firm in question send about £100,000 a year from Western Australia to Tasmania. I want to get at least £75,000 of that £100,000 for Western Australia.

Mr. TAYLOR: The ground upon which the Honorary Minister exempts the prize money from taxation is that our people may be induced to take tickets in this lottery rather than in Tattersalls, but he does not say that he wishes to exempt that kind of income from taxation. It is, in fact, income which can very well stand taxation. I do not know that Parliament is justified in holding out too many inducements to the people to take tickets in sweeps or lotteries, notwithstanding the justification of the need for the money. Further, the Honorary Minister is aware that portion of the winnings will go to people whom in any case he does not want to tax, since 90 per cent. of the tickets will be bought by people whom he represents. I shall vote against the exemption.

Mr. ANGELO: If the Honorary Minister charges no State income taxation on the prizes, he will lose a source of revenue. To my mind, the best course would be to charge only 5s. per ticket and not to exempt prize winners from State income tax. The Queensland "Golden Casket" will be an opponent to our revenue, and if we bring down the price of our ticket to 5s., while charging winners State income tax, it will be a greater inducement to invest in our lottery than the exemption of prize winners from State income tax would be. The danger of having to pay income tax on a prize is no deterrent from investment in sweeps or lotteries. If an amendment is moved to strike out the exemption, it will have my support.

Mr. TEESDALE: Under this Bill hospitals might get more than they really required, with the result of lax administration. I hope the profit from the lottery will not always be an additional amount going to the hospitals. Will the hospitals vote on this year's Estimates be made a flat rate?

Mr. MANN: The Honorary Minister is going to eliminate the extra 3d. on tickets.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: I have said nothing of the kind.

Mr. MANN: The Honorary Minister has followed the Queensland Act up to that point. He has not told us what percentage he intends to deduct for revenue purposes. Will he follow the lines of Tattersalls, or the lines of Queensland; or will he make a special deduction?

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: Queensland is now paying a greater amount in prizes than ever was paid before. The "Golden Casket"

distribution No. 94 represented the greatest amount distributed, I am informed. It is my intention to start off where Queensland is now. I intend to pay exactly the same prizes as Queensland is paying to-day.

Mr. MANN: But what percentage are you going to deduct?

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: I do not know why the hon. member wants to know that so very particularly. If he gets a "Golden Casket" ticket or handbill, he will see the prizes.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: We have the blessed handbill here.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: The prizes paid by the "Golden Casket" lottery are set out on the dodgers, and I intend to give exactly the same prizes. I hope the hon. member is satisfied.

Mr. MANN: I am not.

Mr. SAMPSON: I move an amendment—

*That Subclause 2 of Clause 3 be struck out.*

Hon. S. W. Munsie: You don't want the hospitals to get assistance?

Mr. SAMPSON: I will not take up any time with an explanation of the amendment. I traversed the ground during the second reading debate.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: The reason for the inclusion of the subclause was that my information went to show that the success of the Queensland Golden Casket has been that prize winners do not have to pay State income tax on the prizes they draw. The Commonwealth Government take their 12½ per cent., but if it is known that the prizes will not be subject to State income tax as well, the public will be better satisfied. As it is, the Commissioner of Taxation will want his proportion of State income tax, unless the exemption be agreed to.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4—Accounts and Audit:

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: I suggest that the audit by the Auditor General should be a continuous one and the Minister should agree to the deletion of that part of the clause setting out that there shall be an annual audit.

Hon. S. W. Munsie: Do you want the Auditor General to report to Parliament annually?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Yes. The Honorary Minister has not read the Bill. The clause sets out specifically that copies of the accounts, together with the Auditor General's report thereon, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament. If I am assured that the audit is to be a continuous one, I shall be satisfied.

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: There is not the slightest doubt that I intend, and certainly shall see, that a continuous audit takes place. I do not wish the Auditor General,

however, to prepare a special report to be presented to Parliament after each drawing.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Will the Auditor General conduct the audit?

Hon. S. W. MUNSIE: Yes, continuously, through his officers.

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: The Auditor General is an officer of Parliament but everyone who touches anything coming within the scope of the Bill will be an officer of the Minister. This will mean that the Minister will lose his job. I foretell that the Minister will live to regret passing the Bill in this form. He takes all the risk and the other Ministers of the Crown do not take any of it. Not even Parliament is to be consulted. It is the strangest Bill ever presented to this or any other Parliament. It is a weird concoction providing for a miserable way of raising money.

Mr. Teesdale: You would not accept a prize from it, would you?

Hon. Sir JAMES MITCHELL: Gambling is wrong—when you lose. I am opposed to the whole proposal.

Mr. ANGELO: The auditing of the accounts is most important. While we have the assurance of the Honorary Minister that a continuous audit will be carried on another Minister may have charge of the work later on. For this reason I point out that the reading of the clause can be improved. I move an amendment—

*That in line 2 the word "annually" be struck out and after "Parliament" in line 5, the word "annually" be inserted.*

That will then provide that the accounts shall be kept under the direction of the Minister and shall be audited by the Auditor General, and copies of such accounts, together with the Auditor General's report thereon, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament annually.

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

#### Clause 5—Regulations:

Mr. TAYLOR: The clause provides that "the Minister may make regulations for the purposes of this Act." Too much power is vested in the Minister, for this amounts to government by regulation. In earlier days Parliament passed Bills containing all the provisions, and we know what the law was to be. When in Opposition, members of the present Government complained about the provisions for regulations appearing in Bills.

Mr. Panton: This is a different proposition. It all depends on the point of view.

Mr. TAYLOR: I think too much power is vested in the Minister.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 6—agreed to.

Title—agreed to.

Bill reported with an amendment.

## ANNUAL ESTIMATES.

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received and read transmitting the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1924-25, and recommending appropriation.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1924-25.

### *In Committee of Supply.*

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1925, Mr. Lutey in the Chair.

The PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [5.33]: This being my first Budget, I am relieved of any obligation of making more or less lengthy explanations with regard to the financial operations of the State during the past year. I shall not deal with the figures of the past year, except in so far as it may be necessary to make the position clear or as they may have relation to the Estimates for the present year. Neither is it my intention to make any extended reference to the work and activities of the various departments. This, I think, might best be done by Ministers when the Estimates for their respective departments come up for consideration. The financial result of last year's operations was slightly better than was expected. There were increases on Estimates in both revenue and expenditure. The increase in revenue was £323,304, and the increase in expenditure was £253,779 over the estimate. The deficit on the year's operations was £229,158 instead of £298,683 as estimated, or a reduction on the estimate of £69,525. The estimated revenue for the year was £7,542,291 and the actual amount received was £7,865,595. There were many increases and decreases, full particulars of which will be found in return No. 1 of the Budget statement supplied to members. The main features were increases under taxation and public utilities. Land revenue also was more buoyant than was anticipated. The increase under public utilities indicates improving trade generally. Only three items showed material decreases:—Treasury, £103,202; licenses, £12,096; and Goldfields Water Supply, £11,252. The Treasury decrease was due to reduced recoups of interest; the licenses revenue was over-estimated; and the smaller revenue from the Goldfields Water Supply was due to decreased consumption by the mines. Regarding the expenditure for last year, I refer members to return No. 1 for details of increases and decreases. The principal increases were:—Interest, £46,170; Forests Act, £16,840; Treasury, £57,805; and Railways, £72,380. Members are aware that under the Forests Act three-fifths of the revenue is paid in for re-forestation purposes. Inasmuch as we had a considerable increase of revenue from our forests last year, increased expenditure was entailed and

that accounts for the increase under this heading. Under the Treasury there were refunds of revenue, principally taxation, amounting to £10,495; interest on overdraft and exchange, £17,102; and a payment incurred on account of the rinderpest outbreak, £20,220.

#### *Deficit for 1924-25.*

This year I anticipate receiving a revenue of £8,164,305, an increase of £298,710 over that of last year. The expenditure is estimated at £8,353,272 or an increase on last year of £258,519, leaving an estimated deficit on this year's operations of £188,967, as compared with £229,158 last year, a reduction of £40,191. The sinking fund payments this year will amount to £235,651 or £46,684 more than the estimated deficit.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That is an important point for the public to know.

The PREMIER: Yes, I stress that, as the hon. member rightly did in all his financial statements. Were it not for our contributions to sinking fund, I should this year be budgeting for an actual surplus of £46,684.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: That is the point the public do not understand.

The PREMIER: It is well to remember that none of the other States is contributing to a sinking fund as Western Australia is doing. While it may be broadcasted that other States are showing a surplus on the year's operations—in Queensland the surplus was very small—and that Western Australia is showing a substantial deficit, it is not made clear perhaps that were we financing on lines similar to the Eastern States, we also would have a surplus. If my estimate be realised, although I show a probable deficit of £188,967, our contributions to sinking fund will be £235,651, and but for those contributions I would be showing a surplus of £46,684.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Could not you publish returns to make that clear?

The PREMIER: Our contributions to sinking fund are set out in the returns attached to the Budget statement.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: But in the monthly statements given to the Press that is not shown.

The PREMIER: These returns will be supplied to the Press, and no doubt the Press will give publicity to the statement I have just made. How far it will receive publicity in the other States and in other parts of the world I do not know, but I feel that the significance of our sinking fund contributions is not so widely appreciated as it should be. I had hoped to effect a greater reduction in the deficit this year, but there are many reasons why I have been unable to do so. While I expect to receive increased revenue in several directions such as through the Treasury and public utilities, this will also entail increased expenditure. The main source of our revenue

is from public utilities, and even though it be an ever increasing one, it necessitates the expenditure of more money in order to earn the additional revenue. The receipts from income tax last year totalled £502,265. This year I estimate that I shall receive £450,000 from this source, or £52,000 less than last year. Allowing for increases under other heads, direct taxation shows a net decrease of £41,000.

#### *Income tax.*

I would like to dwell for a moment on the income tax collections so that I may remove any misapprehension existing in the minds of some people regarding the increased amount last year which was much in excess of the Leader of the Opposition's estimate. The increase received last year was due to the large sum carried over from 1922-23, amounting to £267,586, made up of book debts £147,586 and assessments in arrears £120,000. The carry-over from last year to this year is £167,927, made up of book debts £127,927 and assessments in arrears £40,000, or approximately £100,000 in favour of the previous year. I am advised that of the 1923-24 collections approximately £220,000 really belonged to the previous year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It will be the same next year.

The PREMIER: Not so much; to the extent, perhaps, of nearly £100,000 as I have indicated, because a special effort was made and big arrears of assessments were brought to account last year, so that there will not be by £100,000 the same carry-over from last year to this year as there was in the year before. It is estimated that £130,000 of this year's collections will be on account of last year's assessments.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I will bet you it is more.

The PREMIER: This accounts for my reduced estimate of £52,000 as compared with the actual amount received last year. I hope, however, that the Leader of the Opposition is correct.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I know the Commissioner of Taxation will never overstate.

The PREMIER: I have had some difficulty with him; I suppose the Leader of the Opposition knows that.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You will get quite £70,000 more than you have set down.

The PREMIER: I hope I shall receive more than this estimate, because it will be required. I regret that I have not been able to abolish the 15 per cent. super tax this year. I know this will occasion a good deal of hostility in certain quarters, but I feel that we are not justified in asking Parliament to give up any source of revenue that we have at present until the ledger is balanced, or at any rate nearly balanced. Whilst I have to estimate

a deficit of £189,000 for the year I do not feel that I ought to give up any source of revenue.

Mr. Teesdale: You will not have to pay like we did for not doing it.

The PREMIER: I do not know about that. Of course, I remember that the late Government had some difficulty in passing their Estimates with the super tax last year.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I'll bet you don't have any trouble.

The PREMIER: I hope not. We shall not have any trouble here; at least I do not anticipate any. As a matter of fact, it was not in this Chamber that there was very strenuous opposition last year on account of the non-removal of the super tax. However, I shall do what the Leader of the Opposition did and express the sincere hope that it will be possible to abolish it next year.

Mr. Angelo: And the next Treasurer will do the same.

The PREMIER: The estimated increase in revenue this year is £298,710. The principal increases will be—Railways, £130,106. That may seem a fairly substantial increase to expect over last year, but it has to be remembered that a considerable mileage of railways has been added to the system during the year. Last year there were opened 75 miles of new lines, and there are others now nearing completion and will be opened before the end of the financial year. That, in conjunction with the prospects of a good harvest which we have now, should enable the railways to earn the increased amount that I have estimated. Timber receipts I estimate will give us an increase of £19,653. This is due to the belief that we shall receive an increased sum from royalties together with other payments collected by the Forests Department.

Mr. Taylor: The Treasury does not get much of that?

The PREMIER: The figures I have quoted are not the total; they represent the amount that will be paid to the Treasury. The Treasury increase is estimated at £130,625, and this will come mainly or almost entirely from increased recoups of interest. As I have already stated, I anticipate that the total revenue of the State will be £8,164,305, an increase of £298,000 over the figures of last year and an expenditure of £8,353,272, an increase of £258,519 over that of last year. Ordinary Governmental expenditure shows a decrease of £32,597, and I may say that I shall insist on rigid economy throughout the Government departments. But there is little scope for reduced expenditure, principally because of the lean years we have lately experienced while the expenditure has been cut down to bed-rock throughout that period. It is, of course, impossible to avoid certain increases. For instance, the railways will

show an increase of £12,620, tramways £16,322, electricity £4,846, and abattoirs £3,995.

#### *Education.*

The Education estimates for the year total £592,594, the increase over the previous year being £12,347.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You have no control over that expenditure.

The PREMIER: This is ever-increasing expenditure, as the Leader of the Opposition knows. The amount is formidable for the people of the State to find, but it has been accepted on all hands that there must not be any parsimonious treatment of the Education Department, and with the growth and development that is taking place in the country districts it is necessary that school facilities should be afforded.

Mr. Taylor: It is more popular to say that than to talk about reducing expenditure.

The PREMIER: I carefully scrutinised the estimates of this department before agreeing to the increase of £12,347.

Mr. Lambert: The member for Mt. Margaret should be an authority on playing up to popularity.

Mr. Taylor: You misunderstood. I said it was more popular to spend money than to curtail expenditure.

The PREMIER: The increase in the Education Department's estimates is due principally to the opening up of new primary schools and also to the opening of the Albany High School. The increase in salaries associated with primary schools is £12,305. There have been 37 schools opened in the South-West, and these are serving 62 groups. The increase in the estimates of the Education Department is mainly in connection with group settlements in the South-West.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: I wish to goodness all the children had been twins; we would then have had to provide more schools.

The PREMIER: There have also been authorised 26 additional group schools, so that it will be seen that the expenditure will be ever-increasing. The salaries section shows an increase of £14,918. In connection with the Medical Department, the policy of the Government is to provide hospital facilities for the people in the country areas. The expenditure last year was £181,019 and the estimate for this year is £184,923, an increase of £3,904. This is due to the fact that new hospitals are being opened from time to time in the country districts. New hospitals have been opened at Karridale, Margaret River, Northcliffe and Denmark, while an additional block has been added to the Busselton Hospital. All these hospital activities are in connection with group settlement. At Boyup Brook, Kukerin, and Corrigin hospitals have just been completed, and there is under construction at the present

time a new hospital in Katanning that will cost £10,000.

Mr. Taylor: Is that not subsidised?

The PREMIER: The cost will be borne in equal parts by the Government and the local residents.

Mr. Sampson: Has it been possible to get rid of the old site?

The PREMIER: There may be a small reduction in that direction. The expenditure of the Agricultural Department last year was £59,656 and the vote this year will be £69,053, an increase of £9,397. This is a very substantial amount, as hon. members will agree. It is due mainly to the fact that a number of expert advisers have been appointed during the year. That, of course, means the salaries paid to those officers and the expenditure incidental to their travelling about carrying out the work for which they were appointed. Also the Avondale farm has been taken over from the Lands Department, and is now controlled by the Agricultural Department. Then again, during the year an experimental farm on light lands was established at Wongan Hills. That will necessitate some expenditure during the present year. Moreover, a number of experimental plots have been provided for in the North-West.

#### *The Deficit.*

The accumulated deficit to the 30th June last was £6,140,087. This has been the growth of 13 years. Only four times have we had a surplus since we entered Federation. Should the promise of a good season be fulfilled, I hope we shall be nearing the end of our deficit experiences. Return No. 4 shows the result of each year's transactions since 1900.

#### *The Joint Loan.*

The loan position has been very difficult during the past 12 months, owing to the high rate of exchange, up to 3 per cent. Of course it was almost impossible to obtain money from London. So the Joint Loan Council met in Melbourne early in July and was attended by my colleague, the Minister for Agriculture. The Loan Council consists of the various State Treasurers, together with the Commonwealth Treasurer. Its establishment arose out of a Premiers' conference. Realising the difficulty of obtaining loan money and the effect it would have on the money market if each of the States were to borrow locally in competition with each other, the Loan Council met to consider the position. Each State submitted to the council an estimate of its loan requirements for the year. The total amount thus estimated to be required was £44,411,000. This was reduced proportionately to £38,000,000. Of this amount it was agreed that £10,000,000 should be borrowed locally, the balance of £28,000,000 to be borrowed in London by the Commonwealth and

the various States. This, of course, represents almost entirely interest and other payments to be made in London. Western Australia's proportion of the overseas borrowing will amount to £2,300,000. A sub-committee of the Treasurers was appointed to meet the bankers at a later date and arrange the terms of the loan. This they did, and the price was fixed at £98 10s., the interest being 6 per cent. This works out at a little over 6½ per cent., the dearest money, of course, that this State, or any of the other States, has ever borrowed.

Mr. Angelo: It is free of State income tax.

The PREMIER: Yes, but not of Commonwealth income tax.

Mr. Angelo: That brings it to about 7 per cent.

The PREMIER: That is so. Our proportion of the local loan is £1,200,000. It was the best arrangement that could be made. I did not like sacrificing our independence. I desire to make it perfectly clear that whilst this arrangement for joint borrowing in the Commonwealth was agreed to, the Commonwealth also insisted upon placing a limit to the amount we should borrow in London. I stood out strongly against that, urging that whilst I was agreeable to join the other States in the raising of money locally, I thought each State should be perfectly free to borrow whatever it required overseas. However, the Federal Treasurer would not budge from his attitude. He insisted that if there was to be joint borrowing in Australia, there should also be a limit to the amount the States should borrow in London. The position being as it was, we had practically no alternative to joining in the arrangement. As it is now, we shall receive £1,200,000 from the local loan. Had we not joined in the arrangement, we should have been compelled to go to London for practically all our requirements; for I am convinced we should not have been able to obtain very much had we ourselves raised a local loan. That has been proved by the result of efforts made by other States. South Australia, a few months ago, placed a local loan which was practically a failure. So, had we not joined in, we should have had to go to London for the whole of our requirements for the year, and to transfer the money to the State at the very high cost I have indicated.

#### *Loan Expenditure.*

The loan expenditure for the year was £3,936,833. This was expended mainly on revenue-producing works: railways, tramways and electricity, £651,519; harbour works, £98,311; water supplies, £435,297; assistance to settlers, £1,484,176; group settlements, £822,911. So, of the total amount, no less a sum than £3,492,214 was expended in the items I have enumerated,



all of which should be revenue producing. The details of the loan expenditure for the year will be found in return No. 9.

### *The Public Debt.*

The gross public debt at the 30th June last was £62,765,782. The sinking fund on the 31st March amounted to £9,373,572, leaving a net public debt of £53,392,210, or £148 7s. 6d. per head of the population. These particulars will be found in return No. 7. The effect of last year's expenditure on the position was an increase in the gross debt of £4,279,923, in sinking fund £592,521 and in the net debt £3,687,407. The debt per head of population appears high and is, in fact, high in comparison with the per capita indebtedness of the other States. But we have to bear in mind that there are carried out in this State many undertakings that, in the Eastern States, are controlled and operated by boards with separate borrowing powers. For instance, all the capital expended upon water supply and sewerage in Western Australia has been borrowed by the Government and, of course, goes to swell our total loan indebtedness, and consequently our per capita debt; whereas in Victoria the whole of the expenditure on water supply and sewerage in the city has been raised by a board with separate borrowing powers, and consequently that expenditure does not appear in the Victorian national debt. And so it is with other undertakings. The Victorian Harbour Trust has separate borrowing powers, and so their expenditure on their harbour does not appear in the total indebtedness of Victoria, whereas in Western Australia it appears in the State's indebtedness. When comparisons are drawn between our indebtedness and that of other States, it is as well to bear in mind that there can be no equitable comparison, for, to have the comparison fair, we must hold up like to like.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Moreover, we have loaned so much of our borrowed money to individuals who pay interest.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Mr. Angelo: Have you the total amount of State money loaned to public bodies?

The PREMIER: Not just at hand, but it will be found in the Budget papers. I will give an indication presently of the amount loaned by the State to the Agricultural Bank, Soldier Settlement, and the Industries Assistance Board. But certainly no fair comparison of our indebtedness per head of population can be made with that of any other State. That is a point rarely taken into consideration. In the "Statistical Abstract" it is set out what the per capita indebtedness is, as against that of the other States, and one not knowing the facts is apt to conclude that we compare very badly. In this State the Government have borrowed money for public

utilities, and for expenditure in many activities that are undertaken and controlled by boards and trusts in most other States.

### *Interest and Sinking Fund.*

Interest and sinking fund have grown very rapidly. In 1914 the amount was £1,384,096. Last year it was £2,833,977, or an increase in 10 years of £1,449,881. It is estimated that the payment this year will amount to £3,110,585, an increase on last year's payment of £276,608.

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

The PREMIER: I was dealing with our interest and sinking fund payment and had shown that the increase this year over and above that of last year was £276,608. That is another reason why I have been unable to reduce the deficit to a greater extent. The estimated payments for this year total £3,110,585. This is a very heavy burden upon our comparatively small population. Of a total revenue of something over £8,000,000, a sum of £3,000,000 is required for the payment of interest and sinking fund charges. This also is going to be an increasing item, because money is now costing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent. more than it cost in former years, and as loans mature and have to be converted, we shall have to convert at a much higher rate of interest than the old loans carried. For instance, a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. loan of £1,000,000 fell due for payment at the end of December, and was converted in the Eastern States into a 6 per cent. loan. Consequently, with the higher rate of interest on new loans and the higher rate for the conversion of old loans, our interest bill must be a growing one. Land settlement is responsible for a large portion of the increase. There are large amounts of interest owing, and we have to draw upon loan or other funds to make up the shortage. Let me make the position regarding interest recoups perfectly clear. Money is advanced by the Treasury to the Agricultural Bank. It is loaned by the bank to settlers. The Treasury collect the interest on the money advanced to the bank, and the bank must collect its interest from the settlers.

Mr. Taylor: That is a bit of a job sometimes.

The PREMIER: It is, as I shall show presently. On funds provided for groups, the interest is capitalised until a group is complete. This applies also to the Peel Estate. When a group is complete the settlers take over the holdings, and the bank becomes responsible to the Treasury for the interest. Public utilities pay the whole of their collections into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and they draw upon that fund for the whole of their outgoings. The difference between what is paid in and what is paid out should meet the interest charges, but last year there was a shortage of £24,000. This is not a very large sum, having regard to the fact

that many of our public utilities are operating in new and comparatively undeveloped areas of the State. Particulars will be found in Return No. 13.

#### *Agricultural Bank Operations.*

Now I desire to give some particulars of the operations of the Agricultural Bank and its allied institutions. The bank is operating on a very large scale, and certainly has played a great part in the development of our agricultural areas. The total amount of advances and interest on the 30th June last was:—Bank, £3,310,414; Soldier Settlement, £4,824,462; I.A.B., £2,135,480; total £10,270,356. This is exclusive of interest for the current half year. To those figures of course must soon be added the expenditure on group settlement. The total expenditure on soldier settlement is £6,479,403, of which the Commonwealth advanced £5,431,202. We are responsible to the Commonwealth for the payment of the interest. If the settlers do not pay we must make good the shortage from some other source.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Of course there is an amount in the special fund to guarantee losses.

The PREMIER: Yes. There is a very large sum representing arrears of interest due—£351,237.

Mr. Taylor: Did not a deputation to the Minister request that the interest be wiped off?

The PREMIER: I think the desire was that the principal should be written down, and that would have the effect of reducing the interest payments also. This is a pretty formidable sum to be outstanding in the way of interest. Recently the Federal Treasurer, Dr. Page, stated in reply to a question in the House of Representatives that if the conditions were so unsatisfactory as to cause many failures, the Commonwealth Government were prepared to confer with the State Governments on the matter. I am taking up this matter with the Federal Treasurer and it is also receiving the attention of the Minister for Lands. The rate of interest charged by the Commonwealth on money advanced for soldier settlement is very high. Last year it amounted to £6 8s. 6d. per cent. That money is loaned out to the soldiers at £6 10s. per cent., the margin to cover working expenses thus being 1s. 6d. per cent. The cost to the bank for administration is calculated at 10s. per cent.

Mr. Taylor: Then you are 1s. 6d. down?

The PREMIER: Yes. Thus, on a sum of £4,606,556 loaned to soldiers, the bank's loss on the cost of administration is approximately £20,000 per annum. This is a very serious matter from the point of view of the bank trustees. We are really rendering a service that is costing us 10s. per cent. for a remuneration of 1s. 6d. per cent.

Let me now give some information regarding the financial position of the bank:—

#### AGRICULTURAL BANK, INCLUDING BUTTER AND BACON FACTORIES.

—	Arrears, 30th June, 1924.	Current Half- year ended 30th June, 1924.	Total.
	£	£	£
Installments ...	418,249	43,991	462,240
Interest ...	182,211	94,086	276,297
Total ...	600,460	138,077	738,537

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The current half year's interest is not due yet.

The PREMIER: It was due on the 1st July. I am not including it in the arrears. A considerable proportion of it has been paid. That is a very formidable sum.

Mr. Angelo: Against that there may be the increased value of the securities.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Of course.

Mr. Angelo: A man may not be able to pay his instalments of interest, but may have increased the value of his holding.

The PREMIER: He may have done so.

Mr. Angelo: That should be gone into.

The Minister for Lands: And he may not have done so.

Mr. Angelo: That is so.

The PREMIER: It is rather significant that there is such a large sum due for arrears and interest. I do not wish to reflect upon the desire of the bank's clients to meet their obligations, but would point out that we have just passed through a series of fairly good seasons, and that the prices obtainable for wheat have been fairly high. It is matter of concern that we should have a large amount outstanding for interest, having regard for the facts I have just mentioned.

Mr. Angelo: You will find that men who are not paying their interest are devoting that same money to improvements.

The PREMIER: That may be so. An obligation is cast upon everyone to meet his interest bill. As a banker, the hon. member will admit that.

Mr. Angelo: I agree with you.

The PREMIER: He knows that when interest payments are due the bank pretty quickly intimates to its client that if he is unable to reduce his overdraft, he should at least pay the interest.

Mr. Teesdale: That is just about all the banks are interested in.

The PREMIER: Yes, so long as the security is maintained and the interest is paid.

Mr. Taylor: A lot of your clients, I believe, have motor cars.

The PREMIER: I am glad. They should have them, so long as they are not obtained at the expense of the Treasury.

Mr. Taylor: I think some of them have done so.

The PREMIER: I now quote the following table:—

#### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

—	Arrears, 30th June, 1924.	Current Half- year ended 30th June, 1924.	Total.
Interest ...	£ 217,906	£ 133,331	£ 351,237

#### BANK AND SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

—	£	£	£
Installments ...	413,249	43,991	462,240
Interest ...	400,117	227,417	627,534
Grand Total	813,366	271,408	1,089,774

I wish to be fair to those concerned and to say that of the current interest due there has been paid to the bank since the close of last year to the 31st August, £46,200 and for soldier settlement £56,336. The payment of instalments amounted to £27,444, making a total of £129,974.

Mr. Stubbs: That is still £1,000,000 short.

The PREMIER: Yes. It is a matter that is occasioning me and my colleagues some concern. Where it is possible, those concerned should make an effort to meet their obligations to the State with regard to their interest payments.

#### Industries Assistance Board.

The Industries Assistance Board has made total advances since its inception of £8,257,083. The advances last year amounted to £1,109,532, and the collections last year amounted to £919,770. The balance outstanding to the 31st March—that is the end of the year, so far as the board is concerned—amounted to £1,903,213, and the balance outstanding to the 30th June last amounted to £2,135,480. The debts written off last year amounted to £16,587, and the total debts written off since the inception of the board amounted to £91,943. I give this information because I think the Committee should know the situation. I am not able to give the amount of interest outstanding with regard to the board, because separate accounts are not kept. Of the balance outstanding, £2,000,000 odd, I am unable to say how much represents interest.

The Minister for Lands: A million pounds has been paid.

The PREMIER: That will leave over a million pounds outstanding. These three institutions, the bank, the Soldier Settlement Scheme, and the Industries Assistance Board represent one-sixth of our total indebtedness, something between £10,000,000 and £11,000,000. I need not detain members by pointing out the great value these institutions have been to the State. Although the financial position of

the Industries Assistance Board may not be satisfactory, we know that it did render signal service during the year it was established, and has done so in the years that have followed. That is indicated by the extent of the finances I have just quoted. The position regarding outstanding payments for interest with respect to these three bodies is serious, and will require very close attention on the part of those responsible for their conduct. When we have regard for these figures we must realise that it is necessary that the officers in charge should take fairly strong measures to secure at least something reasonable in the payment of interest. If there have been complaints in some portions of the State regarding the Industries Assistance Board taking certain steps that they have thought necessary to take during the past month, this has been done only with the object of protecting the securities and interest of the State. The figures I have quoted demand that very close attention should be paid to the work of these institutions. I will briefly refer to the work of some of the departments during the year. Land rents in arrears on the 30th June amounted to £153,976. My colleague, the Minister for Lands, will deal further with this matter on his particular Estimates.

#### Groups and Migrants.

The number of groups that have been established is 125, the settlers numbering 2,283, the population totalling 8,936. In the Busselton-Augusta district there are 49 groups, in Manjimup-Pemberton district 20, Northcliffe 18, Denmark 13, and on the Peel Estate 25 groups. The expenditure to the end of August last amounted to £1,363,572. The number of migrants that arrived here between July of last year and June of this year was 9,670. The third-class full paying migrants who arrived for the same period numbered 2,009, the total arrivals being 11,679.

#### Agreement with Imperial Government.

There has been a temporary suspension of the arrival of migrants to this State, due entirely to the fact that the old agreement is practically in a state of suspension, and we do not know quite where we stand with regard to the proposed new agreement. The Government felt it necessary to suspend temporarily, and for the time being, the introduction of people from overseas until we knew exactly where we stood. So far as I am aware the Commonwealth Government have been negotiating a new agreement with the British Government for very many months past. Senator Wilson, representing the Federal Government, was in the Old Country at the Exhibition. He informed me on his return that he had had many conferences with members of the Government in the Old

Country with regard to the proposed agreement. I gathered from him that this was practically finalised with the exception of one or two points, which would be fixed up shortly after his return to Melbourne when he had an opportunity of consulting with the Prime Minister. I am rather surprised to find that although this happened several months ago, finality has not yet been reached. My latest information is that the matter will not be finally settled for another six weeks. The point about the proposed new agreement is that whilst it is very vital to and intimately affects State Governments—it has all to do with State Governments and very little to do with the Federal Government—the Federal Government are negotiating the terms and conditions without reference to or consulting with the State Governments in any way.

Mr. Taylor: That is nothing new for the Federal Government.

Mr. Mann: Are they treating all the States alike?

The PREMIER: So far as I know they are. Unofficially, perhaps, they may be consulting the Governments of the other States, because they are in touch with them, but we have not been asked for our opinion and have no idea whatever, except that Senator Wilson gave certain information confidentially as to what the terms and conditions of the agreement may be. Seeing that this State is really more interested and concerned than the other States, because we have embarked upon a greater policy of migration than any of the other States, it would have been only fair if the Federal Government had consulted us. I hope they will yet do so before they finalise the agreement. If it should be found to contain provisions which are not acceptable to the State, I think that it will be quite useless for Western Australia to attempt to induce the British authorities to vary the agreement after it has been finalised with the Commonwealth Government and signed by them.

Mr. Angelo: Send them a "Please explain."

The PREMIER: It is usually the other way about; they send me the "Please explain." We get no information from them. I feel bound to repeat what I have frequently stated, that the suspension of migration is only temporary, until such time as we know where we are. I am as firmly convinced to-day as I have been for a long time past, that there is room in this State for very many more people than we have at present. I believe there is scope and opportunity here, and I am not one of those who think that the introduction of people from overseas or from elsewhere into this State, or into any other country, would result in unemployment, or in intensifying the problem of unemployment in the country. I believe that population creates employment. We have latent wealth awaiting development, and that develop-

ment can come about only through an increase in the number of our people. With larger population we shall have greater wealth production, which should, and I am convinced will, bring ampler prosperity to the people as a whole.

#### *Wheat Harvest.*

The harvest prospects, I am glad to say, are very promising indeed. There have been beneficial if light rains during the past week or two, and these should serve just to top off the wheat, and so bring us a record yield for the present season.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is raining in the country this evening.

The PREMIER: Yes, and that circumstance still further improves the prospects of a good harvest. The yield of wheat this year should exceed 20,000,000 bushels, which would be some million bushels better than our previous record. There is an additional area, aggregating 201,000 acres, under wheat; and an area of 408,000 acres has been cleared, and is ready for cropping next year. The prices which have been obtained for wheat are favourable, and I should say profitable. I am only sorry that in these times I am not a wheat grower, though possibly that sentiment may not be fully endorsed by some of my colleagues who are in that business. However, there is in our wheat growing areas at present an air of prosperity which has not been evident hitherto. During my brief trips into the country to attend some of the agricultural shows, I have been indeed pleased to see—I say this in all sincerity—that the life and the surroundings of those engaged in agricultural pursuits have been greatly improved in recent years. One does not find, as it was a few years ago, an odd farmer here and there in possession of a Ford motor car: the young generation in the country districts will not have Fords, but want the very latest and best of motor cars, and such are to be seen in every township of the wheat belt.

Mr. Taylor: The rising generation!

The PREMIER: I am very glad to see it. I know of no section of the community more deserving of the best and most luxurious motor cars than the men engaged in the agricultural areas. Too long, not only in this country, but in the other States as well, has the farmer been the drudge, while the man who handled the farmer's produce has been able to ride in a motor car. The wheat exported from Western Australia last year amounted to 10½ million bushels, and the flour to 50,000 tons.

#### *Dairying Industry.*

As regards our dairying industry, we are still far from meeting our own requirements. Last year there was imported into this State butter to the value of £509,893, cheese to the value of £87,191, eggs

£17,696, and bacon £196,165. So that it will be seen there is great scope still in this State for the development of the dairying industry. However, we are making headway: last year's production of butter exceeded that of the previous year by 20 per cent. Thus we are at least marching on in that respect; and I hope the day is not far distant when we shall be providing all our own requirements in the way of dairy produce.

#### *Agricultural College.*

The question of establishing an agricultural college was taken up by the late Government, and has been brought to finality by the present Administration. A site has been selected in the Avon Valley, a site which according to the recommendations and advice of our expert officers is the most suitable that could be obtained. I think it is rather a reflection upon us that Western Australia has so long lacked an agricultural college. This State has been moving forward rapidly, comparatively speaking, in agricultural development; and it must be apparent to everybody that the future of Western Australia lies largely in its agricultural areas; and therefore it is essential that we should have something in the nature of a training ground where our youths may obtain the necessary technical and scientific knowledge to fit them for life and work upon the land.

Mr. Lindsay: You got the site very cheap.

The PREMIER: I am convinced of that. The selection was not made without careful thought and thorough inquiry. It was only after considerable deliberation that the Government decided on the site. I believe that, having regard to the diversified training that is necessary in an agricultural college, the best possible farming site has been chosen.

#### *Fruit Industry.*

Our fruit crop last year, though not equal to the record, was by no means a failure. Western Australia exported 318,887 cases of fruit; and the prices for apples and pears averaged 14s. per case. For grapes 20s. per case was obtained, and for oranges 9s. I hope we shall be able to comply with the wish of the member for Swan (Mr. Sampson) and next year pass a fruit marketing Bill which will bring to the grower a greater proportion of the proceeds of his labour than accrue to him now or than he has been securing in the past.

#### *Pastoral Industry.*

The pastoral industry, as members know, is of the utmost importance to this State. I am pleased to know that in some districts, particularly in East Murchison and North Coolgardie, a considerable amount of what I may term foreign capital has been introduced. In other words, Eastern States pas-

toralists have been investing in the purchase of properties in the districts named. I know that in the North Coolgardie district, and I believe also in the Murchison, those men from the East, besides paying very considerable sums for the purchase of properties, have embarked in extensive improvements, involving large expenditure. These districts, which formerly carried cattle, will henceforth be devoted to sheep. Much fencing will be required, and it is being carried out; and water supplies are being provided. I believe we may look forward to considerable development in this respect in the near future.

Mr. Lindsay: The dogs are the only trouble just now.

The PREMIER: They are a serious trouble. One can learn that from conversation even with the wheat farmers, and from others who have abandoned sheep-raising because of the depredations of the dogs. We shall have to turn our attention to that matter, and I hope it will not be beyond the capacity of the Government and of Parliament to devise some means to overcome the evil.

Mr. Angelo: I hope it can be done this session; it is most urgent.

The PREMIER: The matter has not escaped the attention of my colleagues.

Mr. Teesdale: It has already been done here. Had it not been for another place, the necessary legislation would now be in existence.

The PREMIER: Yes. In company with the Leader of the Opposition, I was out in the North Murchison district last year, and we then learnt from one pastoralist that on his own place he had destroyed in one year, and by his own efforts, over 500 dogs. The trouble is that whilst some men realise the danger and apply themselves to the destruction of dogs, their neighbours or others may be neglectful in the matter, thus minimising the results from the efforts of those who are energetic in that direction. Wool prices, of course, have been excellent. I do not know how far we shall find those high prices reflected in the cost of our clothing next year or later; but, after all, it is a good thing that our wool growers should have been able to obtain such high prices. It will mean the introduction into Western Australia of considerable amounts of money, which will be invested in the expansion of the pastoral industry or in the establishment or development of other industries here. There has been a falling-off in the quantity of wool, but that will be largely compensated by the higher prices which have ruled. Turning now to this State's other important industry, mining, I regret to say that for some years past it has had to face hampering influences.

#### *Gold Mining.*

The industry that has played so great a part in the development of Western Australia—I sometimes think a greater part

than is realised by considerable numbers of our people—has fallen on somewhat dull days; and it behoves the Government and Parliament to do what can be done in order to restore somewhat, at any rate, the waning prosperity of that industry. The present position of mining is due largely to the increase of working costs, due in its turn to the high tariff.

Mr. Mann: And deeper mines.

The PREMIER: To deeper mines, and perhaps also to lower grades of ore. These things, with the high tariff and the high taxation, fairly sum up the difficulties of the industry. There is also the fact that during the war period, whilst the cost of production of gold increased very considerably, the increase in cost could not be passed on in the price of gold. All other industries were in a position to pass on their increased costs in the form of higher prices for the commodities produced. Gold, I think, stands alone, or almost alone, in that it realised no higher price for some years during the war period. Certainly there was a bonus later on. As we know, the cost of mining was greatly enhanced in consequence of mining requisites rising in price. As the ultimate result we find that the number of men employed in the industry has decreased and that the output has diminished. Certainly the tariff has hit the industry very severely. I could quote a number of instances where comparatively small quantities of machinery have been required for mines and the duty alone has run into several hundreds and even thousands of pounds. That means to a mining property that is carrying on with just a small margin of profit, all the difference between being able to carry on and having to close down. The Government propose to give a measure of relief by way of decreased taxation by means of the Bill of which I have given notice.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: To all people.

The PREMIER: No, to the mining industry only at present. Those connected with the mining industry are the only people that are really seriously in need of relief. I believe the assistance proposed will help to prolong the life of many of the old mines and should assist in bringing into existence other gold producing mines.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: It is good to take off taxation!

The PREMIER: I only hope I shall be in a position to take off taxation all round. It is better to make a start and then extend to other industries as the finances of the State will permit.

Mr. Taylor: You will have to move with care.

The PREMIER: That is so.

Mr. E. B. Johnston: And treat all industries alike.

The PREMIER: With the reduction in taxation and also the concession that was made last year regarding water charges, the assistance should have a material influence upon the mining industry, more particularly

upon the operations in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder areas where the work is on a greater scale than elsewhere.

Mr. Heron: There should be a stipulation that no increases in directors' salaries should follow, as a result of the relief.

#### *Railways and Tramways.*

The PREMIER: During the year the Railway Department handled record traffic and the financial results showed a considerable improvement. The earnings exceeded the working expenses and interest for the first time since 1914. The interest charges on the capital cost of the railways amounted to £787,221, and the sinking fund charges to £126,000, leaving a deficiency on last year's operations, after paying interest and sinking fund charges, of £30,707. Full information on this point will be found in return No. 15. Increased revenue was received during the year from the tramways, amounting to £11,734. That revenue was more than offset by the increase in working expenses and interest charges amounting to £20,560. If hon. members will turn to return No. 14, they will see that it shows a surplus on the year's operations of the tramways of £4,689. This does not, however, include payments to local authorities totalling £7,725. Thus, there was actually a shortage on the year's operations of £3,036.

#### *Public Works Department.*

The Public Works Department has been engaged in the usual activities during the year. Some 75 miles of railway were completed and handed over to the Working Railways Department. There are a number of new lines under construction. They will be completed shortly and then they, too, will be handed over. With the aid of the Commonwealth grant of £92,000 for road construction, the Public Works Department has embarked upon a fairly extensive policy of road building. This required the organisation of an additional new staff. That had to be done and I think the work is now fairly well under way. A much larger number of men are engaged upon road construction to-day than ever previously. I need not, of course, remind hon. members that this work is very necessary. One has only to travel over some of our main country roads to realise the need for expenditure of, one might almost say, millions of pounds in this direction. We are not aware whether it is the intention of the Commonwealth Government to make the grant an annual one. So far, they have confined themselves to saying that the grant will be for each year. I am given to understand from unofficial sources that it is the intention of the Federal Government to continue the grant for some years ahead and also to increase the amount beyond that which has been made available in the past. Last year no one State was in a position to avail itself of the full amount offered by the Common-

wealth. That may have been due to lack of organisation or that the State Governments were not in a position to find the pound for pound which is a condition attaching to the Federal grant. Whatever the cause may have been, a comparatively small proportion of the sum available was utilised.

Mr. Taylor: How much was spent?

The PREMIER: Very little, it was much under £20,000. Seeing that this grant may not always be available, and that it is on a pound for pound basis, the Government are aiming to take advantage of the offer as far as possible. We may have some difficulty in finding money ourselves, but we should not miss the opportunity to secure the full amount offered by the Commonwealth or at least to utilise as great a proportion as possible.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: You will get the carry-over from last year as well.

The PREMIER: Yes, the grant does not lapse at the end of the year. That is to say, not only is the £92,000 for this year available, but also the unspent portion of last year's grant. It has to be remembered, however, that there is a limit to the amount we can usefully spend in a year. We may not be able to spend the whole of this year's vote and the balance of last year's amount as well.

#### *Water Supply Department.*

The Water Supply Department needs no explanation at my hands. It has received so much publicity for some time past that I feel sure hon. members are thoroughly *au fait* with the work that is being carried out and what is proposed to be done. In any case, I feel sure that if there is anything regarding which additional information is required, the former Minister for Water Supply will be only too pleased to furnish the necessary particulars.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Or the Select Committee.

Mr. Teesdale: Or someone in another place.

The PREMIER: The estimated cost of the hills water scheme is £3,000,000. The Churchman's Brook reservoir has been under construction for some little time.

Mr. Chesson: Is that the one where they are looking for a bottom?

The PREMIER: Yes, there has been some difficulty regarding the foundations.

Mr. Mann: Can you tell us what the estimated increased rate will be?

The PREMIER: I hesitate to say what that increase will be.

Mr. Mann: It is just as well to know.

The PREMIER: The department has enough troubles on its head without causing more regarding the estimated rate.

Mr. J. H. Smith: It will not be a tax on revenue.

The PREMIER: I hope not. It would not be fair, for instance, to call upon the electors of Nelson to make up the deficiency on account of the metropolitan water supply.

Mr. J. H. Smith: We have enough to shoulder now with a rate of 3s. in the pound.

The PREMIER: At any rate, the Churchman's Brook reservoir is in course of construction, and it is hoped that water will be available from that area before the end of the summer. In addition, there is in hand the laying of a 30-inch pipe line from Mt. Eliza to Claremont. I understand that difficulties have been experienced in the past regarding the water supply in Claremont and Cottesloe. The pipe line represents an important work that is being undertaken at an estimated cost of £72,000. There is also under construction at Buckland Hill a reservoir having a capacity of four million gallons. Provided a water supply is available from the hills, Claremont, Cottesloe and Fremantle should be in a satisfactory position during the present summer. The Subiaeo sewerage and stormwater scheme is proceeding at an estimated cost of £433,000. Of that amount, £253,000 is for the sewerage portion of the scheme and £180,000 for stormwater drainage. The total capital expenditure of the Metropolitan Water Supply Department to the 30th June last was £2,777,080, and the operations for the year showed a loss of £15,000. Particulars are given in return No. 18. I am rather concerned about that loss, for with the additional expenditure I have outlined, I am afraid the loss will increase, unless, of course, we obtain the sanction of Parliament for an increase in the rates. The hills scheme was launched with the definite statement by the Leader of the Opposition that as the expenditure was incurred from year to year, so it would be necessary to increase the rate until at the completion of the scheme the maximum charge would be reached. I think the maximum rate was stated but I do not remember for the moment what it was. The people are entitled to an adequate water supply, and if they desire it they will have to pay for it.

Mr. Taylor: That is quite right.

The PREMIER: It would not be fair to make the cost a charge against the general taxpayer.

#### *Forests Department.*

The past year established a record in the value of timber exported. It reached a total of £1,477,000. This increased demand for our timber was reflected in the revenue, which was considerably greater than was estimated by the Leader of the Opposition. I intend to bring in a Bill to amend the Forests Act this year in order to take the whole of the revenue derived from the royalty on sandalwood, into general revenue. As members know, three-fifths of the revenue of the department has to be paid into a fund for reforestation. But it was never expected that three-fifths of the revenue from sandalwood should go into that fund. Seeing that there is little or no expenditure in respect of the reforestation of sandalwood, I think Consolidated Revenue is en-

titled to the whole of the sandalwood royalty and I am going to introduce a Bill with that object in view.

Mr. Mann: Is any attempt being made at sandalwood reforestation?

The PREMIER: I do not think anything can be done with it; it must be left to Nature. Therefore, assuming that we should obtain £50,000 in royalty from sandalwood, it would be wrong to say that three-fifths of it should be paid into the reforestation fund.

### *The North-West.*

As hon. members are well aware, the development of the North-West is a difficult problem. I, in company with other members, travelled along the coast last year. Of course we obtained very little knowledge of that great area at the time; still, one gathered some slight information, and it served to impress all of us with the need that Parliament should do something to assist in the development of that portion of the State. After all, it is a financial question. The North-West is a part of our State in which very little can be done without the expenditure of large sums of money. Unfortunately we have been engaged in other essential works down here, and so the money has not been available. I have expressed the opinion on former occasions, and I repeat it this evening, that it is as much the responsibility of the Commonwealth to assist in developing that portion of Australia as it is for the Commonwealth to expend money in the Northern Territory, which is directly under the control of the Federal Government.

Mr. Teesdale: If we had but half of what they have wasted there already, we should be quite all right.

The PREMIER: Yes, there seems to have been large sums of money poured into the Northern Territory without any tangible results. Had anything approaching a similar amount been made available for the development of the North-West of this State, there would have been something to show for it.

Mr. Teesdale: And they have finished up with an unemployed difficulty in the Northern Territory.

The PREMIER: Yes, they have people stranded at Darwin at present. I notice that the Commonwealth Government have decided to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the effect Federation has had on Western Australia. It will be our duty to present our case before that Commission as fully and thoroughly as possible. I should say that the North-West of this State, and its development and assistance, should figure prominently in the evidence given before that Commission. However, we shall have to carry on as best we may until the Federal Parliament realises its responsibility. After all, the North-West of this State is a portion of Australia. It is another illustration of the

chain being no stronger than its weakest link. It would be much more beneficial to the Commonwealth generally if some of the money now being spent in the capital cities, resulting in the evil of concentration of population in those capitals, were spent in developing the North-West.

Mr. Mann: Now Canberra is to be added to the number of cities.

The PREMIER: Yes, even if the Federal Parliament had to postpone their movement to Canberra for a few years and the money involved were spent in developing the unoccupied areas of this State, the Commonwealth as a whole would reap the benefit. There are cotton-growing possibilities in the North-West, and we should use our best efforts in thoroughly testing what can be done in that direction. If it should prove that cotton can be commercially grown in the North-West, I believe that in itself will better serve to develop that territory than anything else that has taken place in recent years. There are in the vicinity of Wyndham, it is estimated, some 200,000 acres considered suitable for tropical agriculture. Other large areas, more roughly classified, will be available if required. Schemes for opening up those areas are now under consideration. Resumptions from pastoral leases in the Kimberley district total 33,150 acres, and an inspection has been made of a considerable extent of country up there. Five separate areas, suitable for cotton-growing, have been located: three within a radius of about 20 miles of Wyndham, and two adjoining Cambridge Gulf. An area of about 10,000 acres on the Ord River has been classified. Numbers of blocks suitable for cotton growing, of about 250 acres each, have been surveyed, and it is expected that they will be available for selection at the end of the year. It is proposed to despatch a survey party to Wyndham again early next year. The department will continue its efforts to prove the possibilities of successfully growing cotton in the North-West, and I hope the result will be the permanent establishment of that industry in that part of the State.

### *Conclusion.*

I do not desire to detain the Committee any longer. I thank members for the very patient hearing they have given me during this, my first, effort at a Budget speech. I realise, of course, that perhaps I am free from many lines of criticism on the present occasion, a freedom that will not be my lot in the future, should I have to deliver other Budget speeches. I have not been long enough at the Treasury to be guilty of many sins, either of commission or of omission, in respect of finance. No doubt I shall grow out of that innocence as time proceeds. However, I can assure the Committee that I will endeavour to keep a rigid hand upon all expenditure



and strive to balance the State's ledger as early as possible. I am convinced that we have great possibilities in Western Australia. One has only to travel through the agricultural and wheat-growing areas to see the immense advance that has been made during the past few years. Given a succession of good seasons and of remunerative prices for wheat, I am convinced we shall double the output within the next decade. There are, as I say, immense possibilities of development throughout the agricultural areas. I hope the State may continue on the new road it has

taken in respect of finance, and that people beyond our borders shall no longer be able to point to Western Australia as a State that is sustaining a succession of deficits. I blame nobody for past deficits; we have all to share the responsibilities for our deficit years; but I hope that next year we shall be able to bring that condition of things to an end. I move the first division of the Estimates, namely:—

*The Legislative Council, £1,346.*

Progress reported.

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[Return No. 1.]

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1923-24, COMPARED WITH THE ESTIMATE.

## REVENUE.

The actual amount received was ... ..	\$	7,865,595	\$
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was ... ..		7,842,281	
Or a total net under-estimate of ... ..			323,804

## EXPENDITURE.

The actual amount expended was ... ..	\$	8,094,758	
The Treasurer's estimate for the year was ... ..		7,840,974	
Or a net under-estimate of ... ..			253,779

## DETAILS.

HEADS.	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.	Over- Estimate.	Under- Estimate.
	£	£	£	£
<b>TAXATION—</b>				
Land Tax ... ..	3,551	...	...	...
Licenses ... ..	12,096	...	...	...
Income Tax ... ..	...	112,285	...	...
Dividend Duty ... ..	...	38,595	...	...
Totalisator Tax ... ..	3,060	...	...	...
Stamp Duty ... ..	...	20,176	...	...
Probate Duty ... ..	...	6,869	...	...
Commonwealth ... ..	...	892	...	...
<b>TERRITORIAL, ETC.—</b>				
Land Revenue ... ..	...	23,234	...	...
Mining ... ..	8,224	...	...	...
Timber ... ..	...	21,697	...	...
Law Courts ... ..	...	1,069	...	...
Royal Mint ... ..	1,103	...	...	...
<b>SPECIAL ACTS—</b>				
Interest ... ..	...	...	...	46,170
Sinking Fund ... ..	...	...	...	4,754
Forests Act ... ..	...	...	...	18,847
Pensions ... ..	...	...	...	4,025
Residue ... ..	...	...	...	426
<b>DEPARTMENTAL—</b>				
Parliamentary ... ..	...	...	...	133
Premier ... ..	5,249	...	...	1,920
Colonial Treasurer ... ..	106,818	...	...	57,805
Minister for Lands ... ..	...	5,998	...	4,451
Minister for Mines, Forests, and Police ... ..	4,100	...	...	885
Minister for Education ... ..	...	651	...	8,745
Minister for Agriculture ... ..	21	...	400	...
Minister for Public Health ... ..	...	2,328	...	6,800
Minister for Justice ... ..	...	1,091	1,102	...
Colonial Secretary ... ..	...	854	...	1,852
Minister for Works ... ..	...	4,849	...	5,662
Minister for North-West ... ..	...	1,703	197	...
State Trading Concerns ... ..	4,772	...	...	...
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>				
Railways ... ..	...	164,894	...	72,380
Tramways ... ..	...	402	...	7,678
Electric Works ... ..	...	19,798	...	17,154
Freemantle Harbour Trust ... ..	...	42,501	...	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ... ..	...	4,350	...	...
State Batteries ... ..	1,815	...	8,111	...
Water Supply and Sewerage ... ..	...	12,087	...	6,572
Goldfields Water Supply ... ..	11,252	...	...	557
Yandanooka Estate ... ..	...	300	...	...
Butter Factories ... ..	...	310	...	...
Government Refrigerating Works, etc. (net) ... ..	3,429	...	2,019	...
Aborigines Cattle Station ... ..	1,134	...	...	...
Residue ... ..	...	647	...	762
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	161,154	484,458	11,829	265,608
<b>Net under-estimates</b> ... ..		£323,304		£253,779

[Return No. 2.]

## REVENUE.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS FROM 1915-16 TO 1923-24 AND ESTIMATE FOR 1924-25.

Heads.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Estimate, 1924-25.
<b>TAXATION—</b>										
Land Tax ...	£ 47,711	£ 42,431	£ 63,388	£ 94,182	£ 46,415	£ 57,701	£ 42,549	£ 79,983	£ 71,449	£ 75,000
Income Tax ...	91,630	90,667	99,501	228,560	271,386	334,320	320,874	390,008	502,265	450,000
Dividend Duty ...	103,685	105,554	109,462	133,062	144,743	244,969	177,005	189,057	216,895	220,000
Total Motor Tax ...	12,442	14,775	13,719	42,489	45,911	57,443	57,782	54,411	53,310	54,000
Stamp Duty ...	64,858	67,035	80,719	112,104	173,543	177,404	164,923	173,453	194,176	200,000
Probate Duty ...	44,284	40,963	38,710	40,325	121,951	42,408	76,817	45,997	66,969	65,000
Licenses ...	43,448	40,912	39,963	40,325	40,243	41,020	41,184	54,654	67,904	68,700
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>407,958</b>	<b>402,337</b>	<b>449,456</b>	<b>629,061</b>	<b>844,197</b>	<b>955,358</b>	<b>881,169</b>	<b>987,558</b>	<b>1,173,568</b>	<b>1,132,700</b>
<b>DEPARTMENTAL—</b>										
Land ...	£ 322,670	£ 282,223	£ 257,368	£ 300,604	£ 330,740	£ 342,362	£ 338,729	£ 311,390	£ 330,234	£ 324,000
Mining ...	23,408	20,547	19,291	17,043	24,050	24,108	22,929	19,880	17,376	18,000
Royal Mint ...	29,215	30,616	30,213	30,092	37,318	23,005	24,440	22,896	19,397	23,871
Timber ...	35,367	27,379	39,248	26,815	54,010	70,786	73,529	72,085	115,047	134,700
Departmental Fees, etc.	395,546	431,608	418,537	453,938	564,934	759,702	864,648	992,989	1,034,451	1,185,545
Law Courts ...	21,217	21,279	20,754	19,724	23,497	25,210	26,353	28,609	30,070	30,100
Harbour Dues ...	34,564	37,384	31,705	32,930	36,790	49,159	46,009	53,017	51,528	52,000
Commonwealth ...	616,104	594,467	599,239	585,008	598,273	593,834	583,707	563,186	585,726	569,217
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,478,091</b>	<b>1,445,503</b>	<b>1,416,355</b>	<b>1,468,317</b>	<b>1,669,612</b>	<b>1,888,176</b>	<b>1,980,610</b>	<b>2,084,032</b>	<b>2,181,126</b>	<b>2,357,433</b>
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES—</b>										
Harbour Boards ...	102,234	87,355	85,188	106,287	157,687	185,470	173,188	168,223	224,850	225,000
Railways ...	2,088,804	1,878,434	1,826,853	1,878,763	2,275,422	2,668,611	2,805,335	2,886,370	3,189,894	3,320,000
Tramways ...	118,946	125,714	141,480	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924	263,668	275,402	295,000
Batteries ...	70,014	61,200	69,355	57,876	49,067	69,487	57,663	56,691	39,235	28,800
Awoodale, Harvey, Bucklands, and Yandooka Estates ...	28,279	26,675	29,346	19,529	14,865	12,020	7,543	4,943	2,966	...
Water Supply and Sewerage etc. ...	414,580	404,737	379,925	371,615	361,583	402,354	406,151	416,639	424,835	433,000
State Dairy Farms ...	2,700	2,924	2,576	3,476	2,844	3,250	2,514	a	a	a
Refrigerating Works, etc. ...	20,377	30,651	27,642	28,726	32,138	35,735	40,615	43,918	32,120	28,550
Cave House, etc. ...	10,414	8,053	6,463	8,487	11,079	13,884	14,482	13,576	13,880	18,800
Electric Works ...	...	10,007	32,580	47,184	62,972	95,350	119,120	128,938	162,796	174,000
Butter Factories ...	...	...	15,771	19,189	18,717	27,548	17,756	17,187	17,310	17,000
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>2,865,848</b>	<b>2,635,750</b>	<b>2,619,059</b>	<b>2,676,180</b>	<b>3,174,087</b>	<b>3,758,689</b>	<b>3,893,291</b>	<b>4,000,147</b>	<b>4,388,688</b>	<b>4,540,150</b>
<b>TRADING CONCERNS—</b>										
Ferries ...	5,609									
Hotels ...	27,051									
Steamships ...	158,167									
State Fish Supply ...	10,556									
Saw Mills ...	236,818									
Shipment of Nor-west Cattle ...	26,835	93,417	137,666	172,343	175,605	187,342	152,047	136,755	122,813	184,022
Brickworks ...	10,220									
Quarries ...	11,101									
Meat Stalls ...	30,272									
Implement Works ...	88,463									
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>605,081</b>	<b>93,417</b>	<b>137,666</b>	<b>172,343</b>	<b>175,605</b>	<b>187,342</b>	<b>152,047</b>	<b>136,755</b>	<b>122,813</b>	<b>184,022</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ...</b>	<b>5,856,978</b>	<b>4,577,007</b>	<b>4,822,536</b>	<b>4,944,851</b>	<b>5,863,501</b>	<b>6,739,565</b>	<b>6,907,107</b>	<b>7,207,492</b>	<b>7,895,565</b>	<b>8,164,305</b>

a. Included in Departmental.

[Return No. 3.]

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM 1916-17 TO 1923-24, AND ESTIMATE FOR 1924-25.

Head.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	Estimate 1924-25.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Special Acts ... ..	1,910,901	2,012,927	2,112,108	2,232,199	2,416,565	2,644,609	2,792,793	3,081,350	3,334,851
His Excellency the Governor	2,094	1,549	1,807	1,935	2,343	2,227	2,166	2,356	2,189
Parliamentary and Executive Council	12,329	11,597	9,520	10,111	11,350	11,423	12,258	11,855	12,376
Premier ... ..	1,486	1,744	1,796	2,115,400	2,244,044	18,185	15,622	15,420	10,766
Treasury ... ..	12,567	11,150	9,946	12,627	11,667	14,909	14,677	13,382	17,619
Audit ... ..	8,847	8,946	9,023	10,337	11,597	12,618	11,701	11,830	12,305
Compassionate Allowances	8,700	4,882	4,167	6,425	6,460	4,964	2,609	3,976	1,487
Government Motor Cars ...	2,866	1,868	4,459	3,006	2,560	1,708	2,193	1,053	8,626
Government Savings Bank	21,752	21,515	22,428	26,474	30,470	31,798	38,150	32,856	34,180
Government Stores ... ..	13,359	10,980	12,172	14,810	15,580	21,480	15,878	16,015	15,951
Literary and Scientific ...	10,597	10,442	8,280	8,756	8,900	9,250	9,250	9,250	9,175
London Agency ... ..	8,472	7,871	8,210	10,840	12,502	12,032	14,190	12,817	11,109
Public Service Commissioner	1,853	1,655	1,192	1,623	3,493	2,553	2,701	2,569	1,355
Taxation ... ..	17,861	18,001	21,040	25,404	33,372	14,486	13,200	13,635	14,288
Workers' Homes ... ..	9,556	3,112	3,230	3,515	4,048	8,047	11,366	12,853	13,004
Miscellaneous and Refunds	690,203	48,717	47,388	75,210	77,878	117,156	104,229	149,410	96,968
Mines, Explosives, Geological, etc.	64,698	60,030	57,302	63,957	73,551	67,010	67,817	83,002	60,662
Forests ... ..	10,086	11,220	10,873	12,962	16,129	16,439	15,246	15,895	16,630
Land and Surveys ... ..	46,286	46,526	44,708	59,816	60,182	103,192	101,056	100,897	94,069
Land Settlement for Soldiers	...	...	2,860	14,432	11,753	13,207	13,196	9,787	...
Agriculture ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Babbits and Vermin ... ..	67,600	54,438	62,455	68,410	65,863	58,973	66,398	59,657	60,053
Stock ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Agricultural Bank and L.A. Board	22,341	38,394	41,130	52,224	53,134	61,016	63,804	83,865	34,052
Crown Law and Branches	68,615	69,697	59,069	71,780	87,189	73,077	76,819	82,334	83,086
Education ... ..	334,132	353,793	368,054	414,380	490,160	556,026	563,183	580,546	592,894
Office of Colonial Secretary	31,189	32,297	27,322	27,655	27,718	34,814	23,277	27,110	23,827
Aborigines ... ..	9,710	9,422	12,447	6,134	10,423	10,244	6,108	6,623	6,920
Charities and State Children	88,575	88,411	90,485	113,352	88,281	93,563	95,626	93,523	91,690
Fisheries ... ..	4,464	4,726	6,277	6,458	7,146	5,687	5,739	5,414	5,447
Gaols ... ..	20,765	20,126	21,566	25,791	28,684	26,083	24,022	23,198	23,408
Harbour and Light and Jetties	26,247	27,087	19,687	21,935	22,479	22,073	20,466	20,213	20,200
Lithographic ... ..	5,742	4,718	4,885	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lunacy ... ..	62,770	60,593	64,678	80,146	97,422	89,840	87,847	88,318	89,623
Medical and Health ... ..	131,087	129,922	165,673	210,689	197,540	180,083	181,277	181,018	184,923
Police ... ..	120,590	130,568	132,157	184,097	174,829	178,005	175,392	180,079	181,592
Printing ... ..	44,484	36,085	38,216	54,740	73,583	71,881	68,270	63,389	62,378
Public Works ... ..	107,161	98,702	104,615	116,483	123,988	93,587	76,042	87,220	87,500
Department of the North-West	...	...	...	...	270	2,942	20,989	21,818	21,871
Group Settlement ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,401	11,193
Immigration ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,430	6,258
Council of Industrial Development	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,065	1,564
Labour ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,335	5,874
Total Departmental...	1,470,556	1,440,324	1,486,892	1,808,201	2,012,320	2,040,278	2,026,554	2,127,346	2,091,417
PUBLIC UTILITIES.									
Railways ... ..	1,455,879	1,454,650	1,672,107	2,009,323	2,427,075	2,337,391	2,210,851	2,307,330	2,320,000
Tramways ... ..	96,571	104,831	107,705	144,023	193,264	202,096	207,542	225,678	242,000
State Batteries ... ..	53,367	71,942	59,574	61,552	64,321	64,391	72,149	35,889	36,425
Water Supply ... ..	248,208	226,112	227,322	246,987	284,405	281,846	275,447	283,586	235,049
Yandooka ... ..	26,771	8,231	10,641	8,842	4,561	5,311	94	...	...
Refrigerating Works, etc.	21,364	19,078	19,099	20,505	24,238	27,707	24,967	24,558	23,722
Avondale and Harvey Estates	3,796	3,768	3,376	1,953	1,461	1,671	1,584	1,702	...
Tourists ... ..	10,231	6,415	8,476	10,985	13,115	14,176	13,841	14,412	14,297
Aborigines Cattle Station...	4,952	5,610	5,219	8,079	11,814	12,030	10,560	7,643	7,484
Electricity Supply ... ..	8,254	20,486	23,287	43,019	33,058	95,784	91,557	116,154	121,000
State Dairy Farm ... ..	3,141	2,776	3,060	4,864	4,338	3,940	...	...	...
Butter Factories ... ..	...	16,666	20,537	18,620	23,503	15,073	16,433	16,807	16,446
Trading Concerns ... ..	...	40,569	...	3,446	...	...	...	...	...
Total, Public Utilities	1,956,544	1,974,984	2,064,729	2,586,333	3,145,173	3,059,815	2,925,025	3,033,819	3,071,423
Less Rebates, etc. ... ..	5,388,001	5,428,235	5,603,729	6,626,793	7,574,058	7,753,792	7,744,372	8,242,518	8,497,691
	81,237	99,956	66,864	95,058	97,767	114,460	131,516	147,763	144,419
Total ... ..	5,276,764	5,328,279	5,596,866	6,531,725	7,476,291	7,639,242	7,612,856	8,094,753	8,353,272

a Includes transfer from Miscellaneous. b Includes £45,071 for loss on operations Royal Commission Control of Trade.  
 c Includes Registry, Friendly Societies, Messengers' Exchange, and Observatory, and Labour Bureau.  
 d Included under Printing. e Includes Tourist and Publicity. f Included in Lunacy.

[Return No. 4.]

STATEMENT SHOWING ANNUAL SURPLUSES AND DEFICIENCIES OF CONSOLIDATED  
REVENUE FUND, ALSO ANNUAL AGGREGATE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS  
1900-01 to 1923-24.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Annual		Aggregate.	
			Surplus.	Deficiency.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Balance, 30th June, 1900 ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ 12,372	£ ...
1900-01 ...	3,078,033	3,166,244	...	87,211	...	74,839
1901-02 ...	3,688,049	3,490,026	198,023	...	123,184	...
1902-03 ...	3,630,238	3,521,763	108,475	...	231,659	...
1903-04 ...	3,550,016	3,698,311	...	148,295	83,364	...
1904-05 ...	3,615,340	3,745,225	...	129,885	...	46,521
1905-06 ...	3,558,939	3,632,318	...	73,379	...	119,900
1906-07 ...	3,401,354	3,490,183	...	88,829	...	208,729
1907-08 ...	3,378,641	3,379,006	...	2,365	...	211,094
1908-09 ...	3,267,014	3,368,551	...	101,537	...	312,631
1909-1910 ...	3,657,670	3,447,731	209,939	...	...	102,692
1910-1911 ...	3,850,439	3,734,448	115,991	...	13,299	...
1911-1912 ...	3,966,673	4,101,082	...	134,409	...	121,110
1912-1913 ...	4,596,659	4,787,064	...	190,405	...	311,615
1913-1914 ...	5,205,343	5,340,754	...	135,411	...	446,926
1914-1915 ...	5,140,725	5,706,541	...	565,816	...	1,012,742
1915-1916 ...	5,356,978	5,705,201	...	348,223	...	1,360,965
1916-1917 ...	4,577,007	5,276,764	...	699,757	...	2,080,722
1917-1918 ...	4,622,536	5,328,279	...	705,743	...	2,766,465
1918-1919 ...	4,944,851	5,596,866	...	652,015	...	3,418,480
1919-1920 ...	5,863,501	6,631,725	...	668,225	...	4,086,705
1920-1921 ...	6,789,565	7,476,291	...	686,725	...	4,773,430
1921-1922 ...	6,907,107	7,639,242	...	732,135	...	5,505,565
1922-1923 ...	7,207,492	7,612,856	...	405,364	...	5,910,929
1923-1924 ...	7,865,595	8,094,753	...	229,158	...	6,140,087

[Return No. 5.]

## SYNOPSIS AND BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH JUNE, 1924, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>Dr.</b>				
Westminster Bank, Ltd. ...	1,805,000 0 0	...	785,000 0 0	210,000 0 0
Commonwealth Government ...	27,937 8 9	118,600 0 0	...	...
Sinking Fund ...	7,742,692 0 11	8,358,982 5 9	8,744,353 9 5	9,331,624 0 0
General Loan Fund ...	389,167 14 6	2,230,318 10 0	740,675 0 11	2,046,097 11 6
Australian Wheat Board ...	...	400,000 0 0	400,000 0 0	...
Government Savings Bank ...	5,918,475 4 3	5,801,447 5 6	5,951,382 17 9	5,967,526 12 8
Insurance Companies Act, Deposits	245,000 0 0	250,000 0 0	265,000 0 0	250,000 0 0
Trust and Deposit Accounts	...	...	...	...
generally ...	2,457,095 11 6	2,478,958 6 0	2,959,122 16 9	2,937,335 11 7
	£18,565,367 17 11	£19,646,286 7 3	£19,795,534 4 10	£20,752,643 15 9
<b>Cr.</b>				
Investments ...	14,642,912 5 4	15,256,334 3 2	15,774,801 2 1	16,226,637 6 5
Stores on hand ...	792,007 3 0	932,140 15 10	822,836 0 1	810,293 12 11
Treasurers' Advances, and other	...	...	...	...
Advances ...	5,524,871 0 5	463,772 8 6	204,948 7 6	214,642 17 0
Cash in hand—	...	...	...	...
Treasury ...	4,507 5 5	5,888 6 2	10,065 16 4	4,128 1 11
Wheat Certificates ...	41,965 5 6	...	...	...
General Account ...	851,680 18 7	893,977 5 3	478,830 6 0	614,694 6 0
Government Savings Bank Account	154,770 9 11	141,410 3 8	126,018 14 5	478,508 2 4
Fixed Deposits with Bank ...	...	...	...	...
Eastern States ...	76,320 9 10	490,813 3 5	143,585 19 10	197,439 18 11
London ...	10,555 15 2	83,354 18 8	5,837 16 3	6,780 17 10
Remittances and Drafts in transit	...	48,371 8 10	6,075 8 2	2,084 2 9
Consolidated Revenue Fund ...	686,725 11 4	1,418,860 6 4	1,824,224 5 8	2,053,382 15 1
Deficiency Account ...	1,279,051 13 5	421,363 7 5	801,363 7 5	141,363 7 5
Sundry Debtors, etc. ...	...	...	97,899 4 0	4,538 8 2
	£18,565,367 17 11	£19,646,286 7 3	£19,795,534 4 10	£20,752,643 15 9

a Includes £191,500 temporarily advanced for redemption of Debentures and Treasury Bonds.

[Return No. 6.]

## STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS FROM COMMONWEALTH FROM 1909-10 TO 1923-24.

Year.	Payment per Head, 25s.	Special Payment to W.A.	Interest on Transferred Properties at 3½ per cent.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1909-10 ...	703,723a	...	Nil	703,723
1910-11 ...	569,578a	...	Nil	569,578
1911-12 ...	365,614	232,265	40,648	638,527
1912-13 ...	382,591	222,554	30,485	635,610
1913-14 ...	400,855	212,751	27,368	640,964
1914-15 ...	403,772	203,127	24,388	631,287
1915-16 ...	398,076	193,544	24,485	616,105
1916-17 ...	386,008	183,974	24,485	594,467
1917-18 ...	386,779	174,350	38,110	599,239
1918-19 ...	391,809	164,696	29,163	585,668
1919-20 ...	414,068	154,937	29,268	598,273
1920-21 ...	419,448	145,287	29,099	593,834
1921-22 ...	418,966	135,738	29,063	583,767
1922-23 ...	428,193	126,038	28,955	583,186
1923-24 ...	442,269	116,301	27,153	585,723
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>£6,511,749</b>	<b>2,265,562</b>	<b>382,640</b>	<b>9,159,951</b>

a Surplus Revenue returned.

[Return No. 7.]

## LOAN AUTHORISATIONS AND FLOTATIONS.

	£	£
Authorisations to 30th June, 1923 (adjusted) ... ..	61,043,873	
Do. 1923-24 ... ..	3,767,789	
<b>Total Authorisations</b> ... ..		<b>64,811,662</b>
<b>Flotations—</b>		
General Loans ... ..	38,578,253	
Local Debentures ... ..	2,010,826	
Local Inscribed Stock ... ..	7,697,068	
Treasury Bills ... ..	4,194,850	
Treasury Bonds and Inscribed Stock under Deficiency Acts ... ..	4,042,745	
Commonwealth Advances ... ..	7,048,782	
		<b>63,572,524</b>
<b>Balance available for Flotation</b> ... ..		<b>1,239,138</b>
<b>Actual Loan Indebtedness—</b>		
Gross Debt on 30th June, 1923 ... ..	58,485,854	
<b>Flotation during year—</b>		
Treasury Bonds ... ..	171,535	
Local Treasury Bills ... ..	4,000	
Inscribed Stock (Local) ... ..	1,117,915	
Commonwealth Loan, Soldiers' Settlement ... ..	600,000	
Inscribed Stock, London ... ..	2,000,000	
Commonwealth Loans (Group Settlement) ... ..	1,250,000	
Local Debentures ... ..	1,145,528	
		<b>64,774,830</b>
<b>Less Redemptions—</b>		
Debentures, Loans, 1878, 1881-4 (Crown Agents) ... ..	10,600	
Commonwealth Advances, Soldiers' Settlement ... ..	818	
Treasury Bonds ... ..	13,100	
Local Inscribed Stock and Debentures ... ..	726,560	
Treasury Bills ... ..	1,252,970	
Treasury Bills under Insurance Companies Act, 1918 ... ..	5,000	
		<b>2,009,048</b>
		<b>62,765,782</b>
<b>Less—</b>		
Sinking Fund (as on 31st March) ... ..		<b>9,373,572</b>
<b>Net Indebtedness, 30th June, 1924</b> ... ..		<b>53,392,210</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Net Public Debt per head of Population on 30th June, 1924</b> ... ..	£	s. d.
Do. do. do. 1923 ... ..	148	7 6
Do. do. do. 1922 ... ..	142	9 6
Do. do. do. 1921 ... ..	137	1 0
Do. do. do. 1920 ... ..	*124	15 11
Do. do. do. 1919 ... ..	119	7 3
Do. do. do. 1918 ... ..	116	7 0
Do. do. do. 1917 ... ..	118	0 8
Do. do. do. 1916 ... ..	118	5 5
Do. do. do. 1915 ... ..	109	19 9
Do. do. do. 1914 ... ..	101	12 10
Do. do. do. 1913 ... ..	94	4 11
Do. do. do. 1913 ... ..	85	17 2

\* NOTE.—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.

[Return No. 8.]

## LOAN FLOTATIONS DEBT AND EXPENDITURE ON 30TH JUNE 1924.

Works and Services.	Flotations.	Actual Indebtedness on Works.	Actual Cash spent.
	£	£	£
Railways, Tramways, and Electricity Supply ... ..	22,163,464	21,870,755	20,621,875
Harbours and Rivers ... ..	4,842,034	4,747,315	4,282,648
Goldfields Water Scheme ... ..	2,903,078	2,876,182	2,689,824
Water Supply Generally ... ..	2,598,294	2,593,510	2,127,732
Sewerage ... ..	1,314,743	1,313,821	1,229,097
Erection of State Batteries and Treatment Plants ... ..	328,335	328,059	309,604
Development of Goldfields ... ..	1,845,174	1,819,748	1,704,068
Development of Agriculture ... ..	3,987,132	3,956,131	3,438,672
Agricultural Group Settlement ... ..	1,574,360	1,574,360	1,329,713
Assistance to Settlers ... ..	2,269,718	2,269,718	2,313,546
Agricultural Bank ... ..	2,799,308	2,799,308	2,216,569
Telegraphs ... ..	276,721	220,822	269,308
Roads and Bridges ... ..	706,421	677,590	537,211
Public Buildings ... ..	1,096,337	1,086,223	1,005,914
Immigration ... ..	63,752	63,752	658,392
Workers' Homes—Working Capital ... ..	553,244	553,244	525,500
State Hotels ... ..	81,721	81,721	74,337
State Steamships ... ..	503,254	503,254	478,630
State Saw Mills ... ..	258,968	258,968	238,764
State Implement Works ... ..	149,716	149,716	135,771
South Perth Ferries ... ..	24,447	24,447	12,967
State Milk Supply ... ..	4,590	4,590	4,496
State Brickyards ... ..	42,620	42,620	30,242
State Quarries ... ..	19,500	19,500	19,234
State Fish Supply ... ..	3,286	3,286	3,162
Crawley, Dalkeith, and Harvey Estates, Aborigines Stations, Savoy House, Purchase of Land at Nedlands, and Purchase of House for Residence of Agent General ... ..	123,761	123,761	103,502
Stores and Stock Suspense Accounts ... ..	145,701	145,701	145,000
Miscellaneous ... ..	215,005	214,920	115,008
Wyndham Freezing Works (Working Capital) ... ..	387,115	387,115	286,013
Fisheries ... ..	12,208	12,208	11,807
Land Settlement for Soldiers ... ..	6,072,272	6,039,692	6,479,405
	57,366,279	56,562,037	52,796,011
Redemptions ... ..	...	804,242	...
Cost of Raising ... ..	...	...	2,285,608
Unexpended Balance ... ..	...	...	2,284,660
	57,366,279	57,366,279	57,366,279

a Includes £717,877, expended at Wyndham Freezing Works. b An additional amount of £391,765 was expended upon Agricultural Immigration from Development of Agriculture.

## RECONCILIATION WITH PUBLIC DEBT (RETURN No. 8).

	£
Indebtedness as above ... ..	56,562,037
Local Inscribed Stock, issued under Agricultural Bank Act, for conversion of Mortgage Bonds ... ..	1,566,000
Issues under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Act ... ..	4,042,745
Issues under Insurance Companies Act, 1918 ... ..	260,000
Commonwealth Advances unallocated ... ..	335,000
Gross Public Debt ... ..	62,765,782



[Return No. 9.]

## LOAN EXPENDITURE FOR 1923-1924 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

Undertakings.	1923-24.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1920-21.	1919-20.	1918-19.	1917-18.	1916-17.	1915-16.	1914-15.	1913-14.	1912-13.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways, including Land Resumptions ...	561,988	519,557	323,296	145,724	75,786	154,720	181,394	246,994	350,855	520,344	1,050,910	1,408,602
Tramways—Perth Electric ...	57,815	72,057	95,835	34,419	27,473	7,239	9,073	29,445	33,528	22,909	18,028	497,389
Electric Power Station ...	31,717	87,761	184,345	18,783	17,890	25,396	23,506	81,033	93,170	149,885	69,448	...
Fremantle Harbour Works ...	37,891	42,726	49,009	49,089	51,855	46,345	42,449	49,004	53,704	106,055	68,142	77,379
Fremantle Dock and Slip ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	1,291	1,588	11,330
Harbours and Rivers generally ...	101,123	77,414	42,632	72,245	50,322	23,603	42,485	72,854	55,510	58,014	21,860	61,790
Sewerage—Perth and Fremantle ...	39,762	47,190	21,348	16,436	...	...	15,167	11,059	47,268	120,473	140,562	160,931
Water Supply ...	395,903	153,667	190,231	194,172	49,115	46,636	53,080	65,426	118,278	127,669	191,523	234,184
Development of Goldfields ...	84,221	64,916	43,530	43,902	32,581	16,152	10,661	19,329	19,142	47,263	50,659	78,143
State Smelter, Ravensthorpe ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78,967	60,000	...	...
Development of Agriculture ...	74,941	91,952	58,692	78,075	112,807	152,421	156,033	169,433	165,727	79,271	156,752	156,432
Assistance to Settlers ...	441,548	400,000	74,674	31,698	6,458	80,000	478,170	...	199,890	602,110	...	...
Agricultural Group Settlement ...	822,910	506,803	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Land Settlement for Soldiers ...	778,603	958,132	983,914	1,527,664	1,947,772	283,319	...	...	...	...	...	...
Immigration ...	16,229	11,203	8,278	12,024	5,205	1,867	1,107	2,352	4,940	16,665	56,218	63,447
Steamships ...	...	6,658	200,000	10,000	14,691	...	...	409	141,065	5,907	100,000	100,000
Workers' Homes Working Capital ...	...	...	...	38,863	...	...	...	...	...	97,500	273,000	150,000
Saw Mills ...	...	...	...	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	214	511	29,069	128,416	43,691
State Hotels ...	2,831	3,108	6,858	5,056	2,767	1,793	117	599	10,000	6,546	17,091	17,580
Agricultural Bank—Working Capital ...	264,027	286,410	18,516	161,825	118,235	78,948	25,000	93,165	172,335	271,812	608,638	259,808
Agricultural Implements Works ...	...	...	...	39,929	15,772	...	...	1,292	4,627	18,436	43,070	...
Brickyards ...	...	141	...	705	1,826	1,165	20	...	547	11,507	13,710	1,121
Ferries ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,974	2,000	4,993
State Fish Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131	3,031	...	...	...
Public Buildings ...	38,595	18,630	44,440	24,963	10,602	21,570	17,536	23,350	40,661	81,004	44,166	88,699
Roads and Bridges ...	77,744	34,331	12,568	32,121	14,719	4,231	2,473	2,657	6,152	5,026	6,167	87,818
Perth-Fremantle Road Reinstatement ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	839	7,663	21,198	...	...
Purchase of Plant and Stock (Suspense Account) ...	30,000	10,000	...	50,000	...	...	...	...	...	55,000	...	...
Fremantle Road and Railway Bridge ...	...	...	19	...	1	79	108	2,482	4,622	1,582	...	...
Sundries ...	23,280	18,892	9,710	7,841	3,089	2,282	1,729	2,676	2,738	5,225	17,652	8,831
Wyadham Freezing Works—Working Capital ...	...	14	66,000	...	100,000	100,000	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fisheries ...	...	...	32	5,370	5,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Urgent Minor Works throughout the North-West ...	5,708	2,979	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3,936,833	3,389,299	2,454,925	52,586,404	62,663,320	1,049,738	1,054,178	855,183	1,534,642	2,521,808	2,913,010	3,406,218

a Includes Loans to Local Authorities for erection of Country Hospitals, etc., £8,057.

b Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £20,107.

c Exclusive of Loan Suspense Expenditure, £33,083.

[Return No. 10.]

## PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS.

Loan.			Sinking Fund as at 31st March, 1924.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
LOANS CARRYING SINKING FUNDS. <i>Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1899-1915 ...	£ 998,353	1934	1	£ s. d. 757,058 17 0	Controlled by Crown Agents. Stock issued for conversion of Debentures.
1896 ...	1,500,000	1935	1	685,427 7 5	
1897-1900 ...	3,500,000	1935	1	1,415,065 4 8	G.S.R. Purchase. Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.
1897 ...	1,100,000	1936	1½	834,431 3 5	
1896 ...	2,500,000	1927	3	2,553,890 6 7	G.S.R. Purchase. Coolgardie Water Scheme Loan.
1900-1902 ...	680,000	1935	1	218,518 1 5	
1902-1905 ...	2,600,000	1935	1	775,622 16 10	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1907-1908 ...	2,000,000	1947	1	405,580 1 1	
1909 ...	1,445,000	1955	½	114,634 12 2	Issued for redemption on £1,876,000 stock; balance taken from Sinking Fund.
1910 ...	1,342,000	1955	½	98,470 14 3	
1911 ...	1,650,000	1955	½	185,841 3 1	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1912 ...	1,000,000	1960	½	58,872 9 3	
1912-1914 ...	6,000,000	1962	½	288,981 3 10	Sinking Fund represents premiums paid on Assurance Policy for redemption of principal amount of 5 per cent. Stock issued for purchase of M.S. "Kangaroo."
1916 ...	140,000	1936	3½	41,947 10 0	
1920 ...	1,500,000	1930	½	...	Contribution paid after 31st March. Issued for redemption of Local Stock; £172,407 was taken from the Sinking Fund.
1922 ...	914,798	1940	½	11,983 17 3	
1923 ...	504,441	1965	½	1,498 6 2	Contribution paid after 31st March. Issued for redemption of Local Stock; £172,407 was taken from the Sinking Fund.
<i>Local Inscribed Stock.</i>					
1904 ...	225,400	1924	1½	922,735 13 10	Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
1911 ...	1,922,305	1926	½		
1912 ...	370,780	1932	½		
1913 ...	297,045	1934	½		
1915 ...	78,185	1935	1½		
1913 ...	309,130	1933	½		
1914 ...	1,566,000	1964	½		
1922 ...	723,220	1928/38	½		
1922 ...	158,118	1927/32	½		
1923 ...	306,345	1928/33	½		
1923 ...	136,349	1933	½		
1923 ...	755,000	1943	½		
<i>Local Debentures.</i>					
1918 ...	697,000	1927	½	3,012 1 9	Redeemable by Annual Drawings; Controlled by Crown Agents.
1919 ...	106,603	1940	½		
1872-1888 ...	31,300	...	1	...	Under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts, currency is maintained up to thirty years. Contribution was paid after 31st March.
<i>Treasury Bonds.</i>					
1919-1920 ...	750,000	...	½	...	Under Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts, currency is maintained up to thirty years. Contribution was paid after 31st March.
				37,807,382	

[Return No. 10—continued.]

## PUBLIC DEBT AND SINKING FUNDS—continued.

Loan.			Sinking Fund as at 31st March, 1924.		Remarks.
Year.	Amount.	Maturity.	Rate per cent.	Accumulation.	
Various ...	£ BALANCE OF DEBT. 24,953,400	Various	...	£ s. d. ...	Consisting of Local Inscribed Stock (£669,119), Debentures (£81,697), Inscribed Stock and Debenture, London (£9,726,287), Issues under the Treasury Bonds Deficiency Acts (£3,292,745), for which Sinking Funds have not commenced, Treasury Bills (£4,192,350) which carry no Sinking Funds, and Commonwealth Advances (£7,016,202).
Total Debt	62,765,782	Accrued Fund	Sinking	9,373,571 10 0	
Previous year's totals	58,485,854	...	...	8,781,050 19 6	
Increase on year ...	a 4,279,928	...	...	592,520 10 7	

a Consisting of—

	£
Treasury Bonds ... ..	171,535
Commonwealth Advances Soldiers' Settlement ... ..	800,000
Commonwealth Advances, Group Settlement ... ..	1,250,000
Local Debentures ... ..	1,145,526
Local Inscribed Stock, 4½ and 6 per cent. ... ..	1,117,915
Inscribed Stock, London ... ..	2,000,000
Treasury Bills ... ..	4,000

6,288,976

Less—

	£
Treasury Bonds, redeemed ... ..	13,100
Debentures, London, redeemed ... ..	10,800
Commonwealth Advances—	
Soldiers' Settlement, redeemed ... ..	818
Treasury Bills ... ..	1,257,970
Local 4 per cent. Stock, and Debentures ... ..	726,560

2,009,048

Net Increase ... .. £4,279,928

[Return No. 11.]

## SINKING FUND AND INVESTMENTS.

## ANALYSIS OF FUND.

	£
Contributions from Revenue ... ..	6,041,538
Interest on Investments ... ..	3,149,107
Discounts on Purchases, less Brokerage and Expenses ... ..	1,077,454
	10,268,099
Less utilised for Redemptions ... ..	894,528
Total of Fund, 31st March, 1924 ... ..	£9,373,571

## INVESTMENTS.

	Maturity.	Rate.	Nominal Value.
			£ s. d.
Western Australian Stocks	1935 ... ..	3 per cent. ...	1,391,766 8 9
	1936 ... ..	3 per cent. ...	445,235 12 2
	1927 ... ..	3 per cent. ...	883,220 5 5
	1935 ... ..	3½ per cent. ...	1,373,239 7 10
	1927-1947 ... ..	3½ per cent. ...	484,116 8 0
	1935-1955 ... ..	3½ per cent. ...	971,970 17 10
	1940-1960 ... ..	3½ per cent. ...	90,345 19 7
	1942-1962 ... ..	4 per cent. ...	1,014,050 15 7
	1930-1940 ... ..	5½ per cent. ...	445,106 16 7
	1930-1940 ... ..	6 per cent. ...	251,600 0 0
Western Australian Debentures	1935-1945 ... ..	5 per cent. ...	240,490 5 9
	1935-1965 ... ..	4½ per cent. ...	267,415 1 5
	1939 ... ..	4½ per cent. ...	8,295 0 0
	Total ... ..		£7,866,852 18 11
Other Stocks—Crown Agent's Investments ... ..			757,058 17 0
National War Bonds, 5 per cent., 1927 ... ..			552,000 0 0
War Gratuity Bonds, 5½ per cent. ... ..			145,131 10 1
Payments on Assurance Policy towards redemption £140,000 ... ..			41,947 10 0
Cash ... ..			10,580 14 0
Total Sinking Fund ... ..			£9,373,571 10 0

[Return No. 12.]

## SINKING FUND AND DEFICIT.

Year.	Contributions.	Interest and Discount (less Brokerage and Expenses).	Total Accretions.	Redemptions.	Increase in Sinking Fund.	Deficit on Year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1911-12 ...	245,274	136,148	381,422	7,500	373,922	134,409
1912-13 ...	244,555	153,756	398,311	7,700	390,611	190,404
1913-14 ...	250,100	140,558	390,658	7,900	382,758	135,411
1914-15 ...	258,792	126,193	384,985	8,200	376,785	565,817
1915-16 ...	265,457	206,842	472,299	12,755	459,544	348,223
1916-17 ...	280,883	239,445	520,328	7,600	512,728	699,757
1917-18 ...	306,782	237,405	544,187	9,300	534,887	705,743
1918-19 ...	319,101	257,457	576,558	8,400	568,158	652,014
1919-20 ...	319,692	386,628	706,320	12,200	694,120	668,225
1920-21 ...	342,277b	460,761	803,038	10,300	792,738	686,725
1921-22 ...	322,130	416,066	738,196	9,600	728,596	732,135
1922-23 ...	242,319	351,879	594,198	183,307	410,891	405,364
1923-24 ...	225,649	377,471	603,120	10,600	592,520	229,158
Totals ...	£3,623,011	3,490,609	7,113,620	295,362	6,818,258	a6,153,385

a The Actual Deficit on 30th June, 1924, was £6,140,087, the difference being due to a credit balance of £13,298 at the commencement of the period included in the return. b Includes £21,375 by Trading Concerns.

[Return No. 13.]

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEARS 1920-21, 1921-1922, 1922-1923,  
AND 1923-1924.**

—	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund. a	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Surplus.	De- ficiency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1920-21 ...	27,780,130	3,145,174	1,055,111	273,571	4,473,856	3,758,639	...	715,167
1921-22 ...	28,975,469	3,050,090	1,105,647	242,050	4,397,787	3,890,777	...	507,010
1922-23 ...	29,819,380	2,923,476	1,136,606	190,886	4,250,968	4,000,147	...	250,821
1923-24 ...	30,841,698	3,032,282	1,186,766	192,751	4,411,799	4,388,090	...	23,709

a Approximate.

[Return No. 14.]

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR 1923-24.**

—	Capital Cost.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Sinking Fund (a).	Total Cost.	Revenue.	Sur- plus.	Defi- ciency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Railways... ..	19,638,044	2,307,880	787,221	125,000	3,220,601	3,189,894	...	30,707
Tramways ... ..	912,089	225,678	42,843	2,192	270,718	275,402	4,689	...
Electricity ... ..	800,227	116,154	87,261	2,074	155,489	162,796	7,307	...
Metropolitan Water Supply	2,777,080	123,802	96,093	18,004	237,399	221,867	...	15,532
Goldfields Water Supply	3,099,816	182,460	74,211	6,459	213,120	170,748	...	42,372
Other Hydraulic Under- takings	894,745	27,844	20,401	7,822	56,067	82,220	...	23,847
All other ... ..	3,219,697	99,474	123,786	30,200	258,410	335,163	76,753	...
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>30,841,698</b>	<b>3,032,282</b>	<b>1,186,766</b>	<b>192,751</b>	<b>4,411,799</b>	<b>4,388,090</b>	<b>33,749</b>	<b>112,458</b>
<b>Net deficiency ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>£23,709</b>	

a Approximate.

[Return No. 15.]

## RETURN RELATING TO RAILWAYS.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.	miles.
Number of miles open ...	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,555	3,629
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment of Lines open } Loan ...	£ 17,147,931	£ 17,211,977	£ 17,318,344	£ 18,073,088	£ 18,297,240	£ 18,810,711
	Revenue 848,010	850,377	851,636	862,515	862,962	827,333
	17,995,941	18,062,354	18,169,980	18,935,603	19,160,202	19,638,044
Working Expenses ...	1,572,107	2,009,823	2,427,075	2,337,391	2,210,851	2,307,380
Interest Charges ...	665,100	690,618	716,398	756,737	768,244	787,221
Total Annual Cost ...	2,237,207	2,700,441	3,143,473	3,094,128	2,979,095	3,094,601
Gross Revenue ...	1,878,753	2,275,426	2,688,611	2,805,335	2,886,370	3,189,894
Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	95,293
Deficiency debited to Consolidated Revenue, being burden on Taxpayers ...	358,454	425,015	454,862	288,793	92,725	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 16.]

## RETURN RELATING TO TRAMWAYS.

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ...	592,361	619,874	654,047	779,081	850,965	912,089
Working Expenses ...	107,705	144,028	198,264	202,996	207,542	225,878
Interest Charges ...	27,007	28,223	29,767	35,524	40,419	42,843
Total Annual Cost ...	134,712	172,251	228,031	238,520	247,961	268,521
Gross Revenue ...	134,058	187,709	225,000	248,924	263,668	275,402
Surplus ...	...	15,458	...	10,404	15,707	6,881
Deficiency ...	654	...	3,031	...	...	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 17.]

## RETURN RELATING TO ELECTRICITY.

—	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	419,308	437,362	456,274	530,997	754,921	800,227
Working Expenses ... ..	28,297	43,018	83,088	95,784	91,557	116,154
Interest Charges ... ..	18,726	19,643	20,644	24,684	26,475	37,261
Total Annual Cost ... ..	47,023	62,661	103,732	120,468	118,032	153,415
Gross Revenue ... ..	47,164	62,972	95,350	119,120	128,937	162,786
Surplus ... ..	141	311	...	...	10,905	9,381
Deficiency ... ..	...	...	8,382	1,348	...	...

These figures do not include Sinking Fund.

[Return No. 18.]

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

—	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	2,014,762	2,054,913	2,182,403	2,277,802	2,426,376	2,777,080
Working Expenses*... ..	84,959	95,090	111,276	113,550	114,678	123,302
Interest Charges ... ..	56,736	63,633	67,167	74,504	81,638	96,093
Sinking Fund ... ..	12,931	13,353	14,052	15,167	16,222	18,004
Total Annual Cost ... ..	154,626	172,076	192,495	203,221	212,538	237,399
Gross Revenue ... ..	150,065	155,996	181,376	194,145	204,935	221,867
Deficiency ... ..	4,561	16,080	11,119	9,076	7,603	15,532

\*Includes Interest and Sinking Fund on debentures, £33,510.

[Return No. 19.]

## RETURN RELATING TO GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY.

—	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	3,005,464	3,013,437	3,039,232	3,044,178	3,056,926	3,099,816
Working Expenses <i>a</i> ... ..	98,476	116,038	130,898	132,502	131,381	132,450
Interest Charges ... ..	97,685	97,679	99,098	86,448	79,223	74,211
Sinking Fund ... ..	80,260	80,255	80,645	43,448	6,059	6,459
Total Annual Cost ... ..	276,421	294,872	310,641	262,398	216,663	213,120
Gross Revenue ... ..	196,974	180,464	195,975	187,122	182,109	170,748
Deficiency ... ..	79,447	114,408	114,666	75,276	34,554	42,372

*a* Includes interest on Debenture Capital.

[Return No. 20.]

## RETURN RELATING TO OTHER HYDRAULIC UNDERTAKINGS.

—	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Capital Cost of Construction and Equipment ... ..	184,413	201,505	231,500	295,837	397,984	394,745
Working Expenses ... ..	30,005	33,939	42,321	31,456	29,388	27,844
Interest Charges ... ..	8,044	8,416	10,027	12,509	19,248	20,401
Sinking Fund ... ..	4,822	4,798	5,055	5,508	7,805	7,822
Total Annual Cost ... ..	42,871	47,153	57,403	49,473	56,441	56,067
Gross Revenue ... ..	24,576	25,126	25,003	24,888	29,589	32,220
Deficiency ... ..	18,295	22,027	32,400	24,585	26,852	23,847



[Return No. 21.]

## RETURN RELATIVE TO OTHER UTILITIES FOR 1923-24.

Utilities.	Capital Cost, etc.	Working Expenses.	Interest Charges.	Total Annual Cost.	Gross Revenue.	Surplus.	Defi- ciency.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	2,150,399	...	85,704	85,704	203,501	117,797	...
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	453,489	...	20,554	20,554	21,350	796	...
State Batteries ...	401,585	35,889	14,055	49,944	39,235	...	10,709
Estates ...	7,978	1,702	523	2,225	2,966	741	...
Aborigines Station ...	27,927	7,643	900	8,543	3,866	...	4,677
Albany Cool Stores ...	20,915	...	937	937	107	...	830
Government Refrigerating Wks. ...	...	5,823	500	6,323	4,552	...	1,771
Perth City Markets ...	51,849	955	1,000	1,955	1,703	...	252
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	53,732	15,095	2,436	17,531	22,108	4,577	...
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	15,124	2,685	680	3,365	3,650	285	...
Butter Factories ...	8,353	16,807	498	17,305	17,310	5	...
Tourists' Resorts ...	22,346	12,875	949	13,824	14,815	991	...
Total ...	£3,219,697	99,474	128,736	228,210	335,103	125,192	18,239
Estimated Sinking Fund ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,200
Net Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	...	£76,753	...

[Return No. 22.]

## ESTIMATED CASH POSITION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1925.

Items.	Estimated, 1924-25.		Balance.	
	Receipts.	Payments.	Deficiency.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
Bunbury Harbour Board ...	22,000	...	...	22,000
Fremantle Harbour Trust ...	203,000	...	...	203,000
State Batteries ...	28,800	36,425	7,625	...
Aborigines Cattle Station ...	4,000	7,484	3,484	...
Government Refrigerating Works ...	4,650	5,525	875	...
Butter Factories ...	17,000	16,446	...	554
Kalgoorlie Abattoirs ...	2,900	2,372	...	528
Metropolitan Abattoirs ...	19,000	19,090	90	...
Perth City Markets ...	1,800	935	...	865
Metropolitan Water Supply ...	232,000	125,384	...	106,616
Goldfields Water Supply ...	168,000	131,944	...	36,056
Other Hydraulic Undertakings ...	33,000	27,721	...	5,279
Railways ...	3,320,000	2,320,000	...	1,000,000
Tramways ...	295,000	242,000	...	53,000
Electricity Supply ...	174,000	121,000	...	53,000
Caves House, etc. ...	14,800	12,771	...	2,029
Albany Cold Stores ...	200	800	600	...
	£4,540,150	3,069,897	12,674	1,482,927
Net Surplus ...	...	...	£1,470,253	...

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

Class of Goods.	1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.		1922-1923.		1923-1924.	
	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.	Tonnage.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	215,779	8.58	270,227	10.71	246,227	9.97	214,274	8.40	199,761	6.82
Ores and other Minerals ...	281,367	11.18	347,448	13.78	322,743	13.06	404,745	15.97	504,245	17.23
Wool ...	33,080	1.32	15,836	.62	19,526	0.79	16,134	.64	15,866	.54
Hay, Straw, and Chaff ...	114,677	4.66	100,802	3.99	99,462	4.03	111,500	4.40	116,102	3.97
Wheat ...	467,009	18.56	299,483	11.87	367,637	14.88	323,399	12.70	458,381	16.66
Other Grain and Flour ...	228,005	9.10	128,019	5.07	132,866	5.38	134,233	5.30	162,531	5.55
Firewood ...	429,011	17.05	475,434	18.85	464,781	18.82	439,805	17.36	455,345	16.55
Local Timber ...	340,076	13.87	407,345	16.72	443,396	17.96	454,133	17.92	549,870	18.78
Imported Timber ...	2,325	.09	4,547	.18	2,280	0.09	3,760	.15	5,052	.17
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	50,153	1.99	50,607	2.07	54,007	2.19	61,933	2.44	59,338	2.03
Fertilisers ...	79,457	3.18	87,849	3.48	96,081	3.89	112,326	4.43	123,119	4.21
All other goods ...	265,033	10.54	243,659	9.66	220,747	8.94	257,754	10.17	277,852	9.49
Total ...	2,515,971	100.00	2,521,250	100.00	2,469,753	100.00	2,534,113	100.00	2,927,512	100.00

Class of Goods.	1919-1920.		1920-1921.		1921-1922.		1922-1923.		1923-1924.	
	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.	Earnings.	Percentage of Total.
Coal, Coke, and Charcoal ...	£ 70,795	5.51	£ 129,815	8.61	£ 123,895	8.19	£ 114,760	7.02	£ 104,891	5.49
Ores and other Minerals ...	58,699	4.57	87,170	5.78	87,691	5.57	99,293	6.08	118,034	6.18
Wool ...	47,475	3.69	41,268	2.74	47,084	3.03	48,661	2.97	53,220	2.70
Hay, Str w, and Chaff ...	68,773	5.35	67,047	4.44	70,615	4.49	79,543	4.87	83,865	4.39
Wheat ...	173,055	13.40	166,694	11.05	222,264	14.18	188,911	11.66	238,798	12.86
Other Grain and Flour ...	99,481	7.74	71,607	4.75	77,419	4.82	76,739	4.64	90,579	4.74
Firewood ...	40,924	3.18	50,272	3.33	50,553	3.21	51,070	3.13	51,146	2.68
Local Timber ...	167,432	13.03	319,650	21.18	299,587	19.04	311,946	19.10	384,711	20.14
Imported Timber ...	1,103	.09	2,302	.15	1,735	0.12	2,913	.18	3,402	.18
Fruit and Garden Produce ...	52,358	4.07	60,966	4.04	64,031	4.07	74,802	4.58	71,510	3.74
Fertilisers ...	19,709	1.53	26,803	1.77	30,405	1.93	34,701	2.18	40,886	2.14
All other goods ...	485,609	37.78	485,160	32.16	492,422	31.30	551,186	33.74	624,028	32.67
Total ...	1,285,413	100.00	1,508,658	100.00	1,573,391	100.00	1,633,595	100.00	1,910,128	100.00

## TRADE, PRODUCTION, POPULATION, Etc.

1922

[ASSEMBLY.]

	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.
Railway Revenue ...	£1,896,570	£2,047,823	£2,382,022	£2,163,700	£2,217,280	£2,004,148	£1,970,333	£2,012,811	£2,463,186	£2,913,611	£3,054,258	£3,150,037	£3,465,297
Railway Mileage ...	2,598	2,854	2,967	3,332	3,332	3,425	3,491	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,539	3,555	3,629
Wool exported ...	£1,008,858	£984,938	£907,363	£817,630	£1,273,183	£1,420,291	£535,819	£1,952,141	£3,037,106	£2,388,119	£3,202,145	£3,232,596	£4,237,152
*Wheat produced (bushels)	4,358,904	9,108,594	13,331,350	2,624,190	18,236,353	16,103,216	9,303,787	8,845,387	11,222,950	12,248,080	13,904,721	13,857,432	18,020,271
*Hay produced (tons) ...	299,995	255,751	278,585	156,932	395,172	236,989	267,163	250,014	379,025	204,244	368,720	457,371	368,122
Gold produced ...	£5,634,004	£5,493,072	£5,478,932	£5,195,732	£4,803,206	£4,361,098	£3,924,197	£3,580,650	£2,637,932	£2,425,852	£2,385,753	£2,204,257	£2,186,503
Timber exported ...	£1,001,503	£985,308	£1,142,280	£808,392	£442,014	£310,983	£274,280	£332,980	£465,734	£1,137,223	£1,040,640	£997,454	£1,367,713
Coal produced ...	£121,109	£150,184	£153,374	£137,575	£140,388	£182,852	£192,248	£219,260	£311,731	£393,424	£404,521	£372,130	£365,567
Other Minerals (exported)	£150,490	£195,764	£215,819	£169,094	£155,213	£189,124	£275,856	£247,691	£218,067	£199,394	£75,534	£143,808	£133,038
†Number of Sheep ...	5,411,542	4,596,958	4,421,375	4,466,166	4,803,850	5,520,960	6,384,191	7,183,747	6,697,951	6,532,965	6,506,177	6,664,135	6,595,867
†Number of Cattle ...	843,683	806,294	834,265	863,835	821,048	863,930	927,086	943,847	880,644	849,803	893,108	939,506	953,764
†Number of Horses ...	140,277	147,629	156,636	161,625	163,066	160,730	178,151	180,094	174,919	178,664	180,334	181,159	181,944
Area of land selected (acres)	1,973,665	1,408,108	908,851	502,551	308,500	235,640	547,583	611,135	1,469,684	1,728,455	1,924,129	1,830,270	1,836,083
Area of land leased (acres)	11,595,445	21,170,037	8,622,488	7,855,984	8,175,594	9,845,516	20,383,357	39,571,708	19,178,124	20,354,785	28,041,808	7,005,229	20,389,232
c Area of land under cultivation	5,650,028	6,717,226	7,320,533	7,548,768	8,056,374	7,822,549	7,587,820	7,582,710	7,325,519	7,583,272	7,704,242	8,305,232	8,896,434
*Area of land under crop (acres)	1,072,853	1,199,991	1,537,923	1,867,547	2,180,456	2,004,944	1,670,772	1,005,088	1,623,163	1,804,986	1,901,680	2,274,098	2,323,300
Tonnage Shipping, Inwards	2,597,166	2,767,276	3,381,304	2,306,855	2,491,637	2,548,339	1,094,000	2,122,439	2,660,040	2,843,470	3,231,392	3,166,116	3,120,135
Tonnage Shipping, Outward	2,615,952	2,755,500	3,375,232	2,704,822	2,492,876	2,557,986	1,102,295	2,111,894	2,650,302	2,825,586	3,231,366	3,087,946	3,106,063
Exports, including Gold ...	£10,443,570	£8,846,039	£10,416,095	£5,352,140	£8,040,484	£14,683,027	£5,807,335	£10,922,675	£16,068,790	£12,258,839	£13,628,883	£11,105,220	£14,029,152
Exports, excluding Gold ...	£3,300,473	£4,549,126	£5,429,954	£3,062,276	£4,795,057	£5,562,966	£3,607,335	£5,927,471	£12,619,962	£10,440,617	£10,647,324	£8,858,726	£11,796,689
Imports ...	£9,283,722	£9,598,745	£9,727,473	£8,301,290	£8,983,000	£9,385,010	£7,649,238	£8,023,990	£12,368,331	£14,839,241	£12,037,779	£13,777,679	£14,347,841
Savings Bank's Deposits d	£3,504,626	£3,716,184	£4,551,872	£3,743,135	£3,640,874	£3,523,851	£3,006,075	£4,415,732	£6,045,930	£6,142,756	£5,276,218	£5,321,616	£5,090,911
Savings Bank's Withdrawals d	£3,316,113	£3,684,046	£4,000,884	£3,878,854	£3,828,187	£3,471,959	£3,549,293	£4,128,161	£5,936,575	£6,223,800	£5,571,830	£5,380,578	£5,004,921
Excess of Arrivals over Departures	9,119	5,293	3,711	6,892	6,14,116	6,12,083	6,2,754	7,488	6,795	6,1,077	1,557	3,132	7,374
Population ...	301,966	313,334	323,206	321,440	313,048	306,297	308,232	319,636	330,172	333,644	340,039	343,119	360,352

\* Season ended 28th February. † Year ended 31st December. § As on 30th June. ¶ Including Perth Tramways. a Preliminary figures liable to revision. b Excess of Departures over Arrivals. c Area cropped, cleared, fallowed, ringbarked, etc. d Not including School Savings Bank. e Exclusive of premium realised on export sales.

## BILL—STANDARD SURVEY MARKS.

### Second Reading.

Debate resumed from 2nd October.

Hon. SIR JAMES MITCHELL (Northam) [8.44]: This is one of the Minister for Lands' little Bills. He has a number of them, and he always endeavours to persuade us that they should go through without debate. We are told the Bill must pass, because the authority the Minister seeks to take for survey marks is essential. The local authorities are to be charged with the responsibility of protecting survey marks within their boundaries. It is here that I see the hand of the Minister. Nothing can happen to the local authorities if they do not carry out their responsibilities. Of course it is difficult to provide a penalty in the event of neglect. When this Bill becomes law people will need to be a little more careful about obliterating survey marks, because the penalty will be fairly severe. It is necessary to provide a severe penalty. This Bill was drafted some time ago and might well have been passed earlier.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

### In Committee.

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

House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.

## Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 14th October, 1924.

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

### QUESTION—GAMBLING, EMBEZZLEMENT AND SUICIDE.

Hon. A. BURVILL asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the number of persons charged with and the number convicted of embezzlement for each year in the last three years? 2, How many of these convic-

tions can be attributed to gambling? 3, What is the number of suicides and attempted suicides attributable to the same cause in the same period?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Charges—1921, 17; 1922, 22; 1923, 36; total, 75. Convictions—1921, 13; 1922, 12; 1923, 18; total, 43. 2, Attributable to gambling—1923, 5; total, 5. 3, No record of any.

### NOTICE OF MOTION—TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

Hon. H. STEWART (South-East) [4.33]: Standing in my name is a notice of motion that reads—

*That the repeals, additions, and amendments to the traffic regulations and the second schedule thereto, promulgated under the Traffic Act, 1919, as amended by the amending Act, 1921, published in the Government Gazette of 5th September, 1924, and laid on the Table of the House on the 10th September, 1924, be and are hereby disallowed.*

I wish to move—

*That consideration of the motion be postponed till the 28th October.*

When I bring forward my motion I shall not move it in the present form that all the regulations be disallowed. I shall simply move that paragraph A of subclause 6 of Regulation 150 be disallowed. I mention this so that the Minister will recognise there is no intention on my part to hold up the whole of the regulations. The Minister in charge has already been approached by the local governing authorities, and when the 28th October comes there may not be any need to move the motion.

Question put and passed.

### BILL—TRUST FUNDS INVESTMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

### BILL—LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT.

#### Second Reading—Defeated.

Debate resumed from the 9th October.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON (Metropolitan) [4.38]: I intend to oppose the second reading. Some members may think I hold prejudiced views, but I assure them I do not.

Hon. J. CORNELL: We shall judge as you go along.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: It will be conceded that at all times I have shown a decided inclination to adopt liberal legislation where it could be wisely and properly done, safeguarding the rights and interests of the public. It is because I think the safety of the public will be endangered that