

Mr. McLARTY: Well, the Metropolitan Branch of the A.L.P. Doubtless he is on the way to obtaining the higher position. I consider that the Commonwealth Government has no right to socialise anything unless it has a mandate from the people, and it certainly has not received a mandate. The only way in which a real mandate can be given to a Government is by referendum. Mandates cannot possibly be given at general elections when important questions are clouded by all sorts of side issues. Hundreds of people vote on personal considerations only and the main questions are not considered by them. Consequently I repeat that there is no justification for the introduction of the socialistic measures referred to by the member for East Perth.

The hon. member took exception to assurance companies sending out circulars to their clients. I am a client of an assurance company, just as is the member for East Perth, and I have not the slightest objection to the directors putting their views before their clients. In fact, I consider it their duty to do so. If they fear danger from certain legislation, surely it is the duty of the directors to inform their clients of it! That is all they have sought to do. The hon. member also stated that employers had brought pressure to bear on clients and had adopted a threatening attitude in connection with the Commonwealth banking legislation. I do not know who those employers are, but I would not be prepared to believe that anything of the sort had happened unless definite proof were provided.

I was interested to read the statement of the Minister for Works regarding the South-West Power Scheme, but was disappointed to find that it would take so long to put the scheme into operation. I believe that secondary industries will be looking for openings early in the post-war period, and they will certainly establish their premises in places where power is available. If they knew that power would be made available in some of the country districts in the near future, I believe they would establish industries away from the metropolitan area. Under present conditions, however, I cannot see very much hope of their doing so. I trust that the great irrigation works in the South-West that are unfinished will be put in hand again as soon as possible.

The Minister for Lands: There is a good deal of water in the South-West at present.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes. In Victoria I understand that operations on the construction of irrigation works were not retarded as a result of the war. Apparently Western Australia has suffered more than have other States in the matter of shortage of manpower. I conclude by repeating the hope that these works in the South-West will be brought to completion as soon as possible.

On motion by Mr. Watts, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1945.

	PAGE
Questions: Mundaring water, as to cost of delivery at Norseman and Coolgardie	114
Denmark Agricultural College, as to suitability of proposed site	115
Wire netting, galvanised, as to stocks held by Army authorities	115
Wheat, etc., transported by road, as to back-loading of trucks	115
Area schools, as to location	115
Vegetables, as to production at York, etc.	116
Motion: Committees for the session, ballots	116
Address-in-reply, sixth day	118

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

QUESTIONS.

MUNDARING WATER.

As to Cost of Delivery at Norseman and Coolgardie.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS asked the Chief Secretary:

1, What is the actual delivery cost of water per 1,000 gallons at Norseman from the Mundaring scheme?

2, What is the actual cost of delivery at Norseman from the Coolgardie take-off?

3, How is the cost computed (give details)?

4, What is the actual cost of water per 1,000 gallons delivered at Coolgardie reservoir from Mundaring scheme?

5, How is the cost computed?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, Approximately 9s. 6½d. (see also answer to question 5).

2, 5s. 7d. per 1,000 gallons for the year ended the 30th June, 1944.

3, Computed on the basis of the quantity of water delivered at Norseman. The cost was made up of—(a) Operating expenses, £2,887 = 1s. 2d. per 1,000 gallons; (b) Interest and sinking fund charges on capital cost of the Norseman main and reticulation, £10,916 = 4s. 5d. per 1,000 gallons; total, £13,803 = 5s. 7d. per 1,000 gallons.

4, In 1940 a comprehensive investigation was made into the cost of delivering water at Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and for the year 1939-40 such cost amounted to 4s. 8.63d. per 1,000 gallons, the cost of delivery at Coolgardie then being approximately 3s. 11½d. per 1,000 gallons. There has been no review of these costs since 1940, but it is anticipated that same have increased slightly.

5, The cost was computed by an apportionment of the total maintenance of main reservoir, pumping expenses, and maintenance and other operating expenses, including interest and sinking fund charges, having regard to capital costs, mileage of main conduit and the quantity of water which passed through each pumping station.

DENMARK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

As to Suitability of Proposed Site.

Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Is the Government aware that local opinion is adverse to the selected site for the Denmark Agricultural College?

2, Who was responsible for the selection of the present site?

3, Has the Minister for Education viewed the ground since the site has been cleared?

4, Before the building is started will the Minister examine the site regarding future drainage and also give consideration to a more suitable and open site?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, No.

2, The Education Department in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture.

3, No.

4, As the project is closely associated with the work of the Department of Agriculture, it is the intention of the Minister

for Education to visit Denmark at an early date and he will take advantage of the opportunity to see if there is anything in the hon. member's suggestion that the site is unsuitable.

WIRE NETTING, GALVANISED.

As to Stocks Held by Army Authorities.

Hon. G. B. WOOD asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Is the Government aware that stocks of galvanised rabbit wire-netting are held by the Army authorities?

2, In view of the scarcity of wire-netting will the Government take steps to have all netting released by the Army?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1 and 2, Further inquiries will be made as to whether the Army authorities will release wire-netting for civilian requirements.

WHEAT, ETC., TRANSPORTED BY ROAD.

As to Back-Loading of Trucks.

Hon. G. B. WOOD asked the Chief Secretary: Has the Government any records as to what extent were the many road trucks availed of for the transport of hay and grain to the seaboard recently, used for back-loading to the country of superphosphate, crude oil and other goods?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: Road transport of hay and grain is being arranged by the Commonwealth authorities and we have no record of back-loading to country districts.

AREA SCHOOLS.

As to Location.

Hon. G. B. WOOD asked the Chief Secretary: Will the Government announce in which districts it is proposed to establish area schools?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied: As the establishment of area schools depends upon density of rural population, climatic and agricultural conditions, not all centres in this State are suitable for the establishment of such schools. The Government is now giving consideration to the matter of such establishments and will furnish more definite information from time to time.

VEGETABLES.

As to Production at York, Etc.

Hon. G. B. WOOD asked the Chief Secretary:

1, Is the Government aware that a useful industry has been established at York in the growing of out-of-season vegetables for consumption in the metropolitan area?

2, Is the Government aware that the action of the Prices Commissioner in the fixing of prices for these vegetables, regardless of costs of production and long transport, threatens the expansion of the industry?

3, If so, will the Government take steps to influence the Prices Commissioner to show more sympathy to the industry in the future?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

1, It is recognised that York district supplies an appreciable quantity of vegetables to the metropolitan area at certain times of the year.

2, The department has not always agreed with the prices determined for produce by the Prices Commissioner and has made representations both at the Western Australian office and at Canberra.

3, The Government always is prepared to submit representations where these are justified, but cannot influence the Prices Commissioner in his final determination.

MOTION—COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

As to Election by Ballot.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [4.40]: I move—

That in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the members to serve on the Standing Committees during the present session be appointed by ballot.

For many years it was the practice in this Chamber for the Leader to submit nominations of members for the various committees. However, on the last two occasions when this was done a request was made for a ballot, and the House agreed to that request. As a result, I have decided on this occasion to submit this motion.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [4.41]: I second the motion, and go further: I ask that a separate ballot be taken for each committee. On the last occasion we got no further than in the past. We simply

took the ballot as a whole, with the result that the same individuals got back on three or four committees. If a member is on one committee there is no need to put him on another. If a member is appointed to one committee he should not be so greedy as to want to be on another. He should give other members a chance to serve on the remaining committees.

The PRESIDENT: I suggest that if this motion be carried in its present form, the hon. member can afterwards move that the ballot for each committee be taken separately.

HON. E. H. H. HALL (Central) [4.43]: Will you, Sir, allow a general discussion on committees at this stage?

The PRESIDENT: The motion is that the committees be elected by ballot. The point is whether or not they should be elected by ballot.

Hon. E. H. H. HALL: Thank you! I will take this opportunity, if I may, of saying that I heartily approve of the motion. I wish to congratulate the House Committee on preparing and supplying to members the very enlightening statement that we have received. I think it is because of the discussions that have taken place during the last couple of years, initiated, I think, by Mr. Williams, and supported by other members, including myself, that that has come about. I cannot understand why, for so many years, the joint committees elected from both Chambers have failed to render to the members who elected them some account of the business they transacted. The statement that has now been supplied is a very important one. Some thousands of pounds are handled by the Joint House Committee and to think that members have not had the right to some say in the election of that committee is beyond my comprehension. Members in this Chamber and in another place have, year in and year out, been content for the committee to be nominated, as outlined by the Chief Secretary, without taking any action whatever to insist on that committee supplying them with some particulars of the business transacted.

HON. SIR HAL COLEBATCH (Metropolitan) [4.46]: I am in favour of the motion, but it does seem to me that before taking the ballot we should have the

machinery for doing so. It looks as if many of us will be voting for members who will not have the faintest intention of sitting on the committees. Would it be in order, if this motion is carried, to ask that the Standing Orders Committee be requested to draw up a method of taking the ballot? Unless something of that sort is done, we will not know, if we take a ballot now, who are the old members of these committees and, in addition, who are candidates. I do not think a satisfactory result will be achieved.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Any member can say that he is not a candidate.

Question put and passed; the motion agreed to.

As to Separate Ballots.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [4.47]: I move—

That the ballot for each committee be taken separately.

By this means, if we elect some members to one committee we can elect others to another committee. I see no reason why some members should be on three or four committees.

Question put and passed; the motion agreed to.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to draw the attention of members to Standing Orders Nos. 331 and 332 which set out the method of appointment by ballot. Standing Order 331 provides—

Before the Council proceeds to any ballot, the bells shall be rung as for a division.

That shall be done. Standing Order No. 332 is as follows:—

The Ballot shall be taken in the following manner:—Each member present shall give to the Clerk a list of the names of such members as he may think fit and proper to be chosen at such Ballot; and if any list contain a larger or lesser number of names than are to be chosen, it shall be void and rejected. When all the lists are collected, the Clerk, with the Mover, acting as scrutineers, shall ascertain and report to the President the names of the members having the greatest number of votes, which members shall be declared to be chosen. If two or more members have an equality of votes, the President shall determine by lot which shall be chosen.

I furthermore remind members of three points. The first is that the President is ex-officio, according to Standing Orders, a member of each committee. The second is that the Chairman of Committees is, ex-officio, a member of the Standing Orders

Committee. The third point is that there are two members of the same name in this House. They are the Hon. E. H. H. Hall and the Hon. W. R. Hall. In the event of members voting for either or both of them, it is necessary distinctly to specify which of the two they are voting for.

Standing Orders Committee.

The PRESIDENT: Members will first have to elect the Standing Orders Committee. The President and the Chairman of Committees are ex-officio on the committee, so three members only will have to be elected.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Will you please advise members who were on the committee last year?

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I object. If that is done, the Chief Secretary might just as well have nominated the committee straight out. If the names are furnished, it will undo the work we have set out to accomplish.

The PRESIDENT: I think it is only right, when a member requests—

Hon. C. B. Williams: Mr. Miles should know who were on the committee.

The PRESIDENT: —that the names of the members of the committee should be read out, that the information should be supplied.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Mr. Miles has been here almost for a lifetime and should know who are the members of the various committees. He should not need to ask any such question.

The PRESIDENT: In view of what has transpired, I shall ask members to vote as to whether I shall or shall not supply the information.

Vote taken.

The PRESIDENT: The "noes" have it.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Can members be supplied with copies of last year's "Hansard"? That will give the information.

The PRESIDENT: If the hon. member asks one of the officials, doubtless his request will be complied with.

Hon. C. B. Williams: He should know who were on the committees.

Ballots taken.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows:—

The Chief Secretary, Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

Library Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Hon. J. G. Hislop and Hon. A. Thomson.

Joint House Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Hon. W. P. Hall, Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, Hon. J. Cornell and Hon. G. B. Wood.

Printing Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Hon. E. H. Gray and Hon. W. J. Mann.

I declare the hon. members named duly elected to the respective committees.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.*Sixth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East) [5.35]: The year 1945 is a notable one. It marks the coming of peace in Europe. This time last year we were hoping for peace, and we now hope that before this year has run its course, Japan will be compelled to accept the same terms as were imposed upon the Nazi tyrants in Germany. I must express my regret that John Curtin was not spared to witness the defeat of Japan and enjoy the fruits of victory. He became head of the Government of the Commonwealth at a very trying and difficult period, and I must say regretfully that many of his own supporters, in my opinion, greatly added to his worries and problems.

Coming nearer home, I regret that Mr. Willcock had to resign the post of Premier on account of ill-health. In vacating that position, he carries with him the respect and esteem of all sections of political thought, and I trust that now he is free from the duties and responsibilities of the Premiership, he will enjoy better health. His mantle has fallen on Mr. Wise, whose skill and ability are well known and will be of great advantage to the State. I hardly know whether Mr. Wise ought to be congratulated or commiserated with, because the responsibilities of the office he has accepted involve a heavy burden that seems to tax the strength of many leaders in

these strenuous times. I congratulate him on his appointment, and trust that his health will enable him to bear the strain.

Seemingly the people of Australia give little thought to the question where we as a nation are really heading. Our men have fought and are still fighting for freedom—freedom from oppression, freedom of thought, freedom from want and freedom for themselves. These freedoms have been the boasted privilege of people in all parts of the British Empire, but I venture to suggest that we in Australia are in grave danger of losing those freedoms because nowadays it is party that matters most of all, so far as many Governments are concerned. The Commonwealth Government was afraid to give Parliament an opportunity of discussing a motion that sought to pay tribute to the man who, during the dark and dangerous days of the past four years, stood as an inspiration to the other countries of the world, as well as the British Empire. An opportunity was sought, through the Parliament of the Commonwealth, to say for the people of Australia, "Thank you, Mr. Churchill, for your magnificent efforts on our behalf." I think most members were staggered when they opened "The West Australian" of the 3rd August and read the following report:—

WAR TRIUMPH.*Eulogy of Mr. Churchill.**Mr. Fadden's Motion Refused.*

CANBERRA, Aug. 2.—The Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) refused to agree to the suspension of Standing Orders in the House of Representatives today to permit the Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Fadden) to submit a motion eulogising "the outstanding leadership, inspired courage and dogged tenacity by which the Right Honourable Winston Spencer Churchill brought the peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations out of the abyss of 1940, through the perils and tribulations of 1941 and 1944 to the complete and glorious European triumph of 1945."

Mr. Conelan (Lab., Q.): What are you going to do for the Australians?

Mr. Fadden asked for an opportunity to move his motion before Parliament rose today.

Mr. Chifley said that he would not give Government sanction to the request as members should have time to think it over.

Mr. James (Lab., N.S.W.): It is definitely political.

Mr. Fadden: How could it be political? There was a National Government.

Mr. Chifley: Frankly speaking, this question could be considered by some people to have a political complexion.

Mr. Fadden: Some people put politics on everything.

Mr. Chifley: This Government and the Cabinet have from time to time expressed admiration of the work of Mr. Churchill as a war leader.

I believe there are thousands of people in Australia who deeply deplore the lack of sportsmanship exhibited by the Commonwealth Government. Apparently Federal Ministers were afraid that some of their followers might accuse them of doing something that might be termed political. How it could be termed political after the people of Great Britain had given their decision with such overwhelming results, I cannot understand. The Commonwealth Government had absolute control of both Houses of Parliament and yet was afraid to allow the motion to be moved. Were Ministers afraid of freedom of speech regarding Mr. Churchill, whom we were proud to have as a leader of the Empire? Were they afraid that the passing of such a motion might detract from the glory of the Commonwealth Parliament? I say it was very much to the discredit of the Commonwealth Government that it did not see fit to allow the motion to be submitted. When word was received of the overwhelming defeat of Mr. Churchill's Government, the Commonwealth Government naturally and rightly tendered congratulations to Mr. Attlee on his outstanding success. Who on the opposite side took exception to that?

I consider it a great pity that these alleged protectors of democracy are not prepared to give the other fellow the freedom they demand for themselves. There are members of our Parliament who have taken strong exception to the banking and life assurance institutions using their funds in order to protest against proposed legislation being forced through the Commonwealth Parliament, notwithstanding that such legislation was considered to be opposed to the interests of those institutions. But, apparently, to endeavour to protect any business interest nowadays is regarded by certain sections as a crime that ought to be punished. By way of contrast, let me remind members that when the Federal Referendum was put to the people, the Commonwealth Government considered it quite legitimate to use the taxpayers' money for the circulation of all

sorts of literature on the subject. Tons of literature were sent all over Australia and charged to public expenditure.

In view of that, why should strong exception be taken to a bank, for instance, asking its employees to sign a petition to be forwarded to the Federal member, protesting against proposed legislation? It has been alleged that this amounted to nothing more than intimidation of the workers and the hon. member who made that claim contended that he was anxious to protect the rights and privileges of the workers. I say in all seriousness that the rights and privileges of the workers have already been fleeced from them. In the so-called bad old days, the employer was considered to be the master. Nowadays, however, the worker has merely changed his master, because the unions have become most despotic and the workers have no redress for any grievance against the unions. In the bad old days, if a worker was dissatisfied with his prospects or with his employer, he was free to leave and seek another job, offering his services at a higher wage. Today, however, that right is to a great extent denied him. He must be a member of a union before he is permitted to earn a crust for himself, his wife and family. If he desires to transfer to another section then he must join another union. Being a unionist does not mean that a man can tackle any job; in effect, it is job-control.

We have had ample evidence of larger unions refusing members of smaller unions the right to work with members of the larger unions. I wish to make a quotation from a book which I suggest members should read, mark and digest. They should not approach it with a biased point of view. It is entitled "What is Ahead for Australia" and I quote from page 21—

Harmonious relations can never come if the intention is to "liquidate" the employer. Nor can they come if matters with which the employer has nothing to do are turned into industrial disputes. What, for example, has the employer to do with the inter-union feud in New South Wales between the Building Workers' Industrial Union and the Ship Joiners' Union? Yet that feud is being fought out within industry itself, not within the trade union movement.

That is an instance of what is actually occurring today. I shall probably incur the displeasure of a large number of people, but I shall draw attention to the unfor-

fortunate position we are facing today. In the past the unions performed an excellent work; but larger unions are now denying smaller unions the right to exist as unions and are denying their members the right to work. I say frankly that a worker may offend his employer and yet be sure of obtaining work elsewhere; but I know from past experience that if a worker offends his union, God help him; he will be a dogged man for life.

In the past trade unions did much to better the conditions of their members, but unfortunately they seem to have swung too far to the other side. We hear much about work for all. Numbers of men have received their discharge from the Fighting Services, but are not permitted to select any particular trade which they might desire to follow. I warn the authorities that unless these men enjoy the freedom for which they fought, there may be repercussions. Housing is a most important and difficult problem. We find that soldiers are becoming desperate and in Victoria are seizing empty houses. We are short of manpower and material. The Commonwealth Government should abolish the sales tax on building materials and also permits. It should allow private builders to erect homes as they did in the pre-war days. I also suggest that the unions permit of payment by results or piece work, because if the men are given this incentive to work, I feel sure that labour costs will decrease from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. It is up to the Taxation Department, however, through the Government, to make a substantial reduction in the taxation on money earned as wages, as at present there is no incentive for a worker to extend himself; the more he earns, the less he has to spend. Houses today are costing far too much to construct.

A great injustice is being done to those who have to sell their houses today. Everything is in favour of the buyer. The selling regulations are entirely wrong. For a house that would cost £1,200 to build at today's prices, the owner is compelled to accept £950, which means that many beneficiaries in deceased estates are absolutely robbed. If we inaugurate a system of payment by results, I am sure from my many years of practical experience that we would considerably reduce the cost of building. Four-roomed houses are costing £950 to

build and five-roomed houses, £1,100. If in pre-war days an alleged jerrybuilder were to construct houses similar to those now being erected by the Workers' Homes Board he would be accused of erecting slum buildings. It may be interesting for members to know that the inside walls of these houses are built brick on edge, and this means that the walls are only 3 inches thick. I am not saying that the walls are not durable. They may be, but they will not last as long as walls with bricks on the flat.

Hon. H. Seddon: But would those walls be safe?

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. They are standing up today. It is estimated that by building the walls in this way a saving of 2,000 to 3,000 bricks is effected. The outside walls are whole brick walls, but what were 4½ inch walls are now only 3 inch walls.

Hon. A. L. Loton: Is there an equivalent saving in costs?

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes, but it cannot be termed first-class building construction. There is a saving in cost and I know that that is the object. If before the war builders attempted to erect walls with bricks on edge, the local authorities concerned would speedily stop them. Houses are costing far too much to construct. I know the problem is a difficult one and therefore I suggest that the Commonwealth Government should abolish the sales tax on all building materials and afford some relief from taxation, in order that the men will be prepared to earn a little more money than they are willing to earn today. Mr. Seddon mentioned the case of a man who was able to earn £2 per day, but would not do so because of the heavy taxation he would have to pay. I know of instances where work is costing three or four times as much today as it did in pre-war days, and I know the reason. It is shortage of manpower. That is the tragedy. Men are not available and employers are in the position that they must pay the men what is demanded.

There are men working five days a week now in the city on one job, but who are also working on the Saturday and Sunday and getting practically overtime for it. I am not blaming them for not putting forth their best efforts. So much is taken away from people today by way of taxation that it is time the Commonwealth

Government endeavoured to reduce some of its expenditure in order that the income tax might be reduced. I desire to congratulate Mr. Marshall on being appointed Minister for Mines and Railways. I hope that he, as a country representative, will in the administration of the railways assist the Commissioner to reduce freights and fares. Mr. Seddon spoke interestingly on the subject of the Railway Department and quoted many figures which I do not propose to traverse. The Railway Department is still paying interest on plant which has long since disappeared. I invite members to turn to the Auditor General's report, which was laid on the Table a day or two ago. At page 4 they will find the following paragraph:—

Capital losses. The method adopted for the determination of capital losses of the Bank and allied institutions was set out at page 74 of the 1937-38 report. From the inception of the Commissioners' control to the 30th June, 1943, the loss determined on that basis was £5,912,835 8s. 3d. This amount has been brought into the balance sheet prepared by the management at the 30th June, 1944, as a reduction of the liability to the Treasury for loan capital, subject, however, to the qualification that the Governor's approval, as required by Section 8 of the Act, has not been given.

The following paragraph reads—

The Bank has been relieved of interest charges on the amount of "lost capital" referred to in the previous paragraph.

That precedent ought to be adopted by the Railway Department. Members will find some interesting figures at page 15 of the report, where the following paragraph appears:—

The Treasury decided, from the 1st July, 1921, in respect of the Wyndham Meat Works and from the 1st July, 1934, for the Shipping Service, Brick Works, Boya Quarry and Implement Works, not to charge the respective banking accounts with interest when it was not earned or available in cash from the business transactions of those concerns. The unpaid interest and sinking fund (in those cases where sinking fund charges have been raised) appear in the accounts as amounts due to the Treasurer.

The next paragraph shows that on a total of £1,242,413 no interest is being charged, and that the net loss on trading concerns, from the inception, has been £2,490,511. That includes interest charges and, in some cases, sinking fund. We find, therefore, that the State Shipping Service, State Brickworks, State Quarry at Boya, State

Implement and Engineering Works, and the Wyndham Freezing Works are responsible for a sum of £1,237,464, being interest not collected. That is fair and just, and I take no exception to it. I am merely drawing attention to a parallel, because the same treatment should be meted out to the Commissioner of Railways. It is unfair to expect him to make the railways pay unless he is permitted to increase rates and fares to those who live in the country districts, or have his interest charges considerably reduced, thereby accentuating the system which today is causing these people to drift to the city where living is cheaper than in the country areas.

I congratulate Mr. Marshall on his appointment. Probably a new Minister taking control will be able to see ways and means of avoiding increasing freights. He may be able to put to the Government that a considerable sum of interest should be written off each year instead of accumulating and being charged against the Railway Department. On page 24 we find that the net loss written off the State Shipping Service to 1927 was £401,301 9s. 5d.; losses written off and overdraft cleared, 1st July, 1933, £196,085; and losses written off and revenue capital, bank advances and liability to Treasurer reduced, 31st December, 1943, £477,176, making a total of £1,074,563 which, apparently, is not paying interest. Therefore, as has been shown by the Auditor General's report that in the case of the Agricultural Bank, the State Shipping Service, the Wyndham Meat Works and others, interest is not being charged, we who reside in the country have every justification for asking that the same principle should be adopted as far as the railways are concerned.

The Railway Department, as I have stated on many occasions, is not treated fairly. It has obsolete plant charged against it, and, in some instances, lines which are no longer in use. I hope to see a substantial reduction of interest. The accumulated railway deficit over the last five years is approximately £1,000,000. I listened with a great deal of interest to Mr. Heenan's speech, and I am sure he can count on every vote in this House for better housing on the Goldfields, and support for the unfortunate position in which the miners, who are under the Mine Workers' Relief Fund, find themselves with regard to

the old age pension. He stated that the volume of employment in the mining industry was down to 4,500 men, and I agree with him that it is possible for 20,000 men to be absorbed in that industry. It is estimated that one man on the land carries seven persons on his back. By applying the same formula we find that the Goldfields can carry and provide employment for an additional 140,000 people. I hope to see the goldmining industry encouraged and helped by both the State and Commonwealth Governments.

I congratulate Mr. Tonkin on the enthusiastic way in which he has tackled his task as Minister for Education. I think that too much of our educational system is devoted to teaching the boys the subjects necessary for what are called "collar and cuff" jobs. Sufficient attention is not given to technical education; there is practically none in the country districts. We even have our returned men going to the metropolitan area to receive training at the Technical College. Not only are our own boys denied technical training in the country but our returned men are also suffering the same disadvantage. I regret to say that our system is lacking in not giving instruction in good manners. It may be the spirit of the age in which we are living, but we frequently see lads sitting in trams and buses while elderly people, women with babies and other women stand. Today the children, generally speaking, are taken to a much higher standard than when I went to school, but it does seem to me that the general writing and spelling of many of these children who have attended school up to the age of 16 years is not much to their credit, or that of the schools or the system.

There seems to be a growing lack of patriotism in our midst. Foreign countries are held up as patterns which we should follow. We have the excellent example set us by America where every school salutes the flag. A love of their country and respect for the laws of the Government of that country are instilled into the young minds of the pupils. I commend to the serious consideration of the Minister that on assembling at school each morning our children should salute the flag of their country and be taught to respect it and what it stands for, because wherever the Union Jack flies, it stands as an emblem of freedom. Something like the following,

recited each morning, would impress upon the young minds of the children that Australia is a great country in which to be born, and that it should come first. The following is an extract from a magazine and was the pledge or oath of allegiance given by 150,000 newly-naturalised Americans in Central Park, New York:—

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Then it goes on to state—

We sought liberty, freedom from oppression, freedom from want, freedom to be ourselves.

I think that we should teach our boys to pay a little more attention to what might be termed the essence of good manners, and that Australia is the best country in the world to live in, and not to be carried away with the shibboleths put forward that a foreign country is so much better, and that they should follow its example. I regret that it has taken the Commonwealth and State Governments so long to promulgate what we term a land settlement policy. We know that many men are anxious to return to the land. I congratulate Mr. Fyfe on the responsible position he now occupies. I hope that, as a result of his inquiries, many of the mistakes that have occurred in previous land settlement schemes will not be repeated. I venture to say that despite all the care that will be exercised, we will have a percentage of men who will not be as successful as we would wish. We have to remember that these men have, for a period of five to six years, been living, eating and sleeping with other men, and that when they settle on the land they will find it difficult to put up with the loneliness. I find from my experience of the 1914-18 war that that is so. I hope that as a result of the examination being made in the South-West the men will be settled as closely as possible and not separated by miles from their neighbours.

For his work as chairman of the Rural Reconstruction Commission Mr. Wise is to be commended, but I draw attention to the fact that although that Commission is of vital importance to our returned men and to the land development and settlement policies of Western Australia, we have not a copy of the report placed upon the Table of this House. Seeing that the State

Treasury of Western Australia will have to contribute a considerable sum of money towards the settlement of these men, it is only fitting that every opportunity should be given to them to make a success of their rehabilitation. I dare to make this statement that if the Administration at the time of the inauguration of the group settlement years ago had paid attention to the advice of many members of Parliament in this House and in another place, many of the men whose hearts were broken and who left their farms, probably would have seen the job through, and many of the mistakes of the Administration would have been avoided. However, that is all past; I hope we will not be placed in a similar position again. There are several other matters I wish to discuss, but the ballots earlier in the afternoon took longer than I expected and I shall not delay members further at this juncture.

On motion by Hon. A. L. Loton, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1945.

	PAGE
Questions—Timber, as to production and requirements	123
North-West—(a) as to road transport facilities,	
(b) as to relief from income taxation, (c) as to	
Whim Creek conference	123
Claim by Mrs. J. P. Jorgensen, as to loss of oats	124
Group Settlement farms, as to re-conditioning,	
etc.	124
Country Water supplies—(a) as to Great Southern	
Scheme, (b) as to Northern Districts	124
Bren gun carriers, as to use for farm tractive pur-	
poses	125
Trolleybus service, as to extension to Cottesloe	125
Potash, as to production, costs, etc.	125
Tram service, Inglewood, as to inadequacy	126
Address-in-reply, sixth day	126
Sessional Committees, Council's message	152

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

QUESTIONS.

TIMBER.

As to Production and Requirements.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Minister for Forests:

1, Will there be sufficient timber produced in Western Australia to supply local requirements for (a) all home building from

now on and in the post war period; (b) railway sleepers, having regard to proposed change of gauge; (c) general construction purposes?

2, Will there be any surplus timber for export, having in mind the fact that there will be a keen demand for our timber overseas?

3, How many seasoning kilns are in operation in this State, and what is their annual output?

The MINISTER replied:

1 (a), (b) and (c), So far as it is possible to assume future requirements it is anticipated that Western Australia will be able to produce sufficient timber to meet all local requirements for hardwoods.

2, It is expected that sufficient timber will be produced to provide a limited quantity for export.

3, There are eight installations varying in size from two to six compartments with yard layout and handling facilities for necessary preliminary air drying. Annual capacity in lin. material is 11,300 loads.

NORTH-WEST.

(a) As to Road Transport Facilities.

Mr. RODOREDA asked the Premier:

1, In view of the statements of the Minister for the North-West that it is impossible to procure another ship for North-West trade, will the Government inaugurate a road service from rail head to ports at least as far as Roebourne?

2, If not, what does the Government propose to do to remedy the position now existing?

The PREMIER replied:

1 and 2, Efforts have been made to procure ships suitable to the North-West coastal trade, but these are very difficult to obtain, mainly because of placement of derricks on ships not used to service in waters where there is a high range of tide. We are endeavouring to arrange for the Kybra to return to us and in addition we are fully investigating the prospect of inaugurating some relief road service as an emergency.

(b) As to Relief from Income Taxation.

Mr. W. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Premier:

Will the Premier take advantage of the Prime Minister's visit to Perth to urge upon him the necessity further to relieve residents,