

CONDOLENCE—THE LATE LADY WITTENOOM.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.32]: It is with great regret I find it my painful duty to ask members to carry a motion of sympathy with the President. Since last we met, the President has lost his wife, Lady Wittenoom, under circumstances almost tragic. Some twelve months ago Lady Wittenoom went to England with every hope of regaining her health and strength. It was thought she had done so, but, when she was returning to her husband and family, death overtook her very suddenly. Lady Wittenoom had endeared herself to a very large circle in Western Australia, and to-day many are mourning her loss. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its expression of sincere sympathy and condolence with the Hon. the President and his family in the irreparable loss that they have sustained by the sudden and unexpected death of Lady Wittenoom while on a voyage to rejoin them after a long absence.

It is my intention subsequently to ask members to adjourn to-day and to meet again to-morrow evening at half-past seven. That will enable them to attend Lady Wittenoom's funeral at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.34]: I second the motion. I desire to express my sympathy with the President in the great loss that has befallen him. When, a few weeks ago, I quoted in the House some lines from one of our young poets, Rupert Brooke, "Comes Death on shadowy and relentless feet," I little thought the words would be brought home to us in so tragic a manner, and particularly to one who occupies so high a position as does the President of the House. The deceased lady was well-known to most of us, and especially to the older generations of Western Australians. She had endeared herself to a large circle of friends, and both her married name, as the wife of our President, and her maiden name representing the old family of Habgood, one of the pioneering families of Western Australia, were household words in this State when I was a boy; in fact, her maiden name served as name for that corner on which the A.M.P. buildings now stand, which for many a year was known as Habgood's corner. We all deeply regret the bereavement our President has sustained in losing one so near and dear to him.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.36]: I wish to say a word in support of the motion. It is twelve months ago almost to the day when some of the wives of members of the Chamber gathered together on these premises and gave the late Lady Wittenoom a send-off. As they had sent her off under the best auspices, so it was intended, I believe, to welcome her back in similar circumstances. Unfortunately, death has intervened. On behalf

of those ladies who desired to welcome Lady Wittenoom back, I wish to express sympathy with the motion and with the President, who has been so suddenly bereaved.

Question put and passed, members standing.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That the resolution be conveyed to the President.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [4.39]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 7.30 p.m. to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.40 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 30th October, 1923.

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

CONDOLENCE—THE LATE LADY WITTENOOM.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.32]: During the period over which the House has stood adjourned, we have heard the sad news of the death of the wife of the President of the Legislative Council. Lady Wittenoom was known to many of us and was appreciated by all who knew her, and we feel the deepest possible sympathy with Sir Edward in his hour of trouble and sorrow. I move—

That this House desires to express its deep sympathy with the President of the Legislative Council, Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom, in his bereavement, and requests that the terms of this resolution be communicated to that gentleman by the Hon. the Speaker.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [4.33]: I second the motion, and I am sure I express the sentiments of every member of this House when I say we deeply regret the loss sustained by Sir Edward Wittenoom and his family.

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (Hon. H. K. Maley—Greenough) [4.34]: Sir Edward Wittenoom was connected with my district and I wish to add my expression of regret at the untimely decease of Lady Wittenoom, and join in the vote of sympathy.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. J. George—Murray-Wellington) [4.35]: As the oldest member in the House, and as one who has known Sir Edward Wittenoom throughout that period, I desire to add my expression of sympathy with him in his sad bereavement.

Question passed, members standing.

PETITION—BRITISH IMPERIAL OIL COY., LTD.

Hon. W. C. Angwin presented a petition from the British Imperial Oil Coy., Ltd., praying for leave to introduce a private Bill.

Petition read.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received from the Auditor General, in pursuance of Section 53 of the Audit Act of 1904, the thirty-third report for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1923, which I now lay on the Table of the House.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

SELECT COMMITTEE—RAILWAYS, PEN- SION RIGHTS OF J. B. CONNOLLY.

Extension of time.

On motion by Mr. Hughes, the time for bringing up the report of the Select Committee was extended for a fortnight.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1923-24.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 18th October; Mr. Angelo in the Chair.

Department of Colonial Secretary (Hon. R. S. Sampson, Minister).

Vote—Office of Colonial Secretary, £13,870:

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. S. Sampson—Swan) [4.47]: The vote for last year for all of the departments under the control of the Colonial Secretary was £274,099, and the actual expenditure was £266,220, showing an underdraft of £7,879. This year's estimated expenditure is £266,308, showing an increase over last year's expenditure of £88. For reasons that are explainable as the

items are examined, there are increases in the expenditure as follows: Colonial Secretary's Office, £1,161; Aborigines Department, £369; Friendly Societies and Registry, £344; Harbour and Light, £261; and Lunacy, £1,018, making a total increase of £3,153. Decreased expenditure is as follows:—Fisheries, £107; Gaols, £720; Immigration, £52; Observatory, £467; and State Children and Outdoor Relief, £1,719, a total of £3,065. The Correspondence Despatch office is under the Colonial Secretary. The gross earnings in 1922-23 were £29,950 and the expenses amounted to £9,795. There was, therefore, a net saving in this department of £20,155.

Hon. P. Collier: Which merely shows that one department is charging too much to other departments.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. The increased profit over last year was £1,234.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It is not profit, it merely means doing your work cheaper.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is a big profit, and is a tribute to the officers concerned.

Mr. Underwood: It is a tribute to the clerks for charging so much to other departments.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is a tribute to the organisation and management of the officer in charge. He should have some credit. I refer to Mr. J. Pickering.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Mr. Neville started it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: He played some part in the inauguration of the department. Splendid work is being done, and a saving of £20,000 has been effected.

Mr. Underwood: In weight?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If all these documents had been sent through the post in the ordinary way the expenditure would have been much greater. The railways received some revenue for the carriage of goods, and full payment has been made under the rates. It is gratifying to note that the health of the natives in the southern portion of the State is good. During the past year 46 fewer deaths were reported.

Mr. Marshall: How many escaped?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That comes under a different heading. The native population is estimated to-day at 4,475, including half-castes. The rations issued during the year cost £4,178. Blankets and clothing were issued as follows: Blankets, 737; garments, 2,767, costing £1,146. I had an opportunity during the past week of examining samples of the blankets which have been contracted for this year.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Are they true to sample?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was a good blanket, and was up to specifications. The department did not accept the lowest tender, but accepted what we considered gave us the best value.

Mr. J. H. Smith: It does not follow the niggers got the blankets.

Mr. Underwood: It is a good blanket.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Special care has been taken to ensure that the blankets are used only by the aborigines. In order that it shall be distinctive, the blanket has been coloured red, blue, and as nearly white as possible.

Mr. Marshall: Quite patriotic.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The red and blue are strong colours. Anyone who is seen carrying one of these blankets will at once be known as having in his possession one issued to the aborigines. The cost of medicines and medical fees during the year was £156. Arrangements for the distribution of rations at Eucla have been made. Hitherto the natives in the Mundrabilla station district were required to travel to Eucla in order to obtain supplies. This entailed some unnecessary effort on their part, and we have now arranged for portion of the supplies to be sent to Mundrabilla and another portion to Eucla. This should prove in the interests of the natives. Last year, on June 30, the Carrolup River Native Settlement was closed, and the natives transferred to the Moore River settlement. The saving effected in the first year amounted to £2,670. The work at the new settlement is progressing satisfactorily, and the decision of the Government to transfer the natives has been well justified. The health of the natives is good, the number of deaths is fewer, and a big saving has been effected. The following products have been raised during the year at the Moore River settlement: Hay, 80 tons; green vegetables and onions, 6,200lbs.; and milk 1,500 gallons. Many improvements have been effected to the buildings, and everything possible has been done for the comfort of the natives.

Mr. Underwood: Who has the Carrolup station?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It has been transferred back to the Lands Department, and may have been disposed of.

Mr. Underwood: Was it an ordinary sale?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It was let for a period after the aborigines were moved.

Mr. Underwood: To whom was it let?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To a private person. The number of inmates at the settlement on the 30th June last was 264, including 30 very old people, 20 of them being blind, partially blind or paralysed. There are on the school roll of the Moore River settlement 114 children. The amount of clothing manufactured for the requirements of natives in the State and for other departments represented 6,000 garments made up. Consideration is being given to the supply of a number of beds for the aborigines. Whether this will be approved or not remains to be determined. Some of the old people are very feeble, and should perhaps receive special consideration.

Mr. Richardson: They would fall out of bed and get killed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In the Fisheries Department the revenue last year

was the highest on record, namely, £26,800, as compared with £11,611 in the previous year. The opossum royalty was responsible for the major portion of this revenue, £16,000 being received from that source alone. Last year the expenditure was £588 less than for the year before. There was some criticism last year concerning the opossum royalty. It was, however, not general, and I do not know that it was seriously intended. It was suggested that the increase in the royalty from 1s. to 1s. 6d. was not justified. The evidence we had last year I think proved that there was every justification for the increase. It seemed that a clean sweep of opossums was being made. Had the royalty not been increased to 1s. 6d., it is quite certain many more opossums would have been killed than was the case. I am positive the increase in royalty was well justified. Where opossums are shown to be a nuisance to orchardists, a permit to kill them is given. It is not often these permits are asked for. In one case last year a man, who claimed to be an orchardist, said the opossums were injuring his trees, and he asked for a permit to destroy the nuisance. We found on inquiry that he had sent away during the previous year 11 cases of fruit, and that most of the trees he had were of a non-commercial variety. He was therefore, really trying to obtain a permit without justification. During the year we disposed of the s.s. "Torrens." The sale was advertised in various coastal newspapers, but unfortunately no satisfactory offer resulted. Then tenders were called, and several were received, the highest being accepted. The estimated value of fish, crayfish, and prawns caught during the year amounts to the remarkable sum of £79,245. Of fishermen's licenses 522 were issued during the year, and 259 fishing boat licenses. In connection with pearling the department issued 190 ship pearling licenses during last year, and 210 of these licenses have been issued during the current year. During 1922 1,152 tons of mother-of-pearl shell were fished, the value being £174,617, and the value of the pearls secured was £29,141. The whole of the shell upon which the Government guaranteed bank advances during 1920 has not been sold, but the majority of the pearlers concerned have made or are making arrangements to meet their liabilities. It will be remembered that the Government stood by the pearlers during a very bad time which occurred in 1920. The price of picked pearl shell at Broome is from £145 to £147 10s. per ton. At Shark Bay about 190 tons of marketable shell was fished, the value being £2,605. During the same year pearls were fished of a value of £9,022. The unsettled conditions on the Continent of Europe are having a very bad effect on the sale of mother-of-pearl shell, and the demand is at present very limited. Buyers in London are cautious, and at the moment the demand from the United States is not what it has been. We hope, however, that before long normal prices will again prevail, together with the previous demand. Prices latterly realised are

below the pre-war figures. The finding of very valuable pearls, however, has been reported. Under the heading of game, I may mention that marsupial skins valued at £140,400 were taken in the State during the past year. The taking of opossums, which was permitted during October and November of last year, resulted in 208,421 skins. I am advised that the price to the trappers ranged from 45s. to 80s. per dozen, in some cases still higher prices being realised. The value of the opossum skins was over £35,000. This year there has been no open season, it being considered desirable that the opossum should be given a chance to breed up again. A peculiar position has arisen in connection with the Molloy Island opossum farm. On that island 3,133 opossums were released for stocking purposes. Of this number it was estimated that about 300 died, leaving a balance of 2,833 opossums released. Probably there were at the time some opossums upon the island, but it is impossible to give the number. Recent trapping has shown that very few of the opossums remained upon the island. Only about 230 were taken. Molloy Island is situated in the Blackwood River, north-east from Augusta. It is leased from the Government by Messrs. Autoine and Kingsmill. There is every reason to believe that the opossums placed upon the island as stock have escaped by swimming the narrow channel which separates one end of the island from the mainland. No fencing was erected upon the island, because it was not anticipated that the opossums would swim. It was a severe blow to the proprietors of the farm to find that less than 300 opossums were available after the stocking operations. It appears that as an opossum farm Molloy Island must be abandoned. Alternatively, consideration may be given by those interested to fencing with wire-netting those parts of the island which are close to the mainland. Brush skins sold up to 6s. 3d. and 6s. 5d. per pound during August of this year. The figure is worth noting because of the contention that no royalty should be charged for the brush or for any marsupial. On the 13th September the price of brush skins was 5s. 3d. to 5s. 4d. per pound. During 1922 there were taken 86,564 grey kangaroos, 208,231 red kangaroos, 42,345 euro kangaroos, and 87,452 brush kangaroos. As to whaling, I may mention that a local company are operating at Point Cloates with two steam whalers. During the year only 155 whales have been taken. It is remarkable that no greater number were secured, as whales have been plentiful. The value of 620 tons of oil and 282 tons of fertiliser produced by the company is estimated at £21,000. Better results are expected during the current year. Now I come to something of interest with respect to turtles. Hon. members recently had an opportunity of visiting a turtle soup factory established near Rockingham. It is operated by a company of which I understand Mr. Baron Rodway is manager. The company hold an exclusive license to take edible turtles from waters near Onslow. Members who visited the factory had an opportunity of tast-

ing the turtle soup. Some of them said they felt ten years younger after one plateful of that marvellous soup.

Mr. McCallum: You had two platefuls.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is wonderfully fine soup. I understand that another local company are likely to operate from Broome. In connection with statistics, the outstanding feature of the year has been the increased acreage of land settlement, which has entailed additional work and expenditure, especially in the collection of stock and crop statistics. The opening of new avenues of industry and progress in other departments must naturally entail additional expense in this connection. The Statistical Branch do great work in preparing information which enables comparisons to be drawn between the present time and previous years. I believe hon. members generally appreciate the work of the Statistical Branch. The small handbook which is issued by the branch is of acknowledged value, and serves to give not only members of Parliament, but citizens generally, an opportunity of ascertaining, with the minimum of trouble, the exact position regarding the vital statistics of the State. A Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill is now before the Legislative Council, and the various amendments which it proposes will be considered here later. In connection with the subject of prisons I may mention that the Coolgardie gaol was closed last year.

Hon. P. Collier: That shows a high standard of public rectitude there.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am glad that no gaol is required at Coolgardie, but I am sorry if that fact is due to Coolgardie losing its population. When I was in Coolgardie recently, I found a wonderfully hopeful spirit among the residents. In view of what has been done at Gibraltar, which is not far from Coolgardie, a revival of the latter field may be looked for at any moment. The subject of prisons is of great importance. Those interested will be glad to know that during his recent visit on holiday to Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, the Under Secretary, Mr. Trethowan, gave the subject close attention.

Mr. Teesdale: Did he go there officially?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, but he made it his business to obtain information. At French Island, 60 miles from Melbourne and seven miles from the mainland, there were 38 prisoners. Mr. Trethowan states that a notable feature at French Island is the sparsity of supervision, there being only a superintendent and three warders in attendance. For the custody of the prisoners reliance is placed upon the surrounding water, and on a telephone connection with Lang Lang on the adjacent mainland.

Mr. Teesdale: And the sharks.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The inmates are paid considerable gratuities; second grade 1s. 6d., first grade 1s. 9d., and special grade 2s. per day. The Victorian Prison De-

partment are paid by the Forestry Department at the rate of 6d. per hour per person engaged on reforestation. Regarding reforestation, when in New Zealand I made a point of ascertaining what the prisoners of the Dominion are doing in that connection. Upwards of 90,000,000 of trees, mostly pines, have been planted there by prison labour; and it is estimated that the value of these trees, when mature, will be at least £1 each. They have established watch towers and made fire breaks and, generally speaking, have taken such action in various ways as forestry experts recommend for the preservation of timber. I am sorry the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering), who was chairman of the Forests Commission, did not visit New Zealand.

Mr. Willcock: That was not his fault.

Mr. Teesdale: He tried hard enough.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Had he done so, he would have found much to interest him there. Much of the construction work on main roads is carried out by prisoners. The cost of the construction of these roads is very heavy, and the quality of the construction in some cases has been simply abominable. I have never travelled over worse roads, and some are as bad as the Perth-Armadale road was during its worst period. As members know, that road is in very good order to-day. In New Zealand the prisoners are housed in huts and are employed on road construction with good results. Under the Victorian system some payment is made to the prisoners for the work done—I cannot give members the exact figures—and the money is disbursed to the wives and children of the prisoners engaged on the work. In the course of his report, Mr. Trethowan said:

As a reformatory influence, however, the settlement is undoubtedly remarkably strong. The inmates look well, work well, behave well, and regard a return to Pentridge as a calamity—

This refers to good conduct prisoners—

I was present when the board interviewed about 20 of the prisoners, and was much struck by the sympathetic consideration given to each case, by the freedom with which the board departed from the prescribed periods prior to advancement or release, and by the evidence of genuine determination to reform.

Reporting on his inquiries in South Australia, Mr. Trethowan said:—

Prisoners are entertained by visitors with singing, music, and lectures once a month on Saturday afternoons. In addition, picture shows are given occasionally—

This applies only to good-conduct prisoners, and by these means it is hoped to improve their moral condition.

The delegate system of ration supervision on the same lines as at Sydney has been in operation for six months. The delegate inspects, on behalf of the prisoners, the quantity, quality and cooking of rations, and enters any complaints in a book kept for the purpose. The Comptroller General and

Superintendent speak highly of the arrangement as a preventive of discontent and trouble in regard to food.

It is a strange commentary on the existing state of affairs, but it is true that there are complaints from the prisoners when the food is not as good as it should be, and this method of food inspection has proved a preventive of discontent and trouble in South Australia and New South Wales. Mr. Trethowan says that the diet there is good, and similar to that provided in Western Australia. Continuing his comments, Mr. Trethowan said:—

There is no system of release on probation for adult prisoners (i.e., other than those committed to the boys' reformatory) apart from the ordinary procedure of the courts in releasing first offenders under bond of good behaviour. In the opinion of the Comptroller General, Western Australia is well ahead of South Australia in regard to administration and management of prisoners, and especially so in relation to reformatory treatment.

While dealing with the question of reformatory treatment, may I refer to some remarks made recently by one of our judges when sentencing a prisoner charged with defalcation. I quote the following from the Press report:—

His Honour confessed that he was in a dilemma; he could not think how to deal with the case. If the Legislature would not make some special provision for lads of the mental calibre of the accused, he would either have to let them loose on the community or send them to gaol. The present session was an appalling one, and he did not know what to do with individuals of the particular type referred to. He did not like to send them to gaol. He was told that a portion of the Fremantle Gaol was called a reformatory prison, but once the doors of the gaol had clanged behind the man who entered, he was in the atmosphere of the gaol, and it did not matter much whether he was placed in the reformatory section, or, for that matter, in the chapel or the library. The whole thing was wrong. After further consideration, His Honour sentenced the person referred to to remain in a reformatory prison during His Majesty's pleasure, with the hope that the prison would, if possible, supply "what was lacking in his mind."

I take it, that means some different method of treatment. There is great need for a prison farm in Western Australia. Such an institution would, I should say, provide the solution of the problem of what to do with prisoners qualified to carry out farm work. If we had such a farm, it would give prisoners who are competent to do this heavy class of work an opportunity to be profitably employed, instead of to a large extent idling away their time, becoming soft and unfitted for heavy work. Under such conditions they are not able, when released, to hold down a job or do an ordinary day's work. While nothing has been done in this matter yet, I

hope the day is not far distant when a prison farm will be established. If that is done, it will be in the best interests of the prisoners, of the community, and of the State. May I add a tribute to the splendid work of the members of the Indeterminate Sentences Board. They have done great work. The board comprises Messrs. Forman, McClure, and Badger, the last-mentioned being the Superintendent of the Fremantle Prison. Mr. McClure is the well-known Salvation Army officer, and Mr. Forman is a barrister of Fremantle. Within the last few weeks Mr. Forman has found that his professional duties preclude him from giving the attention necessary to his work as chairman of the board, and it is with much regret on the part of those interested in the work that his resignation has been received. We have been fortunate in securing another good man to fill the vacancy, and Mr. H. E. Moffin, who is also a resident of Fremantle, has accepted a position as a member of the board.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the nature of the colonial work you say the board has done?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The members of the board examine prisoners to determine whether a man shall be removed from one class to another, or whether he shall be transferred to the reformatory section.

Hon. P. Collier: No reform is possible when the prisoners are housed in one building at Fremantle.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: To an extent that is so, and therefore I believe it would be much better if we had a prison farm or some scheme to enable the prisoners to work outside in connection with reforestation or road making. I hope the hon. member agrees with that. When a prisoner is admitted to the gaol, he is placed in the intermediate class. If he shows improvement in his conduct, he is placed in the high class and subsequently may be transferred to the highest class. From the last-mentioned class, if his behaviour is what it should be, the prisoner may be transferred to the reformatory class. If a prisoner does not behave himself, he may be reduced to the lower class from the intermediate class. Regarding the Harbour and Light Department, the dredging work in connection with the Albany harbour has been completed, thus enabling deep draught vessels drawing up to 31ft. to berth at the new jetty. The construction of the Beadon Point jetty at Onslow is in hand, and, when completed, it will enable vessels to berth instead of having to unload into or load from lighters. It has been found necessary to provide a new launch for pilotage purposes at Wyndham, and a launch is now in course of construction at the State Implement Works. The boat may be completed by now seeing that the hull was exhibited at the Royal Show recently. Under the heading of "Migration," it may interest members to know that the cost of the selection and transport of migrants is borne entirely by the Commonwealth Government. The estimated cost to the Commonwealth respecting migrants

transported to Western Australia during the past twelve months was approximately £100,000. During that period 8,254 migrants were brought to Western Australia. Of that number 2,988 paid their own passage money, 1,192 were nominated by relatives or friends in the State, and 4,074 were selected. The capital brought to Western Australia by the nominated and selected migrants represented £135,365. The capital per head was nearly £23 15s. and the expense involved to the State per migrant was approximately £3. Under the heading of "Lunacy" a great deal might be said, for the subject is of vital interest. Mr. Trethowan gave some time to the consideration of methods employed in the Eastern States when he visited Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney recently. A visit was paid by Mr. Trethowan, accompanied by the Inspector General, to the Royal Park Mental Hospital, the Royal Park Receiving House, and the Mont Park Mental Hospital in Victoria. Referring to his visit, Mr. Trethowan states:—

The receiving house has accommodation for fifty, and is always full. There are also receiving houses at Ballarat (20 inmates), and Bendigo (10 inmates). There is no separate convalescent house, but Dr. Jones considers there should be one established. There are at the Royal Park Receiving House, 34 female patients, the balance being males. The staff consists of seven nurses and seven attendants, two cooks, and a hall porter. The work of the medical officer, head attendant, and the matron is done by the staff at the main institutions near by. At Mont Park, Victoria, there is a large establishment on 1,200 acres of land. A portion of the institution was handed over to the Defence Department, and when this is returned in the near future, it is proposed to close Kew and Yarra Bend and so increase the number of patients at Mont Park from about 650 to 1,500. A lady doctor is on the medical staff and Dr. Jones speaks highly of her work. She does not control any staff. A very fine block of nurses' quarters, to accommodate 64, has just been completed at a cost of £17,000. There is a length of private railway, three-quarters of a mile in length, connecting with the main line.

Mr. Trethowan writes about the receiving home at Enfield, South Australia, as follows—

It has accommodation for 44, and at the time of my visit contained 23 females and 18 males. The average period of detention was said to be five to six weeks. The institution has been in operation about 14 months. The cost was approximately £25,000. It consists of two wings, one for males and the other for females. The Inspector General states that a number of people are voluntarily entering the receiving home—with benefit to themselves and to the community—who would not enter an ordinary mental hospital except under compulsion.

Hon. members are aware that consideration is being given to the question of selecting a site for a mental reception home.

Mr. J. Thomson: We want to hear you say something about that.

Hon. P. Collier: We have been waiting all the afternoon for it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I had hoped to be able to give the House some definite information about the site. The question, however, has not yet been settled. On this subject I may inform members that no patient who has been certified to be insane will be permitted to enter such a home. It will be used exclusively for those whose condition suggests that there is a possibility of their being brought back to a normal state. It is the opinion of those qualified to express a view on the matter that the number going through the Hospital for the Insane will decrease as soon as the receiving home has been established. In connection with the Hospital for the Insane there exists a board of visitors, the members of which are very sincere and do a good deal of work. It is competent for any inmate of the hospital to appeal to the board for the consideration of his case, and whenever a request is made for the examination of a patient, that patient is brought before the board and the case is carefully considered. This board consists of Dr. Birmingham as chairman, Dr. McWhae, Mr. Darbyshire, Mr. Weir and Mrs. Casson. There is also an after-care committee. The members of this body are Mesdames Casson, Bradon, Dodd and Mann, and Misses Inglis, Eccles, McLean, Dr. Birmingham, Messrs. J. C. Morrison, Levy, Weir, Hodge and Barblett. This committee makes an appeal to the public occasionally and distributes sums of money amongst those patients who are released, that is, when they are in need of funds. In addition, the committee attends to the recreation of the patients in the way of providing entertainment. I trust that the committee will continue the good work that is being carried on, and that the public will respond when an appeal is made. During the past year 12 acres of the land occupied by the hospital at Claremont has been planted with fig trees. In this connection assistance has been given by Mr. S. R. Dawson of Dawson & Harrison, seedsmen, Mr. Wickens of the Agricultural Department, and Mr. Kerr, the farm manager at the asylum. I am assured by Mr. Wickens that the trees are a fine lot and are doing well. On the next occasion when sports are held at the asylum I hope that members will take the opportunity to visit the institution and note the fig plantation. This will mean, as the trees mature, that the inmates will have at least some fresh fruit. The greater number of the trees are of the fresh fig variety, but a few have been planted that will be suitable for drying. Of the Smyrna variety 28 trees have been planted. Those who are closely in touch with fig growing will know that the Smyrna tree will not

bear fruit unless a particular species of wasp is available.

Mr. McCallum: Have you got one for each tree?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: We have planted six Capri fig trees to carry the wasps.

Mr. Pickering: Do they really carry the wasps?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They do. This will be a subject of interest to members in the course of two or three years' time.

Mr. Johnston: The plantation will be very small—only 12 acres.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is still a block of land adjacent to the hospital that is available, should it be desired to extend these operations. The land is controlled by the hospital. Altogether 902 fig trees have been planted.

Capt. Carter: What are the odd two for?

Mr. C. C. Maley: Where is Adam?

Mr. Munsie: You will need to take care that the wasps do not eat the odd two trees.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: During last year a considerable improvement was effected in the hospital diet, by which the patients were able to have more roast beef. This was brought about by the installation of a baker's oven. Pork, which was occasionally supplied before, has been added as a regular item to the diet. This has been much appreciated. Extensive alterations have been made to the female ward, while improvements, recommended by the Royal Commission and calculated to add to the comfort of the patients, have been carried out. These are as follows:—Nurses' quarters, £7,500; conversion of workshops into male ward, £6,690; remodelling kitchen block, £1,830; conversion of isolation ward into wards for children, £2,290; providing better ventilation, £100; providing louvred openings to hospital wards, £100; conversion of engine room into workshop and sewing room, £400; conversion of sculleries into lavatories in hospital dormitories, £250; removal of divisional wards in airing courts, £300; a total of £19,460. The great demand that exists for bricks has prevented the carrying out of some of the works as speedily as we would have desired. The contractor has to take his turn with others and, consequently, in some instances there have been delays. A bowling green and two tennis courts for the use of the patients are in course of preparation and should be ready for the coming summer. An effort was made during the year to provide patients with fruit, and when the market was glutted it was possible to obtain it at a reduced price. In January, February, and March 304 cases and 11,197 lbs. of fruit and tomatoes were purchased and in June and July 245 sacks of oranges. A full staff of medical officers is now engaged. Dr. Anderson is in charge and with him are Dr. Bentley, Dr. Jarrett and Dr. Thomson. A dentist has been appointed and he is equipped with an up-to-date surgery. In con-

nection with State children and other forms of relief, Mr. Trethowan, while in the Eastern States, looked into these matters as well. There is in South Australia a very strict standard in regard to the quantity of goods supplied to each person. The board invariably dispenses its food relief in the form of rations, holding that few families are so situated that they cannot command some outside relief from relatives or sympathisers, and that this outside relief can meet clothing necessities and extras. The board allows one and a-half rations for two parents, one ration for a single parent or for a child over 14, and a half ration for each child under 14, with a special milk ration for babies. A ration comprises flour, meat, jam, sugar, rice, oatmeal, soup, and tea. The same quantity is issued throughout the State, although the cost may differ widely as between the metropolis and a remote locality. The board strongly favours the ration system as against money payments, claiming that it gives greater assurance that the children will receive sufficient food. In Adelaide the rations may cost about 6s. per week per person, but the cost varies largely according to prices. This is another argument in favour of the ration system. The dispensation of rations appears to be well organised. In Adelaide the department has its own store, stocked at Government contract rates, at which the recipient attends and presents the ration orders. This applies to all rations except meat, which is similarly dispensed at the Government Produce Department. Outside the metropolis the Destitute Board obtain tenders from local storekeepers, who supply direct to recipients in exchange for ration orders, the board paying on quarterly accounts rendered by the storekeeper. The prices usually are much below ordinary relief prices, and the money is thus made go further. The board gives no assistance to denominational or other orphanages. As for unemployment relief in South Australia, single men get nothing. Married men receive rations on production to the board of a certificate, renewed at weekly or shorter periods, from the Labour Bureau by each applicant that he is unemployed and that no employment is available for him. He is subjected to the usual examination and in doubtful cases a special investigation is made, or a certificate as to bona fide destitution is required from some reputable citizen. A married couple receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ rations, children of 14 years and over get none, but children under 14 receive a half ration each. No monetary relief is given. Hon. members are aware that all this is not the custom in Western Australia.

Mr. Mann: You do not intend to adopt it?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. Although I have great admiration for South Australia, I doubt whether the South Australian system is as good as ours. In Western Australia the State Children Department pays special attention to adoptions, of which, last year, there were 71, with 20 more in training. Excellent homes are found for the

children. Since the inception of the system 637 children have thus been placed. The department exercises great care before allowing a baby to be adopted. Only this morning the secretary told me that, last week, he had arranged for three adoptions. In one instance the head of the house was receiving £10 weekly, and in both the others the income was ample to ensure a good home for the baby. The department is not interested merely in getting rid of the babies, because there is a good demand for babies.

Mr. McCallum: Why, is the market short?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The department is interested in seeing to it that the home to which the baby is going is a proper one. Also the department is concerned in enforcing payment by the relatives of children committed to industrial schools or reformatories. The number of children receiving State subsidy last year decreased from 1,302 to 1,110. The mortality rate is very low. Of 478 children boarded out with foster mothers, only four died, the percentage being .86 as compared with .51 last year. It speaks volumes for the care taken, both by the department in the selection of the foster mothers, and by the foster mothers themselves, whose allowance is not sufficient to render the business entirely profitable to them. Among the 220 children boarded out privately with licensed foster mothers, there was one death, or less than one-half of one per cent. The foster mothers are not only sympathetic, but highly competent also. The probation officer, Mr. Bulley, is doing useful work. During the year he was provided with a motor cycle, thus enabling him to cover more ground. As the result of his attention, wayward boys and girls are stimulated to the leading of better lives, and so are kept out of the industrial schools and reformatories. One lad, barely 20 years of age, has taken up land and is doing very well. The improvement is general both as to boys and to girls. We have now a smaller number of girls in the reformatory school at Gosnells than we have had previously. To-day there are 18 at Gosnells, and seven at the Methodist Home.

Mr. Pickering: How do you account for that?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I attribute some of the improvement to Mr. Bulley. He makes it his business to interview a wayward child and endeavour to lead it to a better life.

Mr. Pickering: But is there a lesser number going into the orphanages?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. Whether that fine position will be maintained, remains to be seen.

Hon. P. Collier: The number going before the children's court is increasing. If a child flies a kite, it is an offence for which he is taken before the children's court.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The earnestness of the officers of the department is an outstanding feature, and the result to the State is distinctly good. Their number is

decreasing and, consequently, the expense is less. We are indebted to those officers for the work they are doing.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [5.58]: I congratulate the Colonial Secretary on his eloquent address on this somewhat prosaic subject. He has given to the House an analytical dissertation on the various departments under his control. I should like to congratulate him also on the new slogan he has invented, as reported in this morning's newspaper. We see that, instead of the three S's, "Sin, Sand, and Sorrow," the Colonial Secretary now substitutes, "Settlement, Success, and Sir James Mitchell." I appreciate the Minister's modesty, but I really think he should have included another S—Sampson.

Hon. P. Collier: And a fifth—"Scrutator."

Mr. PICKERING: It is important that we should note these new slogans invented by the Colonial Secretary. The discussion on the Colonial Secretary's Estimates this year covers a much wider range than most members expected, from various types of blanket to varying species of fish and of figs. I have had some experience of the Smyrna fig, and of others the Minister referred to. I would recommend the Colonial Secretary, before engaging in any wholesale planting of Smyrna figs, to go slowly and experiment. I was particularly interested in his references to immigration, with which subject he dealt very fully. If there is anything that is of outstanding importance to Western Australia, it is the question of immigration. The Premier, in a speech at the Savoy Hotel last night, forecasted that in the next century the population of Australia would total 100,000,000.

Mr. Chesson: At what time was the speech made?

Mr. PICKERING: I should like to think that his forecast will be realised, but it must bring home to us the great importance of this department controlled by the Colonial Secretary. When we remember the slow rate at which we are receiving migrants, it seems very doubtful whether the forecast will be realised in the period mentioned. I have seen a fair number of group settlers in my electorate and have come into contact with others through the New Settlers' League, and am satisfied that, since the "Bendigo" complement, the type of migrant has considerably improved and the improvement is being maintained. If we are to look forward to such a big influx of migrants, is it reasonable to expect that the type we are getting can be maintained? If we wish to realise so great an increase in our population, it may be necessary to extend our operations outside the British Empire. Western Australia has a variety of climates and it may be well for the Minister to consider this phase of the question. At one of the monthly meetings of the New Settlers' League recently, Mr. De Pedro, a Spaniard, who runs a wine saloon at the corner of Hay and Barrack-streets, attended and pointed out difficul-

ties that had fallen to his lot, consequent upon the advertising of the opportunities offered immigrants by this State. The advertisements had reached Spain and a certain number of Spaniards landed here. No preparation had been made for their reception, and Mr. De Pedro was regarded as the one man in Western Australia that could assist them. To assist them cost him a good deal, and he informed us that he could not look forward complacently to an influx of Spaniards unless preparations were made by the Government for their reception. The Spanish settlement, situated within eight miles of Russellton, is often quoted as an illustration of what excellent settlers the Spaniards make, and my personal knowledge of those people leads me to believe they would make excellent agricultural settlers. They are prepared to work hard and live frugally, and undertake many kinds of work that our own people would hesitate to do. If we are unable to obtain sufficient migrants from the British Isles, it would be well to look for others from those countries that can supply men of the industrious type.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I hope you do not mean the industrial type in England. The inference is there.

Mr. PICKERING: I intended no reflection in that direction. We may not be able to get the large number of immigrants indicated by the Premier if we look only to England for them. During the last 12 or 18 months, I have seen a good many of the migrants from England and Scotland that have gone to the group settlements, and they have been an excellent type indeed. There is no question they will make good. But there are some portions of Western Australia where people accustomed to hotter climates would probably do better than would our own people. It has been suggested that to grow crops in the North-West, Spaniards and Italians may be employed more profitably than our own people. I have not sufficient knowledge of the climatic conditions of the North-West to deal with the question, but if it is so, provided we can get the right type of Spanish, Italian or French migrants to take up areas in that part of the State and develop industries that prove difficult for our own labour, it would be a wise step to encourage them. Some difficulty is being experienced by migrants during the early stages of their residence in Western Australia. I am referring not to group settlers, but to ordinary migrants that are coming here under the present scheme. A newcomer may be sent out to a job, but it is not everyone that is satisfied with his first employer; nor is it likely that every employer would be satisfied with the first man he employed. Sometimes migrants who thus leave a job are returned to Perth, and some special provision should be made for the Immigrants' Home at Fremantle to receive them during any temporary idleness ensuing consequent upon the loss of their employment. I am in accord with the Premier's policy of introducing married men with large families. I hope this policy

will be persisted in, because no migrants will do so well as those that come out as children with their parents. They will have less prejudice to overcome than will the adults. There has been some difficulty, too, in connection with migrants that have come out in advance of their families. I received several letters from men in my electorate asking whether some provision could not be made to bring out their families under a system of free passages or of loan. I wrote to the Premier and he replied that it was a Federal matter. Then I wrote to Mr. Prowse, M.H.R., and asked him to submit the question to the Prime Minister. A few weeks ago I received a reply from the Acting Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department through Mr. Prowse. I passed a copy of the letter to the "West Australian" in the hope that it would publish it or so much of it as was considered interesting, so that all migrants might know the conditions obtaining. Unfortunately, I have been unable to trace its publication in the "West Australian," and so I have had copies typed and distributed amongst group settlers in my electorate. As there are group settlements in other parts of the State, and other migrants whom it is impossible for me to reach, I intend to read the letter in the hope that it will be recorded and disseminated amongst those interested:—

25th September, 1923. With reference to your letter of the 17th September enclosing a communication from Mr. W. G. Pickering, M.L.A., Perth, regarding the question of assisting the wives and families of migrants on group settlements in Western Australia to come to Australia, I desire to inform you the immigration authorities advise that migrants who have come to Australia under the British Government's free passage scheme in advance of their families may nominate their wives, sons under 16 years of age, and daughters under 18 years of age for free passages, provided that (a) application is made within two years of the nominator's departure from the United Kingdom and (b) particulars of such wives and/or dependents were furnished by the nominator when he himself applied for a free passage to Australia. In regard to the wives and children of migrants who did not come to Australia under the free passage scheme, loans will be arranged in respect of the passages of such relatives on their being nominated through the Immigration officer in the State concerned. The immigration officials point out that Mr. Pickering appears to be under the impression that differential treatment in regard to passage money concessions has been granted to migrants proceeding to Western Australia with their families as compared with those who proceed in advance of their families, whereas such is not the case. It is suggested that the misapprehension may have arisen by reason of the fact that certain migrants, being ex-service men, who applied for free passages before the 31st December, 1921, obtained such free passages, whilst other migrants who were not eligible for free pas-

sages came to Australia under the assisted passage scheme. The immigration authorities state that it is part of the policy of the Commonwealth to assist in every possible way the reunion of families, and if any of the group settlers referred to by Mr. Pickering nominate their wives and children through the State Immigration Officer, Perth (who is being communicated with on this matter), the fullest consideration will be given to their cases.

It is desirable that this information be made common knowledge.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Home immigration office told me that 12 months ago.

Mr. PICKERING: I could not get that information from the department here, and the hon. member did not inform us of the position.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Anyone can get it.

Mr. PICKERING: It is not known; otherwise I would not have had several communications on the subject from English and Scotch migrants. It is necessary that those people be informed of the facts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The authorities lend half the amount.

Mr. PICKERING: They say they will grant free passages under certain conditions. If the migrants know of the conditions before they leave England, they can comply with them and so avail themselves of the concession.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That scheme was closed in 1921.

Mr. PICKERING: This may be the continued policy of the Commonwealth Government. In any case, it should be the policy of the State Government to reunite these families without expense to the portion of the family left in England. We want married people with their families in this State and the Premier, in emphasising that point last night, went a long way towards illustrating the correct policy of migration for Western Australia.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. PICKERING: Before tea I was dealing with the question of immigration, and more particularly with free passages for families of immigrants. I said I thought the policy of bringing out families was the best that could be inaugurated. It is an excellent policy, and I hope it will be persisted in.

Mr. Underwood: How did you get here?

Mr. PICKERING: I paid my passage out. The future development of Western Australia depends almost entirely upon the expansion of our primary industries, and it is essential that those who migrate here should be capable of taking part in that expansion. I hope care will be taken to ensure that as many migrants as possible are diverted into that channel, where their presence is so essential to the future prosperity of the State. There is a great lack of skilled labour in various trades, and every effort should be made to educate and train our own people in those trades to

avoid the necessity of bringing others here to fill the places that should be filled by our own people. The New Settlers' League of the Ugly Men's Association has been of great assistance to the Government in their policy. It has done yeoman service in placing migrants as they arrived here. The funds devoted to the purpose by the Commonwealth have been quite inadequate.

Mr. Underwood: You want some more money.

Mr. PICKERING: It may be necessary to make available more funds. Any expenditure that leads to more immigrants being placed on the land is wise expenditure.

Mr. Underwood: There is nothing for Marble Bar.

Mr. PICKERING: If the hon. member wants immigrants there, we shall be only too glad to provide them.

Mr. Underwood: We are not worrying about them. We are getting on all right as we are.

Mr. PICKERING: According to the hon. member, the people in Marble Bar are content to go on in the same old way.

Mr. Underwood: And we are doing well.

Mr. PICKERING: Apparently they do not need any better education or better development, and do not need improvement in their representation in this House. We may say that Pilbara is finished. There is scope in my electorate and in the South-West for a great deal of development and increased population. The population must be increased.

Mr. Underwood: And there must be more financial calls upon the Government.

Mr. PICKERING: It is necessary to restrict the influx of immigrants at certain periods.

Mr. Underwood: You want a close season for immigrants.

Mr. PICKERING: At certain seasons we can absorb a larger number of people than at other times, for employment is available then for all. At another season of the year it is exceedingly difficult to absorb newcomers, and during that period there should be a slackening off in the number of arrivals. Great difficulty was experienced last winter in placing those who came here, and a slackening off at this time would tend to assist the Government in their policy. The country owes a great debt to the farming community, who have done such excellent work in finding employment for migrants. To them in a large measure is due the success of the immigration policy. The Colonial Secretary dealt with the various departments under his control, and with some of them fairly fully. He dealt, for instance, with the Claremont Asylum. Credit is due to him and his department for the apparent evenness with which the asylum is being run. It is refreshing to me not to be getting letters from inmates protesting against the conditions under which they are living, or against alleged injustices that are being meted out to them.

Hon. P. Collier: I can give you a few of them. I received two to-day.

Mr. McCallum: They have given you up.

Mr. PICKERING: This is almost the first session I remember when there have not been attempts to appoint select committees or royal commissions to inquire into the working of this institution. This is evidence that matters are improving there.

Hon. P. Collier: If there is any improvement it is due to the hard fighting put up in this House, and to the work of royal commissions.

Mr. Underwood: They are tired of making requests.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Will you not give the Minister any credit?

Hon. P. Collier: No!

Mr. PICKERING: It is evident there is some improvement in the asylum, otherwise we should have heard more of it in the House. If there is an improvement there, it is a matter for congratulation to those who took part in the debates which resulted in the appointment of the select committees and royal commissions referred to. Every member will be delighted to know that the conditions at this institution have so greatly improved.

Hon. P. Collier: Where is the evidence of that?

Mr. PICKERING: It is inferential evidence, but we also have the assurances of the Minister.

The Colonial Secretary: It is the improved diet, and the new buildings.

Mr. PICKERING: The Minister says that everything in the garden is lovely, and that the diet has been improved.

Hon. P. Collier: The patients are being given offal now.

Mr. PICKERING: A fig plantation has been started there, and everything apparently is going well. We are all glad to know that there is a great improvement in our gaols, and that the diet is better for the prisoners. We have that assurance from the Minister.

Hon. P. Collier: Assurances from the Minister! We had an assurance last week that sandalwood could only be handled by a monopoly, but we have a different assurance to-day. These assurances are not worth the paper they are written on.

Mr. PICKERING: We are told that there is a great improvement in the State Children Department, and that the number of inmates in the reformatories has decreased. I am also glad to know that the work of the officials in touch with this important department has resulted in such an improvement, as is evidenced by the lack of complaint in regard to other reformatories that are conducted apart from Government control. There are several charitable institutions that cater for this particular work, and very little is heard to their detriment to-day. We may infer from that and the Minister's statement that the conditions have greatly improved.

Mr. Underwood: That is an incorrect deduction.

Mr. PICKERING: The improvement may be due to many causes. When we have such a glowing report of the operations of the departments under the Colonial Secretary, and we find so little evidence to disprove the statements of the Minister, the Government are to be congratulated.

Hon. P. Collier: These reports are put up by the officers responsible for their own administration.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [7.43]: I listened attentively to the Colonial Secretary when he wandered over the political atlas. He first of all discussed aborigines.

The Colonial Secretary: The departmental atlas.

Mr. McCALLUM: He dived into the deep waters of the ocean and discussed fisheries. He then went on to deal with friendly societies. Next he went into gaol, and told us what happened there. When he came out, he talked about lighthouses and harbours. After discussing immigration he wandered into lunacy, and then proceeded to talk about stargazing from the Observatory. Finally he dealt with State children. I wonder how much more enlightened we are now than before he started. We have learned that the aborigines are to be supplied with different coloured blankets, that the Fisheries Department advise that there are several different species of crabs, that wire fences are wanted to keep opossums in, that we are to have a new Friendly Societies Bill, that the prisons and the gaols have been given a different diet, that a new hull has been built for a launch to go to Wyndham, that £100,000 has been paid by the Commonwealth in immigration fares, that 902 fig trees have been planted and wasps introduced at the Claremont Asylum, and that the inspector of the State Children Department has been given a motor bicycle. That is about the sum total of the information supplied to us by the Minister. The last speaker said that we had been given many assurances by the Minister regarding things that were happening or about to happen, and he accepted those assurances as indicating that everything is in order. Let me refer to one assurance given by the Minister to the House, and test the position. Let me express my extreme surprise that he has made no reference to the report of the select committee which proved that assurance to be totally unreliable. Some time ago he declared most emphatically that no frozen meat had been supplied to the departments under his control. That declaration having been proved incorrect by the select committee, I naturally thought he would take the first opportunity to let the House know what he intended to do. My sole object in moving for the select committee was to secure a better inspection of meat supplied to Government institutions, particularly those in the Claremont district. But from the outset the Minister declined to treat the matter seriously.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not right in saying that.

Mr. McCALLUM: I will show that I am right. On the 31st July I asked the Colonial Secretary—

1, Is he aware that frozen meat is being substituted for fresh meat in supplies to Government institutions under the provisions of a contract that stipulates and pays for fresh meat? 2, Is he aware that, so late as Saturday week, some thousands of pounds of frozen meat were supplied to Government institutions under the fresh meat contract? 3, Will he take steps either by an inspection similar to that now operating over meat supplied to the Wooroloo Sanatorium, or by some other equally effective method, to ensure that the State receives the article which the contractor is paid to supply?

The Minister's replies were—

1 and 2, No. 3, Answered by Nos. 1 and 2.

Is not that treating the matter lightly? The Minister went even further. Speaking on the Address-in-reply, he challenged the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) and myself to produce evidence of the supply of frozen meat. Then he went further still, calling upon the member for Hannans and myself to withdraw our statements and apologise for them. The Minister for Agriculture admitted that chilled meat had been supplied to the departments, but the Colonial Secretary subsequently declared that admission to be a mistake. According to the Colonial Secretary, it was meat out of the cool chamber. Thus he even contradicted his leader. On the Address-in-reply he said—

If it can be proved that frozen meat has been so supplied, further steps will be taken.

What further steps have been taken?

Mr. Marshall: Backward steps.

Mr. McCALLUM: On the Address-in-reply the Colonial Secretary further stated—

Drastic steps will be taken if it be found that frozen meat has been knowingly received at either of these homes.

What drastic steps have been taken? Has the Minister done anything up to date? The case was proved to the satisfaction of every member of the select committee. To-night the Minister has not even stated that he is making further inquiries. Members on this side secured information that the taxpayers were not getting a fair deal for their money, and we drew the Minister's attention to the matter by question. The reply we received, really the reply of a civil servant, amounts to an insult, and misleads the House. Then a select committee take evidence on oath and bring out the facts. Is the position which has been disclosed by the investigation to be allowed to continue? Are civil servants to do as they like and deceive Parliament? The select committee's report practically makes no comments; it says to the Minister, "These are the facts; what do you propose to do?"

The Colonial Secretary: We are not dealing with the report at the moment.

Mr. McCALLUM: But the Minister dealt with the departments to which the report

refers. He should have made an explanation. He even went so far as to say that the diet at the Hospital for the Insane had improved. Does he consider that supplying bullocks' livers and hearts and ox cheeks to make beef tea for sick patients is an improvement in the diet? What wonderfully strong beef tea can be made from hearts and livers to build up sick men, sick women, and even sick children! And such offal has been supplied under a contract stipulating first-grade fresh meat. Further, the select committee's report shows that whereas frozen meat from Wyndham had been sold to private persons at 3d. per lb., that same frozen meat was sold back to Government departments for as much as 7d. per lb. in some instances.

The Colonial Secretary: If we were to discuss that matter now, how could members see the report?

Mr. McCALLUM: Every member has a copy of the report. The Minister has not looked at what is in front of him.

The Colonial Secretary: I have seen the report, but I was not aware that copies of it had been distributed.

Mr. Marshall: Did you expect to keep it dark?

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister practically staked his reputation for veracity as to the statements made by the member for Hannans and myself being incorrect.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister backed the veracity of all his officers.

The Colonial Secretary: I did not go into heroics over the matter.

Hon. P. Collier: But you were very emphatic.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister called upon members to withdraw and apologise.

The Colonial Secretary: Did I ask you to withdraw and apologise?

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes, myself and the member for Hannans. And now the Minister sits dumb. Does he consider no further inquiry or debate necessary?

The Colonial Secretary: I think it would be better if you left this matter until the proper place for it is reached.

Mr. McCALLUM: The proper place is when the departments affected are under discussion.

The Colonial Secretary: The consideration of the report is on the Notice Paper.

Mr. McCALLUM: The right place is the first opportunity. The Minister should seize the first opportunity to set himself right in the eyes of the public. Has any improvement yet been made in the inspection? The Minister ought not to have delayed one day in improving the inspection. As regards the supply of meat to Perth institutions, the select committee found the inspection very effective, but as regards meat supplied to Claremont and Fremantle institutions, they found there was practically no inspection, the institution officials, very few of whom are judges of the quality of meat according to the contract, being left to accept or reject. In Claremont and Fremantle there are health

inspectors, and with very little trouble it could be arranged that those officers should see the meat before it is despatched to the institutions.

The Colonial Secretary: All that will be considered in connection with the report.

Mr. McCALLUM: It should have been considered immediately the report was presented. Has the Minister sat back all this time and done nothing? Has any notice yet been taken of the select committee's report? Has any one of the officers who gave misleading answers been called upon to explain? Has any inquiry been made of the contractor regarding his action in supplying commodities not up to the conditions of contract? The Minister has merely told us that there has been an improvement in the diet at the Hospital for Insane. If the improvement is that which the select committee discovered, it is an improvement in the wrong direction. Unquestionably, large quantities of both frozen mutton and frozen beef have been supplied in place of fresh. Frozen mutton has been imported from the Eastern States and supplied in place of fresh mutton from our local growers. I repeat also that frozen meat from Wyndham, which the Government had sold to the contractor at 3d. per lb., was sold back to the Government at from 5d. to 7d. per lb., as shown by the prices in the schedules to the meat contracts. That is what has been happening. The Minister should make some statement to the Committee before the Estimates are passed. We are now asked to approve of Supply for some of the departments affected by the select committee's report. Are these Estimates to be passed by Parliament without any explanation being received from the officers who furnished the Minister with information which was not in accordance with facts? Had the select committee not been appointed, the position disclosed in the evidence and the report, would in all probability have continued. The contractor would still be getting the better of the public and the patients and sick men, women and children, who should receive the most nourishing food possible, would still have beef tea made from bullocks' livers and hearts! That is a nice state of affairs! Yet the Minister apparently takes no notice of it. There is no word of protest. The Estimates are placed before us and we have no explanation of this important matter. The Minister was so emphatic that he called upon members on the Opposition side of the House to withdraw and apologise! He staked his word that no frozen meat had been supplied to the institutions. On previous occasions, I have complained of Ministers giving members misleading replies to questions in the House. Those replies are considered smart. They are framed in order to deny members information; they are supposed to be tricky. The next morning a snigger goes round the Government departments because hon. members have been tricked by smart men who have deceived Parliament.

Who is governing this country? Are we to look after the affairs of the State, or are they to be left to public servants who will frame false statements with the object of misleading the public and deceiving members of Parliament?

The Minister for Works: You are not justified in saying that.

Mr. McCALLUM: I do say it.

The Minister for Works: I know you do.

Mr. McCALLUM: What is the use of saying that one should be afraid to declare what he thinks? There is the truth; why should it not be stated?

Mr. Marshall: Lawson did not mislead the Minister for Works regarding the two returned soldiers!

The Minister for Works: Who?

Mr. Marshall: Lawson misled you.

Mr. McCALLUM: Ministers cannot be expected to run round in order to examine the accuracy of replies framed for them by civil servants, but I hope this will be a lesson to the Minister in charge of these Estimates. In future, before he accepts statements framed for him by men who have been proved on this occasion to have deceived the Minister and to have attempted to deceive Parliament, he should be careful. These officers attempted to throw dust in the eyes of the public in the hope that what was going on would not be discovered. Yet the Minister bolsters up these statements with a challenge to Opposition members to withdraw and apologise. Now the select committee has backed up the statements to which the Minister took exception.

The Colonial Secretary: I said I felt sure you were wrong and I did feel sure.

Mr. McCALLUM: You challenged the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) and myself; you demanded that we should withdraw and apologise for the statements we made. In view of what has been proved, we should now call upon the Minister to withdraw and apologise to us.

Mr. Munsie: I was going to ask for that.

Mr. McCALLUM: What will the Minister do in view of the altered circumstances?

Mr. J. H. Smith: He should do something quick and lively.

Mr. McCALLUM: Are those officers to get off scot free? They hold responsible positions, and are they to go unchallenged? Are they not to be called upon for an explanation? If not, we may as well hand over the control of public affairs to civil servants alone.

Mr. J. H. Smith: He will just whitewash them, that is all.

Mr. McCALLUM: They will not get whitewashing from me.

Mr. J. H. Smith: They will from the Minister.

Mr. McCALLUM: These men should stand up to their responsibilities. When information is sought, members want to know the truth. We will not be deceived and accept this sort of thing: "No. 1, No; Nos. 2 and 3, answered by No. 1." That is a nice sort of answer to frame to a series of ques-

tions! The object of that sort of thing is to prevent inquiries, to choke off members, and to stall off information. In effect Government officials say: "Keep off the grass. There is no need to inquire into this matter; this is our job." There would have been a considerable financial saving to the department if payment had been made for the frozen meat supplied at frozen meat rates instead of at the contract rate for fresh meat. The contractor himself admitted that the difference between the rates for fresh meat and frozen meat would average about 3d. per lb. To one institution alone he supplied 900 lbs. of meat per day. This shows that the taxpayers have been robbed to that extent.

The Minister for Works: At that rate it represented £11 per day.

Mr. McCALLUM: That refers to one institution only. There were three being supplied.

The Colonial Secretary: Do you suggest that 900 lbs. of frozen meat per day was supplied?

Mr. McCALLUM: The evidence shows that on some days the whole of the supply was frozen and on some days two-thirds of the meat supplied was frozen.

Mr. Munsie: On the day the Minister answered my question, the whole of the meat supplied was frozen!

Mr. McCALLUM: When I speak of 900 lbs. of meat being supplied per day, I refer to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. As to the meat supplied to the Old Men's Home and the Training College, the contractor denied the statements made regarding the supply of frozen meat. When a man like Mr. Rooney comes before the committee and supplies a typewritten statement showing the quantities of frozen meat received on certain days, the percentage of frozen meat to fresh meat, the weights and so on, he cannot be considered an interested party. In the face of that, the contractor denied that he had supplied frozen meat of any description under any circumstances there. I look on this as a most serious position. We seek information by way of questions from the Minister and answers are given to us which prove wide of the mark, and yet, the Minister backs up his officials and challenges us to withdraw our statements and demands apologies! If the Minister would not accept our statements without demanding a withdrawal and an apology, to what extent is he prepared to go regarding the men who answered those questions we put to him, answers, in view of later disclosures, which make him look unreliable in the eyes of the public? The Minister was made to give answers which had no foundation in fact. What will he do with the men responsible? Are they to go unchallenged? The Minister purported to put the correct position before the public and yet his statement has been proved inaccurate. I am surprised that we have had no statement from the Minister to-night as to what steps he has taken in view of the false position in which he has

been placed. I trust that before these Estimates are passed we shall have some explanation from the Minister as to what he proposes to do. If I were in his position I would regard it as a very serious matter. I would not like to be in a Ministerial position and to find myself giving false information to Parliament. I would want some prompt explanation from officers who put me in such a position, and they would not do it a second time.

The Minister for Works: They might do it a second time, but you would deal with them.

Mr. McCALLUM: They would not get the opportunity to attempt it a second time.

Mr. Latham: You would deal with them the first time.

Mr. McCALLUM: I would put them where they would not have the opportunity to do so a second time.

Mr. Underwood: By the time you have been in Cabinet and dealt with a few questions, you will know a little different.

Mr. McCALLUM: I hope that when I am called upon to give answers in the House, I will not find myself misled regarding the information I have to place before Parliament. It is different as between man and man. When it is a question as between individuals, the responsibility can be allocated accordingly. When dealing with public business before Parliament, and officials are found going to the extent of deceiving their Minister and Parliament, it is altogether a more serious matter.

The Colonial Secretary: You do not suggest that the officers wilfully deceived?

Mr. McCALLUM: I will tell the Minister privately what I think.

The Colonial Secretary: Tell us now.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the Minister wants to know what I think about it, I will tell him.

Mr. Munsie: The Minister would not believe you before.

The Colonial Secretary: I did not know.

Hon. P. Collier: You refused to believe him then.

The Colonial Secretary: It is better to say straight out now what you mean.

Mr. McCALLUM: My attitude is this: The Minister challenged our statements. We have now presented facts. What does he propose to do? The Minister remains dumb. He has taken no action. We did not comment in our report, but merely presented facts.

Hon. P. Collier: The next move is with the Minister.

Mr. McCALLUM: We made a couple of recommendations as to what we thought should be done, but we let the Minister down lightly. We gave him the facts and left him to take the necessary action. The Minister has not even told us that he has taken any notice of the select committee's report. Was our time and energy on that select committee wasted? He has not suggested that he has read the report, let alone considered it. The only information we have is that he says the diet at the asylum has improved. There are two most serious points—the substitution of frozen meat for fresh meat and the supply of livers and

hearts for beef tea. This position arose only because of the lack of effective inspection.

The Colonial Secretary: Do you think they wilfully deceived?

Mr. Marshall: Oh, no! They are too honest.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am not so unsophisticated as to believe that such a state of affairs can go on for so long without somebody knowing all about it. I do think there are some people in the Government service who knew about it.

The Colonial Secretary: I hope you do not think the officers wilfully deceived.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have not much doubt about the officers knowing of it.

The Colonial Secretary: I am glad you have some doubt.

Mr. McCALLUM: I do not think it could go on for so long without anyone knowing about it. I would not have taken any further steps beyond asking my question if the Minister had said he had made inquiries and found that, practically, there was no inspection at Claremont, and in consequence he had made arrangements for an effective inspection in future. Instead of that, the Minister implied that it was some jealousy between traders that was prompting me to move in the matter. If he had said he was prepared to establish a proper system of inspection, I would have been satisfied. Now members, generally, want to see that inspection established and so, too, does the country. Moreover, the contractors who gave evidence told us they would welcome such an inspection. There would be no difficulty in establishing it, because expert inspectors are available in Claremont. The committee further suggested that when Wyndham meat was available alternative tenders should be invited for frozen and fresh meat, so that if the frozen meat were suitable, the department should have the advantage of the difference in price. Before passing these Lunacy and Old Men's Home Estimates we should hear from the Minister what he proposes to do in respect of the select committee's report.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (Piilbara) [8.17]: At this stage I have no desire to go into the question of frozen versus fresh meat. I may deal with that later, when we come to the Wyndham meat works in the Estimates of the State Trading Concerns. Touching questions and answers in the House, a member wanting information rarely asks a question. When he asks a question, generally it is to embarrass the Government.

Mr. Pickering: Speak for yourself.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Personally I ask very few questions in the House. Should I want information, I apply to either the Minister or the permanent head of the department. But if I want to bring something before the public notice I may ask a question; or, of course, if I want to advertise my activity and get a notice in the Press, I then ask a question.

Mr. Richardson: Yes, that is the point.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Those who have been in Cabinet recognise questions from those several points of view. It is not fair to blame the officers for the replies, because Cabinet frequently alters the information given. The most unreliable method of obtaining information is to ask a question in the House.

Mr. Pickering: The most unsatisfactory method.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course it is. The House is not the place in which to ask for information.

Mr. Richardson: And the member asking the question knows that.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Of course he does. I was much impressed by the Colonial Secretary's reading of his officers' reports. I have had the privilege of putting these Estimates through the House on, I think, four occasions, but never yet have I had the temerity to simply read what the officers put up to me. I did not think any member of Parliament could bring himself to do that. Yet to-night we have had the Colonial Secretary simply reading to us the notes supplied to him by his officers.

Hon. P. Collier: Glowing reports about their own work!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They are always glowing. I would say to the Leader of the Opposition that if he had to write up his own work that work would not look too bad.

Hon. P. Collier: From my own standpoint, no.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: But when we get a Minister who reads that sort of stuff to Parliament as a speech, it is a little over the fence. The Colonial Secretary read to us what they have saved at the Carrolup native settlement. They closed up Carrolup, a very good station embracing 2,000 or 3,000 acres of good land, and the natives have been shifted to Mogumber, or the Moore River, where there is scarcely an acre of good land.

Mr. Marshall: Quite right. It is a disgrace. I have seen it. There are not five acres of good land there.

The Minister for Agriculture: What do you call good land?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Land on which the natives can grow produce.

The Minister for Agriculture: Do they want to grow it?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: They did grow it at Carrolup, good wheat crops, grown under white supervision. That cannot be done on the Moore River.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Is that in the Irwin electorate?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: No, it is in the Moore electorate. Carrolup, a good station entirely self-supporting, has been abandoned, and now they are trying to make a station on impossible land.

Mr. Marshall: On impossible sand!

The Colonial Secretary: The health of the natives is better up there.

Hon. P. Collier: That is another tale.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Did you get that glowing report, too? Now I wish to refer to

the remarks made by the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) who said "We want more funds for the Ugly Men."

Mr. Marshall: He is qualified to speak, anyhow.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If we have the country on which to put migrants, and if this be a good country to come to, we do not want any Ugly Men.

Hon. P. Collier: We want pretty women instead.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The migrants could bring the pretty women with them. But why this organisation of Ugly Men?

The Minister for Agriculture: Why not?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If the country can absorb the migrants, bring them here; if the country cannot absorb them, leave them where they are. But why should we be spending money on the Ugly Men?

Mr. Lambert: They are doing very well.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If they were all like me—

The Minister for Agriculture: There would be no ugly men.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: If a migrant coming to this country cannot get absorbed without all this rubbish and expenditure, then the country cannot stand it. When I first came to the country we had no Ugly Men.

Mr. Lutey: There was one when you arrived.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: When a country is able to absorb migrants, it requires no adventitious aids. Of all the world, the country that can get immigrants to-day is the country that treats all applicants for entrance most drastically, and if they are over their quota practically puts them into gaol and sends them back—that is the United States of America. If the country is all right, it can absorb migrants without all this expenditure on Ugly Men, on Trades Hall Vigilance Committees, and on pretty women, the council of whatever it is.

Mrs. Cowan: The Women's Auxiliary Council.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Yes, that's it. If the country can absorb migrants without any of these organisations, it is all right; if not, then steady up on immigration. But to give a few people who call themselves Ugly Men money to spend, is wrong.

Hon. P. Collier: Last year it cost £546 for motor cars for the New Settlers' League.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Exactly. If the Government departments cannot place migrants, we are not warranted in voting money to any outside bodies to do the work of the departments. We have to admit that our departments have failed.

Mr. Lambert: Surely you would not discount voluntary assistance!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am not. This is not voluntary assistance, when a member of the House declares that we should vote more money to the Ugly Men.

The Minister for Agriculture: How much more service do they give than they are paid for?

Mr. UNDERWOOD: We should not vote a penny to them. If they like to do the work, let them do it. I have done good work without being paid for it.

Mr. Money: They can do the work better than can the department.

Mr. Lambert: And more cheaply.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: When the settlement comes, when the sustenance allowance of 10s. a day stops, the migrants are not going to cut very much ice.

Mr. Pickering: Yes, they are.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: The same hon. member also said he had heard no proposal this session for a select committee or Royal Commission on the Hospital for the Insane and, therefore, he assumed that everything was all right down there. There is such a thing as fashion. For a time it becomes the fashion to have pug dogs, or crinolines, or short skirts. In this House it becomes the fashion to wear blue and white neckties, or to continue harping on one string for some time. When the string becomes worn out, there are no more inquiries. That is why there are no inquiries regarding the asylum, not that things there are all right. We get tired of one string, and the string of appointing select committees and royal commissions on the asylum has got past enjoyment.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There have been only two since I have been in the House.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Because I did not speak on the North-West Department it may be thought I am satisfied with it. I did not speak because I am absolutely and utterly tired of talking on the rotten thing. The fact that I did not speak must not be taken as proof that I am satisfied.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is not quite right. You had an important engagement that night.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I have little more to say. The member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson) may be speaking. With him I agree in the protest against establishing a receiving home on any of the reserves on the water front of the Swan River.

Mr. Lambert: Hear! Hear!

Mrs. COWAN (West Perth) [8.32]: On many questions concerning the women, the Women's Home and the Old Men's Home, the Colonial Secretary has been sympathetic and helpful. His remarks about the visitors' committee show he has been fully apprised of the very valuable work the committee have done, and he must be in sympathy with their work, or he would not have spoken of them and of the after-care committee as he has done. The work of those two committees has been admirable, and has certainly helped to improve the conditions of the people in the asylum.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We want to keep people out of the asylum.

Mrs. COWAN: Good has been done regarding the care of the mentally deficient children, and the Minister has been extremely sympathetic. But more remains to be done, and I feel sure that when the Minister has had

longer experience, he will realise, as many of us do, that this is one of the most important questions confronting the community. It means so much to the future of the nation, and I would like to see the Government make a much deeper study of the question. The Minister tells us he is still thinking of the proposal to spend £50,000 or £60,000 on a home for convalescents, and for a detention place for the mentally afflicted. It is a great pity that sufficient study is not given to this question so that everyone, more especially Governments, who have been handling such tremendous sums in what seems to be a futile way, might realise the best course to adopt. It is a great mistake to spend £50,000 or £60,000 merely to deal at the wrong end with a problem that has been occupying our attention too many years. The Government propose to deal with it this time in the middle; why not start at the beginning? Give the mentally deficient children a first chance. Many of them can be brought back to a normal condition, and those that cannot should be cared for in the asylum or in comfortable homes amid better surroundings, which would restore them to a condition more nearly approaching normal than could otherwise be hoped for. A great deal could be accomplished if we spent £10,000 on the mental detention ward. All we have at the hospital is that black hole of Calcutta that we have had for many years. As a member of the Hospital Board I, with others, have strongly depreciated its existence, but it has not been an easy matter to get anything done, because it was not considered conducive to the best interests of the inmates of the hospital for the board to say too much about it. At last, however, it has been brought to the knowledge of the public in such a way that something must be done to remedy the existing dreadful state of affairs. Further, steps must be taken to provide better surroundings and care, but that can be done at less cost than the scheme proposed by the Government. The same applies to the convalescent home for the male patients. A good deal is being done for the convalescent women. If my suggestion that £10,000 be given for a mental ward and £10,000 for convalescent men were adopted, it would leave us with a sum worth handling to do something towards grappling with the real crux of the problem, namely, mental deficiency in its early stages, and that would ultimately save the State many thousands of pounds and give us a more satisfactory nation of people to deal with in time to come. I strongly object to and cannot possibly support the proposal to take one of our very best river resorts, almost the best that is left, for a receiving home.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The best is not too good.

Mrs. COWAN: If that is so, why not be courageous enough to take King's Park?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Because the people would not let us have it.

Mrs. COWAN: The hon. member would not be prepared to face that, but he does not mind taking away from the people for all

time a site not quite so well known, but equally beautiful. I deprecate strongly the proposal. One has only to go to the Eastern States to see how mistaken such a policy has proved. Now they are looking around and paying tremendous sums to remedy the mistakes made in past years. We do not wish to make similar mistakes here. It is possible to get excellent surroundings for these people, all they need, something very much better than they have had in the "Black Hole," and by so doing we would not be dealing unfairly with the people that are sane and require these resorts and health places to help to keep them sane.

The Colonial Secretary: In what State was a mistake made regarding the site of the reception home?

Mrs. COWAN: The more one considers this matter, the more one must be convinced how mistaken the proposal is. It is possible to get good homes with good surroundings for these people, without interfering with the most beautiful site of all the beauty spots surrounding our really beautiful city. I do not wish to see Perth copying Sydney and falling into a similar error. One of the things that appeal to me, more especially after listening to the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum), is that too much is asked of the head of the asylum. Why should he have to undertake secretarial and business work, and even look after the housekeeping, as he had to do in the past? It is only lately that a housekeeper has been appointed, and she has been appointed mainly in the interests of the staff, and not in the interests of the whole of the inmates. I notice in the report that the housekeeper has been given the new duty of looking after the meat supply and seeing that it is up to standard quality. As she did not have that duty previously, I suppose it was formerly left undone. Surely there should be a housekeeper for the staff and another for the patients. We should not ask the leading medical man, whose whole time should be given to studying the welfare of the patients, to do a lot of drudgery that, in other parts, is not considered to be the work of the chief alienist.

Hon. P. Collier: He is not asked to do it. In the past he has refused to yield up any of his absolute powers in connection with the hospital.

Mrs. COWAN: I have been given to understand so, and it may be true, but if that be so, it does not make it right that his time should be occupied in attending to such duties. The patients should be our first consideration. The present condition of affairs cannot produce the greatest good for the inmates. Dr. Anderson does his best according to his lights, and I have always understood he was actuated more by a desire to keep down expenses for the Department than anything else, in adopting the attitude he has done.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not know about that. Less motor car riding would keep the expenses down.

Mrs. COWAN: The Minister spoke about the reduced cost, and no doubt he helped to

attain that for the Government as it was expected of him. With regard to moving the natives from Carrollup to Moore River, I do not wish to comment on the merits or demerits of it, especially after the very caustic remarks of the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood), but I would ask whether it has been really satisfactory from any other standpoint. Is it any less costly? I have heard that the saving supposed to be effected has not been realised, and as it is a long distance from the centre, one would like to know whether the supervision is sufficiently regular and close to make it of value to keep the place going, and look after the interests of the natives on it. There are many members of the community who question whether the conditions are the same now that they have been moved down there. Regarding State children, I do not know whether the Minister has ever inquired as to how often those boarded out in country districts are visited by the officers, and whether surprise visits are made. Those children are placed in service far away in the country, and undoubtedly they should be subject to very close and good supervision. It is questionable whether this is possible without a bigger staff of inspectors. I was interested to hear the remarks of the Colonial Secretary about Mr. Bulley. Coming into contact with him, we in the Children's Court realise he has far too much work to do. No one person can hope to thoroughly look after even the children on probation in the metropolitan area, though he be provided with a motor car. I think the Government might make use of honorary probation officers. I do not think their assistance has been encouraged to the extent it might have been, or to the extent that some of us would like to see it adopted. If such assistance were availed of, I am convinced it would help Mr. Bulley to bring about an even more satisfactory state of affairs than is indicated by the statistics. A perusal of the report of the Police Department shows that very fine work has been done by the women police, and that it has been the means of helping the State Children Department. The Salvation Army deserve great credit for the work they are doing in our midst. I do not know how the Government would get on without them, because of the manner in which they are looking after the mentally deficient children that have been placed in their care. They are doing this work admirably for a certain number of boys, but I regret there is nothing on the Estimates dealing with the mentally deficient girls. The Salvation Army would take them on terms similar to those under which they take the boys, but I understand we cannot afford to attend to that side of the problem at present. This emphasises the fact that £40,000 out of the £60,000 could be very much better spent than in the manner proposed.

The Colonial Secretary: There are some girls at the Seaforth Home.

Mrs. COWAN: How many of these are mentally deficient?

The Colonial Secretary: A few.

Mrs. COWAN: Not many of them are accepted as mentally deficient, and they are not being treated as such.

Hon. W. C. Augwin: A place is being prepared in the asylum grounds for these people.

Mrs. COWAN: I congratulate the Government upon their immigration policy, which in many respects is satisfactory. I have not had many complaints, but there is one that was brought before me some little time ago. So far as I know the Government have done nothing to remedy the matter. This is the letter I received—

As I believe you are one of the few who have the welfare of your country at heart, I am appealing to you for what I should call an urgent necessity. You are aware that out of a population of 340,000 in Western Australia there are 20,000 more males than females, and still more males are coming out. If this kind of thing goes on we will become monogamists. It is common to see 10 men to every woman among the farming districts, while in Perth and other large towns women predominate. Dozens of young men (farmers) have left their farms in disgust. I contemplate doing the same thing. The Western Australian girl dislikes the farm and to become a farmer's wife. She says "Don't be foolish, the idea!"

The Colonial Secretary: That is a foolish statement.

Hon. P. Collier: He has had some bad refusals.

Mrs. COWAN: There is so much noise going on around me that I am prompted to ask you, Mr. Chairman—Am I making this speech or are other hon. members doing so?

The CHAIRMAN: Hon. members must keep order.

Mrs. COWAN: The letter continues—
I think it is time that strong able-bodied women were brought out from Great Britain as wives for the men who are building up the country. As Oliver Goldsmith says: "Princes and lords may flourish or may fade, a breath can make them as a breath has made, but a bold peasantry their country's pride when once destroyed can never be supplied."

Hon. P. Collier: No wonder he was refused.

Mrs. COWAN: The letter continues—
There are nearly three million more females than males in Great Britain.

The Minister for Agriculture: Are they all big able-bodied females?

Mr. Marshall: He will be sadly disillusioned some day.

Mrs. COWAN: The writer continues—
When we were in England and Scotland the young ladies begged us to take them out to Australia. Thousands of us did so, and thousands more would have done so if they had not thought of the girl they had left behind them, only to find out on their or our return the girl engaged or married to some cold-blooded waster.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is a libel on Western Australia.

Mrs. COWAN: That is the complaint. He also says—

I think the under-mentioned scheme could be worked—a Government matrimonial bureau, a farmer requiring wife deposits £5 so that all applicants would be genuine, deposit refunded on presentation of marriage lines.

Hon. P. Collier: More State enterprises.

Mrs. COWAN: The letter continues—
Special agent told off to secure women for the country in Great Britain and Ireland. Women must be a certain standard, not weeds.

It is a soldier who is writing, and his letter is a genuine one.

Hon. P. Collier: How many pages does it run into?

Mrs. COWAN: I was away when the letter arrived but it was answered by my daughter. I do not know if I am in order, but it does seem to me that members should give me a fair deal. There is always a considerable amount of interruption and conversation in a loud tone when I am speaking. I do not wish to have to apologise to the House in any way, or to be obliged to suggest that it is possible I am mistaken in thinking that members are other than gentlemen. I would, however, like a fairer hearing than members seem to be willing to give me as a woman. I must therefore appeal to you, Mr. Chairman, to see that I do get a hearing.

The CHAIRMAN: I will see that the hon. member is not interrupted.

Mrs. COWAN: In my daughter's reply to the writer of this letter she advises him to apply to the Immigration Auxiliary. She also advises him to get certain books, and quotes Kipling to him. His reply to her is as follows:—

I can see that you are not too clear regarding my object in writing the letter to your mother. I will explain more fully. It is not the fact that we are lonely. I say "we" because I am speaking for hundreds more in a like position. The fact is we are battling along on our own. Just imagine this programme—5 a.m.: feed horses and stock; 5.30: start cooking breakfast, fried bacon and eggs and water; finish breakfast 6.15; groom and harness horses, 6.45; arrive in the field 7 a.m.; 11.30 start for home; 11.45 feed up stock; start cooking dinner 12 p.m.; finish dinner 1 p.m.

He then gives the programme for the day, and continues—

Sunday: 7 a.m. water and feed up, groom horses, cook breakfast, clean up house, wash clothes, dinner 1.30.

One hardly wonders that he should want a woman to do all this for him.

Mend harness and general repairs around homestead.

Mr. Mann: You would not expect a woman to mend harness?

Mrs. COWAN: No. He says further—

Feed stock, tea, feed up and bed. You will observe I have 14 hours a day to myself. By being married one can save 20 hours a week, or over six weeks for the year.

Mr. Marshall: It shows what he knows about married life.

Mrs. COWAN: He goes on—

It is only the fact that I have spent over £300 on the place in addition to Agricultural Bank advance that I am anxious to hang on.

He then speaks of a married couple who had decided to take the place on, and he says—

It makes one ashamed of his own countrywomen to see the diggers' wives going where the Australian girl will not go.

He states that he tried on two occasions to get married. The first time the girl said she would not face things in such a God-forsaken hole, and on the second occasion the father of the other girl said it was no good to him because there was no sort of comfort for his daughter. He then continues—

In your letter you say that books and papers are sent to settlers. Don't you think they would be a poor substitute for a wife?

Hon. P. Collier: Poor lonely darling, mother's boy!

Mrs. COWAN: He goes on to say—

If you can suggest a better arrangement than the one I made out, I will be ready to hear from you.

The Minister for Agriculture: He is a pretty miserable specimen.

Mrs. COWAN: He says he is a man; I hope he is. He continues—

Tell your mother that if she does what I suggest re starting a State matrimonial bureau, she will have no trouble in getting in for one of the country districts, as the men and their wives would vote for her to a man and woman.

Hon. P. Collier: There is your chance.

Mrs. COWAN: This is one of the worst complaints I have had regarding the troubles of the immigrants on the wheat belt, so they cannot be very badly used. I do not say this is one of the worst letters I have had in regard to troubles on the group settlements, but I shall come to that question at a later stage. When I was in the South-West I was asked if the Government would not do something to prevent the opossums from being killed and keep on the close season for a longer period. The people there wanted a close season for a year longer than the term proposed. I thought a longer period was to be allowed in future for a close season, one lasting for three years. The idea was that later on, when the Government sustenance ceased and the settlers had to fend for themselves, it would be more profitable for them to trade in opossum skins, if regulations prevented people from killing them for a term of, say, three years.

For the same reason it ought to be a good thing if the Government encouraged the growth of the boronia plant. Judging from the item printed in Saturday's paper, a considerable amount can be made by the new settlers if they cultivate boronia plantations for themselves. The plant is growing wild over many acres of ground, and, if the people were encouraged to preserve the plant and instructed as to the necessity for doing so, it would be a great help to them later on. On the whole it has been shown that things are better this year in the Colonial Secretary's department, and I hope they will continue to be as satisfactory in the future.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.58]: The Colonial Secretary gave a fair resume of the work of his departments during the past year. His portfolio is the best of all other members of Cabinet. Because of the variety of subjects he has to deal with, his work is not so monotonous as it is in the case of other departments of the service. It appears from the remarks of the member for Sussex that he is not satisfied with the immigrants coming from the British Isles.

Mr. Pickering: That is not true.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The language is unparliamentary, but I take no notice of that. If it was not true, he was recommending the Government to go to Spain.

Mr. Pickering: I said if they wanted to fulfil the programme of the Premier.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: He desired that Spaniards should be brought here because he had two or three in his electorate who had done well. I could show him scores of British settlers in Western Australia—Irish, Scotch, Welsh, and English—who have also done well. I would prefer to see the new arrivals coming from the British Isles rather than from the continent of Europe. When the Commonwealth Government decided to take a hand with immigration—this was before the war—they sent a Commission to England. The Commissioners, having made inquiries there, came to the conclusion that migrants could not be obtained from England. They recommended the Commonwealth to go to North Germany for migrants. When that recommendation was referred to the Western Australian Agent General, he said he could get all the migrants this State needed from the British Isles, and that British migrants were quite good enough for him. That was just before the war. However, the member for Sussex is right in his references to married migrants. I do not think it is fair for the State to throw the responsibility of looking after the married migrant on the Ugly Men's Association. I admit that the position is awkward. The Government desire immigration by families. As the Premier said recently, once a man comes here with a large family, he is anchored and he stays. But such men often have great difficulty at the commencement in securing employment. Many of them are obliged to leave their wives and

families at Home. As we know, each migrant has to deposit £3 as a landing fee. A case came under my notice recently of migrants who landed at Albany and were compelled to use portion of the £3 to pay for food on the way from Albany to Fremantle. They were placed in the Immigrants' Home until such time as they would be sent to a group settlement or to other employment. Three days having expired, they were called upon to commence paying for their sustenance in the home. The result was that when the husband was sent to a group, he was obliged to apply to the Ugly Men for assistance to keep his wife and family until such time as he would obtain payment for work at the settlement—a matter of nine or ten days. The Ugly Men had also to assist him to get his kit for the work on the settlement. The Government have arranged for the repayment of the amount advanced, £2 or £3, at the rate of 2s. 6d. per week to be deducted from the man's wages. My point, however, is that that is not work for the Ugly Men, not their job. It should be done by the Government. The wiser course would be for the Government to erect small temporary buildings when starting a group to which they know married people are coming. Then the man could be despatched to the group with his wife and family immediately upon arrival. There have been many complaints in this connection at Fremantle, on the ground of the man being separated from his wife and children and being put to unnecessary expense. A first impression, if bad, tends to linger for some time. I do not think the Minister takes sufficient interest in the Immigrants' Home to see that people staying there are not treated in a hard and fast manner. It is well to have regulations, but they should be applied according to the circumstances of the particular case. The member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan), who I am sorry to see has gone out, expressed regret that she did not get fair play in this Chamber. I say that no member has been shown more fairness than the member for West Perth. That hon. member should not forget that any person who comes to this House, man or woman, is on equality with the other persons here. Every member, irrespective of sex, is liable to be subjected to interjections. I consider that the member for West Perth has no grounds whatever to complain of her treatment in this Chamber. She expressed her strong sympathy with the unfortunate people who are placed in our mental institutions, but at the same time she declared that some position on the river was too good for them. "We have no right," she said, "to put these people on any piece of land that abuts on the river foreshore; they can be placed elsewhere." Having had the opportunity of visiting several institutions of the kind in the East, I say there is no place too good for these people. I would see a relative of mine in the grave rather than in the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. It is the duty of each and

every one of us to endeavour to make the lives of these unfortunates as happy as possible, and to assist them towards recovery if that is practicable.

The Minister for Mines: The proposed institution is not intended for patients beyond hope of recovery.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am coming to that. The Colonial Secretary mentioned, in this connection, that Mr. Trethowan had been to Victoria. I say there is no institution of the kind in Victoria to compare with the corresponding institutions in New South Wales, and I have been told that no institution of the kind in New South Wales compares with the corresponding institutions in Queensland, that Queensland leads the lot. However, I can say that the New South Wales receiving homes are palaces in comparison with those in Victoria. Here we have no such institution at all. We look upon persons who are but mentally affected, as completely insane. It is not an asylum that is to be placed on Point Resolution. When I was asked where these people should be located, I replied, "At East Fremantle, on the river." There was a reserve at East Fremantle, which I had in mind. However, the Government say the reserve is not suitable because the Railway Department have taken a part of it. The question of a receiving home has been under discussion for two years, and meanwhile we have been putting men and women in the asylum because there is no place to keep them in before they are declared insane. In the reading room I found a copy of the London "Daily Telegraph" dated the 14th July, which contains an article on "Mental Disorder." I will read an extract or two from the article—

These are times which make heavy demands upon mental and nervous energy. It is surely plain to all—for private experience and the distressing cases which too often force themselves into publicity offer proof enough—that in the interests of the national vitality we must use to the full the knowledge which modern science has brought. That means—to put the case simply—that public opinion must be taught to regard mental disorder as preventable and remediable disease. The practical corollary, the provision of wholesome conditions of life, and of adequate opportunity of treatment and cure, will then be secured. The article then refers to a speech made before the National Council of Hygiene by a gentleman who had spent some time in a mental institution. His statements were supported by a high authority on mental disease, Sir Maurice Craig. The article states—

Sir Maurice Craig emphasised that to remove the stigma attaching to mental disorder is the indispensable condition of improvement in the mental health of the nation. He complained that hitherto we have said to the sufferer in effect, "I can do nothing for you until you have become insane, and then I can look after you, may be, for the rest of your life."

In order to do something for people before they become insane, it is necessary to have a hospital away from the asylum. The Government have never intended to build an asylum on Point Resolution.

Mr. J. Thomson: Why not take these people at a still earlier stage, before they are born?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: We have to deal with them as we find them at the present time. Sir Maurice Craig says we should start with the child. The article continues—

What he urged was that provision should be made to give curative treatment for mental disorder such as is provided for physical disorder, and that, of course, means the establishment of clinics in general hospitals or elsewhere for cases in their early stages. I recommend hon. members to read the whole of the article. Then they will recognise that to-day people are beginning to look upon mental disorder as a matter for sympathy, and not as a disgrace. In times gone by it was considered a disgrace. Everyone endeavoured to keep the fact secret if someone connected with him or her was a sufferer from mental disease. Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria I know have for some considerable time had institutions to deal with cases in the early stage. The Minister told us that South Australia started a similar institution about 14 months ago. What is the position in Western Australia? Last year there were 144 admissions to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. Of that number, 107 were discharged. Of these, 54 had been in the institution for under 12 months. In all probability if we had a mental hospital here, not one of those 54 would have been declared insane. Of these, 18 had been in the asylum for less than three months and another 18 had been in for less than six months. These are the people it is proposed to deal with. If possible, we want to prevent them becoming insane. Those who have visited the Claremont institution, which was built in accordance with the plans then in vogue, must realise that the conditions are such that a person a little bit abnormal in his condition, will tend to become insane in such surroundings. That is what we want to avoid. The idea is to provide a hospital for 15 or 20 patients—certainly 35 should be the highest number contemplated—where they will have a reasonable chance of recovery. In the mental ward at the Perth Hospital the largest number received at one time has been 13.

Mr. Munzie: It is a disgrace that one should be there.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that. After inspecting the institutions in New South Wales, I was struck by the fact that nearly all their mental hospitals are adjacent to water frontages. The hospitals at Callan Park, Gladesville, and at Parramatta, are on water frontages. We could not do better than select a site along the river between Perth and Fremantle. Every day there would be a divergency of views for the patient; there would always be something to watch. The

yachts and motor boats running about the river present something of interest to watch.

Mrs. Cowan: There are plenty of water frontages along the river apart from Point Resolution.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, from which nothing can be seen. At Callan Park one can see the motor cars running about the streets in the city. At Broughton Hall, not far from Callan Park, the patients have a view of the traffic in one of Sydney's main thoroughfares. At Darlinghurst, right in the heart of the city, there is a hospital where people can go in and out as they desire.

Mrs. Cowan: What is the objection to that sort of thing here?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The hon. member said we should not take away the people's playing ground.

Mrs. Cowan: We should not take away reserves set apart for the people.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are any number of places along the river where such an institution could be built. I saw one site the other day where, had I been Minister in charge of this matter, I would have started work right away in spite of everything, even if I was removed from office because of my action. Nothing we could do would be better than to adopt a line of action tending to prevent people from becoming insane. I will confine myself to the 54 patients who had been at the Claremont institution for under 12 months and who were discharged last year. I would be safe in saying that not one of those 54 would have been declared insane if we had had a mental hospital in Western Australia. It would be far better for the Committee to agree to something being done that would effect that result, rather than that these people should be locked up in the Claremont institution for the rest of their lives. I hope the Minister will take early action to bring Western Australia into line with the other States and help to cure these people instead of allowing them to be committed to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane. When the hospital is erected, the Minister should secure the services of some young man who has just taken his medical degrees, particularly regarding mental diseases. The doctor chosen should be a man willing to go in for research work. He should be provided with a properly equipped laboratory, enabling him to investigate mental diseases with a view to effecting cures. Such a man should be placed in charge, and kept in charge, of the institution. Medical men are kept at this work continuously in the Eastern States.

Mrs. Cowan: One of the objects in getting the hospital is that they want people who will not require professional assistance.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They will require that assistance.

Mrs. Cowan: I am told they will not.

The Colonial Secretary: Of course they will want someone there to look after them.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Someone who has studied this question must be appointed to the institution. We do not want a man to

spend an hour and a half a day to look at 600 or 700 patients, as is done at Claremont. We want a man with his heart in the work, a man who is anxious to make a name for himself in effecting the cure of mental diseases. It should not be difficult for the Minister to get into touch with institutions in other parts of the world to secure an officer of the type I suggest. I hope the Minister will take this matter in hand at once. Two years have passed and nothing has been done. I know the position has been handicapped, because someone raises objections to every site inspected. In view of this, the Minister has hesitated and has not gone on with the proposed hospital. The Royal Commission was strongly advised on one point. We must not provide a large institution. I hope the Minister will not take notice of his officers if they advise him to build a large institution. It is not wanted. I regret that it is proposed to go in for a large area, for that will have a tendency for the hospital to develop into an institution such as the one at Claremont. It is essential to avoid that position, because with the increase in population here it may become necessary to erect similar hospitals in other parts of the State. Then if it is found impossible to effect cures, the patient so afflicted will be committed to the Claremont asylum. Last year I mentioned that when visiting Callan Park in Sydney, the Inspector General for the Insane told me that they had 45 per cent. of recoveries respecting the admissions to that hospital. That means that 45 out of every 100 patients admitted were cured and discharged. In addition, 35 per cent. of the admissions left the hospital without being declared insane. Hon. members will realise that the fact that a person has been declared insane will affect every member of his family. Insurance companies will not insure an individual without a penalty rate, if there has been any insanity in his family. In view of such a large percentage of cures effected at the hospital I mentioned, is it not worth fighting for here so as to effect similar cures among the admissions to our institutions? I hope the Minister will take this matter in hand and establish the mental hospital very soon.

Mr. Davies: Do you urge the establishment of the hospital at Point Resolution?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No. It will not go to Point Resolution. Parliament would not allow the Minister to construct the hospital there if he wanted to. It may be a reflection upon Parliament, but I regret to say that Parliament—I am not referring to the present members—has not always been constituted so as to give the best consideration to the sick and afflicted. I do not forget that many years ago—the Minister for Mines will remember the instance—we introduced a Bill to set aside a site out of the 10,000 acres comprising the National Park for the purposes of a sanatorium, instead of going to Wooroloo. Parliament refused the permission and we had to establish the institution at Wooroloo.

The Minister for Mines: We have not even got a road through the National Park yet.

The Colonial Secretary: The objections then were the objections of to-day.

The Minister for Mines: There was a lot of sentimental bunkum talked.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is so. It shows that while we preach that nothing is too good for the sick and afflicted—nothing could be worse than mental affliction—our actions are not in accordance with what we preach. I never believed that Parliament would agree to give up Point Resolution for this purpose. It was because of that that I did not take the Victorian Inspector General of the Insane to see Point Resolution.

Mrs. Cowan: There are other river frontages.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am glad that the Minister has gone on with the improvements required at the Claremont Hospital for the Insane, particularly regarding the nurses' quarters. When the Royal Commission inspected the institution, there were approximately 80 females employed there, but only 13 of the nurses had had three years' experience. That showed what the conditions were like. Dr. Jones believed that the reason for it was that no provision was made for the comfort of the nurses. Just fancy nurses, after being on duty all night, having to sleep over the kitchen while nurses who were ill had to be accommodated in rooms with patients around them! In such circumstances it was not possible to keep nurses at the institution for any lengthy period. With the improvements referred to by the Minister, no doubt it will be possible to secure a better nursing staff. Improvements were required regarding ventilation, and I was glad to hear the Minister say that that work was in hand. It was also pleasing to hear the Minister say that the isolation ward, which is a very nice little building, was being set aside for children. This will mean that the young ones will be removed from among the adults. These improvements will mean much to those who are at the institution. Let us have a mental hospital, not an asylum. We do not want a large institution. We want a hospital to which people will go themselves to be cured of their mental disease after a few weeks' treatment.

Mr. J. THOMSON (Claremont) [9.30]: I am going to enter two or three protests against the speeches that have been made. First of all, I want to protest strongly against the remarks of the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan), who said she did not get a fair deal in the House. No other member has had a fairer deal than has the member for West Perth. I have been in the House of Commons and heard their lady members speaking. They did not get the fair play that the member for West Perth has had in this House. I have been in the Canadian House, and heard the lady member, and I can say that she also did not get the fair play that is extended to the member for West Perth in this House. I think the fault with

the hon. member is that she came in here to do such a lot for women, yet what has she done?

Hon. P. Collier: Blamed it on the men.

Mrs. Cowan: What did you come here to do?

Mr. J. THOMSON: I did not come here to do very much, and perhaps I have not done much; yet I have not protested against the treatment I have had.

Mrs. Cowan: I protested to-night because I was tired of it.

Mr. J. THOMSON: Also I want to protest against the remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), about not getting the best place for the mentally afflicted. I believe we cannot do too much for the mentally afflicted, but I do say that if the Labour people, if the present Minister for Mines, and the Leader of the Opposition and others who were in the House in years gone by, had passed an Act to stop the mentally afflicted from being born, it would have been better for the community. That is what we want to-day. It can be done easily enough. We have the Minister for Works going around the country opening agricultural shows and seeing the breeding of the cattle, of the horses, even of the fowls, yet here we are paying no attention whatever to the breeding of mentally afflicted. Now I am going to talk very seriously.

Hon. P. Collier: Going to talk to the Government now?

Mr. J. THOMSON: Yes, and to the electors of Claremont. The Colonial Secretary's speech to-night was a great disappointment to me. When the Colonial Secretary was appointed we thought he was going to do some good, but we find he has only—well, I will say nothing more on that point. But I am so disappointed with the Colonial Secretary, indeed with the whole of the members of the Mitchell Government.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. THOMSON: I am going to move to reduce the Estimates by £1. I am so disappointed with the speech of the Colonial Secretary that I think something must be done by the House, and so I propose to move an amendment.

The Minister for Mines: Have you a second time?

Mr. J. THOMSON: Yes, I have a second, and I propose to move that the salary of the Inspector General of the Insane be reduced from £852 to £851.

Hon. P. Collier: You cannot move it just now. We are on the general discussion, so you must wait till we come to the items. But you can give your reasons now.

Mr. J. THOMSON: We took the Colonial Secretary round five or six different sites, each with a commanding view over the water. Whatever Dr. Anderson said, the Colonial Secretary agreed to. I am not going to say one word against Dr. Anderson.

Hon. P. Collier: He is a brither Scot.

Mr. J. THOMSON: Yes, and he is doing his best for the afflicted. But when I see a

man like the Colonial Secretary agreeing to everything that Dr. Anderson says, I am going to vote against the Colonial Secretary's Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: You will be able to move your amendment when we reach the division "Lunacy."

Mr. J. THOMSON: I am going to move that we reduce the total amount by £1.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member can move that when the general discussion is closed. If he moves it now, it will close the general discussion.

Hon. P. Collier: But you can put your case now.

Mr. J. THOMSON: When we were going around looking for sites, whatever Dr. Anderson said, the Colonial Secretary agreed to.

Hon. P. Collier: He always does.

Mr. J. THOMSON: When we have a Colonial Secretary run by his officers, it is time we had a change in the Colonial Secretary. It may be that, next year, we shall have a change of all Ministers, but I am so tired of the Colonial Secretary that at the proper time I will move that this vote be reduced by £1.

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans) [9.40]: I intend to deal with only two departments, Lunacy and the State Children's. I was surprised at hearing the Colonial Secretary's glowing account of the wonderful improvements made at the Hospital for the Insane, particularly in point of food. I do not know whether hon. members realise the quantity of beef tea supposed to be made daily at the asylum for the use of physically sick patients, or whether they have read the evidence adduced before the select committee, and that committee's report. Without even referring to that report, the Colonial Secretary declared that the conditions obtaining at the asylum had been wonderfully improved. I visited the asylum quite recently. Certainly an endeavour is being made to effect some little improvement in the grounds. I wish to refer to one Cunningham, an unfortunate inmate of the asylum. I have been on a deputation to the Colonial Secretary, and have made inquiries of the official visiting committee at the asylum and of others, but I have yet to find anybody, layman or medical man, who will say he believes Cunningham to be insane.

Mr. Mann: Was not his case inquired into by the Royal Commission?

Mr. MUNSIE: No.

Mr. Mann: Did he not give evidence?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes, but the Royal Commission was not appointed to inquire into the sanity of any patient in the asylum, and therefore Cunningham's case was not followed up.

The Minister for Works: Did not the Commission make inquiries that tended that way?

Mr. MUNSIE: I know various reports have been put up, but if a select committee or Royal Commission were appointed, two-thirds of the visiting committee would be prepared to say he was sane, but they are not prepared

to submit a recommendation that he should be released. Cunningham has appealed to a judge of the Supreme Court to get his case heard. I do not know why he has not been given an opportunity. The judge to whom he appealed said he felt it was not his duty to hear the case and make a recommendation. I have had several conversations with Cunningham. Last Friday week I went to Claremont and stayed with him for one and a half to two hours, and I say emphatically I have met scores of men and women outside Claremont that are less sane than is Cunningham.

Mr. Mann: Can you say his demeanour is sane?

Mr. MUNSIE: I am not a medical man. I do not know what steps can be taken by this House, but Cunningham up to date has never had a chance to put his case. He was not committed to the asylum in the ordinary way. He was committed to the Fremantle gaol, and had to find two sureties to be of good behaviour for six months. Someone turned him down; I am not prepared to say who it was. He was writing to different people believing they would use their influence to find the sureties for him, but they did not do so and he was committed to the Claremont asylum.

Mr. Mann: He has a wife and relatives.

Mr. MUNSIE: I admit that. My inquiries lead me to believe there are two people in this State who say if Cunningham were liberated he might do them grievous bodily harm. At the recent show he was allowed to mingle with 9,000 or 10,000 people, and no one would ever have taken him for a patient from the asylum. I undertake to say there was no saner man than Cunningham on the Claremont ground that day. I wish to find means whereby this man may be given an opportunity to present his case. He should at least have that right. Someone must be prepared to say he is insane. He should have the right to hear his accusers before some competent authority, so that he could cross-examine them and make them prove their statements. That is all he asks; that is all I ask for him. If he be given this opportunity, I am satisfied any unbiassed man must recommend his release. It is a crying shame that a man who has occupied the position he has, that of a school teacher, should be detained in this way. He has been in the institution for five years. That of itself would be sufficient to drive to insanity any man who was not strong-willed. Only by battling week after week has he succeeded in securing any change in his position. After having been an inmate for five years, he met a man that he had not seen for seven years. He had taught three children of that man and he asked about them, referring to each by name. Yet he is said to be a fit subject for the asylum. There is something radically wrong. I have endeavoured to study the case from all points of view. I looked up the Act and I made inquiries to ascertain whether anything could be done. I do not think anything can be done unless we can get a judge of the Supreme Court to grant him an inquiry. I think the Minister has power, if he

would only exercise it. The responsibility would not rest upon the Minister. I do not ask him to take the responsibility of saying that Cunningham should be released, but seeing he is there under peculiar circumstances, has been there five years and has had no opportunity to meet those who declare him insane, the Minister should endeavour to give him an inquiry. I have conversed with some members of the visiting committee and have learnt the views of others. They make no bones about it; they are prepared to give evidence that Cunningham is fit to be released.

Mr. Davies: Why do they not urge that an inquiry be held?

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not know.

Mr. Davies: They are not doing their duty or they would urge that an inquiry be granted.

Mr. MUNSIE: It is useless to ask me why they do not urge an inquiry.

Mr. Davies: Is it not obvious that they ought to?

Mr. MUNSIE: It is not obvious to me. If Cunningham asks any questions of the visiting committee, in nine cases out of ten one man replies, and the rest say nothing.

Mr. Mann: Is that Dr. Birmingham?

The Colonial Secretary: Are you questioning the fairness of the committee?

Mr. MUNSIE: No; do not impute motives. I am questioning—

The Colonial Secretary: Their ability?

Mr. MUNSIE: No, the position Cunningham finds himself in. He has never had an inquiry, and he should have one.

Mr. Mann: Have you discussed his case with Dr. Birmingham?

Mr. MUNSIE: No; I do not know Dr. Birmingham.

The Colonial Secretary: He is the chairman.

Mr. MUNSIE: If possible I wish Cunningham to be granted an inquiry. If it be proved that he is suffering from delusions, I shall be satisfied, but I shall never be satisfied until he has had an opportunity to present his case. I may be wrong in bringing up an individual case on the general discussion, but I could not let the opportunity pass. I have had several letters from Cunningham. On Friday last I received quite a rational letter enclosing a cutting from an English paper regarding the methods adopted there by Professor McGregor and another doctor in dealing with lunacy cases. I urge upon the Minister the necessity for altering the conditions at the reception ward of the Perth Hospital. I am a member of the hospital board and on three or four occasions we have had a look at the reception ward. On every occasion it has been enough to make a man's blood run cold. If the inmates had actually been declared insane, God only knows it would be bad enough, but those people are only suspected and are practically under observation and they are bruddled together worse than cattle. I am satisfied the staff at the hospital would be pleased to show any member over the ward.

Mr. Davies: It has nothing to do with the Perth Hospital.

Mr. MUNSIE: But it is in the hospital grounds. It is an absolute disgrace and a scandal that such an institution should exist in the city. I hope the Minister will take notice of both these requests. He should take steps to give Cunningham an impartial inquiry and he should alter the disgraceful condition of affairs that exists at the Perth Hospital. I wish now to refer to the speech of the Minister on the Address-in-reply. Like the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum), I expected when he dealt with the asylum and with the Old Men's Home, he would have had something to say regarding the questions asked and the replies given. It is up to the Minister to take drastic action at once. He should not lose a day. The Minister said he would do so, but has not yet taken that course, notwithstanding the interjections he made while the member for South Fremantle was speaking. The matter was a serious one. I was rather surprised at the statement of the member for Pilbara when he said that a large percentage of the questions asked by members were asked with the intention of embarrassing the Government. I have been a member for 11 years and do not know one case of that kind. I have never yet asked a question with the object of embarrassing the Government, although we have had a Nationalist Government in office for seven years. I admit that on one or two occasions certain organisations have desired information from the Government, and have asked me to put questions in the House, as this was the only way they could get the information. Perhaps I have asked questions of this kind on half a dozen occasions. Beyond that every question I have asked of my own initiative has been with the object of obtaining information, and certainly not with a desire to embarrass the Government. I asked certain questions about the supply of meat to the Claremont Asylum. I did so upon information I had received. I realised that the Government were being taken in, and that the inmates were probably not getting a fair deal. The reply of the Minister was positively impudent.

The Colonial Secretary: Nonsense!

Mr. MUNSIE: Later on the member for South Fremantle and I backed up our statements on the floor of the House. The Minister, by way of reply to an interjection of the member for Roebourne, who was then saying there was nothing wrong with frozen meat, remarked, "I agree in all sincerity that the supply of frozen meat to the Government institutions concerned would be very grave indeed." He recognised it was a serious thing for the butcher who had the contract for the supply of fresh meat to send along frozen meat.

Mr. Davies: It is fraud.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes, and the Minister said he recognised the seriousness of the case.

The Colonial Secretary: Why find fault with that?

Mr. MUNSIE: I find fault with the Minister's inactivity, now he has been afforded proof that this has been done, and that our statements were true and his untrue. He went on to say, "I ask the hon. members who make the charges to give me definite details; indeed I challenge them to prove the statements."

Mr. Teesdale: Would you have this man discharged?

Hon. P. Collier: Certainly, any man who had committed a fraud should be discharged.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes. This man was responsible for accepting 900lbs. of frozen meat at a Government institution.

Hon. P. Collier: Robbing the country!

Mr. Teesdale: How long would it be before the union took up his case?

Hon. P. Collier: The union does not stand for dishonesty. It was the union that brought the matter to light and exposed it.

Mr. Teesdale: The union did?

Hon. P. Collier: The union official brought the matter before the members who exposed it.

Mr. Teesdale: It might have been the secretary of the union, but what would you do to the man?

Hon. P. Collier: We do not stand for that kind of dishonesty.

Mr. Teesdale: I do not stand for any kind of dishonesty.

Hon. P. Collier: They do not stand for some of the things you have stood for.

Mr. Corboy: The union organiser was one of the witnesses.

Mr. MUNSIE: The heat that has been generated over this matter is perhaps justifiable, and there is likely to be considerably more heat if we cannot wake up the Minister to a sense of his responsibilities.

Mr. Teesdale: How is it the union did not go to the Minister instead of to you, and tell him all about it?

Mr. Corboy: What is the use, seeing that we were said to be telling lies.

Hon. P. Collier: The Colonial Secretary would not believe us; he would therefore take no notice of the union officials. Go to the Minister indeed! Go to a rubber stamp!

Mr. Marshall: Indeed he challenged us to prove it.

Mr. Corboy: Give rubber stamp Sampson a fair deal.

The Colonial Secretary: It is easy to be offensive.

Hon. P. Collier: It is a fact. You are only a jelly-fish, anyhow.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. MUNSIE: The member for Roebourne asked if I would not have the man sacked. Up to the present I have had no chance of replying to that question. Any man, no matter if he occupied the position of Inspector General of the Insane, who was responsible for receiving frozen meat instead of fresh under the circumstances should be sacked.

Mr. Mann: You must prove that he took it knowingly.

Mr. MUNSIE: Any man who accepted frozen meat at the Claremont Asylum should be sacked to-morrow morning.

Mr. Teesdale: I would not leave it at that. I would give him six months. I have asked you what you would do.

Hon. P. Collier: The union exposed the whole thing.

Mr. Teesdale: I would not let you white-wash him again. I would see that he did not get another job in the department.

Mr. Marshall: You would get on your camel and gallop away.

Hon. P. Collier: You would stick to the Minister whatever he did. The Minister is right whatever he does.

Mr. Teesdale: I asked you what you would do and you attacked me. Would you sack him?

Mr. MUNSIE: I would.

Mr. Teesdale: And I would give him three months.

Mr. MUNSIE: This matter is not going to stop. The Minister for Agriculture on behalf of the Colonial Secretary, who was absent, gave a definite assurance that a thorough inquiry would be held.

The Minister for Agriculture: And it was held.

Hon. P. Collier: Only on the motion of this House.

Mr. MUNSIE: The Minister for Agriculture gave us to understand definitely that the charges were sufficiently serious in his opinion to warrant a thorough inquiry. Two days later the Colonial Secretary practically condemned the statements made by the Minister for Agriculture, who, he suggested, had gone too far.

The Minister for Agriculture: I do not think he said that.

Mr. MUNSIE: Evidently the Minister for Agriculture caused word to be sent to the Colonial Secretary as to what had transpired in the House, and asked him to make inquiries. The Colonial Secretary did so, but he could not have gone very far into the matter, because two days later he challenged us to prove our statements, and practically called the member for South Fremantle and me liars.

The Colonial Secretary: In what way did the Minister for Agriculture direct me?

Mr. MUNSIE: The Minister for Agriculture admitted that chilled meat had gone into the institution. After the Colonial Secretary had inquired into the matter he said this was a misstatement, and that no chilled meat had gone there, only meat that had been kept in cool storage.

The Colonial Secretary: What did your inquiry disclose?

Mr. MUNSIE: It disclosed that frozen meat had gone in.

Mr. Corboy: Has the Colonial Secretary not read the report of the inquiry?

The Colonial Secretary: Did it disclose that chilled meat had been supplied?

Mr. McCallum: There is no chilled meat in the country.

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not believe it is possible to supply the Claremont Asylum with chilled meat, because there is none to get.

The Minister for Agriculture: That is nonsense. There is plenty of chilled meat.

Mr. McCallum: No.

Mr. MUNSIE: The Minister was very emphatic on the point. I found myself in an awkward position for two or three days. On two occasions I was held up in the street by men I know who said, "How did you and McCallum run into such a trap as that? What were you thinking about?" I asked what they meant and they said, "You make charges about frozen meat going into an institution, and there is no truth in them. The Minister positively denied the statement, and said there had never been any frozen meat sent to the institution." We were stopped in the street and asked why we had told a cock and bull story. Evidently they were prepared to accept the Minister's word. I want him to clear me, and to take some action. The Press were good enough to publish the Minister's reply when he asked us to withdraw our statements, and I hope they will publish some of my statements asking him to take some action along the lines he said he would take. The Minister went on to say, "Drastic steps will be taken if it be proved that frozen meat has been knowingly received at either of the institutions."

The Minister for Agriculture: Knowingly!

Hon. P. Collier: Could they take it in large quantities without knowing?

Mr. MUNSIE: Although I do not profess to be a judge of this matter, I undertake to say that I could not receive between 800lbs. and 900lbs. of frozen meat without knowing it to be that. The man responsible for receiving the meat at the Claremont asylum must have known it was frozen meat.

Mr. Corboy: He could not help knowing.

Mr. MUNSIE: I hope the Minister will make strict inquiries, and, as recommended by the select committee, institute a more strict inspection of meat. The Minister went on to say—

I hope the hon. members who made the charge will help me by proving their allegations.

We have helped the Minister; I now ask him to help us. He has practically accused us of lying.

The Colonial Secretary: Oh, nonsense!

Mr. MUNSIE: I say he has. We have proved our allegations up to the hilt, and I now ask the Minister in his turn to take some action. What is he prepared to do? He also said—

On the other hand, if they have not the necessary evidence, I ask them to withdraw their statements as being unfair to the officers concerned.

I did not at the time say anything about sacking anyone, although the source of my information satisfied me that frozen meat had been delivered at the asylum. I cross-examined my informant as to his knowledge of frozen meat, and found that he had had six

years' experience of the frozen meat trade in the Argentine. Later he told me that on the very day I gave notice of my question here, the whole supply of meat to the Claremont asylum was frozen.

The Colonial Secretary: Did you ask him whether he reported the matter to the senior officer?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes; and that question was also asked by the select committee. It was a pretty difficult task to find out who was actually responsible for receiving the meat at the asylum. I hope the Minister will find out. The man responsible should have been there to receive the meat, but unfortunately that was not the practice. I trust the Minister will act the man, and withdraw his accusations of lying made against the member for South Fremantle and myself.

The Colonial Secretary: There never was any such accusation.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [10.20]: The manner in which this question has been handled, from beginning to end, by the Minister in charge is worthy of the severest censure. During the time I have been in the House it has always been the practice of responsible Ministers, upon a member of the Chamber bringing forward a matter and making charges seriously affecting the administration of a department, and accepting full responsibility for such charges, to grant an inquiry immediately.

The Colonial Secretary: I agreed at once.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Minister did nothing of the kind. The statements and charges made by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCullum) were ignored by the Minister because of a denial by one of his officials. Upon taking office the Minister was advised by an officer of his department to keep a stiff upper lip, and the Minister ever since has seemed afraid to go against the views of any officer. The Minister sat down and did nothing with regard to the charges of the member for South Fremantle. That member was forced to move for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into the matter.

The Colonial Secretary: I did inquire into it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Was it a public inquiry?

The Colonial Secretary: It was not a public inquiry.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Who made the inquiry?

The Colonial Secretary: I inquired through the head of the Hospital for Insane.

Hon. P. COLLIER: An inquiry made by an official of the department against which the charge was levelled! Is that an impartial inquiry? If any other inquiry has been held, the Minister is responsible for withholding that information from the House. When the member for South Fremantle moved for the select committee and the Minister spoke, there was no intimation from him that any inquiry had been held. Who made the inquiry?

The Colonial Secretary: An officer.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Of the department concerned?

The Colonial Secretary: The principal officer.

[Mr. Munsie took the Chair.]

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is the sort of inquiry that satisfies the Minister. However, the inquiry by the select committee has proved the facts. It has been proved that a contractor for the supply of meat under a contract which sets out that it shall be of first quality and fresh meat, has been "working in" large quantities of frozen meat of about half the value of what he was being paid for. It has been proved that frozen meat has been going into three institutions. Some of the officials in those institutions are guilty of improper conduct, and worse. There must be corruption behind. As soon as the select committee's report was presented to the House, it was the Minister's obvious duty to take immediate steps to fix the responsibility upon the officers concerned. If, as the result of inquiry, the Government are unable to place the responsibility upon an officer in each institution, there is something wrong in the administration of those institutions. Surely the men in charge of the Hospital for Insane know who has been receiving the meat. They must know who has been responsible for robbing the Government. Why has action not been taken at once to suspend the person or deal with him? And, more than that, I say a prosecution should have been lodged against the thieving butcher, the man who robbed the institution and the country. Is he to be allowed to go scot free? He put up to 900 pounds weight of frozen meat into the asylum in one day. He has been defrauding the Government and defrauding the institution. Is it not possible that a prosecution will lie against him? Weeks have passed by, and the same men are continued in their positions. The same men are still employed at the Old Men's Home, the Hospital for Insane, and the Claremont Training College, and the whole matter has not been of sufficient importance to justify the slightest reference to it from the Minister. He went all over Western Australia in reference to tuppenny-ha'penny detail matters concerning the administration of his department. He even referred to the diet at the Hospital for Insane. But he made no reference to the fraud which has been going on, to the fact that bullocks' livers and hearts had been mixed with the meat to make gravy beef and beef tea for the patients. The scoundrel who mixes offal with the meat for sick patients is not of sufficient importance for the Minister even to make a reference to him! Apparently the practice is to go on until the House reaches the Order of the Day for the consideration of the select committee's report. That may be two or three weeks or perhaps a couple of months. In the meantime nothing is to be done. The Minister should have had sufficient initiative and sufficient

sense of responsibility to take action immediately upon the presentation of the select committee's report. On the morning after that report was presented, the Minister's first administrative act should have been to place the responsibility where it ought to be placed in each institution, and to fire out, and if possible prosecute, the men responsible, and also to prosecute the man outside who is concerned in the business. Yet after the passage of weeks the Minister has done nothing. He rebuked the members who first brought the matter forward, simply because he was told something by some officer. All through the business the Minister was prepared to accept the word or the denial of any departmental officer against the statements made by responsible members of this House. When the Minister has been longer in office, he will probably be more guarded in accepting Government officials' denials of statements made by members. The Minister took the side of the officials all through. Referring to the members for Hannans and South Fremantle he said—

I challenge them to give definite details. I am certain they were wrong in their statements.

What is that but accepting the denial of a Government officer as against statements made by a member of this House on the floor of the Chamber? It is because the Minister is at all times prepared to accept the statements of officials against the statements of members that I say he is a jellyfish Minister.

The Colonial Secretary: I never expressed myself to the effect of what you have stated.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I have the Minister's very words here—

I challenge them to give definite details.

I am certain they were wrong in their statements.

Later on he said he hoped those members would withdraw and apologise. He also declared that drastic action would be taken if the charges were proved. What drastic action has been taken to date? The Minister is sitting down and waiting until the House instructs him to do something. The drastic action taken so far is nothing at all. The Minister also said he hoped that the members who made the charges would help him by proving their allegations. They have proved their allegations. Immediately upon those members discharging their responsibility in that respect, it was for the Minister to act. Instead of taking action, as he should have done, he has done nothing at all. He is deserving of severe censure for not taking immediate action, for allowing scoundrels—there is at least one scoundrel in each of these institutions, and there may be more—

Mr. McCallum: The officials of the Training College protested right through.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Then I say that in the Old Men's Home there is at least one scoundrel, and that in the Hospital for Insane there is at least one scoundrel. It is no use for the Minister to put up that word "knowingly." That is no good at all. A black-

tellow could tell frozen meat a mile away. Men who have been accustomed to handling meat all their lives, have received large quantities of it, and we are asked to believe that they may not have knowingly accepted frozen meat! They knew all right, and the people who sent it in knew all right, that it was frozen meat. I want to know if the Government will place the butcher who delivered this meat to the institutions on the black list so far as all future Government contracts are concerned. That man should not be allowed to tender for the supply of meat to any Government institution in the future. Moreover, the matter should have been referred to the Crown Law authorities to ascertain whether a charge would not lie against that man for defrauding the State under the terms of this contract. I hope the Minister will deal with that question. I do not care whether the highest or the lowest in the institutions were concerned. The Minister should take prompt action to fix the responsibility in the proper quarter, and deal with those concerned. If this is not done, the House will have to force the hands of the Government in this matter.

Mr. MARSHALL: I move:—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and negatived.

Mr. MARSHALL (Murchison) [10.32]: I do not feel disposed to allow the Vote to pass without comment. If the debate to-night has done nothing else, it has shown us something of the virtues of the contract system which the Government are so eager to support. As to the question of the meat supplies, no doubt the contractor knew full well what procedure he would adopt after securing the contract. According to the select committee's report the contractor to whom so much reference has been made, is nothing more nor less than a robber. Much the same may be said in connection with other contracts for Government supplies. From these disclosures we can discover in some measure why it is that the State Trading Concerns are not as profitable as they might be. No doubt it is not due to the fact that, the trading concerns are not in a position to compete with outside firms in the same lines of business, but to the fact that their position is undermined because contractors practically garrot the Treasury. I endorse the remarks of Opposition members regarding the attitude of the Minister. I was in the Chamber when he challenged the statements by the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum), and scouted his contention that he could substantiate the charges regarding the meat supplied to the Government institutions. He also challenged the statements made by the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie). Now, when an inquiry has been made and proof furnished, the Minister wants to know what he ought to do! I have not had a long Parliamentary experience, but if the affairs of State have been

conducted in the past as they have been since I have been a member of this Chamber, I am not at all surprised that we have a deficit of £6,000,000. I have never seen more indifference and a more lackadaisical attitude in the part of Ministers of the Crown than since I have been in Parliament. It is almost impossible for members to get reliable and conscientious replies to questions put to Ministers. We know they are not the Ministers' replies we receive; they are framed by departmental officers who find themselves in the position of having a free hand, seeing that they can rely upon their Ministers championing them whether they be right or wrong. The replies are framed to evade the information sought by members and, in a sense, to make members look ridiculous. The same thing applies regarding the matter now before the Committee. With this sort of thing going on, we can look for a rapid increase in the deficit, for the time when Ministers controlled their departments has gone.

The Minister for Agriculture: Nonsense!

Mr. MARSHALL: There is no nonsense about it. Ministers do not control their departments; they merely voice the opinions of their officers, whether those opinions be right or wrong. We have had an instance of it to-night. The Colonial Secretary challenged members regarding the accuracy of their statements, and when they furnish proof, he weakly says: "What would you do?"

The Minister for Agriculture: Well, what would you do?

Mr. MARSHALL: The Colonial Secretary finds himself in an awkward position, in which he has been placed by his departmental officers. Now he appeals to members on the Opposition side for advice as to what he should do! As usual at this time of the evening, the representatives of the spring onion crowd on the Government cross-benches are few in number.

Lieut.-Col. Denton: There are enough for you.

Mr. MARSHALL: There are empty benches on that side of the House. It does not matter much, because they play a very poor part in the administration of the affairs of State. Whenever it comes to taking an active part they get out into the lobbies. I have some matters to deal with, and one refers to a statement made by the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan). I regret she is not in her seat. She declaimed about her sympathy with the mentally defective children. I support the attitude adopted by the member for Claremont (Mr. J. Thomson), who is on the right track.

Mr. Angelo: You are not taking it personally!

Mr. MARSHALL: The member for West Perth has suggested that many mentally deficient children have grown up to be adults and have become insane. I do not think we need worry about chopping the branches off at the top; it is better to get down to the root of the evil. Why have we insane child-

ren in our midst? It is because they have been nursed in the lap of luxury? Is it because their mothers, before the children were conceived, were over-fed, were too well-housed and comforted? Is it because the children when they were brought into the world found that their mothers were so prosperous that they were able to over-feed them? Is that why we have insane children in our midst? No! The fact is that the environment of the parents before the child is born, and the child's surroundings, are such that the child has not normal mental capacity. He is driven mad by the poverty of his environment.

Mr. J. Thomson: Not all of them.

Mr. MARSHALL: There are exceptions, but the majority of insane children are insane from birth because of the poverty-stricken environment of their parents.

Mr. J. Thomson: I do not think so.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am positive it is so. There should be no occasion for the building of institutions for the insane, no necessity to be wasting the time of Parliament talking about reception homes. Our trouble begins with the birth of the child, and the Government should take steps to raise the standard of living, and so reduce the percentage of insane children. The very system under which the working class lives entails poverty, because the minimum rate under the Arbitration Court's awards is down to starvation point.

Mr. Teesdale: Proportionately there is no more poverty here than in any other State.

Mr. MARSHALL: But that does not assist us. I say again, that most cases of infantile insanity are due to poverty. I wish to take the Colonial Secretary to task over the Aborigines Department. The Minister had much to say about the transfer of aborigines from Carroup to the Moore River Settlement. I have visited the Moore River Settlement, and incidentally I can say the State owes a great deal to Mr. Campbell and his good wife, who manage that settlement. They are industrious, energetic, sympathetic, patient, conscientious people, and they perform their duties with the last degree of efficiency. Particularly do I commend Mrs. Campbell for the manner in which she handles the natives. It would be very difficult to get any other white woman to perform that lady's duties for the reward she receives. The management of the Moore River settlement is all that could be desired. But the transference of the aborigines from Carroup to the Moore River settlement was a big mistake. Long before that transference, the great problem confronting Mr. Campbell was to know how to produce sufficient to maintain the few natives already at the Moore River settlement. Having but little land of any value, he had to pick out tiny blocks of a few square yards in the bed of the river and then, perhaps, go a quarter of a mile further on to get half an acre of land fit for cultivation. It was remarkable the quantity of stuff he was able to

produce by those means, but even so he could not employ all the natives under his care, notwithstanding which the department swamped the settlement with a lot more natives. The number now there cannot hope to produce anything like sufficient for their own requirements, and so they are a burden on the taxpayer. If the Minister had been desirous of amalgamating the two settlements, he might with advantage have sent the natives from the Moore River settlement down to Carrolup where, I understand, there is a large area of fertile land, and where the aborigines could support themselves. I hope the Minister will explain why the transfer was made from Carrolup to the Moore River settlement.

The Premier: It was made before the Colonial Secretary's appointment.

Mr. MARSHALL: Certainly it was a big mistake.

The Premier: Have you been to Carrolup?

Mr. MARSHALL: No.

The Premier: If the natives had been transferred from the Moore River settlement to Carrolup, you would have argued that the transference ought to have been from Carrolup to the Moore River settlement.

Mr. MARSHALL: No, that could not be, because I know there is little or no good land at the Moore River settlement; it is all poor sand. I was there for two or three days, and I heartily congratulate Mr. Campbell on the result of his efforts. The Colonial Secretary has seen fit to take no action in regard to the distribution to the aborigines of blankets and other commodities. This, like the supply of meat, is done by contract. In other words, it is camouflage for robbery. It has been proved to-night that it was robbery and nothing else. I enter a protest against the Minister's attitude in giving Asiatics, in preference to white tenderers, the contract for supplying commodities to aborigines. When I approached the Colonial Secretary, he took up the same attitude as did the Minister for Mines in a somewhat similar matter. I suppose he thought he was in a good position when he stood behind the Minister for Mines, because if any man can bluff his way through, it is the Minister for Mines. The Asiatics who run a little shop in Wiluna were successful in getting the contract for the supply of commodities to the aborigines in that district.

Mr. Teesdale: Are there any white stores?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, and white people tendered. Those people have wives and families and all their surplus cash is put into the mining industry. The Asiatics merely abide here for a time until they accumulate wealth, and then they return to their native country, carrying their wealth with them. The Minister, when spoken to, said they were naturalised British subjects. These people do not require to be naturalised; they are British-born subjects, but I do not care a tinker's curse whether they are naturalised or British born; no Minister should permit an Asiatic or other coloured man to secure a contract in preference to an Australian. I do not mind his getting it if he is the only tenderer, but

the Wiluna instance is a glaring one, and reflects great discredit upon the Minister.

Mr. Teesdale: The pity of it is the residents support them by trading with them.

Mr. MARSHALL: That is so, but that is no reason why the Minister should give them the preference. Every year we are passing large votes to assist the mining industry. The white people at Wiluna are backing the prospectors and putting their money into shows and thereby saving the Government some responsibility. Even if their tender was a little higher than that of the Asiatics, they should have received the contract. I thought we would have heard something about immigration. It will be said I am not in favour of immigration; I expect a remark to that effect from the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale). I would offer no objection to an efficient and systematic policy of immigration, under which the migrants could be absorbed as rapidly as they are brought here, but I protest against the system of bringing migrants here and placing them at the mercy of outside bodies. We may be grateful to these outside bodies that are playing a prominent part in placing the migrants, but there are more newcomers arriving than the State can absorb. They are drifting all over the State and ultimately finding their way back to the city. A week or two ago it was said that all our migrants were going on the land. I deny that statement; a big percentage are not going near the land. Some of them drift back to Perth. Go to the Works Department and converse with the men there and one can scarcely tell whether one is in Australia or England, so English is the dominant accent, showing distinctly that the migrants are not going on the land as the Premier fondly supposes. They are being placed in the Works Department, on the railways, on the tramways and in other departments to the detriment of Australian workers. I do not wish to speak disparagingly of the Ugly Men's Association, because they are doing as well as can be expected. They are between two fires; they have a bad type of migrant to handle in the majority of cases, and a very mean class of employer to deal with on the other hand.

The Premier: There are a lot of bad people in this world.

Mr. MARSHALL: And all of them are not outside this Chamber. We do not find the Ugly Men's Association or the Charities Department running to the assistance of the unemployed Australian. He is turned adrift. There is no such thing as placing him in jobs two or three times. When he gets tired and returns to the city it is of no use his going to the Salvation Army Home, the Charities Department, or the Ugly Men's Association to find another job.

Mr. Clydesdale: He is placed half a dozen times.

Mr. MARSHALL: What! the Australian!

Mr. Clydesdale: Yes; the Australian. I am speaking of the Ugly Men's Association.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am referring to all of them. A number of migrants are drawing sustenance from the Charities Department.

The Colonial Secretary: You must revise your views.

Mr. MARSHALL: I shall not revise them as regards the Minister. No assistance is given to the Australian. He is told to go into the bush and get work, and he does not get a free pass to the job. He can find his way there as best he can.

The Premier: Oh, no!

Mr. MARSHALL: He has to ask a member of Parliament to guarantee his fare in order that he may be able to get to a job.

Mr. Teesdale: He could always get it from the Labour Bureau.

Mr. MARSHALL: But there have been fare accounts that members have had to pay. The Australian can go anywhere and find work where he can. He is finding it more difficult to get it every day.

The Premier: Not at all.

Mr. MARSHALL: Immigrant labour is cheaper than Australian labour. The immigrants are undermining the principle of the living wage. The Australian, being more independent, is going hungry rather than submit to wage slavery. The immigrant is working detrimentally to himself and the Australian workers generally.

Mr. Teesdale: As soon as he is competent he wants the full money.

Mr. MARSHALL: It is no uncommon thing to find immigrants taking the meanest way of getting out of the country, jumping a steamer and clearing out. There is a great deal of discontent amongst them.

Mr. Pickering: There is discontent in every community.

Mr. MARSHALL: I believe there is more discontent in the hon. member's electorate than existed before. I protest against the system of immigration. I cannot go into any street in Perth without coming into contact with good Australian workers whose only question is, "Where can we get work?" When I go to the Public Works Department, I find that the supposed land settlers are engaged there, or are on the tramways or the railways, and are receiving preference in every public utility over the Australian worker.

The Premier: I say they are not.

Mr. MARSHALL: I could tell the Premier more if he wishes.

The Premier: What is that?

Mr. MARSHALL: An immigrant was engaged in a public works job and said, "I will not stay here; the work is too hard." He cleared out. He came back two days later with a letter from a Minister, and obtained a job as assistant paymaster. It was not a pick and shovel job.

The Minister for Works: Can you prove that statement?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes.

The Minister for Works: Prove it to-morrow morning.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister for Works was the man who sent along that letter enabling this immigrant to get a light job.

The Minister for Works: Come down to my office and prove it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I can prove it.

The Minister for Works: Then do so.

Mr. MARSHALL: My statements are more reliable than those of the Minister for Works.

The Minister for Works: No, they are not.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Minister does not hesitate to defend an officer like Mr. Lawson, who deliberately sacked two maimed and limbless men because they refused to take a lower wage. I know the Minister only too well.

The Minister for Works: You cannot know him too well.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Public Works Department has a big percentage of immigrants, both in and out.

The Minister for Works: I challenge you to prove it. You cannot prove it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I can prove my statement to any intellectual being, not the Minister for Works, for I would not guarantee to prove anything to him. The immigration policy is vital to the Minister for Works and other employers, but it does not spell progress and will ultimately reflect upon this State.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [11.6]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 7.30 to-morrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.7 p.m.