

to raise by the subscriptions of the members, funds out of which advances may be made for the mutual relief or the maintenance of members, their wives or children, in sickness or infirmity, or any other kindred purpose, or out of which payment of death benefits may be made, and which is not registered as a friendly society under this Act. (3.) If any default is made in the observance of the provisions of this section, then the secretary or other permanent officer of the association, and also each of the members of the board of directors, council, or other governing body of the association, shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

The clause is a compulsory one, under the terms of which societies such as the Railway Death Benefit Fund, the Railway Sick and Provident Fund and the Government Printing Office and Education Department Death Benefit Funds, would have been compelled to be registered under the Act. Deputations waited upon the Colonial Secretary regarding the clause in the Bill; and after the Minister had given the matter considerable attention he considered that for the time being, and until we see how this legislation will work out, the clause could be waived in favour of the amendment I am now suggesting. Personally I think it would be a good thing if all these funds were registered under the Friendly Societies Act.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Why?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Because they would be under the jurisdiction of the Registrar, who would know what was being done.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The amendment and the clause are practically the same thing.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: They are not. The amendment is very different.

Hon. A. Duffell: The compulsory nature of the provision is eliminated.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: And the Registrar is able to get the information that is necessary.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Does he want it for statistical purposes?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: We want to know what the societies are doing.

Hon. J. Duffell: Exactly.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If they are doing wrong, the Government can step in. The amendment satisfies all parties concerned.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Will the amendment require returns to be submitted where it is made a condition of employment that employees shall subscribe to a fund not registered in this State? I understand in some instances the money is held here, but the administration of the fund is carried out from the Eastern States.

The Minister for Education: Are those funds registered here?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: No, but the employees are compelled to subscribe to the fund which is administered from the Eastern States.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: This is an important point and I would like to look into it before proceeding with the amendment.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 8.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 1st November, 1923.

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

QUESTION—LAKESIDE WOODLINE.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Minister for Railways: What is the present position regarding the negotiations by the Government for the purchase of the Lakeside woodline?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: The matter is being investigated.

QUESTION—HARNESS AND SADDLERY, PURCHASES.

Mr. HUGHES asked the Premier: 1, What is the value respectively of harness and saddlery purchased by the Stores Branch from the 1st of July, 1922, to the 30th of June, 1923, inclusive—(a) by tender; (b) by written quote; (c) by verbal quote? 2, In the matter of written quotes, to what firms were quote forms supplied during the aforesaid period? 3, As to verbal quotes, what firms were solicited for quotes during that period?

The PREMIER replied: It will take some time to get out the information. I will supply it as soon as I get it.

QUESTION—MIDLAND WORKSHOPS, BOLT AND NUT PLANT.

Mr. HUGHES asked the Minister for Railways: 1, With reference to the bolt and nut manufacturing plant installed in the Midland Workshops last year, what was the cost of—(a) the plant; (b) the installation thereof; and (c) the dies therefor? 2, What is the value of—(a) the materials purchased; (b) the stores manufactured; (c) material used as scrap in the forge? 3, How many dies have been broken or worn out, and is it a fact that the life of the dies varied from ten minutes and one day to a maximum of one week? 4, Has the plant been scrapped; if not, is it being operated? 5, If the plant is not being operated, why has it been closed down?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, (a) £8,296, (b) £1,585, (c) £822. 2, (a) £8,061, (b) £9,631, (c) £150. 3, (a) On spike and bolt machine, 14 headers, 11 spike dies, and 1 fish-bolt die broken or worn out. (b) No; the dies on the plant have produced 881,768 pieces, and time is not the governing factor. 4, (a) No, (b) No. 5, All present demands met.

QUESTION—WATER SUPPLY, NORTH PERTH.

Mr. MANN (for Capt. Carter) asked the Minister for Water Supply: Will he arrange to have the flushing of water mains in the North Perth area done on days other than Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, so as to enable residents to obtain a supply of clear water for laundry purposes?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: No flushing is done on Sundays, and instructions have been given to exempt Monday and Tuesday also, excepting when in the judgment of the responsible engineer it is necessary to do it on those days.

QUESTION—PERTH-ARMADALE ROAD.

Mr. WILLCOCK asked the Minister for Works: 1, Has the road between Perth and Armadale been repaired recently? 2, What length of road has been repaired? 3, What was the cost of the repairs? 4, Who is responsible for the necessary payment in connection with the repairs?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, The Perth-Armadale road has been partially reconstructed recently. 2, The length of road treated is 5 miles 12 chains. 3, To date the cost is £10,963. 4, Canning Road Board, Gosnells Road Board, Armadale-Kelmscott Road Board, the Public Works Department.

QUESTION—INCOME TAXATION.

Mr. HUGHES asked the Premier: 1, As he stated on the 18th September, 1923, in reply to a question, that of the amount of £390,003 income tax collected during the year ended 30th June, 1923, the sum of £286,154

was on account of the year 1922-3, has he observed that the report of the Commissioner for Taxation, table 9, page 5, shows the assessments made on account of the year 1922-3 to total £240,783? 2, How is it that the amount of the tax collected on account of the year 1922-3 up to the end thereof appears to be £45,371 in excess of the value of the assessments made?

The PREMIER replied: 1, the amount of £286,154 represents the tax collected during the financial year 1922-3 on account of assessments issued for all years during the year 1922-3. 2, The amount shown in the Commissioner's annual report is in respect to the assessments only for the year 1922-3, that is to say, assessments made on incomes received during the year ended the 30th June, 1922. It should be noted that, as the system of bookkeeping does not provide for the collections in respect to each year of assessment being kept separate, the Department is unable to give the actual collections in respect to the sixteenth year of assessment, namely, 1922-3. To do so would mean an analysis of every taxpayer's account.

PAPERS—MINING, ABANDONED LEASES.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, ordered: That all papers relating to the option proposed to be granted by the Government over abandoned mining leases be laid upon the Table of the House.

BILL—FACTORIES AND SHOPS ACT AMENDMENT.

Report of Committee adopted.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1923-24.

In Committee of Supply.

Resumed from the 30th October; Mr. Mun-
sic in the Chair.

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

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

Mr. HUGHES (East Perth) [4.40]: There is one point upon which I should like some information. We have just received the report of the Auditor General. On page 44 appears a list of surcharges made by the Auditor General. Some of them have been outstanding since 1904. In 1904-5 the Colonial Secretary's Department had two surcharges outstanding. It seems to me that 18 years is an excessive length of time to be given a department in which to clean up surcharges. Section 41 of the Audit Act prescribes that if certain things shall appear to the Auditor General, he shall surcharge the officer concerned, and report to the Treasurer any deficiency or loss or any expenditure not fully authorised or vouched for. When any surcharge has remained unsatisfied for six

months, and the Auditor General shall have given a certificate in writing to the Treasurer that the surcharge ought to be removed, the Governor may deem that surcharge to have been satisfied. Section 42 prescribes that when any officer has been surcharged, the Treasurer shall take proceedings to recover the amount. The amount may be sued for, and in any proceedings the certificate in writing of the Auditor General shall be conclusive evidence that such surcharge is due to His Majesty.

The Premier: Has this been outstanding for 18 years?

Mr. HUGHES: The one I refer to has been outstanding since 1904.

The Premier: The member for North-East Fremantle was then the Minister. You must appeal to him.

Mr. HUGHES: If the member for North-East Fremantle were still Minister, these surcharges would not be here. It is for the Treasurer to see that the surcharges are satisfied. The State employs an auditor general with a large staff to examine accounts. When the Auditor General finds that things are not as they should be, not in compliance with the law, he reports the matter to the head of the department. If the discrepancy be not rectified, the Audit Act provides a weapon known as the surcharge. The Auditor General has the right to surcharge for the deficiency. When he has done that, his responsibility passes to the Treasurer. This matter does not seem to have had any serious consideration from the Treasurer, else we should not have the formidable list of outstanding surcharges shown in the Auditor General's report, some of them outstanding for 18 years. This House is the custodian of the public revenue, and the Auditor General is the independent representative of this House. When he reports these delinquencies to the House, it is the duty of the House to see that they are rectified. It is due to the House that the Premier should at once have these matters cleared up. If the Auditor General examines the public accounts and submits his report for the guidance of Parliament and the country, and the report is ignored, it is waste of money to employ him.

The Premier: If it is a Treasury matter you cannot discuss it now.

Mr. HUGHES: It is a matter for the Colonial Secretary, and it is for the Treasurer to see that the department satisfies the Auditor General's surcharge. There is a way in which the surcharge can be lifted. The Governor in Council can lift it, as the Auditor General's report shows. The surcharge outstanding since 1905 is for £300 or £400 paid in wages, for which no vouchers were produced. That may not be regarded as a serious matter. If the Auditor General is responsible for seeing that the money of the State is properly expended, and he reports that money has been spent without proper vouchers, it is time Parliament inquired into the reason for this. If the surcharges are being lifted without due con-

sideration, and the Auditor General is exercising the power to surcharge without proper jurisdiction, and he is surcharging things he should not surcharge, he is not competent for his position.

The Premier: Of course no one is competent.

Mr. HUGHES: If the surcharges are legitimate it is the duty of the House to see that action is taken. Either the surcharges should be written off by the Governor in Council, or the Auditor General should be told he is levying surcharges he has no right to levy. The whole thing is cutting at the root of the responsibility of the Auditor General to Parliament. If the Auditor General is to put forward a list of deficiencies and surcharges year after year, and no notice is taken of this, we are going to destroy the incentive of the Audit Office to find out these things and report them. If Parliament considers, when the Auditor General makes a report such as he does on page 44, that there is no need for action, the money spent on the staff of the Audit Office is wasted. We have had the Auditor General's report only quite recently, and it was impossible to deal with this matter before. Seeing that the Colonial Secretary's Department is involved with almost every other administrative branch of the Government service, the time has arrived when action should be taken, either by wiping out the surcharges, or clearing up the matter to the satisfaction of the Auditor General.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.50]: The surcharges are set up against officials, not because they have done anything wrong, but because the authority to spend the money may not be quite in order, and the official who has been spending the money under an authority which is not an authority is surcharged. Often in the past the amount has been large. I will make a note of what the hon. member has said and will have the matter looked into.

Mr. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [4.51]: There are one or two items under this vote that call for comment. I am interested in the correspondence despatch department. This is a small and unobtrusive department that is doing valuable work and saving a great deal of money. Its gross earnings last year were £29,950, and its expenditure £9,795, leaving a profit to the State of about £20,000.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: This is due to the foresight of the Labour Government.

Mr. TEESDALE: I was going to say that. It is so seldom that we can congratulate our friends opposite upon anything, I was going to remark that this is an excellent arrangement, and that every credit is due to those who started it.

Hon. P. Collier: I suppose its success is mainly due to succeeding Governments.

Mr. TEESDALE: The charges imposed by the department are very reasonable, being

and for any letter, package, or parcel. It does not appear to be attempting to boost its earnings in any way. I know this department because I have had a good deal to do with it. I congratulate the head official upon its satisfactory working. The boys spark about a little at times, but they are young and one must expect this. Beyond that, one receives good attention and the documents are quickly despatched. Some years ago the matter of bonuses for suggestions was considered in the House. I took some interest in the question. I saw a number of Government officials, and was assured it was morally impossible to do anything satisfactory in the way of giving bonuses to officials for suggested economies. I was told that if an official suggested something that would result in a saving, he was at once looked upon as a marked man in the department. I was sorry to hear that. I asked several questions of the then Treasurer with a view to protecting officials in this desirable work. I am sorry to say we were unable to convince the officials in this matter. It was in connection with the bonus business that I dropped upon the Correspondence Despatch Department. The organisation of that department was the outcome of the motion connected with bonuses. It may not be generally known that it is directly attributable to the suggestion of Mr. A. O. Neville. It happened so far back that people have forgotten this. Every credit is due to Mr. Neville for placing the department on such a splendid basis.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Government before the Labour Government turned it down.

Mr. TEESDALE: There was a great deal of difficulty in convincing people that this would be a good innovation. Mr. Neville had to overcome a number of obstacles, but was determined to go through with it, and we now have this satisfactory result. I am sorry the Government did not go on with the bonus business. Splendid results would have followed. I believe a civil servant suggested that we should utilise all the old scrap paper, such as plaint forms, summons forms, and others, that had accumulated in the different Government offices, amounting in all to many tons in weight. Hundreds of pounds were saved by utilising this scrap paper in the making of envelopes and other documents for use in Government offices. I can find no record of any recognition of this suggestion. It is not an incentive to other Government officials to make similar suggestions. They were definitely promised in this House that such suggestions would be valued by the Treasurer according to the economy that resulted from such suggestions.

The Colonial Secretary: That particular suggestion was made some years ago.

Mr. TEESDALE: Yes, I think in the time of Mr. Gardiner as Treasurer. It was made before the paper famine. I wish to refer to the clothing issued to natives. The department has made a great mistake for many years past in this regard. The shirts issued are very unsuitable and uneconomical. It would be well if the department issued short

sleeved flannel shirts. Half the wear and tear of a shirt is in the sleeves, which blow about and soon cause the shirts to go to pieces. A flannel shirt would be a little more expensive at first, but the department would reap the benefit of the better value by the longer life that would be given to the shirt. Cheap dungarees are also issued to the natives. I am sure the department will not take my remarks in other than the right spirit, for they are made for the benefit of the department and with the object of bringing about economy. It would be a good idea if the department would make trousers of soft duck instead of this cheap dungaree, which is a poor material and has a cheap finish. The duck would last three times as long as the dungaree, though it might cost half as much again to make a pair of trousers. The duck will wash well and is very strong, and should not cost more than 7s. or 8s. a pair. At present the department issues two or three pairs of dungaree trousers at 5s., and in a couple of months they are worn out. I hope the Minister will try this experiment.

The Colonial Secretary: I will see that the matter is considered.

Mr. TEESDALE: The issuing of hats to natives should be stopped. It is a perfect farce. A hat may cost 8s. or 10s., and the first time a native wears it he probably loses it. If not, he uses it to fan the fire or as a cloth with which to take the quart pot off the fire. Sometimes he carries water in it. He does not require a cover for his head. When natives start putting on western clothing they generally become sick. They do not require to be coddled. I would straighten up some of the camps if I had my way. The natives get too much meat. This makes them vicious. It upsets their insides and they want a doctor. They should remain a little on the fine side, which will keep them healthier. It has been suggested that bedsteads should be given to natives. I hope that is as far as the Minister will go. The first thing that will happen will be that a native will be hung up on the bed head, and compensation will have to be paid to the widow. Other natives will get tangled up in the wire mattresses, and it may be necessary to put cotton mattresses on top of the wire. We shall have to grow the cotton for this purpose, but I hope our cotton will be of too superior a kind to be used for that purpose. The idea of bedsteads is absurd. Besides, they entail a big expense and it will be necessary to provide at least three blankets for each bed. The natives are accustomed to lying on the sand which always makes a nice comfortable bed. I have used the sand as a bed for months and years, and never even got bed sores. We do not want our natives to be coddled by being given beds in buildings. Let them remain outside in the fresh air, and we will always have healthy people instead of sick, to say nothing of the absence of vermin, which must always make their appearance in bedsteads and bedding. Possibly, for a few bedridden natives, we might stretch a point and provide them with bed-

steads, but even then they should not be of iron. Comfortable canvas stretchers are more suitable. The blankets issued to the natives have been of an inferior quality. It is a farce to say that because a boy has been given a blanket he has been sent away well equipped for bitterly cold nights such as we get in the North. I have my own ideas about the natives. A lot of them need to be wound up like a clock once a week. Certainly we must feed and clothe them well, and see that they are warm at night and of course we must treat them as humanely as possible. I have always endeavoured to see that the natives are treated well and I shall continue to do so. If I had my way I would see that every native in the South was sent to the stations in the North. They require plenty of open spaces and fresh meat. If we allowed them to lead their own life they would be healthy. It was a mistake to house them at Carrollup River, and then send them on to Moore River. I happened to know the Carrollup settlement very well, and I regret that so much expenditure was incurred there in the erection of solid buildings that are now practically worthless. There were erected dormitories, hospitals, school, assistant masters' houses and other first class buildings, while a considerable sum was spent in making Onslow road fit to carry the traffic. Then without rhyme or reason someone conceived the idea that it would be advisable to have a division of the natives. That was a wrong move. Now we have a section of the natives in charge of the Chief Inspector of Fisheries and another section in charge of Mr. Neville. The dual control is not conducive to success. I doubt very much whether either of these officers displays the same interest that one would do if he had undivided control. The Minister is rather premature in speaking about the health of the natives in the settlements because those settlements have not been long enough in existence to permit of a fair test. There was a good deal of sickness in the Carrollup settlement, but that may have been due to the fact that there was sickness in the district. It would be interesting to know who is responsible for the division to which I have referred. It took place during the chief inspector's absence in the North. Certainly it was scant courtesy on the part of the Government to make so pronounced an alteration without giving some thought to the man who had the interests of the natives so much at heart. I refer to Mr. Neville. I have no brief for Mr. Neville; I have some heated arguments with him nearly every week; but I do know that he has done everything in his power, remembering the small vote at his disposal, to see that the aborigines of the State receive the best possible attention. He has performed wonders with the small vote and he has kept quiet the Exeter Hall crowd from whom we used to hear in olden days when a native, perhaps for having killed a horse, received three or four cuts with a whip. That kind of news would find its way to London and a few ladies, always on the lookout for something which they could magnify into the ill-treatment of natives, in the wilds of West-

ern Australia, would become busy. We had half a dozen visits from inspectors in connection with a little venture with which I was associated, and every one of those visits was traced back to the old ladies in England who wear lace fichus and ringlet hair, that type of spinster with the good old sour vinegar face who has a set on everyone and on no one in particular, and who is always on the lookout for someone to pull at. That is the type of person that Mr. Neville has succeeded in keeping quiet. They used to talk about the Legrees of the North and their treatment of the natives, but we have been able to make the natives perfectly satisfied and we shall continue to satisfy them so long as we do not have too many visits from those inspectors of natives who are looking for trouble and think it exists when in fact it does not. We want to see those inspectors when there is sickness amongst the natives. Then they can be of some service. I hope the Minister will bear in mind what I have said, and I trust he will consider favourably the suggestion I have made that we should send the natives from the southern settlements to the Government station in the North. The natives would be far better off there and certainly much more comfortable. There might be something of a wrench at first on taking them away from the localities where they were born and bred. But once they got to the open country and received kind treatment at the stations I am certain they would never regret the change.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. R. S. Sampson—Swan—in reply) [5.12]: I thank members for their appreciative references to the work of the departments under my control, and I promise that the various subjects that have been brought under notice will receive attention. Mr. Pickering spoke of the success of the Spanish settlers who are in the vicinity of Busselton. I admit that they are doing very good work and that Spaniards of this class make first-class settlers. The idea of the Government, however, is to secure British settlers, but should the time arrive when it will not be possible to bring out immigrants from England, consideration may then be given to the proposal to introduce the best type of immigrants from either Spain or France. Regarding the references made to the arrival of migrants during the months of July and August, the matter has received attention and efforts will be made to limit the number coming to the State at that period of the year. Mrs. Cowan spoke of mentally deficient children. These children are cared for at the Seaforth Home, Gosnells, which is under the control of the Salvation Army. The children are not referred to as mentally deficient; they are spoken of as "backward." In the Hospital for the Insane children of this type are cared for and they are being trained under what is known as the Montessori system. The remarks of the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) were particularly welcome, and I thank the hon. member for the assistance he has given me not only

on this but on other matters. The knowledge he has in connection with the care of those suffering from mental disabilities is well known and consequently his assistance is valuable. Regarding the observation ward at the Perth Hospital, it is a matter of possibly a few hours before a definite decision will be arrived at, which will determine the site of the mental hospital and render the continued use of this ward unnecessary.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You do not propose to close it up?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No, it will still be used for those suffering from delirium tremens and for other violent cases for which immediate attention is necessary. The suggestions made by the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) regarding the aborigines will be looked into. I assure the hon. member that the transfer of the aborigines from Carrolup to the Moore River settlement has been well justified. The number of deaths in the southern portion of the State last year was 46 less than that recorded during the previous year. That is a sufficient answer to criticism regarding the health of the natives. On the financial side, a saving of £2,670 has been effected, thus showing that both from the standpoints of health and economy, the transfer has been justified.

Mr. Teesdale: They are not making the clothing for the natives in the rest of the State as they did at Carrolup.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They do a deal of work at present for other natives and also for other institutions. Besides that, they raise crops of hay and vegetables and so forth. A good deal of criticism was levelled at me in connection with the alleged supply of frozen meat to the Hospital for the Insane.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And to other institutions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: And also to the Old Men's Home.

Mr. McCallum: And the Training College as well.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Training College does not come under the supervision of the Colonial Secretary's Department. I anticipated that consideration of this matter would not have been embarked upon until we reached the order on the Notice Paper referring to the consideration of the select committee's report. Because of that Order of the Day, I made no reference to this matter when I introduced my Estimates. I think I was right in taking that view. I wish to inform the Committee that consideration is being given to the report of the select committee. First of all the tenders go before the Tender Board and I have communicated with that board and asked what steps are being taken in regard to the alleged supply of frozen meat to the institutions mentioned.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why do you use the term "alleged" so much?

Hon. P. Collier: You refuse to believe the select committee; is that so?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am justified in using the word "alleged" until I have gone into the matter thoroughly and am able to place the whole position before hon. members.

Hon. P. Collier: The committee was unanimous in saying that frozen meat was supplied and yet you refer to "alleged" frozen meat!

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The select committee has not placed the blame on any particular person.

Hon. P. Collier: No, but you use the word "alleged" in referring to the frozen meat. The committee say there was no "alleged" about it. The meat was frozen.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is better to say "alleged" when there is a possibility of having to withdraw the phrase later on.

Hon. P. Collier: Then you do not believe the select committee?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not say that.

Hon. P. Collier: You do, by using the word "alleged."

Mr. Lutey: That is the inference, at any rate.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am of opinion that frozen meat has been delivered to these institutions, but I think it is only right and fair to use the word "alleged" in referring to the meat supplies until I have gone thoroughly into the matter and a report has been submitted to the House.

Mr. Corboy: But a report has been supplied to the House.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The committee has not blamed, nor has it attempted to identify the person who was responsible for the alleged supply of frozen meat.

Hon. P. Collier: The committee definitely state that frozen meat was delivered to the institutions and received there. It has gone beyond the "alleged" stage.

Mr. McCallum: You know who was the contractor; it was the Claremont Meat Company.

Mr. Corboy: And you know who was responsible for receiving it.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am taking up this matter with the Tender Board.

Mr. Teesdale: Will the board fix on the official who was responsible for receiving the meat?

Hon. P. Collier: The Tender Board has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Teesdale: Who will fix on the men responsible?

Mr. Corboy: They are in the Minister's own department.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I was asked a question regarding the action I had taken when this matter came forward and I have been criticised for the statement I made then. I said I had taken the matter up with the Inspector General of the Insane, as head of the Hospital for the insane. The member for Boulder (Hon. P. Collier) criticised my action in that regard. It seems to me that what I did was perfectly right.

Mr. Corboy: You should have acted yourself instead of going to the Inspector General.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What I did was perfectly right. I must go to the man in charge of the institution. It would be impossible, with the number of institutions grouped under the control of the Colonial Secretary's Department, to attempt to do otherwise. What else could be done? What other officer, may I ask, should have been approached?

Hon. P. Collier: When allegations were made regarding adulterated liquor, you did not appoint the man in charge of the State hotels to conduct an inquiry; you appointed the Public Service Commissioner, who was an independent man.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was a matter for Cabinet.

Hon. P. Collier: At any rate, the head of the department was not appointed to carry out the inquiry.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That does not justify the hon. member in criticising me for approaching the head of the institution.

Hon. P. Collier: Why not ask the Public Service Commissioner to inquire into the matter?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That might be an excellent thing to do. I still think the correct thing was to do as I did and approach the Inspector General first. I realise, of course, that I have a great deal to learn, but I am convinced that in this matter I adopted the right course. I think it is up to me to say that I am justified in stressing the fact that I did take this matter up with the Inspector General and since then he has appointed a special officer—I think the officer is a housekeeper—to receive the meat. That has been done by that officer on five days out of six ever since, and on every day someone is there to inspect the meat at 9 o'clock. I am not discussing the question as to whether frozen meat was received or not; that is beside the mark. I am simply bringing this forward to indicate what action I took when the matter was brought forward in the House. If, instead of going to the Inspector General of the Insane, who is the responsible officer, I had gone to the Public Service Commissioner, would that have been fair treatment to the Inspector General, who, so far as I can judge, is doing his duty by the State?

Mr. McCallum: You would be right in asking the Inspector General for an explanation, but if you want an institutional inquiry, you should not ask the man in charge of the institution to go into the matter.

The Minister for Agriculture: There have been two instances of inquiries being made.

Hon. P. Collier: We are talking about the first one. The Minister would not be justified in ignoring the Inspector General, who asked for a report.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I should say so. If the hon. member were in charge of a business and someone went over his head, he would feel affronted.

Hon. P. Collier: I would not ask for an inquiry and on the strength of such a report, call upon hon. members to withdraw and apologise for their remarks.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is another question. I think what I did was perfectly correct. When I spoke on the Address-in-reply I felt sure that no frozen meat had been delivered. I deny that I have ever said to the member for Hannans (Mr. Munsie) or to the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) that they were lying. I am not in the habit of speaking in extravagant terms nor do I think they were lying on the occasions referred to.

Mr. Corboy: But you asked for a withdrawal.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I thought those hon. members had heard rumours and had brought the matter before Parliament. I believed they were merely repeating the statements they had heard.

Hon. P. Collier: You thought they were making irresponsible statements, making wild reckless assertions.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the hon. member is sometimes irresponsible in what he says. He sometimes talks loosely. At any rate, I have not suggested that the hon. members referred to were irresponsible, nor do I think so now. Under Clause 19 of the Government tender regulations, the Tender Board have certain powers, and under Clause 7 of the conditions of tendering they also have further powers. In addition to the Tender Board, the members of which are giving consideration to this matter, as it affects them, there is the question of inspection, which is under the control of the Commissioner of Public Health.

Mr. Underwood: Does the Commissioner of Public Health say that frozen meat is not fit for human consumption?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: No. The select committee recommended that when tenders are next called, consideration should be given to Wyndham frozen meat, and I think that proposal is an excellent one.

Mr. Underwood: That, or any other frozen meat.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Perhaps so, provided it is good. There is evidence in the report that frozen meat is first class meat. I acknowledge that the House is indebted to the select committee for that recommendation.

Mr. McCallum: That recommendation does not cover any other frozen meat. It is confined to Wyndham frozen beef. We did not recommend competition against our own growers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am sorry the report did not go a little further. In my opinion it is incomplete. Further evidence should have been taken in some instances, and the omission to do that shows that the evidence is faulty. For instance, if hon. members turn to Question 917, they will see that the member for Hannans was asked a certain question and in answering it, he stated that he had been

given the name of a person. In answer to Question 919 that hon. member stated he did not know the name of the man concerned.

Mr. McCallum: Excuse me, in Question 919 he gives the name!

Mr. Lambert: That is like some of the answers the Minister's officers give. I do not think they are too reliable.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Question 917, put by the member for Menzies (Mr. Mullany) to the member for Hannans, and the answer are as follow:—

He told you he saw all this?—No, but he gave me the name of the man who had seen the meat thus handled and had followed it to the institution. Moreover, he did say that on that day the whole of the supply to the asylum was frozen meat. Question No. 919 reads—

You do not know that man's name?—No, my information came from McAllister, the chief cook at the asylum. It is clear the report is incomplete.

Mr. Lambert: If I were Chairman of Committees I would rule you out of order.

The CHAIRMAN: If the Minister were out of order, I would rule him out.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I have no desire to reflect on the Chairman because I feel sure there is an error in the report. The report might have gone much further. A remarkable feature of the evidence given by many witnesses including butchers is the lack of knowledge displayed in respect of chilled and frozen meat.

Mr. Corboy: You read the report. The real experts had no doubt.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: One butcher at least could not tell chilled meat. He said chilled meat was meat that had been put in a freezer. That is not necessarily chilled meat. I have no desire to dilate at length on this matter, but in the minds of those who should know, there was evidently a good deal of doubt as to what was chilled meat.

Mr. Heron: Perhaps they were evading the question.

Mr. McCallum: They had no doubt about frozen meat.

Mr. Teesdale: Buckley said it was perfectly fresh.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: One witness explained the difference between frozen and chilled meat in this way: frozen meat could be stacked like bricks, but chilled meat had to be hung up. That explanation was understandable, though perhaps not very artistic.

Mr. McCallum: That witness did not carry much weight with us.

Mr. Corboy: There were several other witnesses that knew a good deal more than he, and you may quote them if you care to do so.

Mr. McCallum: Three of the witnesses had had wide experience of fresh, frozen and chilled meat.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I fully expected that consideration would be given

to this matter when we reached the order of the day for the consideration of the select committee's report. Because of that I made no reference to the subject when introducing my Estimates. I am not in a position to say what action will be taken, but the matter is being carefully inquired into. Notwithstanding that the printed reports were not available to the officers concerned until Monday last, the whole of the criticism took place on Tuesday.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You must remember that the order for the consideration of the committee's report might be kept at the bottom of the Notice Paper and eventually might be one of the slaughtered innocents.

Mr. McCallum: A typewritten copy of the committee's report was presented to the department a fortnight ago.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That was not the printed report.

Mr. McCallum: It was a copy of the report.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It is impossible to deal with the report unless we have the evidence. The evidence was not available to the officers concerned until Monday, and the criticism took place on Tuesday. When the order is reached, I hope to be in a position to give the House the necessary information. I assure members there will be no disinclination on my part to do my duty.

Mr. Teesdale: No half measures with crooks. Out with them!

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, gaol them, too.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Members will agree that the officers concerned, who knew or claimed they knew that frozen meat was going into the institutions, should have informed their superior officer, and given him an opportunity to deal with the matter. The fact that they did not savours of disloyalty.

Hon. P. Collier: Some of them have had experience of that officer for many years. We know him, too.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If there was any objection to going to him, they could have spoken to the Minister.

Mr. McCallum: If they had done so, they would not have reigned long in their jobs.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member is not justified in saying that.

Hon. P. Collier: He has sacked them in batches before to-day, returned soldiers, crippled ones, too.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Let me give my experience of this officer's attitude to returned soldiers. Only recently when a gate-keeper was required, he selected a limbless soldier.

Hon. P. Collier: I should think he would! He is not entitled to commendation for that.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I only judge him as I find him. Everything he is asked to do, he does.

Hon. P. Collier: And what he asks to be done, is done.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What does the hon. member mean?

Mr. Teesdale: What he asks you to do, is done.

Hon. P. Collier: I did not say the Minister. There is a reciprocity about it. All you ask him to do, is done, and all he asks to be done, is done.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The hon. member has expressed it very nicely, but the sentiment is unworthy of him. When he finds me deviating from the course of duty that requires me to consider the interests of the patients, he will be justified in speaking in such terms, but not until then.

Hon. P. Collier: The grievance is that you accepted the word of an officer against that of a member of this House. You refused to believe us, and that shows you do what you are asked.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: What I did was right and proper. Dr. Anderson is the Inspector General, and is the man to whom I should apply. When the order of the day is reached, I hope to be in a position to give the House a full statement of the case.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—*Aborigines (Southern portion)*, £3,907; *Fisheries*, £5,682; *Friendly Societies and Registry*, £9,178—agreed to.

Vote—*Gaols*, £23,302.

Mr. PICKERING: During the debate on the Colonial Secretary's Estimates, reference was made to the steps being taken in other States and in New Zealand to utilise good conduct prisoners in forest plantations. I think it is the desire of members that we should not lag behind in adopting the system that has proved so satisfactory there. There is great scope for the utilisation of good conduct prisoners in this direction, as was indicated in the report of the Royal Commission on forests. The Minister for Forests said he would not object to the utilisation of prison labour provided it was viewed as a measure of prison reform, and the whole of the cost was not debited against the Forests Department. If the member for Kanowna (Hon. T. Walker) were present, I am sure he would ardently advocate anything that would tend to better the lot of prisoners. The Colonial Secretary should consult with the Minister for Forests with a view to adopting a system similar to that obtaining at Tuncurrie in New South Wales, and, I believe, in Victoria and New Zealand.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The matter of establishing a prison farm and of utilising prison labour is receiving consideration, and a conference between various officers concerned is now being arranged. It is proposed to ask the Director of Agriculture, the Acting Controller General, the Superintendent of Prisons, the Chairman of the Indeterminate Sentences Board, Major McClure, head of the social section of the Salvation Army, the Under Secretary for Lands, and the Conservator of Forests, to meet and consider the whole question. I agree with the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) that there is a

great opportunity to utilise prison labour in this way. The conference will be held in the near future.

Mr. McCALLUM: Have the Government arrived at any decision regarding printing in the gaol? There have been negotiations between the unions and the Government, but we have had no declaration of policy from the Government.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Colonial Secretary has suggested the farm as an alternative.

Mr. McCALLUM: That information was not given by the Minister in charge.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Minister has just given you that explanation.

Mr. McCALLUM: I did not hear him say anything about printing. The Daglish Government, about 20 years ago, introduced the system of printing in prison. There has been opposition to the practice ever since. The reply to the representations made by the Trades and Labour Council of that day was that the effect would be to turn the prisoners into good and useful citizens. I said at the time that it was impossible for men to learn the printing trade in prison. I have since challenged the Government, and I challenge them now, to adduce one person who during the 20 years learnt printing in gaol and is earning his living at the trade now.

Mr. Mann: A prisoner who had learnt printing here might go to another State and be employed as a printer there.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is not possible. Before a man is admitted to a union, his qualifications must be certified to, and he must show where he has learnt the trade and with whom he has worked.

The Colonial Secretary: That sounds inquisitorial.

Mr. McCALLUM: What does the Minister do when a man comes to him for work as a printer?

The Colonial Secretary: I try him.

Mr. McCALLUM: The unions satisfy themselves as to a man's competency before sending him out to take a job. At every one of the half-dozen triennial conferences of the printing trade which I have attended, this question of prison printing has been discussed. How is it possible for a man, generally of mature years, engaged on limited printing work in prison for a comparatively short period—a sentence of five years is a very long one—can compete with a man who in his youth has been trained in the commercial atmosphere of a printing office with up-to-date appliances? For a good many years I was an inspector of the Fremantle Prison, and I went there every six or eight weeks and closely watched what was being done. Speaking as a tradesman who has served his apprenticeship and has taught apprentices, I say there is no hope of teaching a man in gaol the printing trade so as to enable him to compete with trained tradesmen. Twenty years ago I advocated that prisoners should be put on some work useful for the country, say farming work or clearing.

The Colonial Secretary: Every man is not suitable for farming.

Mr. McCALLUM: There are many classes of work which are not done at all in this State, and some of these could be done in the gaol. What about the manufacture of wire netting?

The Colonial Secretary: It was tried in New South Wales, and proved unsuccessful.

Mr. McCALLUM: It is done in Pentridge, Melbourne, to-day, and done very successfully. The operation is a mechanical one. There is a big demand for wire netting, and its manufacture in the gaol would not deprive anyone of employment. We are relying on the Eastern States for many manufactured goods, and certainly some of these could be made in the gaol. The feeling in the printing industry is keen on this subject, because more and more of the trade is being diverted to the gaol. There are fewer men now employed here in my trade than there were when I came to Western Australia, nearly 25 years ago. The printing trade here is shrinking instead of developing.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not right there.

Mr. McCALLUM: If there were employment the men would be here. Quite a number of the apprentices turned out in my time have been obliged to go to the Eastern States to get work. If it is only a question of finding the prisoners something to do, I contend that that question should be attacked from an aspect entirely different from that which applies to the reformation of the prisoners, and teaching them trades at which they could earn their livelihood when released.

The Colonial Secretary: What do you think of the quality of the book-binding turned out at the gaol?

Mr. McCALLUM: It is not of any class, and the Colonial Secretary knows that.

The Colonial Secretary: Then it does not compete with the printing trade.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Government have degraded the trade. Formerly the Government Printing Office employed its leading tradesmen on books for, say, the Harbour Trust. As a result of the Government sending that work to be done at the gaol, it has passed out of the high branch of the trade. Work that used to be done at the Government Printing Office in laced Russia bands with marbled edges, I have seen done at the gaol quarter-bound and cut flush.

The Colonial Secretary: The expensive binding to which you refer has largely disappeared.

Mr. McCALLUM: The system of doing work at the gaol started the decline.

The Colonial Secretary: The bindings you mentioned are too costly now.

Mr. McCALLUM: I take strong exception to printing work being given to the prisoners. Events have shown that the prisoners cannot learn the work of printing in gaol. They should be found some work which will not compete with local labour.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Book-binding is not developing in any part of the world. No progress in it has been made for the last 50 years. Improved methods in business, perhaps, have something to do with this. To-day is the day of the loose-leaf system, and the day of expensive binding in full morocco with gilt or marbled edges is past. But book-binding is the only section of the trade that has gone back; every other section is going ahead. I know of no man in the printing trade out of work. If there be any, I could let him have the name of a place where there is a good opening for a country newspaper.

Mr. McCallum: What about putting some of the prisoners on to the country newspapers?

Hon. P. Collier: Certainly we want competition against some of the existing country newspapers.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is a good living to be made in the country if only the men would go there, but the demand in Perth for good men is so great that they will not go out of the city. Last week I had occasion to advertise for a linotype operator, but did not get a single applicant. All over Australia there is a shortage of men in the printing industry.

Mr. Pickering: How long does it take to learn the trade?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In my office I had a young man for 15 months on the linotype. At the end of that period he was passed as being 100 per cent. proficient. There is no trade easier to learn, yet more difficult in which to obtain employees. Objection was raised because I suggested substituting in Fremantle gaol a modern stapling machine for an obsolete one. Stapling is work that any man, woman or child can learn in less than five minutes. That new stapling machine would have proved a considerable saving. However it has not been put in. I am sorry to hear that nobody is learning the trade, for in the printing industry there is good opportunity for many.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—*Harbour and Light, £20,726:*

Item, *Jetty and tramway working expenses, and jetty claims, £1,500:*

Mr. TEESDALE: A footnote shows that there have been received, harbour dues, £20,129; Swan River dues, £3,609; shipping and navigation fees, £285; jetty receipts, £28,095, and sundries £359. Included in those items are North-West receipts. It would be only fair if they were detailed, in order to show the percentage derived from the North-West.

Vote put and passed.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Vote—*Immigration, £5,109:*

Mr. McCALLUM: I should like to know whether anything has been done to meet the complaint raised during the Address-in-reply

that union representatives were denied the right to address migrants on the industrial position. Certain people are allowed free access to the migrants, but union representatives are denied that privilege, the excuse being that they represent political organisations.

Mr. Teesdale: You do not want to open the doors of the Immigration Home to the Esplanader?

Mr. McCALLUM: Every busybody and mischief maker who comes along goes in there now.

Hon. P. Collier: It should be all in or all out.

Mr. McCALLUM: The whole of the National League in Fremantle visit the migrants and address them.

Mr. Teesdale: I hope they do not talk politics.

Mr. McCALLUM: What do you think they talk?

The Colonial Secretary: Do you suggest that they do talk politics?

Mr. McCALLUM: I not only suggest it, but I am positive of it. They are there on propaganda. What else are they there for?

Hon. P. Collier: They are there to praise the Government.

Mr. McCALLUM: And to warn the migrants that under no circumstances must they have anything to do with so-called Labour agitators. When the Leader of the Opposition and I go there we are ordered off the premises.

Hon. P. Collier: Very promptly.

Mr. McCALLUM: Yet executive members of the National League at Fremantle, representatives of religious bodies, in fact everybody who has not any atmosphere of Labour about him, has permission to go into that institution.

The Colonial Secretary: You are a prominent Labour man, and you are always welcome there.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Leader of the Opposition and I were ordered off the premises.

The Colonial Secretary: How long ago was that?

Hon. P. Collier: Eighteen months ago.

The Colonial Secretary: It is all altered now.

Mr. McCALLUM: The order has never been withdrawn, so far as we know.

The Colonial Secretary: Last year I gave the assurance that you would be always welcome.

Mr. McCALLUM: Pardon me, you did nothing of the sort. When we brought it up on the Address-in-reply this session, the Premier said the decision would be reviewed. However, no notice of any alteration has been conveyed to us. If we are to take the Colonial Secretary's invitation as official, it is the first we have had.

The Colonial Secretary: Well it is all right, subject of course—

Mr. McCALLUM: There you are! Is it subject to Crawcour's approval? Or have you to consult Monger? Whom have you to see about it?

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister will not take the responsibility without first consulting somebody.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister's invitation is thrown across the Chamber, but when it is taken up he at once hedges, says it is subject to something else. Whom is it the Minister has to consult?

Hon. P. Collier: Crawcour.

Mr. McCALLUM: But the Minister is a member of Monger's party, and they are not permitted to do anything without consulting Monger. Perhaps the Minister is not even allowed to issue an invitation to visit the Immigration Home without first consulting Monger.

Hon. P. Collier: No, it is Crawcour this time.

Mr. Pickering: Are you sure it is not Millington?

Mr. McCALLUM: It may even be Millington. However, we are awaiting an invitation to the feast. I am told functions are held down there weekly.

The Colonial Secretary: Only for those who want to help.

Mr. McCALLUM: For those who criticise and find fault.

Hon. P. Collier: Busybodies.

Mr. McCALLUM: Can there be any more reasonable request than that trades union representatives should go to the migrants on arrival and say, "This is the industrial standard in this State; these are the industrial laws; if you meet with an accident, the Workers Compensation Act provides for you; if you go into a factory, this is the factory law." Is not that a fair proposition?

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. McCALLUM: Before tea the Minister issued an open invitation to the Leader of the Opposition and me to visit the Immigrants' Home, and said we would be welcomed there. When I tried to get that from him in an official way, he attempted to qualify the statement. If Mr. Crawcour says we may go there, would the Colonial Secretary raise any objection?

Hon. P. Collier: We propose to go.

Mr. McCALLUM: It would, of course, befit our position if we humbly sought the permission of Mr. Crawcour before approaching the institution. We have no right to go there without his consent. It would be nice to know, if we humbled ourselves in that way, whether the Minister would have any objection to our going. The Government have declared many times that they would not be a party to the immigration scheme being used to lower the standard of our industrial conditions. If immigration is not to be used to break down our industrial standard, is it not a reasonable request to make, that when new arrivals come here they should be apprised of the industrial situation, made au fait with our industrial laws, informed of the legislation operating in every industry, and that these things should be explained to them by

men who understand them, and who would be able to give them a few points on these questions?

The Colonial Secretary: Does anyone thoroughly understand them?

Mr. Marshall: Those on the minimum rate of pay do.

Mr. McCALLUM: There are many who understand them sufficiently well to enable them to fortify newcomers with all the necessary information, and help them to look after their own interests. We pride ourselves in Australia with having built up a position for industrial workers that should be taken by other countries as a pattern of social progress. We have stated we are a long way ahead of Europe. In recent years, however, we have been slipping back, and in many respects Europe is ahead of us.

The Colonial Secretary: In what direction?

Mr. McCALLUM: In the white lead industry England is a long way ahead of us.

The Premier: You cannot discuss that now.

Mr. McCALLUM: The new arrivals should be made acquainted with all the industrial conditions operating here, into line with which we all desire that they should fall.

The Premier: Of course.

Mr. McCALLUM: What objection is there to trade union officials explaining the situation to immigrants?

The Premier: I suppose you do.

Mr. McCALLUM: We have been denied the right to do so.

The Premier: You mean in the institution?

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes; the Premier promised to look into the matter.

The Premier: We have done so. The system regarding visits has been altered.

Mr. McCALLUM: No. No notice has been given to us yet of the change.

The Premier: Is it desired that speeches should be made there?

Mr. McCALLUM: The request was made that trade union officials should be permitted to address the immigrants at the institution, and acquaint them with the industrial conditions existing here. They have been denied that right. It is most desirable they should be allowed to do this.

Mr. Latham: All political parties would have to be allowed to do the same thing.

Mr. Munsie: Every other political party goes there now with the exception of our own.

The Colonial Secretary: That is not so.

Mr. McCALLUM: I do not advocate the discussion of politics there.

The Colonial Secretary: You cannot dissociate politics from industrial matters.

Mr. McCALLUM: Is there anything political about industrial situations?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Mr. Mann: A Government official could do that.

Mr. McCALLUM: There is no Government official who knows enough about it.

Mr. Mann: Is all the knowledge confined to your party?

Mr. McCALLUM: It is confined to the trade union officials. What does the hon. member know about it?

Mr. Gibson: What is wrong with posting pamphlets to them?

Mr. McCALLUM: Why are all these busybodies allowed to go there and talk as they do?

The Colonial Secretary: To whom do you refer?

Mr. McCALLUM: The executive of the National Party in Fremantle. After addressing the immigrants they move amongst them and spread their poison. Some of the immigrants saw me at my home last night. Someone suggested they should come to see me, but when these busybodies heard of it they said "Do not go near McCallum. He is an awful man, a Labour agitator." This is the sort of thing that is said by those people the Minister permits to address the immigrants. They were advised not to come near me because I am a Labour agitator.

Mr. Heron: So you are.

Mr. McCALLUM: That is a title I am most proud of. If I were not that, I should not be here.

The Colonial Secretary: What is the name of the organisation to which you refer?

Mr. McCALLUM: These individuals are members of the National Party in Fremantle.

The Colonial Secretary: Under what organisation did they reach the home?

Mr. McCALLUM: That is what I want to know. How is it our people are denied permission to go in there?

Mr. Munsie: Is not Mrs. Fox Angelo the president?

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes.

Mr. Munsie: She is there every week.

The Colonial Secretary: She is a generous worker.

Mr. Munsie: For her own side.

Hon. P. Collier: There are generous workers in the Labour ranks who would like to go there.

Mr. McCALLUM: All those who are opposed to the Labour movement are able to strip themselves of party politics and engage in this useful work, but the moment one is associated with the Labour Party, one is supposed to be unable to dissociate himself from party politics. What a narrow-minded, bigoted view that is!

The Colonial Secretary: Do you say that no one associated with the Labour movement is allowed to extend a welcome hand to the immigrants?

Mr. McCALLUM: No one said anything about extending a welcome hand to them.

The Colonial Secretary: That is what it means.

Mr. McCALLUM: No. These busybodies are engaged in propaganda work on behalf of the opponents of Labour.

Mr. Latham: No political parties should be allowed there at all.

Mr. McCALLUM: Let them all be kept out. We would then have no objection. We

do not want one side to go there and have the other side kept out. That is the foundation of our complaint.

Mr. Latham: I know which would be the stronger party.

Mr. McCALLUM: Yes. We will go down and take the platform together.

The Premier: Go now; we will give you a pass.

Mr. McCALLUM: The letters that were sent to the Colonial Secretary definitely stated there was no desire on the part of the unions to discuss politics. It was desired only to place the industrial conditions of the country before the immigrants.

The Colonial Secretary: Are there any organisations that do not discuss politics?

The Premier: I do not care if they do discuss them.

Mr. McCALLUM: They are spreading their political views insidiously and quietly amongst the immigrants.

The Premier: It is rather cruel to the newcomers to talk politics to them when they have been here only a day or so.

Hon. P. Collier: They do not want these busybodies blathering to them. They are under Mr. Crawcour, and can look after themselves.

The Premier: I do not care how much they talk politics.

Hon. P. Collier: They only go there to get publicity.

Mr. McCALLUM: Our sole desire is that the immigrants should be made aware of the industrial laws of the State, so that when they meet with an accident, or are engaged in some wages dispute, or some other question crops up concerning their conditions, they should know where they stand. There should be very little objection to that. Many people go there now and address them on all kinds of questions. We expected that some decision would be arrived at by the Government and a definite policy laid down, but no alteration has been made in the situation since last year. It is high time something was done.

The Colonial Secretary: You are not a member of any women's organisation.

Mr. McCALLUM: What an intelligent interjection!

The Colonial Secretary: You were speaking of women's organisations.

Mr. McCALLUM: I did not mention one.

Mr. Mann: Mrs. Fox Angelo was mentioned.

Mr. Munsie: I spoke of the National Federation.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There are very few members of that. You can number them on your right hand.

Mr. McCALLUM: I do not know how these people get their invitations. It is, however, peculiar that they are permitted to address immigrants when members of the House are ordered off. Under what regulation are these people permitted to visit the institution, when we are denied that privilege? We want to know why this invidious distinction exists.

Mr. GIBSON: As one who has taken a great deal of interest in the work of the administration of the Immigration Department since I have been associated with municipal work at Fremantle, I should like to say a word or two. I have attended a number of welcomes that have been extended to the immigrants on their arrival, and I give a total denial to the statements made that there have been any political addresses given to those people by members of welcoming organisations. It is quite true that members of the National Federation, and also members of the organisation known, I think, as the Women's Auxiliary, or the After-Care Committee, the executive of which exists in Perth, have given some attention to the welfare of the immigrants after their arrival, and that a committee has been formed in Fremantle to extend a welcome to the immigrants, and to see that everything possible is done for them after they have settled in groups, so that their future in Western Australia may be reasonably comfortable. I think a great mistake was made by the manager of the Immigrants' Home when the Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Fremantle were refused admission to that institution. Nothing can be gained by anything of the sort, because those gentlemen have as much right to enter the home as anyone else. Instead of members of welcome committees being "busybodies spreading the insidious poison of Nationalist propaganda" amongst the new arrivals, they are decent citizens who wish to do all they can for those who are making their new home in the State. While the protest of the member for South Fremantle seems to be reasonable, I hope that gentleman and the Leader of the Opposition will give credit to those who are endeavouring to do all they possibly can to further the immigration policy of Western Australia.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am inclined to agree with the remarks of the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) made a week or two ago regarding the reception and treatment of immigrants on their arrival in the State. He declared that we were rather too much disposed to wrap them in cotton-wool and to treat them as a lot of children who wanted to be nursed from the day they landed here until they reached their graves. Notwithstanding the remarks of the Colonial Secretary, I am convinced that there is only one section of political thought in this State that the officials who control the Immigration Department want to see about the Immigrants' Home. There is no question about who was responsible for ordering the member for South Fremantle and myself off the premises. It was the boss rooster of the institution, Mr. Crawcour. He it was who gave instructions over the telephone to the superintendent or the caretaker in charge at the time. We were peremptorily ordered off the premises. The immigrants have a comfortable home to go to on their arrival. They are well provided for in the matter of ac-

condemnation, food and clothing. They are taken by the hand and led into the country, where employment is found for them. All that is necessary is done for them by the officials of the Government, and there is no need for people to constitute themselves into bodies and to give themselves titles like "Women's Auxiliary," and in that way secure a grant from the Government of £50. All that these people do is to blather at the immigrants when they arrive. Why not give the people a chance to settle down without the various bodies foisting themselves on the new arrivals as soon as they leave the ship? I am certain that many people join these associations and busy themselves in matters of the kind to which I have referred purely because of the publicity they get in the columns of the newspapers.

Mr. Gibson: They get very little publicity.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Let the hon. member read the "Mainly about people" column, and he will there see that Mrs. So-and-so is engaged on a publicity stunt. Labour has no desire to do that kind of thing, or to speak to the immigrants at all, but if the rest of the community are to be permitted to go to the Immigrants' Home, we claim the right to go as well. When the matter was discussed on a former occasion I thought that the result would have been that the Minister would have cut out the whole thing. It is not required.

The Colonial Secretary: Cut what out?

Hon. P. Collier: These busybodies.

The Colonial Secretary: They are excellent women.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am not saying anything about them. But are they doing any good?

The Colonial Secretary: Yes, they are.

Hon. P. COLLIER: By offering the people advice?

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The only people doing any good are the Ugly Men.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The advice of these busybodies can do very little good. We are told that before you are permitted to go to the home, or even to inspect it, let alone address the people there, it is necessary to get permission from the Minister, and it was on such grounds that I was turned out from the home. Crawcour ordered me out because I was unable to produce a permit.

The Colonial Secretary: That was a long time ago.

Hon. P. COLLIER: In order to overcome the objection, a Labour organisation wrote to the Minister and asked for a permit. It was refused on the ground that politics were not permitted to be discussed. There was never any intention to talk politics to the immigrants, but the Minister adhered to his decision, and showed plainly that he held the view that those who were associated with the Labour Party were unable to divest themselves of their political clothing. Members of the National League, however, on going to the Immigrants' Home, can rid themselves of their political coats, and are able to talk on

subjects apart altogether from politics. They are able to address the immigrants without trenching upon political subjects. But when Labour goes there, it is said that it is political, and that therefore it cannot talk anything but politics. Of course, the National League is not a political body, because down there it calls itself an auxiliary body.

The Colonial Secretary: Why do you call it the National League?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Because it is. When the Minister was assured by the Labour organisation that there was no intention to discuss politics, he could have granted the permit, and seen for himself what the subjects discussed were. If they overstepped the regulations laid down, and touched upon forbidden subjects, he could have withdrawn the permit. But he was not open-minded enough to trust them. The fault I have to find with the Minister is that he will not accept the statement of any member of this House so long as a Jack-in-office will advise him differently. That is what he did in connection with the matter under discussion. From his place in the House he flatly declined to believe what was said by the member for South Fremantle, and he did so because of a statement made by an official in his department.

The Colonial Secretary: That is not so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is so. The hon. member cannot deny what is in black and white in "Hansard." He was certain what was said was not correct and then went so far as to ask for an apology. Members on this side of the House are not acceptable to Mr. Crawcour; that is clear. He does not want Labour interfering with the home or going near the place, and because he adopted that attitude he is supported by the Minister. The immigrants are very well catered for by the Government and the Government officials without any attempt to pick them up off the boat, wrap them in cotton wool and nurse them. While it may be a proper thing for the mayor and councillors in the town in which the immigrants arrive to visit the home and extend to them a welcome, I am sure that any mayor, no matter what his political colour may be at the time, can well be trusted not to overstep the bounds of propriety in regard to what he may have to say to the immigrants. That having been done, others may well be left out. I read about a fortnight ago that quite an army of spruikers, if I may be permitted to so call them, from the league, addressed the unfortunate immigrants who had just come off a vessel after having been four or five weeks on the water. This was quite a hold-up, and the immigrants were unable to escape from the barrage of speech making on the wonderful possibilities of Western Australia. The immigrants will find out for themselves all about Western Australia; they do not need this kind of instruction on the day they land. I repeat that so long as those leagues are to be permitted to address the immigrants at Fremantle, we will insist on our right to go there as well. When we overstep the bounds

or discuss questions to which reference should not be made, then will be the time for the Minister to take action. Until that time arrives, we have as much right to receive official permission from the Minister to visit the Immigrants' Home as anyone else. Whilst we are on the question of immigration, I may call attention to the fact that the vote on the Revenue Estimates is remarkably small. Although the volume of immigration is supposed to be increasing, and no doubt will be increasing month by month, and year by year, we find that the total vote is less than the amount expended last year by the sum of £200 or £300, the total being only £5,100.

The Premier: It is principally paid from loan money.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is what I am coming to.

The Premier: It has always been so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: As the volume of immigration has increased year by year, so the expenditure from revenue decreases.

The Premier: Oh no.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is because of the fact that we appear to be gradually but very persistently charging up to revenue fewer of the items of expenditure.

The Premier: I do not think so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The interpretation of "agricultural immigration" is as wide as the heavens. There is no single item of the expenditure in any direction that, apparently, cannot be charged up under that heading. I find that of the expenses incurred by the Premier during his visit to London last year, practically one-third was charged to "agricultural immigration."

The Premier: That is so.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Surely that should not be so. I have no doubt that the Premier's visit to the Old Country did much to stimulate the question of immigration, but surely that expenditure should have been met out of revenue.

The Premier: It should have been too.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It should not have been charged to loan expenditure. We find in the Auditor General's report, which was presented to Parliament the other day, reference to expenditure charged against loan under the heading of "Agricultural Immigration." Members will find the Auditor General's references on page 38 of his report. There are the following items:—

Passage money—Repatriating unfit immigrants, £479 5s.

I intend to read some of these items to show that much of the expenditure charged up to loan should have been paid out of revenue. Posterity will be asked to pay the bill. Here is another item:

Travelling expenses—includes £9 18s. 9d. for the officer in charge of immigration, visiting group settlements, and £60 5s. charged for Government motor cars used by a representative of the New Settlers' League while placing immigrants.

Surely it is fair to say that if we hire motor cars, or even if Government cars are provided

for members of the New Settlers' League when they go scouting round the country seeking positions for migrants, such a charge should not be made against loan. That work cannot be described as coming within the scope of agricultural immigration or development. These are items properly chargeable to revenue account.

Incidentals—£546 16s. 9d. charged for Government motor cars, used by four representatives of New Settlers' League touring in search of employment for and placing immigrants.

There again, the item should be chargeable to revenue and not loan account.

£240, purchase of Ford touring car for a representative of New Settlers' League to be used in travelling in connection with placing immigrants on the land.

No doubt it is cheaper to buy a car outright and give it to the New Settlers' League, rather than to hire cars in which to tour around the country.

Mr. Mann: In any case, the cars referred to were Government cars.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I know, but still the amounts are charged to loan.

Mr. Clydesdale: Too much is charged. The rate charged is 1s. per mile.

The Minister for Agriculture: This is regulated by the Premier's Department.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is so and these charges are made against departments using Government cars. Then again there is this item:

£757 12s. 7d., proportion of running expenses of motor cars, London Agency, for 32 months to 31/12/22.

That item is charged up against agricultural immigration. If we permit this sort of thing in London to be charged against loan funds, it will be very handy for the Agent General of the day to make use of, so as to apparently cut down expenditure on motor cars and the upkeep of the London Agency by apportioning some of the expenditure to loan moneys under the heading of agricultural immigration. I should like to know whether all the expenditure covered by the item was really in the interests of immigration or whether a considerable portion of it was incurred by the Agent General for other purposes. Probably the member for Clarendon (Mr. J. Thomson), who was in London, may have some information on the point.

Mr. J. Thomson: I did not incur any of the expenditure.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I remember the hon. member declaring that the efforts of the London Agency were mostly confined to the city and his complaint was that they did not extend their efforts to reach his native heath. He was at a loss to know why there was so much motor travelling in and around London and towns adjacent to the metropolis as to justify an expenditure of £700 under that heading.

Subsidy of £5 per week to Anglican Church Immigration Committee towards Secretary's salary on condition that from

10 to 20 boys are brought to the State monthly by this organisation.
I suppose that is part of the immigration policy and the Church Committee are doing work for that money.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: In any case that is fairly expensive.

Hon. P. COLLIER: If we average 15 boys in the month that would represent about £260 and about 180 boys in a year.

The Premier: Of course they have to follow up the boys and look after them.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That may be so. Here is another item:

£20 16s. 8d. paid to the Women's Auxiliary Immigration Committee, being proportion of subsidy at £50 per annum towards expenses of management.

That is paid to this committee, the members of which go round "spruiking." That is not a polite word to use, but I do use it.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That refers to the Perth people. Fremantle people do not get any of that money.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am surprised at the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) allowing that inequality to continue.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is the body that does not do the work.

Hon. P. COLLIER: But it is the body to get the publicity. What are the expenses of management referred to? I believe the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan)—I am sorry she is not here at present—must have wheedled this £50 out of the Premier.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He cannot say "no" to a woman!

Hon. P. COLLIER: I hope these women's organisations will not be too persistent in their demands upon the Treasury, because the Premier yields rather lightly to their persuasive eloquence.

The Premier: I am not alone in that, of course.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is so. Here is another item:

£500 paid to Salvation Army to furnish a home for girls migrating under auspices of the organisation, being advance on subsidy of £5 per head for five years for each of 200 girls to be brought to the State annually by the Salvation Army.

I presume these girls are domestics.

The Premier: Yes, and they have to be cared for when they come here.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is so, but here again the item is charged up to agricultural immigration.

The Premier: No, immigration.

Hon. P. COLLIER: No, the item is charged up to "agricultural immigration," although the girls are brought out for domestic service.

Mr. Latham: The girls want a home when they come here and they have to pay for it. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Does the member for York know of any of the girls having gone into the country districts? Is this the beginning of the matrimonial bureau suggested by

that man who wrote such a long letter to the member for West Perth? Knowing that the Government are opposed to State enterprises and would hesitate to establish a matrimonial bureau, perhaps it is thought the Salvation Army may turn their home into a matrimonial bureau, where weekly inspections may be made by bucolic immigrants who wail over their bachelor lot in the country!

The Premier: Every bachelor should seek a wife.

Hon. P. COLLIER: They should be expected to find a girl for themselves, instead of waiting in a long serial to someone in Perth whom they do not know and referring to having been turned down by the girls in the surrounding country. There is something wrong when these men can be turned down.

Mr. Chesson: It is not a good advertisement for the man.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not at all. Then here is another item:

£11, rent of booth at Royal Show.

What does that refer to? What was the exhibit at the show that would justify this item coming under the heading of "Agricultural Immigration"? Surely we are playing it low-down financially, if I may use that expression, in charging this item up to loan expenditure and thus passing it on to posterity.

Mr. McCallum: Was that the spot lager saloon at the show?

Hon. P. COLLIER: These tuppenny-ha'penny items should have been paid from revenue. Here is another item:

£15 paid to a reporter on a local paper for a handbook on the Peel Estate.

That is the famous pamphlet referred to by the member for East Perth, showing a picture of a shovel and a lot of sovereigns on the front page.

The Premier: That was a very good book, too.

Hon. P. COLLIER: So it was because it contains some remarks I made on that occasion—amongst other items. The pamphlet is worth the money, but it should not have been charged to agricultural immigration. We should have paid that £15 out of revenue. Here is another item:

£26 12s., allowance at 1s. per mile to officer in charge of immigration for use of his car while placing immigrants, meeting ships, and in connection with the money-changing business of the department. And £170 approximately, cost of rail fares for 72 delegates of country branches of the New Settlers' League to attend a conference in August, 1922.

I recollect that the conference of members of the city branches of the league was held at about Show time. Thus 72 delegates from the country had a cheap ride down to see the Show.

Mr. Mann: That is not much remuneration after doing a year's work.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Remuneration!

Mr. Mann: They do a lot of voluntary work during the year, and if they did get a cheap ride, it was not very much.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Not provided they do perform a considerable amount of voluntary work, but practically the whole of the work of the New Settlers' League is done by the league itself, which is a branch of the Ugly Men's Association. No doubt members of the country branches help.

Mr. Mann: If a man gets out of work they endeavour to place him in the country.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It is handy to have one's fare paid to the city once a year. There are other items I have not read, but the total expenditure under these headings debited to agricultural immigration is £5,194. Every penny of that should have been charged to the annual account. We find that an item of passage money for repatriating unfit migrants includes £43 on account of a person who, according to the file, was not a Government migrant. If one goes through the public accounts he will find, not such small sums as I have mentioned, but large sums debited to loan account that were properly chargeable to revenue. That is why our revenue estimates appear to show an improvement. I would be safe in saying that the total expenditure for the year would be at least £200,000 to £300,000 greater than it is if the expenditure properly chargeable to revenue were so debited. While our revenue account is in a bad way and the finances have been going to leeward year after year, it is evident there has been a strong and increasing tendency right through all the departments to dip into the loan funds for expenditure that should have been charged to revenue. Even a few tins of petrol to the officer of the Immigration Department and the hire of a car for a member of the New Settlers' League in search of employment is debited to loan expenditure, agricultural immigration. It is a far-fetched interpretation of the term "agricultural immigration" that enables the Government to debit such items to that vote. We have the Loan Estimates to deal with yet, and the whole question of agricultural immigration and the expenditure connected therewith will then be considered, but I hope the officer in charge of this department—

Hon. M. F. Troy: Who is it?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Mr. Crawcour, the boss of the Immigration Department.

Mr. Clydesdale: The pooh bah.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes. So far as one may judge from the amount of publicity he gets in the newspapers, he is a very active man. If he gets a letter of praise or eulogy from some passer by, he never fails to secure its publication in the newspapers. He has been pretty well rewarded; his salary has been increased, and in addition he is receiving £156 a year as allowance. Although his duties may be regarded to some extent as onerous and may keep him fairly busy, I venture to say they do not call for any considerable amount of ability. Yet he is receiving a salary almost equal to that paid to the gen-

eral manager of the Government Savings Bank. If one looks through the Estimates, one can find anomalies of this description everywhere—men holding highly responsible offices, which must have taken years of special training to reach, are rewarded with salaries even below those received by men filling positions that do not require any special training or ability. I protest against the debiting to loan funds under the heading of agricultural immigration of many items such as I have indicated that ought to be met out of revenue account.

The PREMIER: In charging up to agricultural immigration the items mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition we have merely followed the practice of past years.

Hon. P. Collier: It is growing.

The PREMIER: It is growing smaller, because we are not now paying the fares.

Hon. P. Collier: The variety of items being debited up is growing—petrol, motor cars, and all that sort of thing.

The PREMIER: The hon. member cannot single out a few items and say they should be charged to revenue and that the rest should be charged to loan. Immigration is a perfectly justifiable loan charge and always has been a loan charge.

Hon. P. Collier: But not some of these items.

The PREMIER: When they are expended on immigration, they should be charged to immigration.

Hon. P. Collier: But not the rent of a booth at the Royal Show or petrol for the immigration officer.

The PREMIER: The charges debited up are perfectly legitimate. If any one of the items is legitimate, the whole of the charges consequent upon immigration should be so charged. Precisely the same thing has always been done. The only difference is that we do not now pay the fares we once paid. We cannot carry on immigration without cost, and there must be cost here as well as at the other end. The work is being done fairly economically when we consider that the migrants are being settled almost entirely in the agricultural districts. This must involve more trouble and expense than if they were settled in the towns of the country. If the hon. member inquires, he will find that the usual practice obtaining for years past has been followed. I do not know why the vote is called agricultural immigration; it is immigration. I hope the girls coming out will become part of the scheme of agriculture.

Hon. P. Collier: Farmers' wives?

The PREMIER: Yes, no doubt many of them will become farmers' wives. I assure the hon. member I have not arranged any change at all in the method of charging up the cost of this work.

Mr. DAVIES: I was delighted to learn that the Leader of the Opposition did not charge the Women's Auxiliary with anything more serious than seeking a little publicity. If that is the only charge that

can be levelled against them, members ought not to grudge them that little reward for their labour. The Leader of the Opposition referred to some meetings held at Fremantle recently. I do not know whether he was referring to the report that appeared in the Press at that time. I visited Fremantle on one or two occasions, not as a member of Parliament or of a political body. I visited the Women's Auxiliary. The secretary of that body is a very able woman, Mrs. East, no relation to the East who is secretary of the New Settlers' League.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How long has she been secretary?

Mr. DAVIES: I presume for about 12 months. The report states—

Mrs. East related personal experience which, she said, had impressed upon her the value of the work being done. In 1914, when she had come first to Australia, what had endeared Australia to her more than anything else was the very homely manner in which the women had held out the hand of welcome to her. . . . If a dozen or more bodies signified their willingness to assist and took their turn in welcoming various batches of immigrants, the work would be facilitated.

It was said that when this body was formed invitations were sent to all organisations in the metropolitan area, and included amongst them I presume were the various Labour bodies. Invitations were sent to the Caledonian, Cambrian, Devonian, and Cornish societies and other bodies. If Labour stands aloof, we should not be blamed because Labour is not represented on the Women's Auxiliary.

Hon. P. Collier: Do you know that Labour was invited and stands aloof. You only presume it is so.

Mr. DAVIES: I think my presumption is justified, because it was stated that invitations had been sent out to all organisations, including churches and social bodies.

Hon. P. Collier: All the organisations you have indicated are non-political.

Mr. DAVIES: Had I thought of it, I would have asked whether invitations had been sent to Labour organisations.

Hon. P. Collier: Did the National Labour Party receive an invitation?

Mr. DAVIES: No.

Hon. P. Collier: Then why presume that we did?

Mr. DAVIES: The National Labour Party is a political organisation, not an industrial body.

Hon. P. Collier: But you did not get an invitation and yet you presume that we did.

Mr. DAVIES: But the hon. member is referring to a political body.

Hon. P. Collier: But you are political.

Mr. DAVIES: Yes, but not industrial. I am now separating the two.

Hon. P. Collier: We are political and industrial.

Mr. DAVIES: It was put up here to-night that the industrial party, and not the political party, should have been invited.

Hon. P. Collier: The one body functions in two directions.

Mr. DAVIES: During the hearing of the libel action, it was mentioned that there were two wings to the Labour movement—an industrial and a political.

Hon. P. Collier: If we had received an invitation, you would not have been overlooked.

Mr. DAVIES: Seventy-five per cent. of the members of metropolitan branches of the New Settlers' League are members of the working class.

Hon. P. Collier: How many branches of that league are there in the metropolitan area?

Mr. DAVIES: There are four in my electorate. Any Government of this State, whether led by the Leader of the Opposition or anyone else, would be glad of the assistance of the association.

Hon. P. Collier: I am not denying that.

Mr. DAVIES: Complaint has been made to-night about certain moneys having been taken from Loan Account—certainly they should have been taken from Revenue Account—but the gravamen of the complaint is that the Government made these grants.

Hon. P. Collier: I never made the slightest complaint of any grant made to the New Settlers' League. My complaint was confined entirely to the money having been taken from Loan Account instead of Revenue.

Mr. DAVIES: Then I stand corrected. As regards the Women's Auxiliary League—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They do not want a grant. They are doing a voluntary work. Let them do it without help from the Government.

Mr. DAVIES: Surely the hon. member does not expect these people to put their hands in their pockets as well as give their time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They have no expenses.

Mr. DAVIES: Certainly they have expenses. During the whole of the two-hours meeting to which I have referred, not one word of politics was spoken; and neither was there a word of politics at the meeting when the immigrants were present.

Hon. P. Collier: Did you have an invitation to that meeting?

Mr. DAVIES: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: From whom?

Mr. DAVIES: From the New Settlers' League.

Hon. P. Collier: Do they issue the invitations? I thought it was the Government issued them. I have never received an invitation from the New Settlers' League.

Mr. DAVIES: I am a member of the Ugly Men's Association, and as such I received an invitation.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Anybody may be invited.

Hon. P. Collier: Any way, I have never had an invitation. The only time I went to the immigrants' home, I was ordered away; and I am sure I will never go again if I have first to proceed cap in hand to the Minister for permission to go.

Mr. DAVIES: My point is why does Labour stand aloof?

Mr. Munsie: Because we have been refused the right to go there.

Mr. DAVIES: Why do hon. members opposite always want to go to places on their own?

Mr. Munsie: We are prepared to go with other people.

Mr. Corboy: Why do the other people go on their own?

Mr. DAVIES: Are the Labour people afraid to go with others?

Opposition Members: Oh!

Mr. Hughes: Do you think we ought to fraternise with your organisation?

Mr. DAVIES: I am not inclined to receive a kick without kicking back.

Hon. M. F. Troy: Waster!

Mr. DAVIES: I ask the member for Mt. Magnet (Hon. M. F. Troy) to withdraw that, or I will take an opportunity of dragging a withdrawal out of him. If he wants to refer to me as a waster, let him do it outside.

Hon. M. F. Troy: I will say it outside. You were always a contemptible little nagger—nag, nag, nagging!

Hon. P. Collier: You two are about the same weight. Go on!

Mr. DAVIES: I would take him on if he was twice my size.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must ask hon. members to keep order.

Mr. DAVIES: Mrs. East further said—

If a dozen or more bodies signified their willingness to assist, and took their turn in welcoming various batches of immigrants, the work would be facilitated. Entertainments should be given on the night of their arrival, because the Government very properly endeavoured to place them on the land at the earliest moment, and if they were not entertained during their first day in the State the opportunity of welcoming them properly would not be available.

That was the preliminary to her remarks on that occasion. She went on to say—

They know nothing of our elementary problems—dust, flies, and mosquitoes—and they cannot be expected to know that a little mosquito netting placed over the baby's cot will save a lot of trouble . . . Occasionally, children who land with their parents sickened with infectious ailments, and they are sent to an isolation hospital. Many of the immigrants have not a penny to spend, and I was able to send cheer-up parcels to children who had been isolated in hospital.

Hon. P. Collier: Their grandmothers for a thousand years past have known how to put a bit of netting over a cot.

Mr. DAVIES: This lady is an immigrant herself, and she was speaking to those people as immigrants.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are an immigrant, and so am I.

Mr. DAVIES: Hundreds and thousands of people have come to this country without a word of welcome.

Hon. P. Collier: Did nobody address you or advise you on your arrival?

Mr. DAVIES: No. So far as I have observed, the immigrants are grateful for what the Fremantle and Perth associations have done on their behalf.

Hon. P. Collier: That is just courtesy on the part of the immigrants.

Mr. DAVIES: Surely it must be realised that people leaving their homes 10,000 miles away and coming to a new country with entirely different customs are glad to have a welcome extended to them.

Mr. Hughes: But they are warned to keep away from the Labour Party. They are told that we have horns.

Mr. DAVIES: The isolation of the Labour Party to-day is due to the fact of their having stood aloof from the other bodies.

Hon. P. Collier: Not at all.

Mr. Munsie: All the other bodies are permitted to go without asking.

Mr. DAVIES: The National League would not have been allowed to go there as a political body.

Mr. Munsie: They are there every day.

Mr. DAVIES: They do not go there as members of the National League.

Mr. Corboy: It is a case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There are too many interruptions altogether.

Mr. DAVIES: The point I want to make, and get in, is that the isolation of the Labour Party to-day is that party's own fault.

Hon. P. Collier: I say it is not so.

Mr. DAVIES: Why are they charging the Colonial Secretary with refusing them permission to go, when they want permission to go alone, and not with others?

Hon. P. Collier: Have other bodies asked permission for themselves alone?

Mr. DAVIES: No.

Mr. Hughes: Why do you want to tack yourself on to us?

Mr. DAVIES: I have never yet tried to do that. As regards the immigration officer, though I do not hold a brief for Mr. Crawcour to-night, I must say that I regard him as a very able officer, and just the man for the position.

Mr. Underwood: Yes. The position is not much.

Mr. DAVIES: It calls for a man of tact and diplomacy.

Mr. Corboy: Do you say he is that after the way he handled the situation with our people?

Mr. DAVIES: Hon. members opposite are looking at the whole matter in the light of that particular occasion when they were refused permission.

Mr. Munsie: There are two other occasions when written applications were made for permission and permission was refused.

Mr. DAVIES: I do not think any man in this country could chase the Leader of the Opposition off the premises of the Immigrants' Home.

Hon. P. Collier: I was advised to leave the premises promptly, and I accepted the advice. I did not resist.

Mr. DAVIES: What did the Leader of the Opposition want to go there for?

Mr. Munsie: Just to see what the others were doing.

Hon. P. Collier: I was only inspecting the home. I had no intention of addressing the inmates.

Mr. DAVIES: I think that it was very foolish to refuse permission to the Opposition Leader, but a good deal of the fault can be laid at the door of the fact that the party opposite want to stand aloof.

Mr. Hughes: I say that is not true.

Mr. DAVIES: Events prove that it is true. The Labour Party want to go entirely on their own.

Mr. Munsie: That is an absolute misstatement.

Mr. DAVIES: So long as they adopt that attitude, they will, I daresay, be excluded from certain places in this State.

Mr. Munsie: What about other people coming with us, instead of our going with them? If they did, they would not be allowed in.

Mr. DAVIES: I do not believe that.

Mr. Munsie: It has been proved.

Mr. DAVIES: Why not send a representative along with the women's auxiliary?

Hon. P. Collier: Why should we be compelled to do that in order to get there?

Mr. Pickering: Why go at all.

Mr. DAVIES: Because going there does a great deal for the new arrivals.

Mr. Corboy: So long as you can keep us out, yes.

Mr. DAVIES: You think you are being kept out, and if you go on thinking it long enough you will come to believe it. For the sake of the migrants I hope there will be a little more harmony amongst the political parties in Western Australia.

Hon. P. Collier: The migrants have nothing to complain about; they are very well treated.

Mr. DAVIES: If there be no greater complaint against the women's auxiliary than that they want a little publicity, why not let them have that publicity?

Hon. P. Collier: Why should we pay £50 per annum for their publicity? Anybody can get publicity in the social columns of the Press. The hon. member does not require to be told that.

Mr. DAVIES: Mrs. East, in her concluding remarks, said not to leave it entirely to the women's auxiliary, that if there were a dozen similar bodies in existence—

Hon. P. Collier: The migrants would be talked to death.

Mr. DAVIES: No, that the several bodies could take it in turn to send them parcels of literature, and at Christmas time parcels of toys for the children on the groups. Last

Christmas about £50 was spent in sending toys to the children on the groups. The Ugly Men alone spent £100 in that way. Is not that doing an immense amount of good for the children?

Mr. Hughes: While children at the Ugly Men's door are lacking the necessities of life!

Mr. Mann: Do you know of any children who have gone there and been turned down by the Ugly Men?

Mr. Hughes: No, I do not take any interest in the Ugly Men.

Mr. Mann: Then why suggest it?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I can speak from experience, because I had charge of the Immigrants' Home for three years.

Mr. Underwood: I controlled it at one time, and cut it right out, abolished it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Among people arriving in a new town, there is a strong inclination to see as much as they possibly can.

Hon. P. Collier: Before they are bundled out into the bush.

Mr. Underwood: The bush is not a bad place to be bundled out into. I was born in it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The migrants arrive in the morning, and it has been customary to meet them in the afternoon before sending them out into the bush next morning.

Mr. Underwood: Better that they were born in the bush.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If the hon. member alludes to himself, I say he is a damned sight worse than they. If I had the choosing of migrants in the Old Country, I would never choose men like the hon. member.

Mr. Underwood: I do not know why you ever came out here.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I came here for the same reason as you did, although I was not forced to come here. New arrivals desire as much time as possible to see the town before being sent up country. A number of organisations are always desirous of visiting the Immigrants' Home. When I was in charge of the Home my difficulty was to prevent visitors going there in sufficient numbers to hamper the officers in carrying out of their duties. Not content to address the migrants at the Immigrants' Home, various organisations wanted to address them in the shed on the wharf before they could reach the home. Eventually, we had to refuse permits to go into the shed. After their tea hour, the migrants used to get a word of welcome from Mr. Neville, the Chief Immigration Officer, and from me as Minister, after which they were allowed to go out into the town. It is a mistake to tie up the newcomers when they are here for only a few hours. The Caledonian Society has done good work for them.

Mr. J. Thomson: Hear! hear!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But it has been done at the Caledonian Hall, not at the Im-

migrants' Home. The Ugly Men also have done good work there, not as a body, but through their individual officers. There is no necessity to subsidise anybody to welcome the migrants on arrival. Numbers of people are only too willing to do it without any subsidy. I look with suspicion on people who want money for that work.

Mr. Underwood: And on those who want money to come to this country.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I did not come out at the Government's expense.

Mr. Underwood: Then you are the sort of citizen we want.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I do not agree with that. If we want a good article, we have to pay for it.

Mr. Underwood: No, we got you for nothing.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Australia is in need of population, and to get it has had to enter into competition with other countries. Canada, only a few days away from England, and with passenger fares at only a few pounds, has been getting the greatest number of migrants.

Mr. Underwood: The United States has shut them out altogether.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: To a worker in the Old Country the fares out to Australia represent a fortune. So we have endeavoured to increase our population by subsidising the migrant to the extent of providing fares for him and his wife and children. Those who arrived here last week were of really good stamp, a credit to any country. The member for Guildford (Mr. Davies), seems to think the Labour Party want to hold aloof from other parties. If one organisation is allowed to address the migrants on arrival, the same concession should be extended to all other organisations. There should be no occasion for the Labour Party to link themselves with any other party for that purpose. The member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) put it correctly when he said the representatives of Labour merely wanted to acquaint the newcomers with the industrial conditions obtaining in Western Australia. Surely there can be no objection to that! Those who have assisted the migrants on arrival have done good work. The Ugly Men have been compelled to take money for the assistance of the wives of migrants before they go into the country. The women's auxiliary are not doing that. The assistance migrants are getting is coming entirely from the Ugly Men. Scores of migrants have been assisted. I am not a member of the Ugly Men's Association.

Mr. Mann: You ought to be.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: But I come into contact with their members and discuss these matters with them. There is no body that has done more in Fremantle to assist newcomers who are hard up after being out of employment for some time, than those connected with the Ugly Men's Association. They are to be congratulated on the good work they are doing. They have to draw

from their funds to assist every batch of migrants that arrives. As I said last night, I think this is the duty of the Government and not of the Ugly Men. I trust the Minister will see his way clear to give all societies permission to go to the home. All should be served alike, but I do not think they want anyone.

Mr. Underwood: I am sure they do not.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Minister would be justified in arranging certain hours in order to give his staff an opportunity to go down the street if they so desire.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I wish to again protest against this hot-house system of immigration. When a youth I used to go to the theatre. I remember one show at which a chap said, "My father left me the whole island of New Zealand." Another asked, "Why did he leave it to you?" and the reply was, "To get a living in." My parents left me the whole continent of Australia in which to get a living and it is a good inheritance. If these people come to Australia, they have as good a chance as I had. In behalf of the migrants, I protest against the various authorities going down there and depressing them with their horrors. I cannot understand why they want to do it.

Hon. P. Collier: They create a bad impression the day these people arrive.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am a reasonably good speaker, but I would not attempt to do that. Why go there at all? Cannot the migrant come to Western Australia and get work and make a living here? If he cannot, let him go away again.

Mr. Hughes: You think he wants more work than talk.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: I am sure of it.

Hon. P. Collier: It would be more useful to him.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Infinitely more useful. Then there is this buying of toys for them.

Hon. P. Collier: Fifty pounds worth in one year!

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Fifty pounds for toys! Myself and thousands of other bush-born Australians never saw toys. The first toy we had was a tomahawk.

Hon. P. Collier: And a dog.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Not always a dog. What are we straining about?

Hon. P. Collier: Fancy sending toys to bush children!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The toys were sent to Australians, not to migrants.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: Before they are bundled into the bush.

Hon. P. Collier: That was alliteration.

Mr. UNDERWOOD: As a bush-born Australian, there is no better part of the world than the Australian bush. Anyone who growls about going to the Australian bush had better stay away. There is only one other thing for him to do, and that is to sit down and listen to the orators that go down

to Fremantle. Regarding the row as to which orators should go down there, well I say, "Spare the migrants; spare them this horror."

Mr. Munsie: If they do that, we shall be satisfied.

Mr. MONEY: I think it is a great compliment to the organisation that this subject has been discussed so long without a single complaint having been received from a migrant.

Mr. Underwood: He has not had a chance to get in here yet.

Mr. MONEY: I take it the chief test is whether the organisation is working successfully or not. The complaint made regarding the few words of welcome addressed to the thousands of migrants that have been invited to our shores speaks volumes for the system adopted.

Mr. Underwood: One for the migrant and three for the orator.

Mr. MONEY: I have been to Fremantle.

Mr. Underwood: You have?

Mr. MONEY: But I did not address the migrants; neither did I desire to do so.

Mr. Teesdale: Perhaps you were not invited.

Mr. MONEY: I was desirous of ascertaining for myself the working of this system, which is vital to the welfare of Western Australia—the efforts being made to populate our vast territory. I spoke to many of the newcomers and all expressed their gratification and satisfaction at the system of receiving them in Western Australia. They told me there was nothing further to be desired and nothing more than was being done could be done for them. I should be failing in my duty if I did not inform members of the great satisfaction expressed; the migrants themselves thoroughly appreciate the reception given to them. Insinuations have been made regarding the class of migrant coming to this State. I doubt whether in Western Australia or in any part of the Commonwealth one could gather a group of people that for intellect or physique would show to better advantage than the 300 people that arrived in Fremantle three weeks ago.

Mr. Hughes: How did you test their intellectual powers?

Mr. MONEY: I have four of those migrants on my place to-day.

Mr. Teesdale: Hear, hear! That is the right sort of stuff.

Mr. MONEY: Their chief desire on arrival was to get to work.

Mr. Teesdale: Two "hear-hears" to that.

Mr. MONEY: They are perfectly contented. They came without a knowledge of the work before them. They had never seen any clearing, ringbarking or posthole digging, but they expressed a desire to learn. They were determined to learn all they could. Instructions have been given to those in charge to teach them everything possible. At the end of three months I feel confident they will be sufficiently independ-

ent to earn a living in any part of the State. To teach them requires patience, but granted they are willing to be taught and the employers give them the necessary instruction, I have great hopes that the immigration system will be thoroughly successful.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: In answer to the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin), all members of Parliament are welcome to visit the Immigrants' Home at Fremantle. They have never been denied admittance—

Hon. P. Collier: Never!

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Never during the past 12 months. The incident referred to by the Leader of the Opposition occurred 18 or 20 months ago, and reference was made to it during the discussion on the Estimates last year. I assure members they will always be welcome at the home, and there is no need for me to say I hope they will visit it. The Women's Auxiliary Committee are doing work that is appreciated. It is appreciated by the new arrivals. Migrants arriving here must feel very homesick for a time and, when they find a band of women holding out the hand of welcome and offering entertainment, their first impressions in this new land are indeed favourable. On arriving at Fremantle, the new comers are invited to an entertainment in the afternoon and are given tea in the evening. Thus, the Women's Auxiliary Committee are performing a very unselfish and desirable work. All women are at liberty to join the Auxiliary. The member for Guildford (Mr. Davies) has explained the position thoroughly and justified the work these women are doing. I would have been lacking in my duty had I failed to acknowledge with the warmest satisfaction the value of their work. Apart from the entertainment section they have a literature branch, an advice branch, and other branches to help the newcomers, particularly the women and children. I hope they will continue their work and that the lady friends of members that have been criticising them will go along and join the organisation.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—*Lunacy and Inebriates, £88,864; Observatory, £1,753*—agreed to.

Vote—*State Children and Outdoor Relief, £93,907*:

Mr. MUNSIE: I wish to utter a word of appreciation of the magnificent work of the staff of this department. I do not know whether the Minister is adhering to the principle of compelling women applying to the department for assistance to spend all the money they may possess before they can get relief. That is a wrong principle to adopt.

The Colonial Secretary: That principle has not been adopted.

Mr. MUNSIE: On two or three occasions I have had to make application for assistance

for the support of the children of widows. After inquiry has been made by the department it was discovered in one case that the widow had £43 in the Savings Bank, the total amount of her wealth. For that reason she was told she could not get assistance for the children.

The Colonial Secretary: What were her prospects?

Mr. MUNSIE: She had none. I am pleased to hear that the principle does not exist now.

The Colonial Secretary: I do not know that it ever existed.

Mr. MUNSIE: I know of another woman who owned a piano, and who had three pupils. She was thus enabled to make a little to assist her in keeping herself and three children. I understand the department refused to advance anything for the children until she had disposed of the piano.

Hon. P. Collier: The only means she had of earning a living.

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not know of this case of my own knowledge, but I could quote other cases that have occurred during the last two or three years. A woman may have £50 in cash. According to the regulations, if she had nothing she would be entitled to 9s. a week for each child under 14. Because she had £50 in cash there was a set-off against that, and she got less than she otherwise would have received. This invites people to squander the few pounds they have in order to get relief.

The Colonial Secretary: Surely not.

Mr. MUNSIE: Why has the department refused to grant assistance in such cases? I am prepared, however, to accept the Minister's word on the subject, and if I hear of any case in the future I hope he will remember the assurance he has given when I bring it under his notice.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: This is not the attitude adopted by the department. Many people do not possess £50, and yet are not in distress. Every case is treated on its merits. The department is administered sympathetically, but does not require to be administered foolishly. If the hon. member knows of any case of unfair treatment I shall be glad to go into it.

Mr. CHESSON: I compliment Mr. Watson on his administration of the department. He has done everything possible with the money at his disposal. In some cases a widow with three or four children is receiving assistance. When one of the children reaches the age of 14 its allowance is cut off. It is very difficult to place a child at that age, but it still has to be kept, and is generally more expensive to keep than a younger child. The departmental assistance should be continued until the child is older than 14 unless work can be found for it. The department is a difficult one to administer, and it has requests made to it from all parts of the State. In the circumstances Mr. Watson is doing good work.

Vote put and passed.

Department of Public Health (Hon. R. S. Sampson, Minister).

Vote — *Medical and Public Health, £176,313:*

Mr. PICKERING: We have been awaiting an opportunity to deal with health matters in connection with group settlements. On Saturday last a letter appeared in the "West Australian" under the heading of "Motherhood." As it is somewhat pertinent to this question I will read it. It is as follows:—

If mothers did not exist, what would become of this sorry scheme called life? Mothers bear the greatest burdens. Child-birth is apt to be treated lightly by those who have never experienced it. During those months while creating a new life, the mother's mental and physical state is making or marring the unborn child. Little can be done after birth to alter the child's soul or body. The most important period of a child's life is before birth, and a mother needs the utmost care and attention during that time. Women are becoming more enlightened and will not bring children into the world unless they can do so under ideal conditions, and make provision for them. The State needs population, yet how grudgingly is any little concession granted to mothers. Why not give them a little more encouragement? What can be done to remedy the handicap on mothers?

It will be remembered that quite recently the Premier, in speaking at the Savoy Hotel, instanced the desirability of bringing to this State immigrants with families. It is astonishing to learn the number of children who have been born in the State to those who have been invited to these shores within the last 12 or 18 months. The conditions under which the mothers have been called upon to bear this duty to the State have in many instances been absolutely appalling. It is time Parliament awakened to the fact that we owe an urgent duty to these mothers.

The Colonial Secretary: And that duty is being discharged.

Mr. PICKERING: It has not been discharged. There is great room for improvement in the manner of its discharge. A huge cost is thrown upon the parents of these children. It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that it is made as light and easy as possible for mothers whose husbands are engaged in developing this State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you had much experience?

Mr. PICKERING: Has the hon. member? If he had he would know that what I am saying is true. It is not a subject for hilarity. The costs of maternity cases are very considerable. In the first place it is essential that the expectant mother should get from the group settlement to the nearest hospital. That can only be done by motor, and the expense is no trifle. Then the cost of maintenance in the hospital is £3 3s. per week. The doctor's fee is £5 5s. per case.

Further, there are the waiting charges and the cost of medicine. The total will probably run to £20 or £25. As the group settler, with possibly a large family, is in receipt of only £3 per week to maintain his household, it follows that he has extreme difficulty in meeting the obligations involved in a maternity case. The Government should make special provision to meet that contingency. It is quite impossible for the group settler to bear the burden of such costs. While the Minister says that the Government are making provision, I know they are not making provision in this direction. Other things which are needed the Government are providing, and I give them credit for doing so. One of those things is additional hospital accommodation in the Sussex electorate. Collie, I understand, will also participate in additional hospital accommodation. The work is not being done entirely at the expense of the Government, because the group settlers themselves are using their best endeavours to establish a medical fund. They have agreed to submit to a deduction every week from their sustenance allowance for that purpose.

The Minister for Works: Will they turn over the maternity bonus to the medical fund?

Mr. PICKERING: The bonus represents possibly the only means of paying the doctor in connection with a maternity case. I do not think anybody else is asked to hand over the maternity bonus, and therefore I consider it is uncalled-for in the case of the group settlers. From information I have received from the Under Secretary for Works I know that plans have been finalised for a hospital to be erected at Margaret River. That hospital will serve something like 30 groups, extending from about the Nineteen Mile to Augusta. The hospital is urgently required, and every endeavour should be made to hasten to finality the arrangements for its construction. The Public Works Department informed me that, so far as they knew, no site had been set aside for the hospital. The Lands Department, I learned, had no knowledge of the matter. I asked them to expedite the allocation, and I have the assurance of the Minister for Works that as soon as he receives authority from the Premier and the site is decided, the construction of the hospital will be proceeded with. Further, there are the necessary additions to the Busselton hospital. For some reason that matter has been hung up, although its urgency is just as great as that of the Margaret River hospital. The Minister for Works has informed me that if funds are not available for the additions to be made in stone, they will be made in wood. If the work can be done in stone, all the better; otherwise I hope the additions will be erected in wood as speedily as possible. As regards maternity cases at Busselton, all the conveniences at present available are represented by four beds in a private maternity hospital. Last month there were 15 maternity cases at Busselton,

and the only beds available were those four. The accommodation is utterly inadequate. During the last 18 months the population of the Sussex electorate, extending from Capel to Augusta, has been increased by 1,000 families. This fact shows the great demands upon the local medical resources. I have repeatedly endeavoured to bring this matter before the House, but have been prevented from doing so because there has been no vote in connection with which I could raise the question.

Mr. Harrison: What about self-help?

Mr. PICKERING: I am astonished at that interjection. Sussex is a district which has just had thrust upon it a thousand families in the development stage of settlement. The Leader of the Opposition has said here on several occasions that South-Western members have been like voices crying in the wilderness to bring to the attention of the Government the possibilities of the South-West, the necessities of the South-West, and other matters pertaining thereto. The interjection of the member for Avon (Mr. Harrison), who represents a well settled and prosperous farming district, is absolutely unfair.

[Mr. Stubbs took the Chair.]

Mr. J. H. SMITH: With reference to maternity cases, I do not know how it strikes other members, but I think our own people are the best immigrants we can get. We all know that it is not the rule now to have large families. Formerly people boasted of their large families. I do not know whether we are more enlightened in these days, or whether we have slipped back as compared with our fathers and mothers. However, no encouragement is given to people to bring up large families, especially in the country districts. With regard to the expense attendant on maternity cases, we of the South-West have appealed to the Government again and again. I now make yet another appeal for better conditions for the residents of remote districts in this respect. From a letter read here the other evening by the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan), I was astounded to learn that the mother of five or six children, who had no doctor, was obliged to pay a doctor's fee just the same. That certainly is not a fair thing. The South-West wants maternity wards, and more nurses, and more sympathetic administration. The Jarnadup hospital, I wish to point out, was built many years ago when there were only a few men working on the mills. Since then more mills have been established, but the Jarnadup hospital is still the only one in the district. It is not fair to ask people to settle in the South-West without medical conveniences. The Health Department, I understand, now pay the railway fares from Perth home in the case of mothers from group settlements who go to Perth for confinement. In my opinion, the department should pay the fares both ways, and I hope that will be arranged.

Item, Public Hospitals, Perth, maintenance, etc., £23,500:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I move an amendment—

That after "£23,500" there be inserted "inclusive of the cost of milk from the Claremont State farm."

Some years ago the metropolitan area experienced great difficulty in obtaining an adequate supply of pure milk. The authorities of various hospitals urged the Government to start a dairy to supply the institutions with milk. The physician who was at the time in charge of the Children's Hospital declared that the children were dying like flies because of the want of a proper milk supply. Mr. Lovekin, as chairman of the board of management of the Children's Hospital, interviewed the then Deputy Premier, now the Leader of the Opposition, who took immediate steps to provide the various hospitals with pure milk. A dairy herd was established, and from that time till now the Children's Hospital, the Perth Hospital and the Fremantle Hospital have been getting their milk supply from the Claremont State farm.

The Colonial Secretary: Does your amendment say that the cost of that milk supply shall be exclusive?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, the vote shall be inclusive of the cost of that supply.

Hon. P. Collier: The effect will be that if the board secure their milk supply from any other quarter, they will not have this for the payment.

The Colonial Secretary: I believe they are trying to get some milk from outside.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is a point I am coming to. I notice a statement in the Press that the Perth Hospital Board intend to call tenders for their milk supply. The Claremont State farm supplies pure milk.

Mr. Davies: But not enough of it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I cannot say whether that is so, but it is pure milk.

Mr. Davies: There is no question about that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Government of the day went to considerable expense in the provision of cool chambers and so on, so as to deal with the milk supply properly. Seeing that the Government came to the help of the hospitals at a time of need at the request of medical men, the Perth Hospital should not now turn down the Government, merely because someone offers to supply the milk at 1d. a gallon less than has had to be paid to the State farm. Perhaps it is not advisable to go into the question of the milk supply before the Government came into the matter. Suffice it to say that the milk supply was in a scandalous position. The Press had taken up the matter strongly, and the principal health officer at the time had an analysis made of the milk obtainable. The bacteriological examination showed that the milk was dangerous for the patients. The Leader of the Opposition and I were shown, at the Children's

Hospital, evidence of the perforation of the tissue of children's organs caused by the defective milk supply.

The Minister for Agriculture: The same thing applies throughout the capital cities.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Within 24 hours the Leader of the Opposition, in his then capacity of Deputy Premier, had cattle sent from the State farm at Bunbury to the metropolitan area so as to get over the difficulty. Since then, the State farm has been developed, and a semi-Government institution should not now turn down the Government. I cannot say whether the present milk supply has improved, or whether the inspection of milk is keener than in the past. It is the duty of the Perth Hospital Board to secure their milk supply from a source they know is reliable. They know they can get pure milk from the Claremont State farm.

Mr. Davies: But not in the quantity required.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I want some explanation, hence the amendment. I want the Minister to see that the work that has been done at Claremont is not to be set aside. I am informed that someone has offered to supply milk at 1d. per gallon cheaper. If too much milk is left on their hands at Claremont, the farm may be closed down.

The Minister for Agriculture: It takes them all their time to supply the Children's Hospital.

Hon. P. Collier: But they have been supplying three hospitals.

The CHAIRMAN: Will not the amendment mean an increased financial burden on the people?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, because the cost of this milk supply is included in the vote.

The CHAIRMAN: It is all right then.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I know the member for North-East Fremantle has moved the amendment with the intention of assisting the department, but it may prove embarrassing. The price of milk has been reduced recently, and there have been discussions between the management of the State farm and the institutions concerned regarding the charge to be made. The State farm at Claremont is not really a trading concern. All that is required is a return which will meet the expenses involved. There is no feeling between those participating in the discussions, but they desire to ascertain what price they will have to pay if it is necessary to obtain a portion of the milk supply apart from the Claremont State farm. I understand it is the intention of the management to reduce the price charged to the institutions by 2d. per gallon.

The Minister for Agriculture: It is only a case of one department trying to get as much as it can from another department.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: And also a case of where you can get a good pure milk supply.

Mr. DAVIES: I can assure the member for North-East Fremantle that there is

nothing in his suggestion that the Perth Hospital Board are going outside the State farm at Claremont for the milk supply. The trouble is that a sufficient quantity cannot be secured from that farm. Nothing will be gained by the amendment, whereas if we agree to it the efficiency of the hospital may be impaired.

Hon. P. Collier: The vote will not be decreased so long as the milk supply is obtained from the Claremont State farm.

Mr. DAVIES: But what if they cannot get a sufficient quantity from the farm?

Mr. Munsie: They cannot get the total quantity to-day.

Mr. DAVIES: Nor for some time past.

The Colonial Secretary: The object of the amendment is to make the purchase of milk from the Claremont farm obligatory.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: At the last meeting of the Hospital Board it was decided to call for tenders.

Mr. DAVIES: Certain lines are purchased direct by the board through the secretary, while other lines are purchased through the Tender Board.

Hon. P. Collier: The Tender Board cannot call for tenders except under instructions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That really means that the board call for the tenders.

Mr. DAVIES: I was not at the last meeting, and do not know what took place.

Mr. Munsie: This happened at last Monday's meeting.

The Minister for Agriculture: The action may be taken so as to get a satisfactory basis regarding supplies from the Claremont farm.

Mr. MUNSIE: The statements made by the member for North-East Fremantle were correct. On Monday last the board decided to call for tenders for the milk supply for the Perth Hospital. I asked a number of questions as to the standard of the milk, and what tests would be made, and the Principal Medical Officer assured me that reasonable tests would be made. I did not oppose the calling of tenders because I am given to understand that the State farm at Claremont cannot supply all the milk required. I saw no objection to calling for tenders for the additional milk required. I am inclined to think that the intention is to call for tenders for the total supply, irrespective of whether any is obtained from the State farm or not. If that is so, this will not be passed by the board with my vote. The reason put forward was that the State farm had refused to reduce the price of milk, and that applications from outside dairies had been received for the supply at a lower price. No tender has yet been accepted.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The explanation given by the hon. member should decide the Committee to carry the amendment. If the Perth Hospital Board are actuated solely with the desire to get their milk cheaper, they should not be supported in their action. The tests referred to were being applied to the milk for the Children's Hospital when, so great was the dissatisfaction of the hospital au-

thorities, the State dairy at Claremont was established. The hospital authorities said the children were dying like flies for want of pure milk, and so the State went to considerable expense in establishing the State farm for the sake of the children in hospital. Now we have the Perth Hospital, virtually a Government institution, prepared to take milk from outside sources in order to get it at a reduced price. If the State dairy cannot supply the whole of their requirements the hospital board, of course, must take the balance from an outside source; but they should not accept from that source one unnecessary pint. This so-called economy on the part of the hospital board will not compensate the loss of lives that may result from the acceptance of milk from outside sources. What the amendment means is that so much as the Perth Hospital Board spend on outside milk will be deducted from their grant. The amendment ought to be carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: A few weeks ago I ascertained that there is, adjacent to the Hospital for the Insane, a block of land suitable for depasturing a dairy herd.

Hon. P. Collier: Then why not increase the herd?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: That is what I am thinking of doing. Since this question has been ventilated here and the Committee has so definitely expressed its opposition to the Perth Hospital Board taking milk from outside sources, I make no doubt the board will not persist with their intention. The board did what they thought best in calling tenders, but apparently they were acting under a misapprehension.

Hon. P. Collier: I do not question their motives, but I say they are wrong in going outside for their milk.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will give the assurance that the board will not persist in doing so.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister is not in a position to give any such assurance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: After what has been said to-night, I am sure the board will not go outside for their milk.

Hon. P. Collier: But that is their clear intention.

Mr. Munsie: The medical officer assured me the outside milk would be thoroughly tested. He said also that the milk from the State farm was not always pure.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I cannot conceive of the board persisting in their intention to go outside for milk if it be possible to obtain a supply from the State dairy. I will see to it that the discussion is brought under the notice of the board.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: If we pass the Vote, it will be beyond the power of the Minister to do anything in the matter. No doubt the outside traders will tender at a low price in order to get the business. It may even be that the Children's Hospital authorities will be tempted to get their supply in the same way, for the greater quan-

tity the lower the price. The State farm was started while the Labour Party were in office, but it was at the direct request of the hospital authorities, particularly the authorities of the Children's Hospital. Therefore I was very much surprised to see in the newspaper that the Perth Hospital Board were going to take their milk from outside sources. I will accept the Minister's assurance that the Perth Hospital Board will not get any increased subsidy unless they continue to take their milk from the State dairy.

The Colonial Secretary: I will give that assurance.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: On that assurance I will withdraw the amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Item—*Assisted hospitals, grants in aid of maintenance, buildings, additions and repairs, fees, £6,000:*

Mr. PICKERING: In view of the failure of the Government to get the amending Hospitals Bill through Parliament, the position of the assisted hospitals requires to be reviewed. The assisted hospitals constitute a very heavy burden on the local people. The Busselton hospital has experienced great financial difficulty during the past year or two. Had it not been for the leniency of the storekeepers of Busselton, it would have been impossible to keep the institution going.

Hon. P. Collier: What annual grant does the hospital get?

Mr. PICKERING: Very small, only some £300. The hospital has had thrust upon it the responsibility of tending the sick among 1,000 additional families, and its financial difficulties have become very great indeed.

Mr. Chesson: Do the group settlers make any contributions to the hospital?

Mr. PICKERING: It has been felt that the accommodation at the hospital is not sufficient to warrant any levy being made on the group settler; but when the additions are completed the group settlers will be asked to contribute towards the maintenance of the hospital. I do not wish to detract from what the Government have done for the hospital, but it would be much more satisfactory if the relationship between the Government and the assisted hospitals were reviewed, and those hospitals put upon a proper financial footing. It is not nice to be under an obligation to the tradespeople to carry on the hospital. Some of the Busselton tradespeople's accounts are at least six months in arrears. In view of the decision of the House last year to pass an amending Hospitals Bill to relieve the hospitals by giving them a definite amount per annum, some consideration should be given to the question. I hope the Minister will consider my remarks in fairness to the district I represent. Probably other districts are similarly situated. Nelson, I think, is in the same position.

The Minister for Agriculture: And Northampton.

Mr. PICKERING: I daresay it applies more or less to all the assisted hospitals. To a large extent the funds for the Perth Hospital are provided by the Government.

Hon. P. Collier: You are well supported by your party in this request.

Mr. Teesdale: Not even "Dad" is present to-night.

Hon. P. Collier: No, even he has deserted you. You stand alone.

Mr. PICKERING: I shall still persevere.

Hon. P. Collier: I shall be with you.

Mr. PICKERING: The Leader of the Opposition well illustrated the difference between the Perth Hospital and the assisted hospitals. Nearly all the funds of the Perth Hospital are derived from the Government, but the assisted hospitals receive only a small proportion of their funds from the Government. The Government should review the position and make an honest endeavour to place the country hospitals on a better footing. I regret that the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) is not here, because she has recently traversed my electorate and it was her intention, but for a public engagement, to speak of what she knew of the medical difficulties experienced there. The Minister can bear out what I say, and I hope he will consult Cabinet with a view to getting the relations between the Government and the assisted hospitals reviewed at an early date.

[Mr. Angelo took the Chair.]

Item, *Wooroloo Sanatorium, £79,847:*

Mr. LUTHEY: Can the Minister give some information regarding the inquiry for a reduction of fares to relations visiting patients in the sanatorium? When the breadwinner is a patient, it is a hardship for relatives to visit the institution once a week.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I shall inquire from the Minister for Railways whether any consideration can be extended to such people.

Mr. LAMBERT: Something more definite might be given by the Minister regarding the unfortunates on the fields that have to go to the sanatorium. There seems to have been a callous disregard of the pleas put forward in the past, and I should like to know the Minister's attitude. It is all very well to say he will bring the matter under the notice of the Minister for Railways. It would be much more fitting if he would make some pronouncement.

The Minister for Agriculture: It does not come under this vote.

Mr. LAMBERT: Then under what vote does it come?

The Minister for Agriculture: The Premier's Department.

Mr. LAMBERT: In the Address-in-reply we were promised that the matter would be considered.

Hon. P. Collier: That is a very safe promise to make at any time.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes; this promiscuous handing out of promises without any substance to back them is becoming tiresome. The request made must appeal to the humanitarian instincts of the Minister. I should like some evidence of a little initiative on the part of the Minister. Goldfields members are keenly interested in this matter. The Leader of the Opposition could draw a picture of the difficulty, sadness and disadvantage under which many unfortunate families on the goldfields labour when the breadwinner is sent to the sanatorium and death ensues. Sometimes they have not the proverbial penny to jingle on a tombstone, and have to enlist the sympathy of friends to obtain the necessary money to attend the funeral.

The Minister for Agriculture: You cannot remedy that here; you cannot increase the vote.

Mr. LAMBERT: I can at least direct attention to the matter in the hope that some provision will be made next year.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I think the matter would come under the Treasury vote, but seeing the hospital is in charge of the Colonial Secretary, he might represent to the Premier the discussion that has taken place. The fact of the sanatorium being situated some hundreds of miles from the locality whence a majority of the inmates come is a real hardship to the goldfields people. The great majority of the inmates come from the goldfields, particularly Kalgoorlie and Boulder, and the cost of travelling down to see friends is considerable. In a number of cases patients have died, and the relatives have had to borrow the amount of the fare in order to attend the funeral. In more than one instance I have had to go to the Charities Department and get a pass to enable them to return. The amount subsequently had to be refunded. It would be a great benefit if fares could be arranged, say, on the basis of holiday excur-

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I agree with the member for Coolgardie and the Leader of the Opposition that it would be a fine thing to comply with the request. Of course the concession could be granted only in those cases where it was difficult for the relatives to find the money. It should not be made general.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I would not ask that it be done indiscriminately.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I do not think it would mean any cost; the added number that would visit the institution would probably more than recoup the department. At the sanatorium we have a welfare committee comprised of ladies, who are raising a good deal of money from the public and are exerting great personal efforts to secure comforts and necessities for the inmates. The committee make a practice of visiting the institution once a year, and to-day was the day selected for this year's visit. The purchases include hot water bags, tobacco, cigarettes, clothing, etc. The committee are do-

ing a great work. During the year the recreation hall was opened and the inmates now have a fine place in which to spend their time. Half the cost of the hall was found by the Ugly Men's Association and the balance by the Government. Now, I understand, the goldfields members are giving attention to the question of furnishing the hall. The coastal people found £1,400 towards the cost of the building, and we are looking to the goldfields people to do something towards furnishing the hall. I hope before long a definite move in that direction will be made. I am President of the Wooroloo Welfare Fund. We have been encouraging gardening at the sanatorium, and have sent up lengths of hose and gardening tools to assist to brighten the lives of the inmates. Needless to say the sanatorium is well conducted.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Hear, hear.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The principal resident medical officer, Dr. Mitchell, is well known not only for his sympathy towards his patients, but for his ability in treating them. I suppose he has no superior in his knowledge of lung diseases.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The whole staff is sympathetic.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Yes. It is a pleasure to visit the institution and to feel that one is associated with it. While one cannot visit it without a feeling of sorrow, it is always a matter for congratulation that those who are sick are being well looked after. The worst feature about it all is that most people who go there go too late. Dr. Mitchell has said on different occasions that if people afflicted with tuberculosis would go to the institution in the earlier stages their chances of recovery would be very much greater. In most cases the afflicted person has spent all his money in an effort to be cured under conditions that are not conducive to the restoration of his health. Consequently when he does reach the sanatorium his powers of resistance have sunk so low that there is no possibility of recovery. When the patient goes there early, good results, I am told, are immediately shown.

Mr. CHESSON: For a number of years the goldfields have been subscribing to the pastime club at the sanatorium.

The Colonial Secretary: Everyone is doing his best.

Mr. CHESSON: Money was also subscribed on the goldfields towards the building of the hall, this being remitted through the Ugly men's Association.

The Colonial Secretary: I am advised otherwise.

Mr. CHESSON: I have met members of the different societies on the coast who are doing good work for the inmates of the sanatorium. The institution is being run on good lines, and Dr. Mitchell and his staff are doing everything possible to alleviate the sufferings of the inmates. Some assistance should be given to people to enable them to visit their relatives at the sanatorium.

A wife will sometimes receive notice that her husband has but a short time to live, and she naturally wants to see him before he dies. The Minister for Railways promised to give some consideration to this matter in the way of reduced railway fares.

Mr. LUTEY: He is still considering it.

Mr. CHESSON: We want something of a practical nature done. People in Perth can get reduced fares to enable them to visit relatives at the institution, and we ask that the same concession should be given to gold-fields people, who should at least receive a return ticket for single fare. Once a person is stricken down with tuberculosis there is little hope for him.

Mr. MARSHALL: People in the metropolitan area get reduced fares to enable them to visit their friends at the sanatorium, and can get this by lodging a statement at the railway station that this is the object of the visit. Goldfields people ask that they should be given similar concessions to enable them to see their friends at the sanatorium.

Mr. DAVIES: That should apply in all parts of the State.

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes: Many people leave it too late before they go to the sanatorium. An American and a South African doctor have declared that without the assistance of X-rays it is almost impossible for the best trained medical man to state how far tuberculosis has gone in an individual until he is nearly dead. One of these doctors said the Wooroloo Sanatorium was a splendid institution, but valueless without an X-ray apparatus. The Minister for Mines is conversant with what these medical authorities said, and I hope that an X-ray apparatus will be provided promptly, and that an amount for it will appear on next year's Estimates. The Kalgoorlie laboratory will be much appreciated when it arrives; it should have been established years ago. In any case, it will serve only a section of the community, and an X-ray apparatus will still be needed at Wooroloo, where there is a larger number of sufferers from tuberculosis than there is on the Golden Mile. Certainly the Wooroloo patients should not be compelled to make the long journey to Kalgoorlie for the purpose of X-ray examination. As a frequent visitor to the Wooroloo Sanatorium I wish to congratulate Dr. Mitchell and his staff on the able and efficient work they do under great disadvantages.

Item, *Bacteriologist*, £604:

Mr. LUTEY: Regarding insulin, the new cure for diabetes, I asked a question some weeks ago, to which the answer was that we had in the State sufficient insulin for the treatment of one patient. In my electorate I know of several sufferers from diabetes, and every time I visit the fields I am questioned regarding the supply of insulin. South Australia has taken steps for the manufacture of insulin. What steps are being taken here either to manufacture

insulin or to import it? I trust to hear from the Minister that in the near future an ample supply will be available.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: So far as I am aware, the position is the same as it was when the hon. member asked his question. However, I will ascertain the position and let the hon. member know.

Mr. LUTEY: It is a good many weeks since my question was asked, and I am surprised to learn that the position has not altered meanwhile. I feel disposed to move for a reduction in an item by way of marking my disapproval at the neglect of this important matter. However, I hope that inquiry will show the Minister that the position is better than he supposes; if not, something should be done very promptly to ensure an adequate supply of insulin.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If the hon. member had approached me on this subject yesterday, I would have had the information available to-day. I gather from the Press that there is a considerable shortage of insulin.

Item, *Health Inspectors*, £5,401:

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I see that this item provides for an additional inspector. The Public Health Department could keep down the number of inspectors, since every local board of health must have a duly certificated inspector, holding the same qualifications as the Government inspectors. Certainly there is no need to be continually increasing the number of departmental inspectors. Rather should the responsibility be thrown on the local authorities. I hope the Minister will look into the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: There is an increase of work in connection with the inspection of shops. In Victoria Park alone there were last year 180 shops. The number sounds incredible, but that is the information given me. All over the State the number of shops has increased.

Vote put and passed.

This concluded the Estimates for the Colonial Secretary's Department.
Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.