

some of their platform planks which to us appeared parochial, and to alter the name of their association, we saw no reason why we should not join up. The Farmers' and Settlers' Association acted accordingly last year. Hence our membership of that party to-day. Although the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) in his allegiance to his old chief, and the member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) in his allegiance to the Underwood party, are not with us in the Country Party, yet I feel they are very much with us in sentiment, in thought and in desire.

Mr. Lambert: They could not be stampeded.

Mr. DURACK: I have been told that the Country Party think only in terms of wheat. That may have been the case in the old days, under the Farmers' and Settlers' Association; but, finding their existence threatened, they deemed it necessary to bring in new members to protect their own interests. They have grown since then, and to-day probably they are the most representative party in the State. The field of their representation extends from Wyndham to Albany, and the party represent all the primary industries of the State, agricultural, pastoral, mining, pearling, and to some extent, forestry. I hope that as a party we shall be able to bring to bear on the questions to come before us that breadth and broadness of vision which is characteristic of the extent of the areas we represent. We claim to be freer from party prejudices than any other party in the House; we claim to be representative of both capital and labour; we realise that both sides should get a fair deal. Some of us by our energy and perseverance may have acquired a certain degree of independence, but not to any degree the amount we are often credited with.

Mr. Teesdale: You have had to work for it.

Mr. DURACK: That is so.

Mr. Teesdale: Work that would stiffen some of those opposite.

Mr. DURACK: We realise that capital should be protected, and enjoy without fear of disturbance that little which may come to its share. Every member of the party knows the difficulties of the man on the land. Probably all of us have been on the land, and know what has to be suffered and endured there. As a pioneer, I know what the pioneers of this State and of Queensland have suffered. Can it be said that we have no feeling for the men on the lower rung of the ladder when, in point of fact, we know from personal experience what they have to endure. We may differ in our opinions at times, and probably we shall make mistakes, as all parties do. While endeavouring to serve our constituents to the best of our ability, we hope, when the bigger issues come before us, to sink any parochial views which we may possess, keeping always in mind the best interests of our State, our Commonwealth, and

that Empire to which we have the proud honour to belong.

On motion by Mr. Mullany debate adjourned.

BILL SUPPLY (No. 1) £1,640,320.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.37 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 25th August, 1921.

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

QUESTION—WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, What was the amount of capital expended on the Wyndham Meat Works prior to 30th July, 1916? 2, What amount has been expended from 1st August, 1916, to 30th June, 1921?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied. 1, The amount of capital expended on the Wyndham Meat Works to the 30th July, 1916, was £148,065 ls. 6d., but in addition there were at that date commitments to the amount of £230,000. 2, The amount expended from 1st August, 1916, to the 30th June, 1921, was £592,790 5s. 11d., including the above £230,000.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS

Motion Expunged.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN (Metropolitan) [4.33]: I have a motion on the Notice Paper, the debate on which was adjourned from the 2nd August, reading—

That there be laid upon the Table of the House the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts of all State trading concerns and State enterprises to the 30th June last, irrespective of whether the audits of same have been completed or not.

In view of the fact that these balance sheets have now been laid on the Table, I suggest

that the order of the day be expunged from the Notice Paper, in order to save printing it each day.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. member is not quite in order in suggesting it at this stage, but I think it might be done.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (East) [4.34]: I wish to join with other members in expressing regret at the loss the House has sustained by the death of the Hon. E. M. Clarke. He was one of the early pioneers of the country and he knew the requirements of the State. We could always rely upon his advice and everyone knows that in his views we could place the utmost confidence. I welcome Mr. Willmott who has succeeded him as a representative of the South-West Province. I congratulate the Government upon having been returned with a good majority to continue the control of the affairs of this State for another three years.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Unless there is a dissolution.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: In view of the expression of good will by the electors throughout the State, it is hardly likely that a dissolution will take place. A change might have been expected consequent upon the condition of the finances. In the Governor's Speech this is the first matter referred to, and we should make it the first matter for our attention. I thought that Parliament would have been called together very much earlier. I understood that the life of the last Parliament was extended with that object in view. It was quite reasonable to expect that Parliament would be called together almost immediately after the elections, in order to give members an opportunity to consider the financial position of the State.

Hon. J. Cornell: Not to consider it, but to do something.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I sincerely hope that suggestions will be made by members of this House as well as another place as a guide to the Government whereby savings and economies might be effected, so that the position of the country, which is undoubtedly sound, might be represented in a proper light to people outside. During the last few years such an immense amount of borrowed money has been expended by both State and Federal Governments that the people have become somewhat extravagant. Owing to the very lavish expenditure throughout the war and since by the respective Governments in Australia, the people have not settled down to the bona fide work of the country in the way of production. An immense amount of money has been spent in the large centres on works which I do not think have been really reproductive. From figures which have been placed before us recently, this expenditure has certainly led to the congregation of a large

number of people in the bigger centres rather than encouraging them to go out into the inland areas, wherein, I believe, lies the only chance of undertaking reproductive work which will aid in restoring the finances to a satisfactory basis. With regard to our railways, our State trading concerns and business undertakings, very lavish expenditure has been indulged in; and this has led to an inflation in the cost of everything that has to be produced, as well as in wages. It has necessitated very much more expensive supervision and the present position is that the general control of the finances has almost been removed from the hands of Parliament. This is due in a great measure to the awards which from time to time have been delivered by the Arbitration Court and to the various conferences which have dealt with wages increases. As a result, a very much more expensive system has been created. Although our railways show a much greater revenue during recent years, the expenditure has increased out of all proportion, and this has robbed the railways as it has robbed every other trading concern of any chance of showing as good results as in the past.

Hon. C. P. Baxter: Were not there increased costs to run the railways?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: These have been created by the expenditure of borrowed money. There has been a huge expenditure of Commonwealth and State borrowings, and the practice has become quite a pernicious one. Private concerns in ordinary commerce have had to compete with the expenditure of Government borrowed money, and the competition engendered has put everything in a false position. I admit that it is very difficult for the Government to put up a better showing in connection with the State trading concerns, the tramways or the railways. Whatever department we examine, we find that the costs generally have been increased. To right the position we shall have to go back to bedrock and endeavour to reduce working costs and encourage greater production. I have been hopeful of seeing the Government, both State and Federal, ceasing the large undertakings which they have been continuing for some years past. We might cast our minds back some years to the time when the Labour Government came into power under the late Mr. Daglish. That Government decided that it was necessary to adopt a mark-time policy because there had been too great an expenditure in Western Australia, which, it was considered, would result in the country getting into difficulties, if they continued on such a lavish scale. I firmly believe that that Government were working on sound lines. Undoubtedly, however, it did not suit the electors of that period, for at the first opportunity the people had of altering that condition of affairs, they gave an emphatic decision which prompted succeeding Governments to continue the same lavish expenditure of public funds. Huge borrowings have been undertaken by successive Governments irrespective of whether the money ex-

pended was likely to bring any fair return or not, and irrespective of the manner in which it was expended. Right throughout the history of the expenditure of this borrowed money, the Government have been in the position of not receiving more than 5s. worth of work for 20s. expended, and that state of affairs has been reflected in the experiences of commerce and trade generally. It may become necessary to adopt a mark-time policy for some considerable time, so as to encourage greater soundness in our financial position. That applies not only to the State Government, but to every trading concern throughout the State. Many private individuals have been twitted for not finding employment for the labour available. Many people will find, from the financial position they are in, great difficulty in employing more labour. Under awards of the Arbitration Court, they find they do not get a fair crack of the whip when they embark upon improvement works. It is only by getting a fair and square deal that we can expect those people to continue their operations in order that production may be increased.

Hon. A. H. Panton: What industries do you suggest the Arbitration Court has held up?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: There is a general tendency on the part of many employers from time to time to embark upon work but they find that, because they can only employ one man on one class of work, they cannot do so. They are compelled to pay extra rates or different rates for work which they may require that one man to do. A man may be a very useful, all-round worker, but he cannot be employed because the work may be classed as carpentry or plumbing or blacksmithing, respectively, and different rates would have to be paid for each class of worker.

Hon. J. Cornell: That type of individual would be a useful man.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It is men of that type who are helping this country to get along and they are essential throughout the whole State. There are numerous instances among men I know where they will not spend money if they are to be brought into contact with such experiences as I have indicated, because of the difficulties which crop up. Because of this position, many undertakings, which would be helpful to Western Australia and would result in greater development and the creation of new avenues of business and trade, are not proceeded with because people will not embark capital in view of the difficulties confronting them. For instance, under awards people have to pay the fares of workers both ways and also have to pay wages during travelling time. We realise that there is evidenced a tendency to stop business proceeding. Little matters like these when considered throughout the State as a whole, have a very detrimental effect upon work which is vital in the interests of the country. This position has given rise to a certain amount of stagnation in the State at the present time. It has also re-

sulted in fewer men being employed than would otherwise have been possible.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You will not find any award in Western Australia responsible for that sort of thing.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: This leads to a consideration of our railway construction. There has been a considerable degree of extravagance in connection with expenditure upon railway construction. I will never forget the time when it was decided to open up the lands of this State by the construction of railways. In the absence of waterways and cheap carriage of that description, the railways were suggested. Mr. Teesdale Smith offered to build 1,000 miles of railway for one million pounds. It is a pity that that contract was not accepted. It had the effect, however, of railway construction being carried out at a less cost than was previously the experience. Railways cost not less than £4,000 to £5,000 per mile. In view of Mr. Teesdale Smith's proposal it was decided immediately to alter the system of railway construction, and the next lengths of railway were built for about £1,400 or £1,500 per mile.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: When was that?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I think it was in 1910. It is interesting to note from the figures placed before members, that the whole railway system at present has cost over £5,000 per mile. That includes the mileage throughout areas where there are no engineering difficulties whatever and where the lines should be laid down very cheaply. The railways in those areas crossed sandplain or flat country; there were no rivers to cross; no bridges to cross, and no engineering difficulties whatever. One would have thought that the construction of so many railways of that description would have resulted in a reduction of the mileage cost, yet we see the appalling sum of £5,000 per mile presented to us as the cost of our railways.

Hon. J. Cornell: There are no railway engineering difficulties in Western Australia at all.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I think that under this heading there has been some fearful extravagance going on. I believe it is largely due to the system of constructing railways by day work instead of by contract. Timber companies have laid down light railways carrying practically as heavy loads as those carried over the light agricultural lines, and they have been able to construct them much cheaper.

Hon. T. Moore: They have a lot of accidents there.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: I thought that interjection would come.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: At any rate, although these timber lines carry heavy logs and so on, almost equal to the loads carried on the light agricultural lines, they are constructed much more cheaply than the Government lines.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: They cost about £1,500 a mile.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Even if that be so, it is an extraordinary thing that the cost of the whole mileage system stands at over £5,000 per mile. This becomes more noticeable when it is realised that the highest costs impose a penalty on people who have to use the railways. Although the rates and freights have been increased considerably, we cannot make any headway, because the costs are increasing by leaps and bounds. It has been suggested frequently that a tax should be imposed upon the owners of land alongside railways, so as to force the lands into use and to force the owners to do more with them. It is impossible for people to improve their land, however much they know it would pay them to do so, on the same extravagant scale that the Government are able to spend borrowed money. The people have to sit back and wait until they can see a better opportunity and better conditions ahead of them, because they cannot pay the high wages and charges demanded. It may be said that if these men cannot do anything with their land it would be better for them to sell it. At the present moment those who try to sell their land privately find that there is not a market for it. I know people who put land on the market, but were unable to sell it. Private owners cannot dispose of land in competition with the Government. The Government are giving land away just as much as they ever did. They are giving it away on better terms and conditions than were given to the earlier settlers who came to Western Australia. Not only are the Government giving away land to-day, but they are lending money for its development and, generally, seeing to it that the settlers want for nothing. That is a very good policy, and I only marvel that under those conditions people do not rush the land. Many men who, to my knowledge, took up land eight or ten years ago with no capital at all, are wealthy men to-day. They were not afraid of work. Statistics show that those who have gone on the land are primarily responsible for the major part of the State's revenue. It would be very good for the State if many more of the people of the metropolitan area went on the land.

Hon. J. Cunningham: Land is being taken up to-day faster than it can be surveyed.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The pioneers did not wait for it to be surveyed. They simply went out and marked trees as their boundaries. There are some very good areas set apart, nobody being allowed to go on to them, principally because they are beyond railway communication. As soon as the Government are in a position to provide further railway facilities there will be plenty more land available. Another question of which we hear a good deal is that of the lack of adequate water supply in Perth. I marvel that the Government have not turned to account the surplus water in the Mundaring Weir.

It is truly extraordinary that that water should be allowed to lie unused, while we have in the metropolitan area a magnificent market for it. The people of Perth do not care whether the water comes from Mundaring or from the Canning scheme. It is incredible that the Government should dream of incurring huge expenditure in carrying out the Canning scheme when there is so much surplus water available at Mundaring. In 1910 a small pipe line was run down from Mundaring through Midland Junction to Maylands. That pipe was purposely kept small to prevent an extension to Perth. Many of us contended at the time that the pipe ought to have been larger, and the water brought to Perth.

Hon. A. Lovekin: The weir would not stand the draw which would be put upon it.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: We have often heard that contention. Yet, not more than one-third of the water in Mundaring Weir has ever been used in any one year. In 1914 the greatest quantity of water was drawn from Mundaring, and still it amounted to only one-third of the total. For a small expenditure of, say, £100,000, the Mundaring water could be brought to Perth. The overhead charges, including interest and sinking fund, would not be more than approximately £7,000 per annum.

The Minister for Education: The engineers say that for one thing the height is insufficient.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Still, only one-third of the water in the weir has ever been used.

The Minister for Education: I mean the height of Mundaring as against the height of Perth.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: If the water can be pumped to Kalgoorlie, it can be pumped to Perth.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The weir is 80 feet higher than is Mt. Eliza.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I understood that the water could be gravitated to Perth. At all events, I am convinced that if the water can be pumped to Kalgoorlie, it can be pumped to Perth.

The Minister for Education: Yes, at a price.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: The price would be far less than that involved in the development of the Canning scheme, which probably would run into a million pounds, whereas the water from Mundaring would not cost more than £100,000.

Hon. J. Duffell: That would only provide for present requirements. What about the future?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: There is nothing to prevent another 10 feet being put on to the present Mundaring wall which, I am told by an engineer, would double the capacity of the weir. Also I am informed that if there be any doubt about the strength of the wall, piers could be added at a relatively small cost. It would be very much better to adopt

that scheme and so convert a losing proposition into a substantial asset.

Hon. A. Lovekin: You would get to the salt after drawing a certain quantity.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: That would apply to any scheme. What appeals to me is that we have already the large catchment area at Mundaring, whereas at Canning the land would have to be resumed at great aggregate cost. Another consideration is that by the adoption of the Mundaring scheme the people of Perth would get their full supply of water very much earlier than they would if the Canning scheme were definitely adopted. It was contended in this Chamber many years ago that the goldfields water supply scheme would result in a gigantic loss, and that it should be a charge, not upon the people of Perth, but on the State as a whole. Then we were told that if the people of Perth were allowed to use the surplus water they would have to carry the loss upon the scheme as a whole. My view is that there is an excellent market in Perth for the surplus water at Mundaring, notwithstanding which that huge quantity of water is allowed to lie unused in the weir. It is deplorable that we should not use it. The capacity of the Mundaring Weir is 4,650,000,000 gallons. The greatest quantity that has been drawn in any one year was 1,478,000,000 gallons. For some years past, smaller and smaller quantities have been drawn for the goldfields. In the hope of relieving the position, the water was turned on to the agricultural areas, but that development made scarcely any difference at all. The consumption of water from Mundaring has been less each succeeding year.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: How much a year are we losing on the concern, £80,000?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It used to be that, but it is very much more than that now. Last year Midland Junction and Maylands consumed 251,000,000 gallons. We have over 300,000,000 gallons lying in the weir unused every year.

Hon. A. Lovekin: You allow for evaporation, and see where you are.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: I cannot make a calculation at the moment. I certainly understood from those who knew more about the subject than I did that this would be a good scheme and that Perth ought to have had it years ago; indeed Perth should have it now. We are losing an enormous sum of money every year on the scheme, and we should be able to stop that loss and at the same time confer a benefit upon the city. I hope the Government will go into the matter seriously. If the evaporation is so great all that need be done is to add another 10 feet to the weir, and thus double the quantity of water held there.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott: It was worked out on a three years' drought basis.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: Yes, and the water has overflowed every year since the weir was constructed.

Hon. A. H. Panton: To the extent of millions of gallons.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: There is the necessary staff already engaged at the weir, and if it is necessary to put on another pumping station it can be placed there on the same spot. I congratulate the Minister and the Government upon the result of the work of the Royal Commission on Education. I hope the Government will put the recommendations of the Commission into practice, at all events so far as the establishment of an agricultural college is concerned. It does not seem right to talk about further expenditure just now, but it does seem extraordinary that this country should say it cannot afford to establish an agricultural college. The country cannot afford to be without one.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: If they did away with secondary education they could have a college.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: There are people in the outside world who are sending their sons to Canada and America for education in agricultural matters. If an opportunity were afforded here to give young men the necessary teaching in agriculture we should probably get a considerable number of students. We would have to provide them with a good grounding on agricultural matters on good land. If we did that there would be no difficulty in finding young men with capital to come to this country, whereas at present they go elsewhere. I have frequently been asked to take the sons of certain people who wish them to embark upon an agricultural or pastoral career. It is impossible for the private individual to find the accommodation necessary. Owing to our White Australia policy the wives of the agriculturists and pastoralists generally have to do their own work, and it would be too great a trial for them to increase the number of their household in this way.

Hon. C. P. Baxter: And the young men would not be taught the scientific side of agriculture.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It would not be fair to the parents or to the students to send them to an ordinary farm. On a farm everyone has his regular duties, and there is no time to go into the scientific side of things. No student would, therefore, get the best results out of the time he would spend on a farm. Some years ago a board of agriculture in this State made certain recommendations, but they have evidently been pigeon-holed. Amongst the recommendations was that no expenditure in the direction of agricultural teaching should be made at Chapman, Brunswick, or at Narrogin, but that when the Government were in a position to erect an agricultural college some locality convenient to all those centres should be chosen and an up-to-date college erected there.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Was it a board of agriculture or a select committee?

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It was a board of agriculture. Later, a committee was ap-

pointed by the Government and it recommended that the site chosen should be within 20 miles of Spencer's Brook. Within that radius there are many localities which would be suitable for the purpose. I regret that nothing has been done since, and that no opportunity has been afforded to young men to come here from the outside world in order to learn the science of agriculture. In St. George's-terrace one regularly comes across parents who wish to place their sons on the land, but they want to know that they will receive proper tuition and training, and do not care to send them where they will not get this. It is a deplorable state of affairs. We have a great deal of cheap land in Western Australia, and why the Government have not been able to see their way to erect this college I cannot understand.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Our Western Australian students are attending every agricultural college in the Eastern States.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: It is a shame that this question has not been grappled with before. If we place these young men on good land I am sure that the State will derive a benefit, and we shall get better results from our land than we have had hitherto. The more fertiliser that is carried over our railways at a low rate the more wheat we shall get back in return. This is only a business proposition. We should teach these young men how to make the best use of their land. To this end it would be a good thing if fertilisers were carried over the railways at cost price, because of the greater return that would come to the State by means of the increased yield of wheat. Any expense incurred by the Government in this direction would be speedily returned through the development of our inland areas, and through the number of immigrants that would be attracted to our shores. The Eastern States are attracting many of our young men to the land, and I should like to see them coming to Western Australia.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: They are getting our own boys already.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY: That is so. There are certain members of this Chamber who hold views somewhat opposite to those held by other members. There have been deputations to the Government asking that work should be found for certain unemployed. We are faced with the extraordinary position that we see leaders of labour telling men not to accept work, and we hear that on some of the stations there are men picketed at certain centres to prevent men taking good honest wages for the work that is required of them. We know that there is a shearers' strike. This country and the settlers, and all those embraced in the wool industry, have, directly, suffered a loss of at least £100,000. The bottom has practically fallen out of the wool market, and matters are going to be worse. All the indications point to prices dropping still further. It is extraordinary that there should be any people in the country advising

men not to take good wages, simply on the ground that they must stand out for some principle. It is all very well when everything is looking rosy and we can view matters through beautifully coloured spectacles, but no one in Australia can say that things are of that hue at present. I hope that we shall be able to pull together and endeavour to give better advice to the men in the country. Men are inclined to object to taking on good work because of the fear that they may be regarded as blacklegs or scabs. It is easy to use these epithets, but it is to be hoped that the men will see the wisdom of accepting good and profitable work when it is offered instead of looking out for some of the points which have been raised from time to time. I hope that a better view of things will be taken and that the several industries of the country will have the opportunity they deserve of developing. We should all pull together, and help the Government to put the State into a more satisfactory condition in the years that are to follow.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW (Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.28]: I join with other hon. members in congratulating Mr. Wilknot upon his election to this Chamber. I also deplore the death of my old friend Mr. Clarke, who was undoubtedly a worthy type of the old pioneer who did so much in the early days of the settlement of this State. Mr. Hamersley has referred to the Mundaring water scheme and to Perth being supplied with water from that source. The scheme has been condemned by, I believe, every expert that the Government have employed to investigate it; not only their own experts, but experts from the Eastern States. I trust the public will not be led away by this red herring that is drawn across the trail, but will insist upon Perth obtaining an adequate water supply from the natural source, the Canning River. The supplies that would be available from Mundaring would only be adequate for the future development of the city for the next few years. Under those conditions it would be absurd to spend a large sum of money—I believe, considerably more than £100,000—in bringing a merely temporary supply to Perth. The war has now been over for more than three years, but the problems left by it have not yet been settled. Europe is still in a turbulent condition, one involving misery and distress over practically the whole of the Continent. Most momentous problems are confronting the statesmen of the world. In my opinion, it would take the judgment of Solon and the wisdom of Solomon combined to find solutions for the problems now harassing British statesmen in particular. While we here can do very little indeed to help towards those solutions, we can do something to hinder by the attitude we take up here. Some two years ago, on my return from the war, I made an appeal for unity and tolerance among the various sections of the community. As I say, it is not in our power to assist towards the solution of the prob-

lems confronting the Old World; and why should we upset our own community by the unceasing agitation which has been and is going on here? We have our own difficulties to face, and I think they are sufficient to tax the ingenuity of our own statesmen.

Hon. A. H. Panton: We have enough to keep us out of mischief, anyhow.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: The great problem, of course, is that of finance, as every member has said. When moving the Address-in-reply two years ago, I urged the Government to tackle that problem. Unfortunately, however, the matter has been allowed to drift, until now it is so pressing that it forces itself upon the attention of the Government. So far as I can see, there are only two ways for a State or a private individual when in financial difficulties: the first is to diminish expenditure, and the second is to increase revenue. Unfortunately, both of these measures are very unpopular with the electors. They involve sacrifices on the part of all sections of the community. I trust, however, that the Government will not be deterred by that fact, but will proceed to grapple with the difficulty boldly, and to bring our income and our expenditure into closer accord. I am, nevertheless, rather doubtful about this, because I know what cheery optimists we have controlling the Government purse at present. However, neither the policy of wait and see and drift, nor that frame of mind which imagines that nothing matters because "the money is in the pockets of the people," can avail us at this juncture. Unfortunately, the money is not in the pockets of the people. It gets spent, and very often spent in an utterly unprofitable manner. While I am quite in accord with a policy of diminished expenditure and increased revenue, I would also advocate bold measures regarding schemes which may increase our production, schemes for extending land settlement and encouraging immigration. Those seem to me to be the only sane lines on which to proceed. Travelling through this State and seeing its magnificent resources, one cannot but be filled with optimism. Whenever I go out into the country—as, fortunately, I do fairly frequently—I come back to Perth delighted with what I have seen in the rural districts. But on returning to Perth, and again viewing the ever increasing and ever recurring deficit, the ceaseless strikes, and all that is done to hamper production, the bitter class warfare that is continually in progress, and apparently everything being done to increase our difficulties, then my optimism, I must confess, gives place to pessimism.

Hon. A. H. Panton: We have fewer strikes in Western Australia than in any other part of the world.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: Even if that is so, we have too many.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: God help the other parts of the world!

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I observe from the Speech that the Government propose to take

measures towards removing the hospital incubus from their shoulders. I have not seen the Bill for that purpose, and consequently cannot say anything either in praise or in blame of the measure. However, as this House knows, I am not altogether satisfied with the method of management at present obtaining, at any rate so far as the Perth Public Hospital is concerned.

Hon. A. H. Panton: And you are not the only one.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: But I will support only such a measure as I consider calculated to increase the efficiency of the medical service. Otherwise, the Bill will not receive any support from me. I daresay hon. members think I am rather obsessed with two subjects—one being public health, and the other being education. However, I regard those two things as undoubtedly among the most important factors entering into the life of the community. Unless a man has a trained mind in a healthy body, the possession of mere money bags is of very little utility to him. Unhappily, the subject of health is very unpopular. The only time when people take an interest in it is during some scare of an epidemic; and then they rush to the other extreme, and lose their heads. I must own that in 1918 and 1919—I speak more especially of the latter year, because I was here then—the pusillanimity exhibited by the people of Australia was perfectly disgraceful. They entirely lost their heads on account of the influenza epidemic. Recently an effort has been made all over the Commonwealth to form an Australasian association in connection with public health. A meeting was held at Government House, presided over by His Excellency. I regret to say it was very sparsely attended, and, so far as I know, very few persons became members of the association. As far as Western Australia is concerned, the subject may, I fear, be regarded as stillborn. There is the old adage—

When the Devil was sick, the Devil a monk would be;

When the Devil was well, the devil a monk was he.

I am afraid that that is the attitude which everyone takes up regarding health matters. I personally would like to see more prominence given in the Cabinet to a Ministry of Health. At the present time that subject is lost in the multifarious duties of the Colonial Secretary.

Hon. J. Cornell: What we want is an up to date bureau of medical research and science.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: That is a large subject, perhaps, for our little community. We want such a bureau in Australia. However, I think it would be well if a separate Ministry of Health were inaugurated here. Possibly that department might be combined with one other department; but which one, is not for me to say.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: It would mean another £1,200 a year.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: The Ministry of Health might take the place of one of the old portfolios. The Government promise to bring down a Bill dealing with the continuation of the wheat pool, at all events in Western Australia. My attitude towards that measure is that unless the rights of the consumer are going to be recognised, the Bill will have no support from me. Recently we have had a most ridiculous position in Perth. That was in connection with the strike of bakers. We found that wheat was being sold to our bakers here at above the price at which it was being sold to other parts of the world. The baker has the price of his commodity, bread, regulated by the Prices Regulation Commission, just as is done in the case of other traders. It seems to me anomalous that we should have such a Commission dealing with the prices of all sorts of commodities, but not with the price of wheat to the local consumer. I have nothing but sympathy for the farmer and the settler. I believe that every thinking man in this State realises that the future prosperity of Western Australia depends on settling our vast areas and bringing them under cultivation, and doing those things as quickly as possible. I know that the political power is at present vested in the Country Party. But if the Country Party continue to pursue a selfish and narrow policy, there will undoubtedly be a very decided re-action among the rest of the community. Surely the history of other countries should bring that home to us. A good many years ago the iniquitous corn laws in England swept a party out of power. During my own life time, and in fact not so very many years ago, the cry of the dear loaf swept tariff reform off the board in Great Britain. And the same sort of thing is liable to happen here. Undoubtedly, the Country Party hold the political balance of power. I will ask hon. members to consider for a moment how the Country Party come to hold it. In the Legislative Assembly the mean average number of electors for each member is 3,453. There are five members who have constituencies of less than 1,000 voters each. There are 11 members who have constituencies of less than 2,000 voters each. There are 10 members who represent less than 3,000 voters each. That is to say, over half of the Legislative Assembly is returned by a quarter of the voters of the whole State. Now let me put some more figures before hon. members: Roebourne 580 electors, Caning 9,800, Menzies 729, Leederville 8,900, Cue 758, Subiaco 7,328, Pilbara 652, Claremont 7,196, Mount Margaret 832, East Perth 6,607. Those, of course, are the extremest comparisons that can be made; the worst instances, so to speak. I have no doubt I shall be told that the small constituencies I have selected are not altogether Country Party constituencies. True, they are not. The majority of them are just back blocks constituencies. But the point is this, that

in those back blocks the voter has ten times the political power of the voter in the metropolitan area. The voter in the country districts generally has two or three times the political power of the voter in the metropolitan area. This Chamber exhibits a somewhat similar disproportion. There is, as we continually hear, rather more than half the population of this State in the metropolitan area, including of course Fremantle. That area returns nine members to this Chamber—or less than a third of the total membership. Hon. G. W. Miles: For the wealth that area produces, it should not have any members here.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: That is a point I want to come to presently. I am sorry my friend Mr. Stewart is not present. He spoke yesterday on that point, the point of production. It is absurd of course to regard the city as a primary producer. If the city is not a primary producer it has other functions, and I maintain that the townsman is just as necessary to the country as the countryman is to the town. They are complementary, not antagonistic. When I heard my friend speak with reference to the townsman, I was led to believe that the townsman was a parasite who preyed on others. Personally, whenever I find myself in the presence of a primary producer, whom we are taught to regard as the salt of the earth, I realise what a very miserable worm I am. In the city we have our teachers to assist in giving the countrymen higher education, and we even provide for the countrymen a professor of agriculture at the University. We have our doctors and hospitals to heal their sick; we have our lawyers who keep the countrymen out of gaol or who put the other fellow in; we have our merchants who trade with them—the merchants buy the produce of the countrymen and supply them with various necessities. We have also our tailors who clothe them; we have our dressmakers who robe the wives and daughters of the countrymen in silks and soft raiments. We have actors and various other people who contribute towards the amusement of the countrymen, and then again we have the spieler and confidence men who take them down, relieve them of their superfluous cash and allow them to go home again. Whilst we in the town have the highest opinion of the countryman, unfortunately the countryman does not reciprocate. He regards us as Antonio regarded Shylock, and to the countryman, in the words of Shylock, somewhat modified, I would say—

Hath not a townsman eyes; hath not a townsman hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you wrong us, shall we not revenge?

I trust they will bear in mind these remarks, perhaps somewhat lightly made, or even perhaps take them to heart, and that they will entertain a higher opinion of we unfortunates

who have to dwell in the towns, and who are regarded by them as people "who toil not, neither do they spin," merely consumers of the countryman's produce. I was much interested too in the remarks that fell from Mr. Pantou. I was glad to find that he, as President of the A.L.P. or in his capacity as a member of this House, is able to set aside economic laws. It has always been inculcated in me that production is the main source of a country's prosperity, that it increases our wealth. Mr. Pantou said he was glad to see that the cry "Produce, produce, produce" had been abandoned.

Hon. A. H. Pantou: I did not say I was glad.

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I understood the hon. member to say that he was pleased, and I do not think my inference is very wrong because the hon. member went on to talk about warehouses that were being stocked with goods and the granaries with wheat, adding that at the present time there was no demand for labour, and that he regarded the position as an ill. This is not an ill; it will have the effect of lessening the price of commodities to the consumer. Is it not better to have the warehouses and the granaries full rather than have them empty?

Hon. A. H. Pantou: Do they remain full?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: The hon. member referred to the President of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association as a czar. I can only compare Mr. Pantou, if he will excuse my doing so, as the President of the A.L.P. to a king, namely, Canute. I hope he will be flattered; but when he hears the reference he may not be flattered. Hon. members will remember that Canute, told by his courtiers that he had power over the laws of nature, sat still by the seaside within reach of the incoming tide, to rebuke his flatterers, and told the tide to recede. Of course the tide took no heed. I fancy Mr. Pantou will have to tell his supporters something of the same kind when he is faced with the stern facts of reality should the time ever come when he has to take a responsible position in connection with the government of the State. The only other matter I wish to touch upon is the subject of lunacy reform. I notice that the Government intend to appoint a Royal or some other kind of Commission to investigate the matter. The question is one which troubles all of us. We all want to do what is best for those unfortunates who are mentally afflicted. As I said when I spoke on the Lunacy Bill last session, it is a great pity that the Government did not secure the services of an alienist of repute to come here and report on our system and management. I do not attach much importance to the findings of select committees and other bodies that have inquired into the subject because, unfortunately, the members of those bodies lack the necessary knowledge to enable them to thoroughly investigate lunacy matters.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: What about the Education Commission?

Hon. A. J. H. SAW: I may inform the hon. gentleman that the Chairman of that Commission was a gentleman of the highest educational repute in Australia, and that the other two members are well known to the community, and so I shall not say anything about them. The hon. member can decide for himself whether they were competent or incompetent. But before he criticises the work of that Commission I hope to heaven he will read the report. I believe the Government at the present time have got themselves into such a position in connection with lunacy administration that the appointment of a Commission is inevitable. Why that Commission is to be appointed I would not like to say. I do not know whether it is to be appointed because of the demand made by the journalists, or the Country Party. But I did see that on the day following the carrying of a resolution at the Primary Producers' Conference on this subject, an announcement was made. One person, however, did not move in connection with the proposed appointment of the Commission and that was the Colonial Secretary. That Minister has my sympathy because his position is rather unenviable. That is all I have to say in this connection. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

Hon. T. MOORE (Central) [5.55]: I join with other hon. members in expressing my regret at the loss the House has sustained by the death of the Hon. E. M. Clarke. At the same time I wish to congratulate the new member on his election to this Chamber. So far as the Governor's Speech is concerned, it does not seem to me that there is anything new in it. It is very similar to what has been dished up here year after year. Owing to the fact that we are having such a strenuous time, one would have imagined that the Speech would have contained something new, something in the way of a suggestion to get us out of the tangle we have drifted into. We certainly are in a tangle, and a pretty awkward one, too, but from what we have had offered to us here, and even from the suggestions which have been made in this Chamber, I can see no light at all. Regarding what was said by the hon. member who has just sat down, I shall call attention to the fact that what is contained in this year's Speech about the cry "produce," was also in the Speech of last year. That Speech said:—

My Advisers, however, because of the ability of the State to produce in abundance many of the things of which the world is most in need, feel that the prospects are encouraging and that vigour, enterprise, and goodwill amongst the people are alone necessary to replace the material losses of war and to inaugurate a period of expansion.

A good deal has been said about the fact that our warehouses are full, that we have a plentiful supply of things that we are in need of. But what I am most concerned about is that whilst this was correct last year regarding the things that we could produce and sell at a profit, it is not correct this year. Many of our primary products are unsaleable. We are not in the happy position that we were in 12 months ago. As hon. members know, the back country has been hit pretty hard. All our base metals are practically valueless. The mines where men were working 12 months ago are idle to-day, which means that many men are unemployed. Therefore the Speech was wrong 12 months ago when it forecasted that we had so many things to sell and for which we could find buyers. At all events, what was said then has since been proved to be incorrect because our mines are idle. I regret that such is the case, and I regret also that the breezy optimism of those who are running the country to-day is not warranted. We have to face the facts as we see them, and I join with other hon. members in hoping that both employers and employees will pull together to get the finances of the country straightened out. I have no wish to see anything in the way of trouble taking place. I never have had such a wish, and it is incorrect for members to believe that we who represent the Trades Hall have always been looking out for strife. If hon. members had been amongst us they would readily have learned that our great trouble was to keep the men from getting into difficulties. That has been proved day after day by the work which has been carried out by the disputes committee. Reference has been made by Country Party members to the shearing trouble. I wish hon. members to know that the A.W.U. offered to agree to the appointment of an independent arbitrator, one who would be acceptable to both parties. The duty of that arbitrator would have been to go into the merits of the dispute and arrive at a decision. If anything can be fairer than that I have yet to learn what it is. We say that Mr. Lee Steere, believing that times were bad, was trying to force the men who were organised to become disorganised. Mr. Lee Steere, I think, has made a great mistake. After all, it would be better for the employing class also to always have labour organised. Otherwise there would be much more trouble than there is to-day. By having labour organised, and by capital being organised as we know it is, it is possible to get along well, but if we disorganise that which has been organised, we shall have more trouble. Therefore, I hope members will bear this in mind. This is what the A.W.U. have offered: an independent arbitrator to be set up to go into the merits of their case. Nothing could be more fair.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: No one in this Chamber is against trade unionism.

Hon. T. MOORE: I feel sure members are, judging from the speeches to which I had to

listen during the last election campaign. During a campaign we are not always speaking; sometimes we are listening to what the other chap has to say, and to the awful tales told about the Trades Hall leaders and the trade unions. People were led to believe that the responsible men were awful fellows.

Hon. J. Cornell: That was at election time.

Hon. T. MOORE: As a matter of fact, politics are one of the last things discussed at election time. I regret that such is the case, but I know it is so.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Some people think that the question of arbitration came a little late.

Hon. T. MOORE: The question was brought to the fore because, in the old times, we had unorganised labour and more troubles with a smaller population than we have to-day.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Otherwise I think it is successful.

Hon. T. MOORE: One cause of trouble is that arbitration proceedings are so slow. I have spoken about that before, and expressed the hope that the Act would be made more workable. Until such time as we are in a position to find a better substitute, it is best to adhere to arbitration. Dr. Saw remarked that he was quite pleased when he went into the country and realised the wonderful possibilities of this State. When I go into the country, and particularly into the province I represent, I am not at all pleased, because of the fact that the goldfields, which were one of our greatest assets, are being squelched principally owing to the high freights and high cost of materials, combined certainly with a rise in wages. The output of the mines is falling off. Coming nearer home to the lead mines at Northampton, I found during a recent visit that men who were previously employed in the mines were walking about and no work was being done. Some members talk about bringing immigrants to this State. I believe that we need tens of thousands of immigrants to settle this State, but I say that at the present time we are luring immigrants from the older parts of the world under false pretences. While in London last year, I saw in the office of one of the State Agents General a beautiful picture which showed nice green fields, a nice house, a good road, first class cattle, pig and poultry yards, and in the distance the cattle grazing. The artist had even gone so far as to depict a telegraph or telephone line leading right into the house. It is quite wrong to represent Australian conditions in this way. When people are lured here by such prospects of well-doing and comfort, and then find out the real conditions, I am not surprised that they drift back to the cities. People who are lured here under these beliefs will not go outback. They expect to find a beautifully finished home provided for them, and they naturally stay where such a home is procurable. We ought to picture conditions as they really exist, farms that are to be made, not farms

which are made. When we get to the stage that we can set up the finished article, it will be quite soon enough to advertise it as such.

The Minister for Education: You did not see that in the office of the Agent General for Western Australia.

Hon. T. MOORE: No, in our Agent General's office there were samples of beautiful corn and wool and other commodities which had been produced here. It was a fairly decent show, and not so misleading as the other. I will not mention which State the picture I have indicated was supposed to represent. All I can say is that it was very deceptive. That is why quite a number of immigrants on arriving here are in a position to say that they were induced to come out under false pretences. At the present time we have emigration officers for each State. I do not know how the States stand; I do not know what part of the work has been passed over to the Commonwealth and what part is retained by the State. Why should all this bungling be going on? Why should not we or the Commonwealth deal with the position? It is remarkable that although pictures of the sort I have outlined are being shown in the Strand, instead of men clamouring to come to this country, they are rushing to enlist in the Spanish foreign legion to fight for 2s. 6d. or 3s. 6d. a day. A cable message to this effect appeared in the local Press last week. Rather than come here with the possibility of setting up homes for themselves, they are ready to rush into another fight.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: Perhaps because they like a scrap.

Hon. T. MOORE: My experience of fighting men was that those who were most eager were often the poorest.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Perhaps they do not know anything about the opportunities here.

Hon. T. MOORE: It is true that many of those who enlisted in the Spanish foreign legion were described as ex-service men. They might have been men who had good cushy jobs in England while the real war was on. When we remember that there are so many unemployed in Great Britain, and that we are prepared to assist them to come here, it seems incredible that there should be a spectacle such as we read of in the Press on the 10th August. A cable message published on that date read—

Unemployment—Riot in London—Timber Yard Afire. Serious rioting occurred at Gliksten's timber yard in East London—the largest timber yard in England. Some five thousand unemployed men, many of whom had waited throughout the night, went to the yard in response to an advertisement for fifty men, and they were so enraged by their failure to secure work that they broke the gates and raided the firm's offices. Foot and mounted police were summoned from the surrounding stations, until they were five hundred strong, and they forced the crowd out through the gateways. Some hours after the riot had

been quelled the yard was set on fire, stocks worth about £1,000,000 being threatened with total destruction. The yard, which covers twenty-one acres, became a blazing inferno. Mr. Gliksten informed the Press representatives that the unemployed were totally unconnected with the outbreak of fire, which began on the side at the Lea Canal, and that side was unattainable by the unemployed. The damage caused by the fire is estimated authoritatively at about £250,000.

This is what can happen under the wonderful system known as capitalism. During the war the British workers were promised that after the termination of hostilities a new era would be ushered in, instead of which we find Great Britain to-day in a state of seething discontent. Men rushing to get work in a timber yard—not a cushy job—must have presented an awful spectacle. I wonder that such men do not come out here. Yet these men who were so anxious to do something for themselves cannot be induced to come to this State. In Western Australia we have an unemployed problem, and it is growing worse. This worries me more than anything else. Some of us are supposed to represent the workers. I am here to do the best I can for this State. In Victoria and New South Wales, which States I visited recently, there is a huge unemployed problem. I have a snapshot which I took from the steps of Parliament House, Melbourne, showing a crowd of 1,500 ex-service men who marched to Parliament House to urge that work should be provided for them. I do not wish this problem to grow worse. Our warehouses and factories are full of commodities and there is no work for the men. We are wondering what is going to happen. Only yesterday I was informed on good authority that at Collie 100 additional men had been put off. When retrenchment is begun, and the Government of course have started it by cancelling certain trains, the serious effects are experienced right through the State. Every time a man is put off, the effect is reflected in the business of the little town in which he is living. The fact of 100 men being put off at Collie means that certain trains will be cancelled and that the wages formerly paid will no longer go into circulation. The greater the number of men retrenched, the more widespread the effects become. We are agitated to know where this is going to end.

Hon. G. W. Miles: What about going into the country?

Hon. T. MOORE: A certain number of men can work in the country, but a lot are not fit for country work. A man who can undertake this work can be readily placed, but skilled artisans and men who have been in certain trades for the greater part of their lives are not suitable for work in the country. Having specialised and got into a groove, they are handicapped by reason of having followed the one occupation so long. This is one of the problems we have to face. We want to have nothing but goodwill existing

between employers and employees, but if employers intend to stand off and dictate their own terms to men who have fought for many years to gain the conditions they are now enjoying, no progress will be made. It is of no use the employers standing off and saying, "We will give you a job, but your wages to-day are too high." The men of Australia have fought for many years to gain a decent standard of living, and they will stick together and fight hard against any reduction. The workers do not mind how soon a start is made to bring down the prices of commodities. When that has been done, the employers may talk about bringing down wages. What we are determined to do is not to bring down the workers' standard, the right of the workers and their wives and families to live in decent comfort. Our men have been working honestly and hard for years past and now that the warehouses are full, their work is done for the time being and they have to walk the streets. One wishes there was some other system so that the workers should not have to put up with this state of affairs.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: The other system ends in Russia.

Hon. T. MOORE: That is exactly what was told the people at the last elections, and what the elections were fought on. I know nothing about Russia, notwithstanding that I have read all the available literature about it. Interjections such as that either in this Chamber or among the workers, will not get us any further. Let us find a commonsense way out of the difficulty and let Russia look after herself. Those who opposed us at the general elections were talking of us as if we were Bolsheviks.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: My interjection meant the other system.

Hon. T. MOORE: There are many other systems, and if I had time I would touch on some of them. I hope that during the session we shall be able to devise means to bring the expenditure of the State into closer accord with the revenue, so that we shall be able to make things better and brighter for the community.

On motion by Hon. A. Sanderson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 25th August, 1921.

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QUESTION—POLICE DEPARTMENT, COMPLAINTS.

Mr. RICHARDSON asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is he aware that it is alleged that serious friction exists in the detective force consequent on the high-handed treatment of members of that force by a senior officer? 2, Is he also aware that privileges, relative to the hours of working, conceded by the Commissioner to members of the force, have been nullified by the action of Detective Inspector Condon? 3, Is he further aware that members of the detective force have, during the past two months, been compelled by circumstances to report the conduct of this officer to the Commissioner? 4, If so, has any inquiry, departmental or otherwise, been made into these complaints, and what action, if any, has been taken by the Commissioner?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, No. 2, No; the Commissioner's instructions are being carried out. 3 and 4, Two members of the branch saw the Commissioner with an alleged grievance, which he personally investigated and satisfactorily settled.

QUESTION—ROTTNEST ISLAND, ACCOMMODATION.

Mrs. COWAN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, How many bungalows and flats were allotted to applicants for accommodation for the Rottnest season 1921-22 before the applications closed on the 3rd August? 2, How many personal friends and relations of the officers in charge were allotted bungalows or flats? 3, To whom were the bungalows and flats allotted? 4, How many of the successful applicants for this year were also extended the same privilege last year, and in the years 1918-1919? 5, In view of the policy of the Board of Control to give preference to country and goldfields applicants, what is the proportion of successful town and country applicants? 6, Is a date stamp placed on application when received? 7, If too many applications are received, by what method are the allotments made?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, None. 2, None. 3, Bungalows—Locke, Lappin, Richards, Couper, Campbell, Chand-