

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 5th August, 1934.

Committees for the Session	...	...	...	...	PAGE
Address-in-Reply, third day	...	...	...	...	55

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

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

On motion by the Premier, sessional committees were appointed as follows:—

Library—Mr. Speaker, Miss Ho'man, and Mr. Patrick.

Standing Orders—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Griffiths, Hon. W. D. Johnson, and Mr. J. H. Smith.

House—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lambert, Mr. McLarty, Mr. Stubbs, and Mr. Wilson.

Printing—Mr. Speaker, Mr. J. MacCallum Smith, and Mr. Withers.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. NORTH (Claremont) [4.34]: Following upon the remarks made last night by the Leader of the Opposition, and upon observations in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, regarding the financial stringency, it would appear that things will not become worse than they have been but perhaps slightly easier. Certainly it is not to be inferred from the Speech that things will be any worse. I take it from the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition that we shall be not in a worse position but in one slightly better. In addition to the remarks in the Speech and those of the Leader of the Opposition, other authorities, however, continue to say that the financial position is black. Recently the Governor of the Bank of England, Mr. Montague Norman, is said to have stated that he cannot see daylight ahead, and other experts have predicted that possibly within two years there will be a serious financial breakdown. Similar statements can be found in the financial papers. Therefore I take it that whatever

difficulties exist in this State are to be found everywhere else as well. Turning now to the Claremont constituency, I propose to give instances of how this stringency is afflicting the people there. A few weeks ago a woman who is a widow and has a child, came to me and said, "I have 9s. a week allowed me by the Government to live on, and I would like to know from you, as member for the district, how I should spend that 9s. a week to manage my affairs. My rent is 4s. 6d.; I have a good landlord who has reduced it to that amount. So I have 4s. 6d. a week left for myself and one child." That situation, it is hardly necessary to say, should not exist in a State like this. It obviously shows that there is still much room for improvement in our local conditions for those who are not covered by the various schemes of employment. Of course it will be said that this is an isolated case; but it is sad to think that in a community like Claremont, which is fairly prosperous, it is possible for the widow to find herself in such a position. To me the existence of such a case is clear proof that unless things are altered, race deterioration will set in. The reason for the existence of such a case is, of course, the fact that the financial stringency is still upon us. Another instance of the same sort of difficulty in Claremont has recently arisen in connection with the bus question. The same financial stringency has meant that the people of Claremont are no longer permitted to use a certain bus route, but must walk about half-a-mile before they can join the bus service to Perth. In this case the reasons given are just the same. It is said that the same financial stringency which makes it necessary to compel a widow and her child to live on 9s. a week, compels restrictions on the use of the bus service. It is said that there is a tram service in existence, and that interest on the cost of that service cannot be met if people are allowed to use the buses. The figures are quite clear, and the department are determined to collect the necessary interest as best they can. However, there must be something radically wrong in our outlook when we see a perfectly good bus service available every three or four minutes, passing our doors without our being permitted to use it. The service has already been paid for, and is available: but intending passengers must be forced to walk half-a-mile in order to be picked up. I repeat, there is something radically wrong in our

logic if we think that such a course of action will help us to overcome the financial stringency. I do not intend to attack the board controlling the tramways on this account. I am quite aware that they are simply handing out to passengers the same justice which they mete out to others in view of the obligation to pay interest. However, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider if you were a stranger in our midst, say a visitor from another planet, if other planets are inhabited, and were shown a widow who has 9s. a week to live on with one child, and were told that people had to walk half-a-mile before they could make use of a bus service, would you not say that there was something curiously wrong with our community? Yet ample reasons are given for these things. The point is are those reasons really logical, and have we gone down to the root of the trouble? As regards the widow, it would be said that the Child Welfare Department have so many calls upon them that the widow should go out and do a bit of washing or scrub a few floors, leaving the child at home, and that thus she might scrape a few shillings together and be enabled to pay her rent and keep going. As regards the bus service, it will be urged that residents must walk half-a-mile so that interest may be paid in London. It will be argued that the widows and orphans in London must receive their interest, and so the argument goes on. But in our heart of hearts we know that both those arguments are utterly wrong. Fundamentally, we know, there is no justification for such happenings. We know perfectly well that the 9s. a week proposition is unreasonable, because at this very moment Great Britain is trying to prevent us from placing upon her market the eggs, the meat, and the various other products of this State, some of which could be used in the house of the widow who has to support herself and a child on 9s. a week. Let me give another instance of the effects of the financial stringency. The Cottesloe Council recently decided to cut up a Class "A" reserve in order to finance some improvements on the sea front. That is a clear case of something quite out of the ordinary, something which would never have been proposed in normal times. The very idea of selling a Class "A" reserve for building blocks in order to raise the wind for a local body would have been scouted

until just recently. I am not in any way attacking the local body concerned. The move they are making is a very wise one to make in difficult times. I thank the Government for having given permission for the cutting-up of the reserve.

Mr. Latham: You yourself advocated that long before. You came along and introduced a deputation to the previous Government on this matter.

Mr. NORTH: Precisely. However, I am not arguing that that is how things should be done. I merely say that the Cottesloe Council have adopted what is in difficult times a very good means of getting a good work done. But the proceeding is absolutely wrong inasmuch as it arises from financial stringency. The men and the materials are there for the work to be done; and because of the financial stringency a Class "A" reserve is cut up and handed over to the auctioneer, thus taking from the total money market so much purchasing power which would otherwise have been available in other directions. Financial stringency again! I come from that to a suggestion which has been made by the Perth City Council, or really by the Government. If it is good enough during this financial stringency for Cottesloe to sell a Class "A" reserve in order to provide means of doing a good work in the district, then similarly there is good reason for the Perth City Council or the Government to do, on similar lines, a good turn to the City of Perth and the community generally. My suggestion is to take up the question of a civic centre and deal with the question of the Perth railway station and kindred ideas relating to transport between Fremantle and Midland Junction. I would suggest that the civic centre for this State ought and could easily be placed somewhere around where the present Perth railway centre is. Of course there are already town planning ideas prepared on those lines. If the Government could, under these conditions of financial stringency go into the question of removing the Perth railway station, and selling all the available land in the vicinity, including the shunting yard and that great area of waste land which is at present an eye-sore, for good values, it would be an excellent thing. Just as the Cottesloe Council obtain value for a useless class "A" reserve, the Government could by some satisfactory sales on terms initiate a civic centre, suit-

able for a capital city, with a large square such as may be found in other parts of the world. On that area new buildings could be put up. When it comes to the question of the railways, the obvious thing to do would be to electrify them. However, we know that the power house is not in a position to cater for electrifying the railways. So the best course would be to take the railway from Midland Junction to Fremantle on the south side of the river and put in a concrete highway from Midland Junction to Fremantle in one great sweep. The money is available in the form of book-keeping entries, because the value of the land now occupied by the railways is so great that it could all be disposed of very well. What could be a better suggestion than that, during this time of financial stringency? It would perhaps bring in a clear profit of £100,000 for the people and the Government, to say nothing of the magnificent improvement it would mean for the city and the changed outlook in regard to suburban railways. It will have to be done sooner or later, for everyone can see that the railway passenger system from Fremantle to Midland Junction is doomed, and that freight trains must go to Fremantle by a more suitable route. There is a huge unearned increment to be obtained from the sale of all that land for business sites and city developmental purposes. This is the time for a bold action of that sort, for plans to be prepared, for the Town Planning Commission to be called upon for a report, and for the Transport Board to be consulted. We have ample unemployed labour available, we have ample concrete for the purpose, and we have ample financial accommodation. Anyone can see now that the private banks, and no doubt the Commonwealth Bank also, are only too anxious to get money out on sound projects. We also see the writing on the wall in Europe, declaring that we must submit to restricted exports. That will mean that sooner or later the Minister for Employment will be forced to start bringing men back to the city, for many country projects will no longer have the same impetus behind them; and, apart from that, a restriction of country development is inevitable. If we could deal with a big plan of this sort during the present difficult times, we should be killing several birds with the one stone. I commend to the Government the suggestion that the Town

Planning Commission and the Transport Board should collaborate in examining the proposition. It is essentially practicable, because the unearned increment lying idle in those huge pieces of waste land at present occupied by the railways is crying out for recognition. With the removal of the railways, we should have a huge civic centre, a new town hall and the necessary requirements. Then we would have a chance to build the continuous highway. The removal of the railways would have to be done piecemeal. First we would have to put one line on the south side of the river, and eventually we would get the second line across, and so have the route for the concrete highway from Midland Junction to Fremantle. That would serve to give us a five-minute motor bus service right through, and would do away with all the trouble of level crossings which, bad enough as it is to-day must become worse and worse. At present all through the metropolitan area the railways are held up by the level crossings. The reason why I have brought this forward is because it was whispered to me a little time ago that the Government had the idea of opening up the trolley bus system and building a whole lot of the trolley buses to run on the railways. That, of course, would be a very backward step, for it would mean costly overhead charges in the provision of the necessary wires. We must all agree that if we could have this magnificent concrete highway from Midland Junction to Fremantle, it would serve to meet almost the whole of our transport problems and would be well worth while. I suggest all this as an opportunity for getting money even while things are stringent and monetary difficulties still confront us. That brings me to my position with the electors of Claremont, and a certain movement proposing to run candidates for the Federal elections. I never could have stood, as I did, as a Nationalist candidate for Claremont advocating the policy of the new economics if there had been any suggestion of that movement becoming a political party; yet during the last few weeks in the Eastern States political parties have been formed from the parent body. Happily the matter came to a head in this State last night, when the political part of the business was definitely rejected. So now, as the representative of Claremont, I can say I have kept my full

pledges to the electors and that I initiated in the House a full inquiry into these suggestions. Referring to the new economics, my motion, with amendments, was carried and sent on to the Federal Government, but no action was taken by them. Since my motion was discussed here, there has been a full inquiry into certain aspects of banking by the New Zealand Parliament, and in the House of Lords a motion on the same subject, moved by one of the honourable peers, was discussed last month. Undoubtedly the matter is still vital, but so far as I am concerned it is simply educational. It concerns one of those great truths, similar to the discoveries of Einstein, and, therefore, it can hardly be thrashed out in the political arena. So I am pleased to say that in this State at present the movement is entirely educational, although whether it takes five or ten years, sooner or later the nations will be forced to change to this new economic outlook, whether they want it or not. I will always do my part by taking every opportunity to bring forward the matter from that point of view, but I am entirely against the introduction of what I might term mushroom parties to try to do in a few months that which is a matter for experts and involves a reasoned study of truths and questions which cannot be thrashed out in the political arena. That brings me to a practical instance showing how one can assist the new outlook at the present time by a suggestion. I saw in the Press a few days ago that at Victoria Park it is proposed to take a census of the unemployed youth in the district. That is the sort of outlook we have under our existing system. We see that a number of persons have nothing to do, no outlook, and it has to be admitted there is something wrong with our system. We do not then say to ourselves that we had better retire some of the old greybeards and put the unemployed youths into their jobs. No, we assume that everything can go on as it has, that people will carry on their occupations until they reach the retiring age, and that we must find a new outlet for the unemployed youths. Thus, there is to be a house-to-house canvass in Victoria Park to discover the number of youths in the district without employment or outlook. I suggest that when that canvass is made, at the same time—it would mean no extra trouble to those making the can-

vass—they should discover by questioning the parents what are the needs of each household. Suppose there are in the district 1,000 youths with nothing to do and no possibility of finding a job. It might also be discovered that there are so many scores of pairs of boots required, so many suits, so many blankets, so much furniture and all kinds of other things, even perhaps food, wanted in the houses canvassed. That would give a very good idea of whether the present economic system has not utterly broken down. At present there is no possibility of the ordinary consumer expressing his needs, and so he merely goes about with a grudge. Our existing method is that if we can find how many youths there are unemployed, we can find something for them to do, such as constructing additional poultry yards or clearing land in the country, although we know quite well that already we have surpluses of eggs, butter and fruit, which are not even required in the export market. Yet when we find unemployed youths in Victoria Park or elsewhere, we say that we must go round there and see if we cannot get more fruit trees planted in the district, or increase the laying capacity of the hens, and so forth. But if we can find out from the householders their unsupplied needs, for which they have not the necessary purchasing power, we shall then have the two factors, the unemployed youths and the unsupplied necessities, to bring together by some form of credit. Perhaps, if we were to take the list of youths and the list of the unsupplied necessities to some bank, it is possible that the bank, recognising the dual genuine demand, would say, "Very well, we will produce the required credit, and you can get busy." That would apply, not only in Victoria Park, but throughout the whole of the civilised world, wherever we have the same tremendous unsatisfied demand. Of course, in very few instances is the demand expressed in financial terms—that is the root trouble. The Lieut.-Governor told an important gathering recently that, in his opinion, not enough wheat was being grown in the world to-day; what was wrong was that there were not enough consumers to eat it. In making that statement, His Excellency expressed a great truth. It has been said that if every person in the world received three square meals a day, we would not be growing half enough of anything. Those three square meals, together with clothes, footwear, etc., represent merely unexpressed demands, but there is no

backing of cash and no credit, and the present economic system cannot visualise a demand which is not backed by something in the shape of exchange. That is where the whole system breaks down. No longer do men go about with a turkey in their arms prepared to exchange it for someone else's sheep or lamb. Only certain persons are required to produce the necessities of life. Probably two-thirds or three-quarters of the people, if employed at all, are engaged in producing luxuries or harmful products, or are engaged on public works; and public works, in themselves, represent only a means to an end. The Old Country cannot go on incessantly constructing road after road and building after building. The day must come when the huge army of men engaged on public works—employed merely to produce purchasing power—can no longer be so engaged. True, for many years a large number of people in a new State like ours can be economically employed on works. Perhaps until confidence is restored—as the phrase goes—and the financial stringency ended by the various means now being attempted, we shall have people engaged in public works. I therefore commend to the organisers of the canvass of Victoria Park that for their own satisfaction they should endeavour to discover the unsupplied needs in the homes canvassed. If they did so, they would get a shock. It would be wise to limit the inquiry to the need for goods available in Western Australia—goods produced locally or already on the shelves of the stores. That brings me to a more important factor associated with the present financial stringency. Health authorities have stated that the present arrangements for the unemployed are not sufficient to prevent race deterioration. That is a very serious statement. I should like the Minister for Health to consider what is really necessary for an unemployed person in this State to keep him in a fit condition permanently. Would the Minister consider that one-fourth of the basic wage would be about the right figure for one person? I have in mind an amount necessary to meet the cost of rent, reasonable food and clothing. If the sum could be assessed, if we could ascertain how many persons there are who are not required in industry and for whom the Government cannot find employment, and if we knew that by some economic re-arrangement, those needs could be met, we would have a case made out for the intervention of the Com-

missioner of Health, regardless of the party that happened to be in power at the time. Race deterioration is as important as any other disease. I can imagine that if the Minister for Health or his Federal confrere discovered a cattle disease or other disease in the State, action would be taken speedily and much money would be expended to stamp it out. When the officials of the Child Welfare Department can write to a widow telling her that she and her child must live on 9s. a week—

Mr. Moloney: What did your party do when in power?

Mr. NORTH: I am not here to discuss that point, beyond saying that had the matter been brought to my attention at the time, my claim would have been the same.

Mr. Moloney: We have not heard of it before.

Mr. NORTH: The House has heard of it. During the regime of the Nationalist Party I moved a motion, and in a speech occupying two hours, stressed this point. The motion proved so popular that it was not again brought forward for debate. If the hon. member wishes to make it a political matter, I will leave it to him. I wish to deal with the fundamental question. How can we tolerate such a happening with equanimity when we know that the necessities requisite to meet the needs are in the State but are being hustled out of the State to other parts of the world that do not require them? Sir Walter Elliott, who is expected to be the next Prime Minister of Great Britain, is one of the statesmen who appreciate the seriousness of the problem confronting us. He was the cause of England's telling us that we would have to try to consume more of our own products instead of having a huge number of our people half-starved while sending away the goods they need, only to flood Britain with goods she does not require. He appreciated that there were 2,500,000 people in Britain below the breadline, and there is a move by the British Government to abolish the slum menace. There is need for men, in and out of Parliament, to raise the question of the utter absurdity of needless poverty in our midst when so much of our produce cannot be sold. I have not delved deeply into the suggestion I made earlier, that the Health Department affords a new angle from which to attack the problem, but I think much could be done in that way. If

the Health Department's estimates could be removed from the Budget statement, and the department were enabled to open an account with the Commonwealth Bank or some other bank, it could remain primarily and entirely responsible for all members of the community who are not required in industry, or who are sick or aged. The department could set a standard of the minimum required by the individual to prevent race deterioration, and the problem could then be quickly solved. At the end of the year, the Health Department would have a big overdraft on the account, but the asset on the other side would be that the whole of the people would be fit and ready for work. That suggestion probably sounds absurd under the present economic system, but it would involve only a few book entries and would relieve the Minister for Health of anxiety, and relieve the Treasurer of his difficulties. The Minister for Health must be concerned regarding the hardships that exist, but if he could treat poverty as he would a disease—it is nothing more nor less than an unnecessary disease, because every commodity required is in the State and is being needlessly destroyed or exported to harass British farmers—two problems would be solved at a stroke, firstly how to finance the affair, and secondly how to relieve the Child Welfare Department of its worries. The cost would be no more than that of the ink. Even if the debt amounted to hundreds of thousands of pounds a year, nobody could contend that the asset of maintaining the race at its full capacity for work when required was a bad one. This is merely a small suggestion with a bit of the new economics thrown in, without in any way infringing upon the present financial system as regards employment and profits. My suggestion would mean that in 12 months every person now down and out would be restored, and the difficulties being encountered by the Minister and by the landlords would be overcome. The landlords would benefit under the proposed scheme. As the member for West Perth (Mr. McDonald) told us last session, the landlords are now being compelled to contribute to finance the destitute. In hundreds of instances landlords are carrying tenants who cannot pay their rent. Those tenants who are on the 7s.-per-week basis are accumulating debts. A landlord last week had a tenant walk out and lost £72. That sort of thing applies all over the State. Even the mortgagee who

drains the landlord is being squeezed out in rates—and so the process continues. I do not see why one section of the community should be called upon to finance that portion of the sufferings of the people we know to be occurring. I do not ask the taxpayers to do this. They are already over-burdened in that direction. Knowing as we do what health means to the community, it should be regarded as a privilege to open an account in some bank backed by the nation for the maintenance of health, vigour and efficiency when required. Such an account could be opened for the Health Department and operated on through the Minister. Through such an account all cases of distress could be met in accordance with the Commissioner of Health's standard of need. Thus would be provided a solution which at one stroke might to a great extent curb the activities of subversive societies which desire to upset the whole of the economic system. At the back of the present situation is not really the loss of profits of those in a big way, but the misery, suffering and unnecessary privations that we see all around us. I do not think the financial stringency should be allowed to interfere with the race and with the standard of the White Australia with which we entered the depression. The Health Department is the department and the Minister for Health is the Minister who should enter the fight to abolish poverty from Western Australia.

Mr. MOLONEY (Subiaco) [5.17]: I am fortunate to be following a member who was a supporter of the past Administration. I am also fortunate to have heard his platitudes, intended to convey his solicitude for the deterioration of the race, and his remarks regarding the meagre assistance meted out by the present Administration towards the amelioration of that state of affairs. Let us recall the position which confronted the present Administration when they took office. Despite many drawbacks, and the propaganda indulged in from certain quarters to the detriment of both the Government and the Minister for Employment, we find that the unemployment figures have been reduced from 7,000 men on sustenance, men who were parading the streets, forming processions and unable to secure work, to 1,600. That is a fine achievement. Let us remember also that those people who are not receiving some-

thing in the form of work are absolutely incapacitated and are unable to take such work as is offering. The Minister is now grappling with the problem of providing for those incapable of doing any hard work, and is seeking for a scheme, such as reforestation, whereby those people may be absorbed in avenues of light employment. Only yesterday the Leader of the Opposition took the Government to task, and tried to belittle the efforts they had made to ameliorate the unemployment situation. He declared that, had it not been for the extra money they received, they would have done far less than they have done. A statement was made prior to the last elections to the effect that if Labour were returned to office, confidence would be wanting. What chance, the opponents of Labour asked, would a Labour Premier have of securing the sinews of finance to enable him to grapple with the huge unemployment problem that existed at the time? Labour answered that, if returned to office, they would fight to put into operation those principles for which they stood. This the Labour Government have done. After 15 months of office, the Labour Government have implemented that policy with the best possible effect, considering the amount of money at their disposal. The Leader of the Opposition also stated that the Government had received certain money which augmented the amount that was previously received. Instead of castigating the Government, the Leader of the Opposition should have paid them a tribute for the reason that sufficient confidence was reposed in them to enable them to raise the money for the discharge of the obligations they had assumed. It is very easy to criticise. I am not one of those who wish to engage in a wrangle, as suggested by the member for Claremont (Mr. North). He belongs to a profession that is one of the most able to wrangle. It is one of the greatest assets for a member of that profession to be able to argue, and place his case ably before the court in which his case is being conducted. It savours to a large extent of self-abnegation on the part of the hon. member when he suggests that he is not able to wrangle or argue.

Mr. North: I said I could not argue as well as others.

Mr. MOLONEY: It savours of a spirit of self-abnegation and self-effacement on

his part that he should make such a statement, when on other occasions, including the historic two-hour speech of which we have been reminded, made when the hon. member was one of the party that was in power, according to his own words, a certain amount of castigation followed. Despite that castigation on the part of the hon. member, the Government of the day did not respond. On that occasion they were not afraid of the race deteriorating. It remained for the Labour Party to improve the position to the extent they have done. Now the hon. member twists us, and makes us blush with his criticism, because he maintains that we are allowing an intolerable state of affairs to prevail.

Mr. North: You talk to the Health officers about that, not to me.

Mr. MOLONEY: The Health officers know the position. To-day there are people in the community who are receiving only a fourth of what they should receive. We are cognisant of the fact, but we are dispensing largess as well as we are able to do. We are carrying out the employment policy that we put before the people, namely, endeavouring to employ every man and woman at work on full-time rates. Who would imagine that five minutes after the Government had come into office it would have been possible for them to reorganise the whole of the social system of the State? They have not yet had time in which to do all they desire to do. Nevertheless they have removed over 5,000 men from the sustenance list, a notable achievement in itself. Those men are now getting back the self-respect they were losing under the previous Administration. In return for the wages they are receiving, they are giving their labour. It is one of the most sacred privileges of any man to be able to give back to the community something for what he receives. I mention this as an illustration of the many things with which the Government have had to grapple. They have gone on with the works that were initiated by the previous Administration in the Subiaco area. The Shenton Park drainage has been consummated. Magnificent work has been done by men who have only been receiving a pittance, although it is the best that can be given to them in the circumstances. I have inspected the Shenton Park work myself. Amongst the men engaged upon it were those who had been driving a

pen, or mending shoes, or had perhaps been bank employees. They hewed rock and shifted sand, and did their work like skilled craftsmen. This is only an indication of the energy that can be displayed, and the competence that lies within the bodies of men who are properly directed. It is the same thing in the body politic and the body economic. If we can concentrate the available energies in the right direction by re-organising the community, it represents the pivot upon which the whole edifice rests. If we can carry on along lines such as these, we shall proceed a long way in the direction of ameliorating those conditions about which the member for Claremont is so solicitous. First, however, must come a change of heart. A mandate must come from the people of Australia, in the case of the Federal arena, with regard to a national system of banking. If the party to which I belong had a mandate from the people to introduce such a system we should be well on the way towards the goal of our ambition, namely, the provision of food, clothing and shelter for those in need of them. Until we receive the necessary authority, however, we are powerless to rehabilitate the social system or to bring about those things which are so dear to our hearts. I commend the member for Claremont for his fearlessness. I am pleased to note from the remarks he has made that he has indicated the coming of a new era, whether it be under the banner of the party to which he belongs, or some other party. If, however, that new era will be for the benefit of the people as a whole, I shall be with him. Despite criticism and various obstacles placed in their way, and despite the financial stringency of the times, the Minister for Mines and his officers have done that which was expected of them. The Minister himself has exercised that practical vision which he learned so well in the school of experience. He has put into operation a policy that to-day is reflected in the activity that is being displayed on the goldfields. One has only to read the Governor's Speech to realise the praise that is due to him. The words contained in the Speech relative to gold mining represent a wonderful manifestation of activity and of the prosperity which now characterises the industry. Any words of mine would fail to enhance the praise that is contained in the Speech on this subject. We know that thousands of men are now engaged in searching for gold. To-day we find the scheme in active successful

operation, whereas, in many circles at the outset, it was strenuously decried.

Mr. Latham: Had not the increased price of gold some effect?

Mr. Seward: Oh, no, of course it had nothing to do with it!

Mr. MOLONEY: That the increased price of gold proved of advantage to the scheme was a natural corollary. But the dominant feature of the scheme is that men who were formerly a burden on the State, have gone out into the mining areas and have participated in the development of the assets of the State, becoming themselves assets instead of burdens upon the community. The big mining companies are exhibiting confidence, and that is characteristic of the State generally. Nowadays new plants are being installed on the Golden Mile; new shows are being opened up. In London the importance of our mining shares has transcended even the momentous question of secession in the minds of the people. The State is looming large in the eyes of the British public because of the output of gold, and there is a greater optimism regarding the State than formerly. In fact, leading individuals are singing the praises of the State, and we find that a former Governor, Sir William Campion, is to-day one of the spearheads of the bands who are preaching the fame of Western Australia. In earlier days we heard adverse criticism regarding what were termed as the "ne'er-do-wells" who were sent out from England, without knowing a pick from a hoe. To-day those very men are doing wonderful work that will redound to the benefit of the State. Not only is this outstanding with regard to mining operations; we find that the same development is apparent in the building trade. Even despite the cheap praise that was offered by the Leader of the Opposition to the work of the State Economic Council, that body has done much towards the encouragement of enterprise. In view of the tone in which he spoke, I should not be surprised if the the Economic Council formulates something like a testimonial to the Leader of the Opposition in recognition of his praise of them for endeavouring to assist the State. I mentioned this matter 12 months ago when I spoke in this Chamber, and I then drew attention to the harnessing of representative professional and practical men in an endeavour to promote the interests of the community. The Economic Council is represen-

lative of many divergent interests, and yet they co-operate for the one outstanding purpose. The result of their endeavours is reflected in the increase in the staffs of established factories and in the creation of new undertakings. We have an instance of the spirit that dominates the Council in the erection of the two houses at Floreat Park. Anyone conversant with the building trade will realise that those homes were erected from the standpoint of the intrinsic gain to be derived from their disposal, but as a gesture and an earnest of the desires of the people who erected them, to advance the interests of the building trade. They were erected as symbols to vitalise that trade, and to indicate that, in the use of local materials, buildings could be erected that were not mediocre, but reflected great credit on the State, its products, and all concerned. Those who purchased the homes have benefited appreciably. But the time for such gestures is past. The fillip has been given to the building trade and now we read of the proposal to erect a large hotel in the City of Perth. Others are desirous of erecting a building of such a description that the members of the Perth City Council are becoming apprehensive as to the height to which buildings may be taken. The civic fathers are concerned as to whether the streets will be able to cope with the requirements of such buildings. An architect has explained that one reason why a limitation was placed on the height of buildings in older cities of the world, was that the flow of people from such buildings was likely to be so great as to flood the city streets. When such buildings are in contemplation in Perth, it shows that the building trade has come into its own.

Mr. Latham: How many buildings of that description have they in Subiaco?

Mr. MOLONEY: Subiaco is more than holding its own, and will compare favourably with York. Subiaco has provided a great deal of work for the unemployed. I have already mentioned the drainage system that has been constructed. I visited the Swanbourne area where the same class of work is being undertaken by the Government, and both operations reflect credit on the Administration. At Maylands there was an eye-sore that the Government have dealt with. I trust that the work I have in mind will be consummated in due course; it is now well in hand.

Mr. Latham: You are stealing the thunder of the member for Maylands.

Mr. MOLONEY: Prior to the advent of the present Government, we were told it was impossible to secure a satisfactory supply of water and coffee was not in it with the colour of the liquid that was provided for the public. To-day complaints are rare, and steps taken by the Government will assure that, when the undertakings are completed, the public will secure what they pay for and are entitled to receive—an adequate supply of good potable water, with no restrictions imposed upon its use. In the past, many limitations have had to be imposed on the use of water, some of which has been drawn from artesian bores, although the supply has not been of satisfactory quality. Those facts are not palatable to those who seek to decry the present Administration and declare they are not capable of giving effect to their contemplated activities. Everywhere we note that people are looking forward with hope in the future. It is an indication of the faith of the people in the present Government. Grumbling is rare in these days, unless it be manufactured in quarters where there is a desire to place upon the responsible Minister the accusation of neglect and incapacity. We have seen the crocodile tears of members who remained quiescent when the State Transport Co-ordination Act was being dealt with in Parliament. Those members have seen fit to go through the country districts, beating the big drum. They have declared that the autocratic Transport Board was going to do anything that was wrong, and that the Railway Department was in league with that body. Those members failed to tell the people what the real facts were until it was made patent to the people themselves that the board would act along the lines indicated in the legislation. Those members advanced a case that was based upon erroneous premises, but no doubt the Minister will be able to deal with that phase later on. Those members knew that they were pitching a tale to the people. When the legislation was before Parliament and the question of compensation was dealt with, there was no appreciable degree of dissension regarding the measure as it was passed in this Chamber. Very few voices were raised against it during the final stages. It is just as well to be honest, so that those outside as well as those inside Parliament, shall know the real position. It

is not playing the game, political or otherwise, to lead the people to believe that an oligarchic Government were acting against the interests of the people themselves. As a matter of fact, the best interests of the community generally will be served.

Mr. THORN: Is that the attitude always adopted in Subiaco?

Mr. MOLONEY: Opposition members seem particularly anxious to assist me to place the affairs of Subiaco before Parliament. If they will assist me to persuade the Ministers concerned to agree to certain undertakings I desire, I shall welcome their help. Last year I mentioned the necessity for a bridge at Daglish. That may be regarded as parochial, but it is a matter of great importance to the people who live on the Daglish side of the Perth-Fremantle railway line. I want that bridge, and I will have it constructed before my term expires, if it is at all possible. There are one or two other matters regarding which I would welcome the assistance of Opposition members. The Governor's Speech, if lengthy, contained matter of great promise. It is a tale different from that which has been preached for some years past. It breathes with a certain amount of restraint the spirit of optimism, and it will engender hope in the minds of the people to know that even though there is still a long way to go and many things to do, we are attempting to bring about an improvement above that which has made itself slightly manifest in recent months. So I join with His Excellency in his expressed hope, and I sincerely trust that when the next session of this Parliament meets the things we hope for and desire will be capable of fulfilment. There is only one way in which the people of this State in common with those in other parts of the world will be able to solve existing difficulties and that will be when they receive the full benefit from the assets they hold and produce. I agree with the member for Claremont when he says that a new method of finance is required. I support the motion.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 9th August, 1934.

	PAGE
Motion: State Transport Co-ordination Act, to disallow regulation	64
Bill: Supply (No. 1) £2,200,000, Standing Order suspension, remaining stages	65

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

MOTION—STATE TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION ACT.

To Disallow Regulation.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East)
{4.35}: I move—

That Regulation No. 48, made under the State Transport Co-ordination Act, 1933, as published in the *Government Gazette* on 16th March, 1934, and laid on the Table of the House on 7th August, 1934, be and is hereby disallowed.

It is unfortunate that members are not in a position to amend regulations, and the only way by which they can overcome difficulties that arise is to move for the disallowance of them. When the Bill was before Parliament, I know many members held the opinion that if the board refused to renew a license, the truck owner would be entitled to appeal to a stipendiary magistrate. I do not think any member thought for one moment that, under the regulations that were to be drafted in connection with the Act, the appeal would be limited to the stipendiary magistrate at Perth. The Act provides that a truck owner, the renewal of whose license has been refused, shall have the right to appeal at any time during the ensuing three years. It would be hard luck for such a man if he were forced to appeal to the identical magistrate who had already refused him his license. The most important point to which I desire to draw attention is that under the present regulations, a man whose headquarters are in the country, and who desires to appeal against a decision of the Transport Board, is compelled not only to deposit £10 on account of the appeal, but he has to go to Perth to have the appeal heard, and to pay the expenses of witnesses