

The Minister for Lands: They are getting 25s. and even £1 and I have proof of it in my possession.

Mr. LATHAM: The Minister may have some instances.

The Minister for Lands: I gave the information in the House last year.

Mr. LATHAM: I am not going to put our people on a pedestal. I do not say they all observe a standard of honesty that cannot be questioned, but the Government forced the foreigners into accepting a lower rate of wages. The member for Menzies referred to Mussolini. We are told that we ought to be Australians and that we want to live within our own country, and yet the Government of this State are purchasing foreign-made motor cars and providing work for people in foreign countries. If there are no Australian-made motor cars to be had, why not buy motors manufactured within the Empire? If we follow the argument to its logical conclusion, that is what ought to be done, for we ask England to trade with us. We send some of our wheat to Italy. We say that Southern Europeans when they come here to earn a living have no right to send their earnings away to keep their families in the country of their origin.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: Italy has 30,000,000 bushels of wheat to export this year.

Mr. LATHAM: For years we have been sending wheat from the pool to Italy, and probably we are doing likewise this year.

The Minister for Agricultural Water Supplies: Statistics tell us that Italy has 30,000,000 bushels of wheat to export this year.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not say that the Minister is wrong. Our wheat might be used in Italy for blending purposes, as it is used in England, in order to make a better class of flour.

Mr. Pantoni: Do not forget that we import macaroni.

Mr. LATHAM: Macaroni is manufactured here. I do not think much is imported. I had no intention of speaking at this late hour of the night and any further remarks I shall reserve until the Estimates are before us. I would appeal to members to get together and help the men who are out of work and walking the soles off their boots in their efforts to get a living. I am willing to do anything I can to assist. That

is the big question before us, and I sincerely hope it will be seriously tackled by the Government.

On motion by Mr. Corboy, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.29 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 13th August, 1929.

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

HON. J. CORNELL (South) [4.35]: Some members who have preceded me have referred to the Governor's Speech as being barren of anything of a constructive nature. If we compare the Speech before us with others that have preceded it, we find very much similarity between them. Governor's Speeches may be characterised more or less as a book of chronicles. They tell us the story of what has been done, and endeavour to conceal the story of what is going to be done. Like the proverbial curate's egg, this Speech is good in parts. It serves no other useful purpose than to produce a few headings under which a member may address himself to the House. It is only fitting I should open my remarks with the mining industry, despite the fact that it is on the downward grade, and the agricultural industry is on the upward grade. It was a province which was practically all mining that gave me my political birth. One place we should always remember and put first is the place of our birth, political

or otherwise. The mining industry is one of the chief factors contributing to the economic advantage this State has over the other States. It is the ready money, coming in fortnightly from the labour employed in the mining industry, that is giving this State the degree of buoyancy it enjoys to-day. It is unfortunate that the outlook of the mining industry is not as promising as it might be. In pounds it is down £74,000 this year as compared with last year. The industry, however, is still a factor to be reckoned with in Western Australia. We all hope, too, that Wiluna will give it that lift it requires, if nothing else does. It is well known that metalliferous mining is a disappearing asset. Seeing the value this industry has been and is to the State, all shades of the community and political thought should endeavour to foster it and keep it functioning as long as it is economically possible to do so.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Do you not think the Arbitration Court spoils the whole thing?

Hon. J. CORNELL: I do not intend to touch upon the Arbitration Court to-day, as I dealt with it at length on the Supply Bill. It is difficult to offer helpful criticism in directions that will tend towards prolonging the life of the mining industry. I do, however, suggest that wherever possible some consideration should be given by way of lower freight rates on requisites that are absolutely essential to its life. This may mean a direct loss of revenue, but there is no gainsaying the fact that if there is a loss there will be a direct gain to the industry itself. It is well known that the wages paid in the industry make up the greatest portion of the cost incurred in developing it. The position to-day is that the basic wage in the industry is 2s. a week lower than it is in any other of our industries. I do not intend to go into the index figures of the Statistician to show whether or not that should be the case, but desire to point out that the hazards in the industry are far greater than they are in any other. The risk of accident is greater, the risk of total impairment to health is greater, and in some cases miners are working 4,000 feet below the surface at £4 5s. a week as against £4 7s. paid to others working elsewhere.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: And the mines cannot pay at that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I am pointing out that there is something wrong with the other industries where the hazards are not so great when more wages can be paid than is paid in the mining industry.

Hon. E. H. Harris: That is because the other industries can pass on the cost.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The fact that a man working underground for 2s. a week below the ruling basic wage only works 44 hours a week, cannot be taken into account. There are other industries in which the worker is employed only for 44 hours a week and receives £1 7s. a week, against the man underground who is paid only £4 5s. a week. I put that forward as an illustration to show that where the hazards are greater, the workers are receiving the lower wage. The question of miners' phthisis may be regarded as a hardy annual with me. We must all agree that what has and what is being being done to provide compensation to the men affected and their dependants is to be commended. When we come to extend that commendation to ourselves, we should be generous enough to extend it to the other section to whom it is due. That commendation is due on a fifty-fifty basis to the Commonwealth laboratory and its officials, who render services free of cost to the State. Were it not for the fact that this laboratory functions free of charge to the State, we could not possibly work the Miners' Phthisis Act with any degree of satisfaction. There are many phrases of the matter into which I could enter, and where I could point out how improvements could be effected. Unfortunately, since the present Government assumed office, anything I have offered in the way of helpful criticism in relation to improving the working of the Miners' Phthisis Act has been misconstrued by people who should know a lot better. All I have ever desired to do is to bring about a better set of conditions for the victims of the mining industry. There is another point. While we appreciate what the present Government have done with regard to compensation, there is no permanency about the provisions that have been made. I consider the time has arrived when permanency should be given to the relief extended, by means of a statutory enactment. The present arrangements have been in operation long enough to have stood the test of public criticism. I have not heard of any intelligent critic who has

offered one word of condemnation of what has been done in making provision for compensation for those engaged in the mining industry, quite apart from what may have been said as to whether too much or too little was being paid. Surely the time is opportune to put the compensation system upon a permanent basis. Touching upon the question of unemployment, it should now be agreed that Labour Governments, equally with governments of any other political brand, have failed to solve the problems involved. In Australia to-day, and in Western Australia particularly, the two poles have, so to speak, met; the pole of peak unemployment and that of peak wages paid. There is something wrong. If I were asked what constituted the contributory causes, I would say that, in my opinion, one was represented by the fact that this year Australia received decreased prices for wool and wheat to the tune of £20,000,000. Western Australia, in respect of those two commodities, is down by £1,000,000. It is in the turnover that the shoe pinches, and thus it is that those people who should have been in a position to spend money by providing employment, are not able to do so. It cannot be said that extra revenue, loan money or grants would solve the position, because we find that this year we have established a record in revenue and loan expenditure and practically a record in regard to grants received. Despite that, the unemployed difficulty is at its peak! There are some extraordinary features in connection with the alien question, as it applies to the unemployment problem. Some 15 months ago I was almost sentenced to be shot for pointing out in this House, and also in the columns of the Press, that not sufficient British labour was offering to deal with the clearing work available in the country districts. I made those statements on the basis of opinions expressed to me by people in the country who were desirous of having clearing work done. After a lapse of months, an interesting statement appeared in the "West Australian" on the 10th August. It was furnished by the Secretary to the Premier in an interview regarding a deputation that waited on Mr. Collier with a request that £100 extra should be granted by the Agricultural Bank over and above that which was authorised

for clearing operations. The statement I refer to was as follows:—

The Premier pointed out that plenty of clearing authorisations had already been issued, but, for various reasons, there was a difficulty in getting this class of work done, so much so that applications to have removed the embargo against Southern Europeans doing this clearing were numerous.

If what I said 15 months ago, when the position regarding unemployment was not within 70 per cent. of what it is to-day, lacked substance, surely there is plenty of substance in such a statement at the present time. It is certainly extraordinary that the admission should be made from such a source in the Press interview. Here we have two sides put forward regarding the effect of the alien influx upon the unemployment trouble. One blames the alien for the unemployment, whereas, on the other hand, it is stated that employers have asked that aliens should be made available for clearing operations as Britishers were not available to do the work.

The Honorary Minister: At the price.

Hon. J. CORNELL: What price would the Honorary Minister pay? The position may be summed up in this way: John Brown applies for a block of land and secures it. He then applies for a loan for clearing work and receives an advance of 25s. per acre from the Agricultural Bank. We know that 85 per cent. of those who are granted land have very little left when they get on their blocks and make a start. Let the Honorary Minister have investigations made to find out the position. I know of one man who said he had £500 and also nine children. When he went on the block he still had the nine children, but he did not possess five pence! That is the position of a large number of the settlers to-day who get their 25s. per acre advanced from the Agricultural Bank. In most instances the settlers cannot get the work done in new areas for 25s. per acre, and they have to offer 2s. 6d. more to get the work done. I know of settlers in the newer areas who have had to get a job themselves in order to earn the extra 2s. 6d. per acre to pay for the clearing operations. On top of that, the farmers have to find another 2s. 6d. per acre to cover the cost of insuring their workers. They have to pay 20s. per £100 as the premium on their

workers' compensation policy. It is all very well to say that they can get Britishers to do the work. The position is that they cannot pay the rates demanded and the work has to be done somehow. The Honorary Minister must know that no settler in the new areas can afford to pay £2 10s. an acre to have his land cleared, and that is practically the position in which farmers find themselves when opening up new districts. We need not concern ourselves with the farmers in the older districts, because they have most of their areas cleared. I do not offer that comparison in any spirit of carping criticism. I merely mention it by way of answer to the charges made against me 15 months ago, when it was asserted that I was disloyal and anti-British for daring to make the assertion that clearing work could not be done by Britishers in our country districts. It will be found that the position is as I state it to-day, despite the fact that unemployment is at its peak. There in another phase of the problem and that is the question of who shall provide sustenance for those who cannot find work. It has been said that it is the joint and several responsibility of the more fortunate citizens of the State and the Government themselves. Let us assume that that is the position. If that arrangement fails and the men are faced with starvation, is it not the function of the Government to provide for them? I submit it is, to a much greater extent than is being done to-day. It is as much the function of the State to do that as it is to provide a police force to protect people from violence and property from damage. Most decidedly it is the duty of the State to provide reasonable sustenance, if they cannot provide the men with work. Much has been said about land settlement. According to the Governor's Speech, we are told that there were 6,114 applicants for conditional purchase holdings, and that of these 1,433 granted represented applications from new settlers. Some members were inclined to say that there were not sufficient grants made. From Lake Deborah to Ravens-thorpe, where there are some 700 farms, I think too many applicants were satisfied because, in my opinion, except in the Dulyalbeni locality, few of those settlers have

any possible chance of success, or of growing wheat at a profit. The Agricultural Bank has provided the full loans to settlers, some of whom are operating from 40 to 80 miles away from the nearest railway. None of them can grow wheat at a profit; any man who tries to do so will lose the State's money and his own as well. Unless some bold scheme of railway construction to serve the settlers is embarked upon in the near future, there will almost certainly be as great a debacle there as we have had in the group settlement areas. There are a number of instances of men who have left good jobs in Perth to take up wheat farming from 50 to 70 miles away from an existing railway. I do not blame the Government for making such land available but now that it has been made available, I hope that before long a comprehensive policy of railway construction will be arranged. Let me cite the position of the Karlgarin settlers, which is one in point. For the last eight years those people have been hauling their wheat for upwards of 26 miles. There has been enough energy wasted in that long haul, enough money spent and time lost on it as well, including the despatch of money to America for the purchase of trucks, to have built the railway facilities required twice over. If we want an idea of what is likely to happen in the greater part of that country, we have only to go to Karlgarin to see the difficulties the people there are trying to surmount. An hon. member the other night referred to the class of settlers. Taken by and large and from any angle, they can be regarded as good as any who have taken up land in other parts of the State. So far as the personal equation is concerned, we can rest assured that the new settlers will make good just as the old settlers did, provided reasonable facilities are given them. Another point I wish to stress is the question of water supplies for the Wheatley, Bullfinch miners' settlements, Dulyalbeni, Turkey Hill, Mooring Rock and Warralakini localities, places that are within shooting distance of the goldfields water supply, and the key to the situation in respect of those localities is an adequate and permanent supply of water. That can be given only by cutting the goldfields main, and the sooner it is done the better, because we find two factors—the further east you go the greater the growth of

weeds, and the greater the battle of the farmers to farm on sound lines on account of the summer rains. I make this assertion--and you, Mr. President, know the locality well--that if the settlers in the places I have named had proper water supplies, inside two years the productivity of the localities would be doubled. If the existing condition of things is not an incentive to get into debt, I do not know what is. What is required in this particular belt of country is exactly what was said by one of the Big Four who were out here some time back. He declared that it was not so much the opening up of the land east or north of what was already being worked, but the putting to better use of the land already opened up. I venture to say that if the advice given were followed there would be thousands of sheep running there inside five years. I can also confidently declare that there is no better sheep country than that in Australia. Another matter I wish to deal with is the Agricultural Bank assistance given this year for fallowing. Originally the bank proposed to give £150 to a new settler for fallowing 600 acres, representing 5s. an acre spread over two years--300 acres in the first year and 300 in the second. To overcome the difficulty that arose out of the dry period in the localities already quoted, the Agricultural Bank generously agreed to make £150 available on 300 acres of fallow, so much for ploughing, and so much for cultivation. Whilst that may be all right for the present year, what is to be the position in the next year? The man who started off on fallow will be ready to seed next year, and he will be in no better position next year than he is in this year, so far as his finances are concerned. Therefore the privilege should be extended to the next year, or he should have something of an equivalent nature. With regard to settlements in the Kanowna and Yilgarn electorates, I wish to pay a tribute to the local storekeepers for the part they have played. A great deal of credit is given to the machinery firms and to commercial houses for carrying on the farmers. Those people, however, are in the main secured. Not so is that the position with the country storekeeper, who in 85 per cent. of the cases is carrying the burden of unsecured creditors. I have information that country storekeepers in the Kanowna and Yilgarn electorates have about reached the end of their

tether and they cannot face the situation much longer. Certainly they cannot continue to carry the farmers until after the next harvest. I know of a storekeeper near Southern Cross who has on his books no less a sum than £7,000. With regard to the Esperance district, in spite of the assistance that part of the State has had, I have a letter from the chairman of the Esperance District Business Association, from which I would like to quote two paragraphs--

The position now is that the storekeepers have financed the settlers in the Mallee district to the extent of over £45,000, and the whole of that amount is unsecured. They have now reached the limit of their means, and it has been finally decided, at a meeting of the association, to suspend all further credit to the settlers unless the Agricultural Bank or the Government can see their way clear to assist the settlers to obtain the necessities of life for the next 18 months.

I can assure the House that that position is not peculiar to the Esperance-Mallee district. The situation there may be more acute, but the same thing is reflected more or less so far as the storekeepers in the Kanowna and Yilgarn electorates are concerned. If you, Sir, were able to get the figures from the storekeepers in the Ravenshorpe district, you would wonder how, even with the best of seasons, the farmers had been able to carry on so long, saddled with the handicap of 11½d. per bushel freight. Another matter to which I desire to refer is in respect to the dam at McPherson Rock. I would like the Chief Secretary, when he replies, to inform me whether the dam is completed, whether it cost £90,000, what the scheme is eventually intended to serve, is it intended that it shall go south, and if so am I correct in saying that if it goes south it will supply water as far as Salmon Gums, in which case would it not have to be lifted 100 feet from its present site to get beyond Dowak, which is 40 miles further south. I understand that the scheme was originally intended for the miners' settlement. Now that the catchment has been cleared and the dam constructed, the members representing that province should know what it is intended to do, and the district it is proposed to serve. Another work I wish to refer to in the Esperance district is the pine plantation on the sand plain. Excellent work has been done there by way of research and experiment by Mr. Helms, the manager of the plantation. I have known the Esper-

ance district for close on 25 years, and I can confidently declare that I have never seen any individual go so thoroughly into any business as has Mr. Helms in connection with the experiments he has been carrying out there. First he cleared the land, then he rabbit-netted it, then ploughed it twice. This work involved an expenditure of 30s. an acre. Then he experimented with different fodder plants, and generally speaking the work being carried out in the company's behalf is equal to what has been done in connection with the growing of wheat at the Salmon Gums State farm. I am satisfied, as I stand here, that at that end of the Esperance district it will never be possible to grow wheat, but if Mr. Helms can carry his research to fruition, there will be untold possibilities in that sand-plain country for the growth of fodder plants. I pay my tribute to Mr. Helms and the Esperance pine plantation company for what has been done there, and if the directors of the company will not further encourage Mr. Helms in the work he has undertaken, they are not what I think they are. Whilst on this subject, there is another phase to which I desire to refer. The agreement with the company provides that they shall plant a definite acreage of pines each year. Already Mr. Helms has found that by certain experiments he can get better results, and I think that so long as the company are reasonably living up to their agreement and doing research and experimental work at a big cost, the strict letter of the agreement should not be applied. Carrying on operations as they are doing, operations that are involving the expenditure of considerable sums of money, the company are rendering a great service to the Esperance district. Another matter relating to the man in the bush, to which attention should be drawn, is the question of the payment he has to make by way of tax for his motor vehicle.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: They say he should not have a motor car.

Hon. J. CORNELL: A number of the new settlers have gone on to their holdings a little better equipped than the settlers in the days gone by. All the same, I would want to take out a life insurance policy if I had to ride in some of the contraptions they use, and for which they have to pay the usual license fees.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: To say nothing of the roads.

Hon. J. CORNELL: When a new settler is 50 miles from a township, he must have some means of conveyance by which he can get to the store, and his motor vehicle is used for practically no other purpose. For this he has to pay the full license fee to run his motor over what the Chief Justice says are called roads for want of a better name. The man was not forced to go out there, but went out there. Still, for having a purely utility contraption, he should not have to pay the same cost as a city man for a car that is run for pleasure every day. In some quarters it is argued that a petrol tax would overcome the difficulty. If ever such a tax is submitted to this House I shall oppose it, because its incidence can only be on one section of the community, namely, industry. If Brown buys a Packard car at a cost of £1,000 today, he is rated on the engine capacity. He can leave it in the garage most of the time, running it perhaps only 400 miles in a month. Harris Scarfe & Co. perhaps buy a Dodge car at £350, and are rated on the engine at a flat rate; but in the course of their business they run it 4,000 miles in a month as against the other man's 400 miles. Industry is going to carry the burden of any petrol tax. The present position may be termed iniquitous in respect of the man with the Packard car, since he has to pay as much proportionately on engine rating as another person doing ten times as much running. But the milk in the coconut is, where shall the petrol tax come from? It must come from legitimate users of motor cars in connection with business.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Perhaps such a tax would encourage greater use of the railways.

Hon. J. CORNELL: There are two pieces of proposed legislation with which I desire to deal. Workers' compensation I have already touched on to the extent of mentioning that the insurance charge for clearing now amounts to 2s. 6d. per acre. That is an outrageous charge. I am told that the cause of it is the foreign element, who chop their toes off. That has been stated to me by the insurance companies. I have also been told by men who have worked for years in the timber industry of the South-

West that they do not believe that story at all, do not believe that it is done deliberately. On the other hand, I am informed by insurance companies that very rarely do they get from an Italian a claim for worker's compensation, the great majority of such claims coming from Slavs. However, the fact remains that the rate of compensation has now reached a prohibitive figure, one that cannot be paid if the industry is to carry on. Should it be true that the members of any particular nationality are more susceptible to accident, or more liable to chop off toes deliberately, as asserted by the insurance companies, there should not be a flat rate for insurance, but the rate should be lower where men of other nationalities are employed. A way out of the present impossible position would be welcome.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: The Workers' Compensation Act does not apply to contract clearers.

Hon. J. CORNELL: No, not if the agreement is properly drawn. However, whether the Act applies or not, in but few cases are clearers insured, unless they insure themselves after taking a contract.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: If on wages they are insured.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Any contract clearer employing men on wages is supposed to insure them. When the State insurance proposal was before this Chamber I supported it, especially in view of workers' compensation. Where insurance becomes obligatory by enactment, the instrument of legislation should devise some scheme of insurance, so as to protect those who are forced to insure from being charged more than sufficient. The insurance companies are now adopting that line of reasoning. Fire and life insurance are totally different propositions from workers' compensation insurance, which is forced on the employer by the Legislature. The Speech foreshadows the establishment of a rural bank. The principle of a rural bank will have my support. The time is more than ripe for the establishment of such an institution. The Agricultural Bank is one of the finest institutions on earth, but what is the position? The institution carries the settler when no other financial institution will look at him, and it does so at

a profit if one eliminates from consideration the Industries Assistance Board, which really has nothing to do with the Agricultural Bank. But so soon as a settler arrives at financial stability, he is told to go off the bank to some other institution. Such a case came under my notice just after Christmas, the case of a settler from the Karlgarin district. He and I went as a deputation to the manager of one of the associated banks; in fact, this settler desired to turn over from the Agricultural Bank to a chartered bank. The manager asked him, "When do you think the Karlgarin railway will be built?" The settler replied that the Bill had been passed during the previous session, and that there ought not to be any long delay. Thereupon the manager said, "If the first sod were turned, I would give you 10s. per acre more than you are asking." That interview convinced me of the necessity for a rural bank. Let the rural bank carry on the settler after the Agricultural Bank does not desire to do so any longer. It should not be compulsory for a settler to go to a private banking institution. Last but not least, what concerns us is the reference in the Speech to redistribution of Legislative Council provinces. I shall be one of the interested parties. By no process of reasoning, it seems to me, could any different procedure from that adopted for the Assembly be advocated for this Chamber. The Electoral Districts Act was amended so as to give definite instructions to the Commission regarding districts and quotas. The Commission did their work on the basis of six metropolitan, four country, and two mining and pastoral, and brought in a redistribution accordingly, and it was passed by both Houses.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: Do you believe in that allocation?

Hon. J. CORNELL: I fail to see any other reasonable allocation. If it is reasonable to declare that six metropolitan electors shall equal four electors in the country districts, and that four electors in the country districts shall equal two electors in mining and pastoral for the Assembly, is it not logical to apply the same quotas to this House?

Hon. V. Hamersley: Possibly, but it is not economical.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It would be just as economical as anything else. I see no other

reasonable course which will stand square with the constituencies.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The lines of the 1910 Act could be followed.

Hon. J. CORNELL: If the Bill is on the lines I have indicated, I do not think there will be any opposition to it in this Chamber.

Hon. W. T. Glasheen: It means that two Council seats will be brought down to Perth.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Not at all.

Hon. E. H. Harris: Obviously you will not be able to retain what you have.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, so far as is reasonably possible. At present there are three provinces in the metropolitan districts, four in the country districts, including Central, which is partly pastoral, two in what is now called mining and pastoral, and one in the North. I submit that with every degree of justice those provinces could be adjusted on the quotas already applied in the case of the Assembly. Any Administration bringing down a Bill off its own bat will be only looking for trouble. If a Commission was necessary to readjust the Assembly electorates, it is equally necessary for the adjustment of the boundaries of provinces. The Bill of the Mitchell Government did the work in a manner with which no fault was found. In the province which you, Mr. President, and I represent, that measure left only three Assembly seats. I trust the Government will at an early date bring down a Bill delegating the work to a Commission. The Commission that redistributed the Assembly seats could redistribute Council seats on a similar basis. In that case I do not think the Bill will have any difficulty in passing this Chamber. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

On motion by Hon. J. Nicholson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.31 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 15th August, 1929.

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

QUESTION—RAILWAY CROSSINGS, SIGNALS AND HEADLIGHTS.

Mr. SAMPSON asked the Minister for Railways: 1, In view of the grave danger to road traffic which exists in connection with Albany Road-Maddington, and other crossings, will he give consideration in the forthcoming Estimates to the provision of efficient warning signals? 2, Is it proposed to extend the equipment of electric headlights to all locomotives?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, The question of the best method of dealing with level crossings is now under consideration. 2, At present 150 engines have been fitted with electric headlights and another 60 lights are on order.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the 8th August.

MR. CORBOY (Yilgarn) [4.36]: It has been mentioned earlier in the debate that the Government are somewhat fortunate. I consider they are fortunate not because of the reasons which have been advanced from the opposite side of the House, but in the possession of a personnel capable of producing such splendid results for the State as a whole as have been produced during the past five years.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: Just repeat that!

MR. CORBOY: I am quite capable of repeating it.

Hon. Sir James Mitchell: The Government propose to flood my electorate with five hundred workers.

MR. CORBOY: The Leader of the Opposition is endeavouring to make capital, because no doubt to-morrow his interjection