

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 10th August, 1922.

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

QUESTION—MINING, GAS EXPLOSION.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Minister for Mines: Will he cause a thorough inquiry to be held with a view to ascertaining the origin of gas in the Boulder mine, the explosion of which was the cause of a recent serious accident?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: The matter has been already reported on by the Inspector of Mines. (Report laid upon the Table of the House.)

QUESTION—OIL PROSPECTING, FRENEY COMPANY.

Hon. P. COLLIER asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Is it a fact that the Freney Oil Company's prospecting rights have been extended from five to ten years? 2, If so, what were the reasons for such extension?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, Yes. Section 6 of the Mining Act Amendment Act, 1920, provides that licenses may be granted for ten years, but all original applications were granted for five years' period, in order to cause licensees to first establish their bona fides. 2, The Freney Kimberley Oil Company was the holder of two areas under a license, and the extension was granted conditionally on its surrendering the two areas and re-applying for four, thus insuring the working of four areas instead of two.

QUESTION—ELECTORAL, COMPULSORY ENROLMENT.

Mr. J. MacCallum SMITH asked the Premier, 1, What has been the effect of the compulsory enrolment provisions of the Electoral Act in regard to enrolment? 2, Will he supply a comparative statement showing the result?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Very beneficial in regard to keeping Legislative Assembly enrolments well up to date, and also in its effect on Legislative Council enrolments. 2, Omitting pre-election periods when electoral enrolment is exceptionally active, the number

of Legislative Assembly claim cards lodged with registrars was as follows:—Prior to compulsory enrolment: For 28 months ended 31/12/19, 29,579. Subsequent to compulsory enrolment: For 15 months ended 30/6/22, 34,798.

QUESTION—FREEZING WORKS, PAPERS.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: Is it his intention to place on the Table of the House all papers dealing with the Fremantle Freezing Works and the Carnarvon Freezing Works?

The PREMIER replied: Yes.

QUESTION—INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD, CLIENTS.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: 1, What is the number of clients on the I.A.B.? 2, What is the total amount owing by the clients to the I.A.B.? 3, What is the total amount owing by clients whom the I.A.B. considers unsatisfactory and hopeless? 4, Have the Government a lien or mortgage on the crops as security for the money advanced by the I.A.B.? 5, If so, will the Government introduce legislation this session similar to the Wheat Marketing Act, 1921, compulsory so far as the I.A.B. clients are concerned, to protect the funds of the State and the I.A.B. clients from a gang of syndicalists now alleged to exist in this State?

The PREMIER replied: 1, 2,746, which includes 300 who have had advances under Clause C. 2, £1,416,017 5s. 5d. as at 30/6/22. 3, Not ascertainable without a special analysis of the accounts, and valuation of security. 4, Yes. 5, The matter of legislation is at present under consideration. The Government are not aware of the existence of a "gang of syndicalists" in this State.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Mr. CARTER (Leederville) [4.38]: With previous speakers I feel that the prime question of the day is that of immigration. With them also I feel that the congratulations which have been extended to our Premier have not been misplaced. His financial overtures in the Old Country have been successful, and although we have not yet seen the complete papers in connection with those transactions, we can judge from what he has told us that they have been eminently successful. For us, as a State, there remains an even greater task than that which our Premier accomplished so successfully in England, and that is the task of organisation and preparation for the reception of immigrants. This calls for the co-operation of all political parties, for the co-operation of the

public service, and for the whole-hearted co-operation and support of the general public. In the past we have had as a slogan "Produce, produce, and produce again," but I think it has become so commonplace as to be almost a trite saying.

Hon. P. Collier: A tripey saying.

Mr. CARTER: I do not agree with the hon. member, because it contains the fundamentals of true economics.

Mr. Mullany: Tripe is very good, anyhow.

Mr. CARTER: But it is only part of the whole. This country must grow and develop on its productive powers, and our slogan should be "Markets, markets, and more markets." To-day we are in many respects in our swaddling clothes as compared with some of the other States with regard to the disposal of what we produce on our lands. In many respects, also, we are suffering at the hands of the other States in the matter of the disposal of our goods and the importation of their goods. In a sense we are as lambs led to the slaughter, the slaughter-house of the Eastern States.

Mr. Corboy: No, Wellington-street.

Mr. CARTER: And this calls for a consideration of the position from the point of view of secondary industry as well as primary industry. There is great need to encourage local manufacturers for the up-building of further secondary industries and for the conversion of the raw materials, produced in such abundance and such excellence in this State, into the finished article and ready for consumption. To do this successfully we have to set up a positive policy of preference for locally made articles. We may take the large Australian view and maintain that by using Eastern States goods we are helping Australia as a whole, but this is not the true view from a Western Australian standpoint. Perhaps I am not so good a Federalist in this respect as some people think I should be. I hold that our bounden and primary duty lies in encouraging our own people to develop all their interests and resources. This in turn depends entirely upon the cultivation of public opinion, and public opinion on this matter at present is untaught and by no means stable or steady. Unfortunately, we have illustrations of this all round us, but one industry in which I am interested—not from a monetary point of view but merely because it operates close to my electorate and most of the people employed reside in my electorate—the confectionery industry, is suffering greatly as a result of the incursions of Eastern operations. I refer to Plaistowe's chocolate and sweets manufactory in West Perth.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They have a good trade throughout Australia.

Mr. CARTER: Yes, a better trade in the Eastern States than in Western Australia, which illustrates the point I was about to make. I understand that the firm of Plaistowe & Co. is made up almost, if not entirely, of local shareholders. It is producing one of the best lines I have ever seen, and employing 260 persons in West Perth. Do we find the people of the city, or indeed of

the State, keenly anxious to help them, seeking for their goods, their chocolates and sweets, and consuming them in preference to other lines from elsewhere, or do we find the big merchants in the city devoting window space to the display of these goods? Unfortunately we do not. A little while ago we had an illustration afforded of the interest displayed by some of the city firms in imported chocolates in preference to the locally manufactured article. Two of the biggest department stores in Perth had full window displays of Old Gold chocolate. During that week I happened to be conducting visitors through Plaistowe & Co.'s factory. I brought the matter under the notice of the manager. He said I should make a trip round the main block of the city and find out to what extent they were displaying locally made goods. The only people I could find doing this were Messrs. Albany Bell, who were displaying their own goods. Messrs. Beans Ltd., Foy & Gibson, and the other big department stores, as well as all the sweet shops, were displaying Old Gold, Violet, Hoadley's, MacRobertson's, and other confections, indeed everything but the line I wanted to see.

Hon. T. Walker: How do you account for that?

Mr. CARTER: There is a big and determined effort on the part of Eastern houses to prevent the growth of our secondary industries.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear!

Mr. CARTER: What operates in this particular industry is unfortunately operating in others. We have an excellent illustration of the loyalty of our primary producers towards our secondary industries in a recent issue of the "Primary Producer."

Hon. P. Collier: The official organ.

Mr. CARTER: Yes, the official organ from the throne. On Friday, 23rd June, alongside an article on "Western Australian Independence," which occupied a full column, there appeared in that journal an article dealing with co-operative enterprises. This stated that it was satisfactory to note the strides recently made in this direction, that there was further room for improvement, that all co-operators should assist their own jam factories by purchasing all their jams under the V.P.C. label. That V.P.C. label, however, belongs to what is called the co-operative jam, which is made in South Australia. On another page of the same paper appears a block advertisement, which was probably worth quite a lot, and may be said to account for the article to which I have referred. It is no credit to the association, which stands for primary production and the development of Western Australia, that it should overlook a firm like that of Raynor's, the factory of which is situated in West Perth, producing an excellent line of jam, employing good Western Australians, and paying good wages. It does not say a great deal for the earnestness of the people who run this paper that they should print such an article. It is the bounden duty of all citizens of Western Australia,

led by the Government, to give preference to Western Australian goods. With regard to the bacon industry, I am glad the Government intend to place their orders for their various institutions with local producers. That has not always been the case. Now that this intention has been announced, we may expect greater growth in that particular industry. A few days ago I asked some questions in this House with respect to dumping on the part of Eastern States' firms. The answers I received led me to believe that the Government are alive to the fact that the Eastern States are prepared to spend thousands a year to squelch Western Australian industries, retain their grip upon the trade here, and strengthen it to the detriment of our own people. When we consider the millions of money we send to the Eastern States for stuff that we are producing in the raw, and which we have not the enterprise, the brains, or the loyalty to produce in its secondary stage within our own State, we must surely agree that Government assistance is required and that Government sympathy should be extended towards these local industries. I wish to refer to one or two questions I raised before the Minister for Railways the other day. I was told by the manager of Plaistowe & Company that the firm were suffering under great disability in placing its trade along the Great Southern line, especially at the southern end, and in Albany. He gave me the astounding news that it was impossible, as things were, to compete with the Eastern States' trade, because of the difference between the shipping freights and the railway freights. The cheaper freight afforded by the s.s. "Eucla" had been taken from them, and the firm now were obliged to send their goods by rail from Perth to Albany instead of by sea. It was found that by rail it cost the firm 157s. per ton from Perth to Albany, or more than it would cost to send the same goods from Perth to Albany, from Albany to Esperance, and back from Esperance to Albany. Merchants in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney could secure freights which gave them every advantage so far as competitive business with the Western Australian producer was concerned. It is to our interest to encourage a firm such as Plaistowe's. That firm is prepared to take the whole of the lemon crop of Western Australia if the people will also develop a taste for its lemon squash. It can produce the best line of lemon peel in Australia.

Hon. P. Collier: "Pussyfoot" Johnson ought to help us in that direction.

Mr. CARTER: Possibly. We might develop a more temperate taste and so benefit the industry in that way. I suggest we should make a beginning in this House.

Mr. Sampson: At times lemon squash is necessary with whisky.

Mr. CARTER: There is a great question behind what I say. The pulp taken from the lemons in the treating and curing of the skins cannot be wasted. The peel cannot be placed on the market at a profit under present con-

ditions, and if it cannot be placed elsewhere it has to be put on the market at a loss. Most of us have come from the Eastern States and brought with us Eastern States' shopping notions. We still look for the well known lines that our parents have bought for 40 or 50 years, and go on buying them, never thinking of the damage we are doing to our own State, or of our obligations to the State. It is so easy to go in and ask for a Schweppe's lemon squash, and forget all about the industry which is awaiting our help at our very doors. I have here a glass which is one of the first of its kind produced in Western Australia. It was made by the Crystal Glass Company in Subiaco. As members can see, it is a fine article, and it is made from glass sands that come from Wanneroo. It is said that these sands are capable of producing the finest of crystal glass.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where do the contents come from?

Mr. CARTER: Unfortunately they come, and not too clearly, from the metropolitan water supply main. If the water were a little more clear—and I must blame the Minister for Works because it is not—members would have a better view of the glass.

The Minister for Mines: Will you not give the Government credit for the work they have done, which has made many of these industries possible?

Mr. CARTER: This particular industry was started without Government assistance.

The Minister for Mines: Nothing of the sort. It is the outcome of investigations made by the Industries Department.

Mr. CARTER: The Government gave them no monetary assistance. I do not say that the Industries Department, or the Government, have done nothing, but I do say they could have done more. They could set about a more definite policy of educating public opinion, and could have adopted more definite methods than they have followed up to the present time.

The Minister for Mines: Are the Commonwealth doing as much in advertising our local products?

Mr. Underwood: I do not think they are wasting as much.

Mr. CARTER: If the Minister requires further information, no doubt the member for North Perth (Mr. MacCallum Smith), who, I understand, is connected with the company, will be able to deal with the whole situation. I congratulate the Minister on the work he has done in connection with our industries. I know he is keen upon fostering those he has helped to establish, but I am asking him to speed up, for I hope to be able to show that our secondary industries have a vital bearing upon the immigration question. There is a great correlation between the wheat industry and practically every industry that exists in the State. We cannot expect to be saved from our political doom—

Members: Oh!

Mr. CARTER:—our financial doom, I should say, or to lift ourselves from the slough of financial despond, into which we have sunk, by the sale of raw wheat, nor can we do so by the sale of our raw wool. The thing is economically unsound. We take wool from the Murchison and ship it from Fremantle 12,000 miles to the other side of the world, to be manufactured there and brought back again, and displayed on our shop counters as manufactured material. This is economically wrong and unsound, and is not a profitable proposition.

Mr. J. Thomson: It is going to be manufactured in Albany.

Mr. CARTER: I give the Minister for Industries every credit for his anxiety to push on with the woollen mills at Albany. I do not care where they are situated, whether in Geraldton or Albany, they will undoubtedly be beneficial to the State as a whole. We are suffering to-day by reason of the fact that we do not produce the finished article within our own borders. We are too prone to think that we are a big factor in the world's markets. We produce but a little more than 3 per cent. of the world's wheat supply. If we turned our wheat into pigs, eggs, butter, cheese, etc., we should be conferring an everlasting benefit upon the State. I wish to deal particularly with the pig industry, as it affects the whole State, and my electorate in particular. There are fewer pigs in the metropolitan area, or in the State, than there have been for many years. The whole industry is affected by the excessive price of wheat offal to the pig raiser. It has been officially stated that there will shortly be no gristing done in Western Australia, as there will be no milling wheat placed at our mill doors. What will happen when all the gristing is stopped? What will happen to the butter and bacon factories subsidised by the Government, and to the dairymen of Perth, who play such a vital part in our public health? If we stop gristing in September, we shall have to go through October and November, probably December, and possibly run into January, before the gristing of the new season's wheat is commenced. During those months our dairymen will have the greatest difficulty in carrying on. Grain foods will be getting shorter all the time, and offal will be practically unprocureable unless it is imported from the Eastern States. The same thing has affected poultry raisers in the metropolitan area. How are they to keep on without the raw material, and what provision has been made for them?

The Minister for Agriculture: They can buy as well as anybody else.

Mr. CARTER: Does not the Minister know that to-day the price of offal at the mill door is £9 5s. per ton, and that that quotation represents only a price, not a ton of stuff being obtainable at the mill door if one wants to purchase it?

The Minister for Agriculture: You do not feed your poultry on bran.

Mr. CARTER: No, but one feeds one's cows on bran; and the fact remains that only

two days ago it was impossible to obtain offal anywhere except at Katanning. The price there is £9 5s. per ton cash at the mill door. Add 18s. per ton freight, and that brings the price up to £10 3s. per ton delivered in Perth. Then there is 10s. for cartage from Perth to Osborne Park, making a total of £10 13s. per ton.

The Minister for Agriculture: What do you suggest as a remedy?

Mr. CARTER: I want to know from the Minister what the Government propose to do in order to meet this dry period, which comes every year. What are the dairymen to do next month for bran and for pollard? What are the cows in the metropolitan area going to do? Are we to lose that stock again? It is a question vitally affecting the health of our people, and I am vitally interested in the matter because over 80 per cent. of the milk of the metropolitan area comes from my district. We shall again be thrown to the wolves of the Eastern States, and until the new season's gristing begins we shall have to pay Eastern States prices and the excessive freights which obtain. Unless we are prepared to organise our industries, and especially our wheat industry, so as to co-operate with other industries which I have named, we can never expect to do anything more than go on as we have been doing—exporting the wheat in the raw, which in my opinion is economically unsound, and going back financially.

The Minister for Agriculture: We are not short of offal to-day.

Mr. CARTER: I have been to some extent connected with the trade lately, and I say we are short of offal. Only two days ago an order was placed with a firm I represent for two trucks of offal, and the stuff could not be supplied. The export trade will look after itself if we look after ourselves. If we build up our secondary industries, we shall have something more than the raw material to export, something of greater value than we are now exporting, and something which will be building up the State all the time. According to the Minister's statement published in the Press lately, local gristing would cease by reason of the fact that there would be no more wheat.

The Minister for Agriculture: I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. CARTER: From that statement the trade generally understood that there would be no more wheat coming forward for milling, that there was no more wheat left for milling.

The Minister for Agriculture: There is enough wheat left for local consumption up to the middle of December.

Mr. CARTER: Then the public are labouring under a delusion.

The Minister for Agriculture: You are.

Mr. CARTER: There are many others in like case. The fact remains that the price of offal in the metropolitan area is most excessive.

The Minister for Agriculture: Surely offal is worth more than chaff?

Mr. CARTER: How much is chaff?

The Minister for Agriculture: £7 or £8 per ton.

Mr. CARTER: The price of flour has been reduced to get the contracts which have been spoken of; but, to balance things, every time flour has been reduced, up has gone the price of offal. I have no solution of the difficulty, and apparently the Minister has none, and so it seems that we shall go on in our own old way and that our industries will be crippled. I believe there is a great opportunity for export trade, but I hold that our first duty lies in the upbuilding of industries. I believe in the trade delegations which have been sent, though I consider that they need not have been as elaborate as they were. If a purely business delegation, as economically run as possible, were sent to India, it would discover great avenues of trade awaiting us there. We do not advertise our successes and prospects and resources sufficiently. However, it is no use our doing that unless we are prepared to deliver the goods. The Premier on his return to the State said that our products are equal to the best in the world; and yet, as I say, we have none to export except in the raw state. It has been computed that we in Western Australia are providing work for about 45,000 people in the Eastern States. Working this out, we find a solution of the immigration problem right away. In connection with 45,000 workers we can fairly estimate that the families would number 80,000 or 90,000, with the single men and women, making a total of about 100,000 people that we are practically supporting in the Eastern States. Western Australia is the stud farm of the Commonwealth. We are breeding youngsters to fill jobs in the East. All the time we are overlooking the opportunities of home production and the maintenance of local industry. Consequently we pay through the nose. Unemployment, in my opinion, also bears a direct relationship to the lack of State loyalty I have alluded to. Were there greater loyalty to the State and its manufactures and industries, there would be less unemployment here to-day. I say again that our credit would be improved in the world, and that there would be more work for our people, if we stood by industry as it is being started and developed in Western Australia to-day. Representatives of Eastern States firms have boasted that it pays them to dump their goods on to the Western Australian market, because that course saves their standard of prices in the East and prevents the upbuilding of industries in the West. Therefore, they are prepared to sell cheaply and advertise lavishly here. We can counteract those efforts only by educating our people to stand for their own country and its goods. I do not blame the shopkeeper. The shopkeeper is perfectly frank, and tells you that he is out to make the biggest profit he can possibly obtain. He is out to sell the goods that give him the greatest margin of profit. The other day I saw a letter from a trader on the Great Southern railway saying, "I have handled

your firm's lines for a very long time and done business with you for a number of years, but I am getting better terms from an Eastern States house for an article which sells equally well." People are content to pay for the best—or something which looks to them like the best, unless they can be taught to be more discriminating. While that sort of thing goes on, the Eastern States octopus can out-manoeuvre and out-advertise and generally knock-out any attempt to establish industry in Western Australia.

Mr. Denton: Not if we are loyal to ourselves.

Hon. P. Collier: People are loyal to their pockets. If imported goods are cheaper, people will buy them.

Mr. CARTER: How many Eastern States products do we not put on the table of our own mess room? Looking round the table, one can see a lot of Eastern States products being used that should not be used. I do not say that an attempt has not been made to get local products. I do not know the conditions obtaining. But what obtains here in Parliament House, obtains almost everywhere else in the State. A well known business man recently told me that he had motored into the hills to visit an orchard. What I am about to relate is hardly believable, but the source of my information is unimpeachable. The conversation had been about the almost impossible task of disposing of lemon and other citrus fruits, and my informant asked for jam, saying he would like it out of the tin. The tin was brought, and it was Jones's jam. He drew the lesson. The same thing obtains in tens of thousands of households all over Western Australia. The orchardist uses Nestle's condensed milk and Jones's jams, all from the Eastern States. There is another matter I want to touch on: the necessity for improvement and economy in the public service. I think a commission of inquiry into the working of the public service is long overdue. It is due to the service, to the public, and to those hon. members who have made such sweeping charges in this House. The public servants should have an opportunity to reply to the charges which have been levelled at them. The member for Pilbara (Mr. Underwood) mentioned a case which affects my electorate. He forestalled me in asking a question with regard to the matter on opening day. It referred to the connection of Herdsman's Lake with the ocean by drain.

The Minister for Works: Why do you not make the charge straight out?

Mr. CARTER: The charge has been made by the member for Pilbara.

The Minister for Works: Speak of your own knowledge, and do not be a parrot.

Mr. CARTER: If it comes to parrot talk and raucous interjections, I think the Minister for Works is about the worst offender in the House.

The Minister for Works: Give us your accusation.

Mr. CARTER: I ask the Minister to give me a chance, and not to imagine that he can talk to everybody in that tone.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CARTER: The Minister himself gave an estimate which turns out to be about a third of the actual cost of construction of the work.

The Minister for Works: The Minister has not done anything of the sort.

Mr. CARTER: The work was estimated to cost £25,000. The Minister now admits that by the time it is completed it will have run into something like £72,000.

The Minister for Works: You are making a statement which is entirely unfounded.

Mr. CARTER: It is not unfounded, in view of the fact that the answers to the questions asked by the member for Pilbara have already been given in the House. Hon. members have seen for themselves that what I state is perfectly true. The work is in my electorate, and the thing amounts to this, that taking the area of the lake to be 1,000 acres—it may be more or it may be less—the £70,000 odd representing the cost of drainage, added to the £10,000 resumption price, is going to saddle the returned soldier who takes up a block in this area with a cost of at least £80 per acre before he can put a spade into the ground. That is a matter which requires consideration. There are other questions needing attention and investigation generally. I think an inquiry on an official basis should be made. Mention has been made in many circles, and particularly, I am sorry to say, in Federal circles, of the possibility of the resumption of trade with Germany. I have never spoken on this question publicly, possibly because I feel too strongly upon it. It is time, however, that someone spoke his mind on a matter that will affect us as a nation and the whole of the greater nation to which we belong. If I had my way, not until the last shilling had been spent and the fullest reparation had been made, not until we are able to swallow and digest the awful facts of the war—that will never be—not until we are able to forgive all the treachery, maliciousness and cruelty of the unspeakable Hun, not until we forget devastated Alsace and Lorraine and despoiled Belgium, and not until we can forget the desolate miles of graves in France, should we contemplate such a resumption of trade. I think, Mr. Speaker, this is a question we have every right to discuss. It is a question that calls for the strongest feeling; it is a question that requires the greatest consideration before anything definite is done.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There is a good motto: "Love thine enemy."

Mr. CARTER: I am prepared to love my enemy.

The Minister for Mines: So long as you do not injure yourself in the process.

Mr. CARTER: That is so. I may be prepared to forgive my enemy, but in the name of liberty, peace, and fair dealing, I am not

prepared to trust him further than I can kick him.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The other day I read the most beautiful article I ever perused. It was by Lord Balfour.

Mr. CARTER: I may not have as lofty or far-seeing a mind as that possessed by Lord Balfour.

Mr. J. Thomson: Lord Balfour was not in the trenches.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He was too old.

Mr. CARTER: I now come to a question with which I have been somewhat identified, namely, the Como tramway extension. I desire to refer to this matter before concluding.

The Minister for Mines: I hope you don't want to make it your peroration.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You know the advice I gave you last night.

Mr. CARTER: The member for North-East Fremantle has given me some bad advice from time to time.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It was good advice last night. If you follow it, you will keep quiet about this question.

Mr. CARTER: I do not know that I am called upon to follow the hon. member's advice. He has more to say in this House than other members. I would like to see the city expand as a reflex of the country's vigour and progress, but I do not want to see it expand at the expense of the country. I do not wish to see it expand on any unsound basis, but only when there are sound financial considerations involved in the expansion, and only provided the expenditure of money in the city is on an economical basis. The means of expansion in the city are two—money and convenience. As such, the provision of these means is peculiarly the responsibility of the people concerned. I have always advocated that, and I have made no statement which has differed from that contention. In this category, I would include water supply, sewerage and drainage, and electricity and gas supply, as well as tramways. The last mentioned convenience is in my mind at the moment. Logically, if it be not viewed from the economical standpoint, these cannot be provided in circumstances which make them a drag on the wheels of industry, nor should they be provided on the basis of city drift. I claim that, especially lately, they have been established on that basis. Such conveniences must be managed by the people for the people and at the expense of the people. I will quote the greatest authority on this subject, the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale), who said, "Those people who derive the benefit are those who should pay." Unfortunately in the particular case to which I have referred, those are the very people who will not pay. According to the general manager of the metropolitan tramway system, this particular line to Como will show a deficit of approximately £1,000 on the first year's working.

Mr. Lambert: That is only an estimate.

Mr. CARTER: It is against the very essence of economy to provide conveniences

without endeavouring to secure a margin of return or to provide conveniences for one section at the expense of another. It is equally fundamentally wrong to leave the path of constitutional government in order to do it. We have all three elements involved in the construction of the Como tramway extension. If we wanted a fourth element we would mention the appointment of the Royal Commission to inquire into tramway extensions, but whose appointment hung in the air while this work was being carried out.

Mr. Clydesdale: That Commission delivered their report ahead of others who were appointed before them.

Mr. CARTER: I will admit that the Royal Commissioners were slick—once they commenced to move. They were so slick that it was impossible for some of the South Perth evidence to be taken.

Mr. Clydesdale: That is not true.

Mr. CARTER: It is true.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CARTER: I have letters from a member of the Commission in reply to people residing in South Perth, who represent the Mill Point Progress Association. Those people approached individual members of the Commission by letter asking for the right to give evidence.

Mr. Clydesdale: We were under the impression that these people would pay a betterment tax.

Mr. CARTER: Unfortunately, the member for Canning apparently knows so much about these people that he considers he knows what they were going to say. Perhaps he thinks he knows a little bit too much in this instance.

Mr. Clydesdale: We closed down the Commission before those people applied to give evidence.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Be fair.

Mr. CARTER: I resent the suggestion by the member for North-East Fremantle.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You are not being fair.

Mr. CARTER: I claim that I am.

Mr. Lambert: Then you are mistaken in that point.

Mr. CARTER: If I am mistaken, I have been wilfully misled.

Mr. Richardson: But you have not made any statement yet.

Mr. CARTER: No, I have not read the letter, yet I am mistaken and unfair, according to members opposite!

Mr. Clydesdale: Well, you have not been fair.

Mr. CARTER: The member for Canning must have the same prescience in this connection as he exhibited when he called the Royal Commission together suddenly—after the Como tramway extension had been started. Then, suddenly, he closed it.

Mr. Clydesdale: The trouble was that I did not look after the extension to Mt. Hawthorn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CARTER: If I am to be permitted to proceed in face of these interjections, I will say that it is our administration and not our legislation that is at fault in this instance. Engineers, and not Ministers, have exercised their sway. It may be, if I may use the word, "engineeringly" desirable; economically, this work is undesirable. It is just possible in this instance that the engineer may have some new plan to connect up with the South Perth-Como extension. On that point I am not informed, but it has occurred to me that Mr. Taylor, who is a clever engineer, must have some other reason for recommending the construction of this extension right away.

Mr. Richardson: He wants another mile of tramways to make the system pay.

Mr. CARTER: It was not a matter of business expediency that prompted his recommendation because the evidence suggests that he would not be fool enough to recommend the construction of a line that would mean a loss of £1,000 on the first year's working. There must be some other reason and probably he is a far-seeing gentleman who is able to contemplate some other scheme linked up with this line. It is not necessary to go into all the facts and traverse the whole business, unfortunate though it may be.

The Minister for Works: Then why are you doing it?

Mr. CARTER: A promise was given and that promise was broken. A definite direction was given in a constitutional manner by Parliament; that direction has been ignored and Cabinet has ridden roughshod over the decision of this Chamber. What has saved a political crisis regarding this matter—the consensus of opinion in this House and also outside is against the work—has been Sir James Mitchell's blamelessness in the whole matter. The desire of all parties in this Chamber is to see him succeed in his greater work of settling this country and increasing our population. There is another factor and that is the strong influence and clever tactics of the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale) regarding his own party. The Leader of the Opposition (Hon. P. Collier), in a speech made in this Chamber on the 2nd August, 1921, said:—

There is no reason why Parliament should not have been called together in June of this year. Now that we are commencing a new Parliament, it would be well if members determined to take control of the finances, and resolved to see that the Government exercise proper control over the finances and that Parliament itself is given an opportunity to carefully and minutely scrutinise all expenditure before granting authority to the Government to expend.

Following along those lines on all fours with what the member for Boulder said, this question was handled by Parliament, but unfortunately the whole thing has not been

treated along those lines by Cabinet. I do not desire to be acrimonious or personal—such a thing has never entered my mind—for I am only promoted by a desire to do what is right. I think 90 per cent. of the members of this Chamber will agree with me when I say that what has happened in connection with the Como tramway extension, has been absolutely against the wishes of Parliament. Before concluding, there is one other matter to which I desire to direct attention. In common with other members, I have been notified that the Perth City Council intend to secure the introduction of a Bill to confer additional powers on that body, regarding the establishment and control of municipal markets. I believe the principle is right. The opportunity is right now to take action along these lines. For too long have the middlemen been in control of our products.

Mr. Richardson: Does the Council want a five-mile radius in this Bill?

Mr. CARTER: The Council ask for some provisions which may not be satisfactory to the hon. member, but in the main—

The Minister for Agriculture: Have you seen the Bill?

Mr. CARTER: Yes.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Is it a private Bill?

Mr. CARTER: I will not be cross examined by the member for North-East Fremantle.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I only asked you a simple question.

Mr. CARTER: There is a big gulf between the consumer and the producer in this State and the produce and the profits from that produce have been going into wrong channels. The Bill aims at centralising the marketing of produce. There is one question of importance involved and that is the site.

Hon. P. Collier: Who is to introduce it?

Mr. CARTER: It is not a Government Bill. It will be introduced by a private member. Some members have been asked to attend a conference with the Perth City Council and as this matter affects my district particularly, although the disposal of our produce affects the people of Perth as a whole, I think I am right in mentioning it at this juncture. It may not be generally known, but the question of the site has already been decided by the members of the Perth City Council. It is at Lord and Wellington streets, in East Perth. Land resumption for the purpose is taking place to a pretty large extent, and many thousands of pounds have been spent without the authority of an Act of Parliament. The site is unsuitable from a producers' standpoint, and from a public standpoint also. The Government have already resumed land at Marquis-street for a similar purpose. That site is a natural one and plans for the establishment of markets there are in the possession of the Railway Department.

Member: The Railway Department will want that land for itself.

Mr. CARTER: I understand the land will not be required by the Railway Department for many years to come.

The Minister for Agriculture interjected.

Mr. CARTER: From his polite interjection, I take it the hon. member does not wish to hear me any further. Still, I am justified in touching upon this question, because propaganda work by those interested in the Bill has been going on amongst members. The site at Marquis-street is eminently suitable. The trend of the city is to the westward, and the bulk of the produce comes from that direction. The locality is a natural inlet to and outlet from the city, and in all respects the site is a satisfactory one. I have been informed that there are constitutional objections to my reading at this stage a declaration from Mr. A. C. Kessell, a declaration on which I propose to move at a later stage for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into that gentleman's case.

The SPEAKER: I do not think I can allow the hon. member to anticipate a motion standing in his name on the Notice Paper. I draw the attention of the House to the following from "May," 12th Edition, page 249:—

In determining, however, whether a discussion is out of order on the ground of anticipation, the Speaker must have regard to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.

In view of that, I cannot allow the hon. member to anticipate a motion on the Notice Paper.

Mr. CARTER: It was with that declaration I proposed to conclude my speech. Instead I will close with an appeal to the Government to recognise the need for the exercise of economy, and for the further establishment of every avenue of industry which lies open to us. I have previously said, and members all agreed, that there is on God's earth no finer country than Western Australia, that no finer raw materials than ours are produced anywhere else, and that it remains to us to organise and correlate our industries in such a way as to get the fullest benefit from them.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. LAMBERT (Coolgardie) [5.35]: I join with others in congratulating the Premier on his desire to further people Western Australia. So long as he and those associated with him show that they have the administrative ability, both in this State and overseas, to get suitable settlers, no very serious criticism can be levelled at the policy. But I should like to remind the Premier that during last session, with the numbers at his back he had an opportunity to show his sincerity in trying to place more people on the land, notwithstanding which he dismally failed. He should have realised that the first essential to closer settlement is an effective Closer Settlement Act.

Mr. Teesdale: A bit of money is not too bad to start with.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am glad the hon. member sticks to what is probably the only virtue he possesses. It is essential that Parliament should realise that in this sparsely populated State we have £14,000,000 or £15,000,000 invested in railways. A conservative Press, in and out of season, has unscrupulously railed about the attempt on the part of the Queensland Government to more effectively settle the land. But not even that conservative Press could for a moment have said we were going to repudiate any contracts entered into had Sir James Mitchell shown an earnest desire to settle the land adjacent to our railway system. I hope the first legislation to be brought down will be an effective Closer Settlement Bill. In the good, old, bad days in Western Australia, when Ministries assembled at the Palace Hotel and decided upon railways and their routes, many people, as the result of information received, were able to locate and acquire valuable areas of land which, in many instances, are still held up to-day from closer settlement. I hope that, notwithstanding anything which may be expected from another place, hon. members of this House will insist upon the closest possible scrutiny of an effective Closer Settlement Bill. Such a Bill will be boomerang in its application and effect. Not only will it give us considerable areas of suitable land for immigrants and our own people alike, but it will help the railways to square their ledger. No Government would dare say they desired to effectively settle the lands of Western Australia unless as a prelude they were prepared to back up by their very political existence an effective Closer Settlement Bill. That being taken for granted, I believe that generally speaking the Premier can expect from us that reasonable constructive criticism which I think is all the criticism he has ever had from us. Ever since 1916, when the late Hon. Frank Wilson pleaded with this party to join him in overcoming the big problems ahead, the general spirit of that implied compact has been consistently voiced by the leader of our party. In Western Australia, particularly in the metropolitan area, there is a strong demand for a fair rents court. The exactions of landlords and tenants alike in every suburb around Perth are outrageous. Members should realise that their first duty is to the general community. Parliament will be lacking in its duty to the people if it does not tackle this all-important question. I will not weary members by citing dozens of instances of almost highway robbery practised by so-called landlords in the metropolitan area.

The Minister for Works: A good deal of robbery takes the form of people not paying their rent.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Minister may be speaking from personal knowledge. Perhaps he has not been wise in the selection of his tenants. But where, probably, we get one per cent. of unscrupulous tenants not sold up by the bailiff, we get 75 per cent. of un-

scrupulous landlords making exactions altogether unfair and entirely out of proportion with the legitimate amount they should receive from property. Especially is this so in respect of business premises, which, as my leader reminds me, has a considerable bearing on the cost of living.

Mr. Teesdale: Four-roomed cottages at 25s. per week constitute the greatest scandal of all.

Mr. LAMBERT: I hope the hon. member will not regard this as a party matter. For God's sake let us approach this question in the light of common sense, and ask to what extent we are entitled to protect the people. If hon. members will do that, they will render a service to this country which will be appreciated, because, after all, Parliament and parliamentary life, as was said by the member for West Perth (Mrs. Cowan) the other day, require an alteration, though probably not in the abstract ideals she spoke of, but along practical lines, to get for the people that to which they are legitimately entitled. This, then, is one of the measures which, if brought down in the shape of a common sense Bill, would receive the unanimous endorsement of every hon. member.

Mr. Lutey: The Premier has already announced that it is not the intention of the Government to submit such a Bill this session.

Mr. LAMBERT: That does not matter. Irrespective of the announcement made by the Premier, I consider that if sufficient pressure were brought to bear—perhaps I should not say pressure, and I would be sorry to think that the Premier was not amenable to reason—or reasons were given to show that such legislation was urgently required, the Premier has sufficient common sense, and sufficient manliness, to admit that while it was intended to keep the legislative programme of the present session short, such a Bill would find a place upon that programme before the close of the session. If I were to give instances of the highway robbery practised by unscrupulous landlords in this State, I could keep the House going for three or four hours.

Mr. Teesdale: A four-roomed house without a bath for 35s. a week!

Mr. LAMBERT: I accompanied an inspector from the Central Board of Health yesterday to Cottesloe Beach, where he was going to order the demolition of a house which he declared was not even a decent dog kennel. Yet the owner advertised it as a beautifully furnished seaside residence. The place too, was occupied, though not by any human element. That, I am sorry to say, is not only general in many of the suburban areas, but it is general in some of the hotels in the metropolitan area, and while I do not wish to particularise those hotels, I mention the fact to show the condition in which they are to be found.

Mr. J. H. Smith: You certainly should mention them.

Mr. LAMBERT: Not at this juncture. Landlords are getting from tenants rents which are out of all proportion to the amount

of interest they should receive, and therefore something should be done immediately to remedy that disgraceful state of affairs. The next matter to which I wish to refer and which should come under the heading of reasonably pressing legislation, is that of licensing reform, in regard to which I hold fairly definite and uncompromising views. To a certain extent I am not in accord with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, in that I am not prepared to mix up reform with revenue. If we are to have a reform Bill, I should like to see such a measure introduced. I would like to see a sharp distinction between reform and the taxation of the liquor trade out of existence. Unfortunately I have to remember that from many of those whom I represent, as well as from many represented by other members in this House, a big toll is exacted annually because they are consumers of liquor. I trust that while reform will be uppermost in the minds of hon. members, it will not be cloaked by a desire on the part of the Government to levy almost impossible sums of money from the trade. I hope that phase of the question will be kept well in mind. The publican to-day charges 6d. for beer, which only a few years ago was worth 50 per cent. less. He is also able to charge a much higher price for spirits and wines. The brewer is doing exactly the same thing, and the liquor consuming public are having these higher charges passed on to them. I hope that hon. members will say that probably we shall be able to find a road along which we can walk towards liquor reform without joining in what is apparently to-day a conspiracy to over-tax the trade.

Mr. J. H. Smith: You know that the publican is not making the same profit to-day as he was making a few years ago.

Mr. Mann: Last year the State received only £40,000 from the trade, while the Commonwealth collected £600,000 from it in this State. The increase in prices is due to the increased excise duty.

Mr. LAMBERT: The hon. member is old enough to know that because one chap down the street is a garrotter it is no reason why the other fellow, two or three doors further along, should also be one.

The Minister for Mines: That does not apply.

Mr. LAMBERT: If we are going to approach the matter of licensing reform with one hand in front as a taxgatherer, and the other hand at the back as a reformer, then possibly the general conception of liquor reform is correct. I declare it to be wrong. There is a road upon which we can walk towards liquor reform; and there is a road along which we must prevent the Government from walking over, and that is the road which will lead them on to dip their hands too far into the pockets of the people.

The Minister for Works: The brewers are pretty good.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am aware of that, but I am speaking generally of the trade. It is no

use quoting continually the amount which the Federal Government are taking from the trade; it has no bearing and conveys nothing. It would be stupid on my part to discuss it. But because the Federal Government do make such enormous exactions at the present time, that is no justification for our making a further levy on the consumers. A good deal has been said by the member for Leederville (Mr. Carter) about tramway construction in the metropolitan area. I was a member of the Royal Commission which investigated the question of tramway extensions in the metropolitan area, and though I am a goldfields member I am not going to take the narrow, puny, or parochial view that some members sitting on the cross benches would do in their desire to appeal to the miserable instincts of country constituents. Tramway extensions in the metropolitan area are justified along sound lines.

Mrs. Cowan: It is suggested that the extensions be carried out half a mile at a time.

Mr. LAMBERT: We shall be slightly more daring, not unlike the girl of 16, who is venturing into the dark. We were a practical Commission trained in a hard school and we can assure the hon. member that most of the extensions will be a little more than half a mile in length. This will appeal to some of the outer areas to the extent of compelling the people there to say that those in the metropolitan area should walk. To-day the tramway services are paying. The system is under good management, and I believe that some of the extensions have a reasonable chance of becoming commercial propositions. I had a rather doubtful view of the extension to Como, but after all is said and done, it hardly becomes one to be dogmatic about any of the suggested extensions, and possibly while I share much of the doubt which exists about carrying on extensions, I believe that the Como line will serve a useful purpose, and before long will justify its construction.

Mr. Teesdale: It will take people out of the slums.

Mr. LAMBERT: And the more we can get people into the suburban zone, the more shall we make for contentment. The question of economy generally must be tackled. No one wishes to under-rate the work which the Premier has set his heart upon; at the same time he must not think members over-critical if they declare the financial position of the State to be far from satisfactory. It is far from satisfactory because, while we have had difficulties and problems to face in the last few years, the economy which should have been practised was not exercised, at least not in a way which was apparent to the casual observer. Constitutional reform is essential in this State. We still have the stumbling block of another place. So long as this branch of the Legislature is not prepared to take the firm stand it should have taken years ago, the Council will continue behind its constitutional entrenchments and the present expensive

form of government will have to be maintained. It would be advantageous if we could persuade members of another place to draw their salaries for life and simply lose themselves in the wilderness of Western Australia.

The Minister for Works: There is no wilderness in Western Australia.

Mr. LAMBERT: My views are not very extreme, but I believe that the other branch of the Legislature is standing in the path of progress. It represents virtually all that is foreign to this State. If, instead of having 30 members of another place, we had 30 good agricultural and industrial chemists deliberating there, something useful would be contributed to the life of the community. The Government should show some backbone and not submit to this Chamber being ridiculed by the Council as was done last session. No Premier with the slightest pluck would tolerate the treatment which was meted out to us by another place last session. The Council is costing the country a considerable amount of money, contributing virtually nothing useful to the public life, and blocking any amount of reasonable legislation for which the people of the State are clamouring. Yet the Government and their supporters are content to take insult heaped upon insult. There is an illuminating branch of the public service perched on the hill opposite Parliament House, the Observatory. While observatories have been usefully established in older lands, I claim it is not the function of a young State like Western Australia to be saddled with such expense.

The Minister for Works: We could well afford it before Federation.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, but as Federation has left us with empty pockets and an accumulated deficit of six millions, it is time we considered how long we intend to continue such a service as the Observatory. I have the latest report of the Observatory which refers to a meridian observation, longitudinal work and time and tide surveys. What these things have to do with the practical work of the State I do not know, but it is nearly time we told the Federal Government that if they want an observatory in Western Australia, they must pay for it. The meteorological service was of considerable benefit to the people of this State, but in order to curtail expenditure, the Commonwealth authorities cut out the miserable little item necessary to maintain that service. If the Government were really desirous of squaring the ledger, they would immediately devote attention to Government House, an institution which is costing the State a considerable amount of money every year. In this small State, with a Lieutenant-Governor, it is unnecessary to maintain a palatial building with a sort of vice-regal attachment. Our present Governor is one of the finest old gentlemen who has occupied the office.

The Minister for Mines: You have said that about all of them.

Mr. LAMBERT: I would not say that about some of them. I doubt whether I

would be able to remain here for 10 minutes if I expressed the feelings I entertain regarding some occupants of the office. The Government should seriously consider the heavy expenditure involved in the upkeep of this institution. This State has a small population struggling with a deficit of six millions. An appeal has just been made to the Imperial authorities to lend us money to settle the land, and to guarantee portion of the interest charges for some years. Surely, in view of these facts, it would not be difficult to convince the Imperial Government of the stupidity of a sentiment which might have been in vogue years ago but is not to-day. Years ago one would have been regarded as a disloyalist and would have been hounded out of the country had he expressed such views. I recollect the member for East Perth (Mr. Simons) a quarter of a century ago urging that it was unnecessary to display our loyalty in this way.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Hon. P. Collier: Was he talking on the platform then?

Mr. LAMBERT: As a matter of fact, he started in the cradle and has been at it ever since. Most members will realise that Government House is an institution we can do without at present. In order to get to closer grips with the credits and debits of the State, I hope the Government will consider the advisableness of bringing down a more equitable land and income tax measure. Those men who are drawing reasonably large incomes from industry and employment in Western Australia can afford to pay, but the men who are to-day contributing most to the revenue are those who can least afford to pay. There are many directions in which the income tax laws particularly could be revised along common-sense lines. Under the existing law the publican, the bookmaker and others who do not exert any great physical or mental ability to gain an income are taxed on the same basis as the men who go out and pioneer the back blocks as agriculturists, pastoralists and miners, and are on an equal footing with the men who are struggling with the complex and discouraging task of endeavouring to establish industries in this State. I hope that a review of the present law will be made in order to more equitably distribute the incidence of the tax. The member for Leederville (Mr. Carter) spoke very commendably on the necessity for encouraging secondary industries. We are receiving from overseas 14 million pounds worth of goods per annum, and we are exporting about 12 million pounds worth. While we are buying manufactured goods, the bulk of our exports represent raw material. A glance at the list of imported goods is sufficient to convince anyone that many of the lines could be manufactured within the State. During the year 1919-20, the following goods were imported:—Meat and fish, £136,000; spirits, wine and beer, £332,000; tobacco, cigars and cig-

arettes, £616,000; cattle, sheep, horses and pigs, £142,000; bacon, hams, tongues, butter, cheese, eggs, and tinned milk, £799,000; sugar, £503,000; wearing apparel, drapery, hats, bonnets, blankets, boots and shoes, sewing silks and cottons, £3,200,000; timber, cement, and furniture, £354,000; ammunition and explosives, £195,000; oils, including benzine, etc., £625,000—

Mr. Simons: You will get all the oils you want from Bremer Bay next month.

Mr. LAMBERT: Machines, machinery, pumps, etc., £1,198,000; iron and steel, ironmongery, nails, screws, etc., £1,600,000; wheat, flour, oats, oatmeal, etc., £252,000; jams, jellies, and fruit, £241,000; tea, £128,000; coal and coke, £212,000.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. LAMBERT: Prior to the tea adjournment I was dealing with the imports of raw materials into Western Australia. In 1920-21 we imported cyanide to the value of £64,000, jewellery, clocks, watches, fancy goods, and £299,000 worth of drugs, chemicals, and medicines, as well as numerous other articles amounting to over three million pounds worth. It is painful to note that although our exports are approximately two million pounds below our imports, most of the articles exported from Western Australia consist of raw materials. In 1920-21 54,000,000 lbs. weight of wool was exported from this State. Timber to the value of £2,900,000, hides and skins to the value of £280,000, pearls and pearl shell to the value of £207,000, sandalwood to the value of £45,000, and £8,400 worth of mallet bark were also exported in that year. These items are significant for their direct bearing upon the impoverishment of this State. The fact that we are exporting to the extent of £12,000,000 worth of goods may appear illuminating, but we have to remember that 85 per cent. of this exportation consists of raw material, a great proportion of which could be turned into manufactures in Western Australia. We are therefore approaching the point when we must conclude that the public men comprising our Parliament are not doing their duty by the State. I have been in the House for some years, and am becoming weary of mentioning the fact each session that we must display greater earnestness in building up this State as it should be built up. Many people say it is not the function of the State to start industries. On the one hand the National Government say they are not in favour of State enterprises.

The Premier: We agree with that.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Country Party were handed a splendid charter by the farmers. While they lived up to that charter no man could find any fault with them. Even the fine charter handed to the great Labour movement of Australia cannot be said to be better than that handed to the Country Party. But ever since they have been elected to this and other Parliaments members of

the Country Party have practically lived in political adultery with any party that would hand small favours to them.

Mr. Latham: Except your party.

Mr. Harrison: You had better explain yourself.

Mr. LAMBERT: We would consider ourselves to be with peculiar and strange bed-fellows if we ever lived in the company of the party to which the hon. member belongs.

The Premier: You would want all the blanket.

Mr. LAMBERT: And the Premier would want a wet towel over his head. He may require one before he is much older if he goes on trafficking with the party that is supporting him to-day.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We can fix that up.

Mr. LAMBERT: The establishment of industries in Western Australia is no small matter. There is still hope for us if we are earnest in our efforts to render the State more self-contained than it is at present. As soon as an industry is started here, however, some people begin to cry stinking fish.

The Minister for Mines: Hear, hear!

Mr. LAMBERT: The moment an effort is made to open up an industry men who know nothing whatever about it immediately condemn it. I have had a good deal to do with the small band of patriots who have endeavoured to do something for Western Australia. The cement industry is of the utmost importance to use. The moment an endeavour was made to start it every man who considered he knew anything about it declared it would be a damned failure and that the men associated with it were damned fools.

The Minister for Mines: A cement failure.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is a tough kind of failure.

Mr. Harrison: Call it a concrete failure.

Mr. LAMBERT: I hope the newspapers of the State, which have joined in plenty of conspiracies in the past, will conspire to give full publicity to our industries with the object of assisting those who are trying to establish them here. There are other industries also deserving of encouragement and the newspapers should at least afford them every possible assistance. The State Government cannot be expected to do everything. Although they are opposed to the establishment of State enterprises I believe they can do much to encourage development along these lines. The Minister for Mines by interjection said the Government had already done a great deal. I admit that they have done a good deal within the narrow limits of what they were allowed to do. In this respect I would refer particularly to the Crystal Glass Co., which shows the value of the research work that must be a preliminary to the establishment of any permanent industry. We have officers in the Geological Laboratory in the persons of Dr. Simpson and Mr. Bowley, and the other chemists associated with them, who are most enthusiastic in assisting one and all who go to them for advice.

Mr. Teesdale: Quite right!

Mr. LAMBERT: Members may count upon receiving good advice and guidance from those officers in the way of chemical analyses or in any other way. On the other hand the man who desires to get a little capital into local industry is confronted by the importer, and the big houses established in the Eastern States. If they are not actually hostile they are quite indifferent to the establishment of industries here.

Mr. Willecock: They are passive resisters.

Mr. LAMBERT: In many cases they are openly hostile. They do not want to see industries established here.

Mr. Harrison: They are too busy making money.

Mr. LAMBERT: It would be against their interests to assist in the establishment of such undertakings. Under present circumstances it is almost impossible to start industries in Western Australia with local capital. There are, however, a few pleasing exceptions to the rule. We have some patriots who are prepared to assist industries with their own capital, and some of these are not unknown to members of this House. If others outside would only follow suit they would give a great impetus to industry and provide an incentive for others to do likewise. The Federal Government with all their ramifications could do a great deal in the way of assisting our industry. In Queensland they are fostering the sugar industry to the extent of millions of pounds. Although it suits them for political reasons to lavish millions upon that industry, they are not prepared to assist industries in Western Australia. Quite recently I wrote to the manager of the Commonwealth line of steamers pointing out that there are vessels calling at Fremantle almost every week belonging to that line. They leave Fremantle with space available for carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of merchandise or manufactured goods to Eastern Australia. I pointed out that, considering no additional expense would be involved, there was offering in every steamer accommodation for hundreds of tons of goods, in respect of which the Commonwealth line could quote a rate which would be beneficial to the secondary industries that are attempting to establish themselves here. Mr. Burchell sent on my letter to the manager of the Commonwealth line, who replied referring me to the shipping combine. Fancy being referred to Ned Kelly the bushranger when one wants somebody to look after one's money! I would rather trust a man of the Ned Kelly type than the shipping brigands operating on the Australian coast. The Commonwealth line quoted me a freight of £2 per ton from Fremantle to Sydney. I got an independent quotation of £1 per ton. At the present time the Commonwealth line carry goods from Melbourne to Great Britain for 35s. or 37s. 6d. per ton. If one does not like the Commonwealth rate of £2 per ton from Fremantle to Sydney, one is referred to the Australian shipping pirates. At a later stage in this session I shall endeavour to focus public attention upon the utility of the Common-

wealth line of steamers to the people and the industries of this State. Reverting to the work of the chemists, let me say that they have assisted as far as they possibly could, and have done the preliminary work that was directly responsible for the establishment of a new industry in this State. Thanks to the foresight of the then Minister for Industries, who was backed up by his officials, that preliminary work was done; and, further, a good deal of research work was undertaken respecting the native clays of Western Australia. Such a demonstration was made of their utility as to secure the subscription of sufficient money for the establishment of the industry here. That industry has passed through an eventful career, and perhaps is not yet upon an entirely sound commercial basis. Still, the nucleus of a very important industry has been secured. I could name many other subsidiary industries in connection with which the Government have, through their officials, attempted to give assistance, even if only in a small way. But the endeavour made to date is not sufficient, inasmuch as we cannot hope to balance the ledger in this State whilst we have to send away seven millions sterling annually to meet the cost of goods purchased from the Eastern States alone. I believe it would be sound policy to allocate a sum of money, even a quarter-of-a-million or half-a-million, annually for the purpose of securing a co-ordinated scheme for the establishment of secondary industries in Western Australia. Advantage should be taken of Section 24 of the Industries Assistance Act, under which a board or council advised by properly qualified scientific and technical men would assist by giving practical and theoretical information such as is all important in the birth of a new undertaking. There are two important factors in the establishment of an industry. Firstly, one must have sufficient capital. The next thing is to have the necessary machinery; and this second factor is possibly just as important as the first. It is almost laughable to observe the efforts which have been made here to establish little industries with trifling capital and machinery of sorts. Failure was inevitable. I have one or two instances in mind, but to mention them would be hardly fair. If the Minister for Industries saw fit to stress the supreme importance of establishing new manufactures here, I do not think anyone would find fault with him for making an initial effort to get together a body of men qualified to give the requisite theoretical and practical advice. I consider it is due to the Treasurer of the State that Parliament should make available to him a sum of money for the purpose of assisting in the preliminary stages of establishing industries. Both the Treasurer and the Minister for Industries know full well the absolute stonewall and boycott one is up against with the big importing firms who to-day constitute the distributing agencies throughout Western Australia. I could name several who have their finger upon the pulse of every industry here.

One might manufacture here an article as good as any article of the kind imported into Western Australia, and unless one could get a particular firm to act as one's distributing agent throughout the State, and unless one had a large sum of money at one's command, one would be doomed to failure; so strongly are these firms entrenched behind the importers.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That is why they want the State trading concerns wiped out.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes; from that fact largely springs their opposition to the State trading concerns.

Mr. Latham: Getting rid of the State trading concerns would help to wipe out the deficit.

Mr. LAMBERT: If the public life of this State could only get rid of the hon. member's party for two or three years, we would get rid of the deficit.

The Minister for Mines: You discount the value of your other statements by making assertions of that sort.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am thinking of the Minister's experience in that other Parliament in Wellington-street. I speak more in sorrow than in anger. The member for York (Mr. Latham) looks as if he had had croton oil.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: I believe the Premier to be sympathetic towards the establishment of industries here, in order that the State may become self-supporting and self-contained. But that end can be achieved only by giving liberal assistance to those who are prepared to contribute their mite of capital towards initiating new industries. We know what has been achieved by the Industries Assistance Board operating amongst our farmers. That has been a splendid thing. The money distributed amongst our farmers has, generally speaking, done a great deal of good. Certainly our farming industry would be in a very backward condition to-day if the Industries Assistance Board had not been in operation. So much for the amount of good that system has done the farmer. I contend that exactly the same amount of good, or more, could be achieved in the same way through the establishment of secondary industries here. In the matter of wheat the system has made us independent, has made us an exporting State. In my opinion, a common sense administration of the Industries Assistance Act, coupled with sound administration, would prove similarly effective in the establishment of secondary industries here, and that within a very few years. One has only to go through the possibilities of industrial development in this State to see that we need not be faint-hearted about starting to utilise our natural resources, such as timber, tanning materials, minerals, and many other raw materials; probably I could name 20 or 30. Industries can be established if only sufficient capital and suitable machinery are available. It is no use for the Premier merely to tell the people that we must have secondary indus-

tries. If to-morrow morning the hon. gentleman were to go out in the heyday of his political youth and immigration inexperience and the kudos he has recently received from those who previously kicked him, he would in the matter of establishing secondary industries meet with the same fate as befel the Kaiser of the Country Party when he went forth to find money to establish the Fremantle Freezing Works.

Mr. Latham: That is a very unfair statement, and "Kaiser" is a most objectionable word.

Mr. LAMBERT: If it is objectionable to the hon. member, I will withdraw it. Does the hon. member prefer "King"? Shall I say "His Majesty the Beau Brummel of the Primary Producers' Party"? What was the fate that awaited Mr. Monger when he went amongst the 5,500 sheep farmers of this State and asked them to contribute their money towards the establishment of the Fremantle freezing works? He found that out of that number only 280, according to his own figures, responded with money to encourage the establishment of a concern which was essential for their own interests. Only that proportion of the sheep farmers had sufficient public spirit and loyalty, or were sufficiently alive to their own personal interests, to subscribe towards this secondary industry.

Mr. Harrison: The result was very discouraging.

Mr. LAMBERT: So much was that so that the Government, and rightly so too, had to step in to preserve the meat works that had been started. If freezing works are not justified in Western Australia, what is?

Mr. Underwood: But they have not started.

Mr. LAMBERT: The experience in connection with the Fremantle works is much the same as that experienced by other industries that have been started. Apart from that aspect, however, it is interesting to note that these sheep farmers, who should have consulted their own interests, have left Monger and his party to seek the aid of the Government to pull them through.

Mr. Lutey: They did not mind doing that, so long as it was for themselves.

Mr. Harrison: These men have plenty of holdings and cattle themselves; they are up to their limit in production.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am not unmindful of the money required to keep industries going, but I am mindful that in 1920-21, of those who produced 54 million lbs. weight of wool, only 280 had the courage, loyalty and decency to support an industry that, in bad seasons which may come along, would be of great assistance to them in the freezing of lambs that otherwise they could not give away.

Mr. Harrison: The sheep were not all in the Fremantle zone.

Mr. LAMBERT: Would the hon. member suggest that because no freezing works were established at Doodlakine, there was no obligation on the sheep farmers to support the establishment of such a secondary industry?

Are the Wyndham Meat Works no good to them?

Mr. Angelo: There are no sheep in the Kimberley areas.

Mr. LAMBERT: There are some rams very adjacent to that part of the State. Side by side with this secondary industry there are others. Why should not the Government create a department that will assist people who have money to invest in connection with industries? With the establishment of such a department, why should there not be officers appointed, capable of advising those desirous of starting industries as to the most up-to-date and suitable machinery for their purposes? If a department were created that would curry-comb the industrial world for information as to the latest and most improved machinery, tabulate it and have it available for the advice of those desirous of starting industries, it would be of advantage to the State. To-day we find that almost every effort made in Western Australia—made with insufficient knowledge and capital—is doomed from the start. I appeal to the Minister for Industries to see whether a department of such a description could not be established. Such a department should not be operated along the lines of red-tape but should set out to ascertain information that would be of assistance to these people. In the latest report of the Department of Mines there is a list of minerals produced, or capable of being produced, in Western Australia. It is easy for the Agent General to see that we are capable of producing unlimited quantities of arsenical ores, which are of great importance in connection with the farming industry. From that information, he would be able to assist in procuring information as to the machinery necessary for the utilisation of such ores. At Southern Cross and other places there are thousands of tons of barytes and arsenical ores which are being raised and sent to the Eastern States, only to be brought back to us in the form of sheep dip.

Mr. Angelo: That work would be in your line.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am only pointing out what can be done. We have the arsenical ores and barytes and we should be able to encourage the establishment of an industry for the recovery of the chemicals from those ores, and provide sheep dip for our own farmers, as well as the other allied lines associated with that process. As it is, this sheep dip is an expensive item to the farmers, by whom it is largely used.

Mr. Harrison: Does that not provide plenty of raw material for chemical works?

Mr. LAMBERT: I am not speaking from a personal point of view but I want to see Western Australia launch out in the establishment of these industries. It should be the function of the State to point out where these industries can be started. Why should four or five people in the Eastern States import our raw materials and send them back for consumption in Western Australia in the shape of expensive articles? The Minister for Works gave a special concession

to some people because it was intimated that they could produce ore at Southern Cross and build up an industry. What was the industry? It was simply to take these ores out of the ground, send them to Victoria and import them in the form of sheep dip. Among the ores which this State is capable of producing, or is actually producing, are antimony, arsenical ores, asbestos, barytes, corundum, copper, felspar, graphite, gypsum, iron concentrates, lead and silver lead, and so on. Some time ago I spoke of the necessity of encouraging white lead works in Western Australia. It is quite possible here, as in Victoria, for splendid white lead to be manufactured from the silver-free lead ores equal to any manufactured elsewhere.

The Minister for Mines: They are manufacturing it.

Mr. LAMBERT: I am pleased to know that at Fremantle a start has been made with the manufacture of this article from galena ores from Northampton.

The Minister for Mines: It is better than white lead but, at the same time, it is not white lead.

Mr. LAMBERT: It is really a juggling with terms, for it is really white sulphate. From the reports I read long ago, these results justify my belief that it is possible to embark upon this industry.

Mr. Latham: Those works should have been started at Geraldton.

Mr. LAMBERT: In any case, they are only small works. While I would not interfere with them, the present effort does not go far enough. It should be possible to establish big paint works here. With the exception of the small effort made by the Calyx people, we are still buying calomine and paints manufactured outside Western Australia. We have hundreds of thousands of tons of raw material available for the establishment of perhaps the most important paint works in any part of the world. We have the barytes and gypsum and other minerals necessary to assist this great industry, and we have them 50 per cent. better than the materials from which the Americans are now manufacturing what is known as lithopone. Thousands of tons of barytes are lying idle awaiting use in connection with secondary industries. I have a large quantity at my works, and the only thing required is a fine grinding plant to slime and dry it, and finally to bag it. This is an industry that should be worth from £10,000 to £15,000 a year to this State. Thousands of tons of these ores exist in the South-West but no attempt has been made to make use of them. Some effort should be made by the Government to direct attention to the possibilities of these industries. The department should be able to advise as to the most suitable and most modern machinery necessary for the utilisation of these products, and the Government should be able to say to anyone desirous of starting such a secondary industry, "We will assist you on a pound for pound basis; we will assist you for the sake of Western Australia in any direction we can, with money and with advice."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Government have not been successful in getting interest back in the past.

Mr. LAMBERT: There is no industry that will pay interest and give an adequate return as well, unless it is backed up with sufficient money, enterprise and knowledge, with machinery capable of placing the industry on a commercial basis.

Mr. Davies: Is there not a council already established to deal with that aspect?

Mr. LAMBERT: I am not dealing with that council.

Member: Does it not suit you?

Mr. LAMBERT: Those gentlemen may be unselfishly acting in the capacity of advisers. While they are prepared to act in their private capacity, that is not all we require in Western Australia if we are to establish industries that will be beneficial to the State.

The Minister for Mines: As a matter of fact, that work is more for the Commonwealth Bureau of Industry and Science to undertake.

Mr. LAMBERT: If we rely upon the Commonwealth for any assistance, God help us in Western Australia. The Minister for Industries could very well take up this matter and give it his attention. He would be backed up by every member.

The Minister for Mines: Yes, until he started, and then—look out!

Mr. LAMBERT: You started the Como trams.

The Minister for Mines: And note what has been said about them.

Mr. LAMBERT: They are working splendidly and the people there are happy. You will always get people who will squeak in this State.

Mr. Clydesdale: Quite right.

Mr. LAMBERT: The Minister for Mines should remember that the people who will condemn and damn him most are those who condemned and damned him when he tried to establish State enterprises in Western Australia. And if to-morrow he were to announce that he was done with State enterprise and wanted to see industries established, he would have the Chamber of Commerce damning him as much as they damned him then; but so long as he is doing what is right for Western Australia, he can succeed politically and socially and consign them to the devil.

The Minister for Mines: I am doing that, so I must be doing what is right.

Mr. LAMBERT: If at this late stage you are likely to lose sleep because of criticism, you must have suffered a lot of insomnia in your time. Take also the producers of 54 million lbs. in wool. When an appeal is made by a few patriotic citizens for the starting of woollen mills in this State, do we find the pastoralists falling over one another to rally to the support of the enterprise? One would fancy that the sheep farmers would say, "We can afford at least one bale of wool each in the effort to establish a woollen mill." As the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) says, we should have half a dozen woollen mills. It is up to us to assist

the Government in this direction. All members could assist in the establishment of these industries. We have to-day a project to establish the woollen industry in Albany. If we were to systematically go through these industries one by one, and assist the Government by propaganda work, going out and addressing public meetings—

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Would it not be better to send the Treasurer back to London for a few more millions?

Mr. LAMBERT: It seems that Ministers and ex-Ministers can never think of anything but the borrowing of millions of money. With them it is a habit. Be we need not go out of the State for the necessary assistance. To-morrow Sir James Mitchell could walk down the street and get half a million of money for the establishment of industries. Of that, I have his personal assurance. The trouble is, we cannot get the commercial men to realise that this State cannot prosper unless we get industries. We have the Chamber of Commerce talking about the patriotism of the Mitchell Government. Why, the damned hypocrites! they know the drain on this State, they know that no young State can sell 12 million pounds worth of stuff and buy 14 million pounds worth without somebody suffering. The people who are suffering to-day are either the people of Western Australia or the people who are lending us money. The uneven balance between our imports and our exports is the borrowed money we are spending and the amount of accumulated interest we are building up. To what extent we can go on building up this enormous debt without some attempt to remedy it can only be foretold by a prophet.

The Minister for Works: You do not suggest that the Chamber of Commerce is unpatriotic?

Mr. LAMBERT: No, certainly not. They are all very patriotic. It is sufficient to know that, during the war, wherever there was a pocket, they put their hands in it, and wherever there was a flag to wave, they waved it. To that extent they are patriotic. Since the Armistice nobody on God's earth has grown more eloquent than those very people in pleading, "We must trade with Germany again." When the Labour Party went out and said, "You are hypocrites and humbugs; you will eventually be trading with Germany again," they denounced us as traitors for suggesting such a thing.

Mr. Simons: They managed to get a man fined £50 for saying it.

Mr. LAMBERT: They threw bouquets of ripe tomatoes at me for saying it at Kataning. Are the members of the Chamber of Commerce eloquent in trying to establish industries in Western Australia? Are they associated individually or collectively with any industry? Do we find any of them going round to see whether they can put £10, £15, or £20 into a little industry? No. They are sitting back in solemn conclave, asking Billy Hughes to resume trade with Germany. "We will send you," they say to Germany,

"our raw material, and you can send out to us the manufactured goods. We have the warehouses in Perth, and the big industrial centres of the Eastern States to call upon." Unless the Government realise that it is a State duty to scotch them in their desire to cripple the small struggling industries of Western Australia, we shall make no progress at all.

The Minister for Works: But they sat on one of their members the other day for suggesting trade with Germany.

Mr. LAMBERT: Nothing of the sort. They did not sit on him for suggesting trade with Germany. They sat on him for making it public! The others were too sensible to start carrying resolutions about trade with Germany. They said, "We are trading with her. That is sufficient for us." And when this other fool man came in with the resolutions, they damned him for it. To that extent, as my unsophisticated, dear old dad has said, they sat on him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAMBERT: So much for the woollen industry. Is it not regrettable to see the enormous number of hides we are sending out of Western Australia? Look at our mallet bark! Some endeavour should be made to stop this sending away of our raw material.

The Minister for Mines: Too late, the mallet bark has all gone.

Mr. LAMBERT: Even so, we have plenty of other tanning agencies quite as good, if tannin extract be made from them. I hope this question will receive the consideration of the Government. I have in mind one small industry which has been started in Coolgardie, and to which the Minister, like his predecessor, lent very welcome assistance. Still, the small amount of backing which has been forthcoming is not sufficient to establish that industry on a sound footing. The members of the Forestry Commission were there the other day, and I hope they will keep it in mind when speaking on the Address-in-reply. Only good would result if we went to the established tanneries and said, "We want you to double your output. If you will do it, we will provide you with capital at a reasonable rate of interest."

Mr. Lutey: The Bridgetown tannery is in need of further capital.

Mr. LAMBERT: Unless the Government do something practical to assist this industry, but little progress will be made.

Mr. Latham: Can they put their product on an overseas market at a profit?

Mr. LAMBERT: Undoubtedly they can.

Mr. Latham: I have my doubts about it.

Mr. LAMBERT: As a matter of fact, there are in the House men stupid enough to doubt the ability of the hon. member. I am not one of them. The analyses clearly show that there are hundreds of thousands of tons of raw material in this State containing tannin substances which can be brought out as extract and sold overseas.

Mr. Latham: I agree, but I was talking about the made up articles, tanned hides and leather.

Mr. LAMBERT: We would not get much for the hon. member's hide.

Mr. Latham: But we could get something for yours.

Mr. LAMBERT: Mine would wear. Seriously, I want the hon. member to realise that there are no peculiar virtues in the tanning done in the Eastern States. In Western Australia we have the ability and the men, and if only we had the capital and the plant we could tan as cheaply as it is done in the Eastern States.

Mr. Mann: It is being done here to-day.

Mr. LAMBERT: Yes, not 50 yards from where I am established in Fremantle a small man is keeping two or three others going.

Mr. Underwood: Pearse Bros. are bringing from the Eastern States wattle bark with which to tan leather.

Mr. LAMBERT: That is so, and unless some endeavour is made to scientifically extract the tanning contained in our shrubs and barks, they will go on bringing in wattle bark from the other States. The analyses prove that we had the tannin material here, and that if the extract be made we can do our own tanning better than it could be done with wattle bark. There is sufficient knowledge to indicate that this is a function which the Government should embark upon, and if necessary spend money upon, instead of having our hides going out and the wattle bark coming in. Turn to boots and shoes: The value of boots and shoes and leather goods imported into Western Australia annually exceeds £200,000. The people of Western Australia are thus providing for people in the Eastern States work which should be done by people resident here. To establish the condensed milk industry in Western Australia would be a small item. The managing director of one of these companies visited Perth recently and stated that £5,000 or £10,000 would be sufficient to start reasonably good works. Considering the enormous quantity of condensed milk used in this State, it is probably more important to establish this industry than either the butter or cheese industry. This matter should receive immediate attention. We have in Western Australia large quantities of minerals capable of being turned to commercial account. It is futile for the Premier to imagine that he can persuade importers in this State to assist directly or indirectly in establishing secondary industries here. He may as well appeal to the Sphinx as to them for assistance. The Premier must realise that it is necessary to create an effective department to give monetary aid and advice. Unless he is prepared to do this under legislative act, industries will not be established here. I believe it would be good enough to risk half a million of money in an attempt to stop the flow of treasure every year to the Eastern States for manufactured goods. It would be money well invested. With a

carefully constituted board and a department wisely administered, I believe an appreciable forward movement could be recorded in the course of a year or two. In Western Australia we have a considerable number of salt lakes. In America, by the electrolytic process $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of caustic soda is being obtained yearly from salt. A small plant here would be sufficient to provide adequate supplies of caustic soda for our soap works. In connection with this process 20 or 30 subsidiary industries could be started. It is one industry which leads to many others. We have thousands of acres of rich salt lakes in this State, and yet every pound of caustic soda we use is imported. In South Australia electrolytic caustic soda works have been started. At Port Gregory there are thousands of tons of salt and, if works were started at Fremantle or Geraldton, a very important industry could be built up. It is a scandal that some endeavour is not made to start the jam and fruit preserving and canning industry in this State. A small effort was made. The Government gave some assistance and with this action I agreed, but many members sneered at the effort to establish this industry. What did the Jones crowd do? They immediately killed the industry. The Government should let the manufacturers in the Eastern States understand that they are not going to kill our industries, but that at the back of them is the credit of the Government and the people of the State. If the Premier took a definite stand in this matter, many of these subsidiary industries would be started. I have endeavoured to focus a little attention upon an important question. If the Minister for Industries in his department would only follow the lead given by the Premier in the matter of land settlement, I believe that this State would very soon be self contained and everyone would have reason to be proud of the achievement.

Mr. MANN (Perth) [8.37]: It is a pleasure to add my congratulations to the Premier on his success in raising a loan of six millions of money under conditions so favourable to this State. When the Premier left for England, quite a number of members felt doubtful regarding the probable success of his visit and it has been pleasing to hear members representing all sections of this House complimenting the Premier on the success of his mission. Some speakers have expressed fears as to how the project will be handled and how the immigrants will be treated when they arrive here. I have no doubt as to how the immigrants will be treated or as to the ultimate success of the scheme. I am confident that the Government can handle this business because of the way in which they handled the returned soldiers who were without employment in 1918. At that time there were 1,700 soldiers drawing sustenance. Over 1,000 had been repatriated and were unemployed, and there were several thousands of others still to return to the State.

The business-like way in which the Government grappled with that question and in the space of two years successfully settled the bulk of them on the land satisfies me that no mistake will be made in dealing with the new arrivals under the latest scheme. In May, 1920, the first batch of over 100 ex-service men arrived by the s.s. "Marathon."

Hon. W. C. Angwin: There were some before that.

Mr. MANN: This was the first batch who came under that particular arrangement.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You mean so far as your association is concerned.

Mr. MANN: The association took those men in hand.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Over 400 arrived before that.

Mr. MANN: The Premier has had experience of the New Settlers' League in handling a large number of soldiers and he has asked the league to deal with the new arrivals under this scheme. Within five days of the arrival of the "Marathon," those 100 men were placed in positions in the country. They were followed a week later by 150 more, and in January, 1921, the "Zealandia" arrived with 1,000 souls on board for this State. Within six days of her arrival, all those people were well placed in positions in the country. Since then the league has continued its work. Its organisation is as good as it possibly could be. The association comprises men representing all sections of the community. In addition to the executive of the Ugly Men's Association, there are delegates from the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufactures, the Trades Hall, the Returned Soldiers' League, the Pastoralists' Association, the Farmers and Settlers' Association, and several other public bodies. These representatives, in conference with the departmental officials, formulated a scheme, and up to the 31st July, 9,023 new arrivals had been dealt with and placed in positions in the country. The organisation dealt not only with immigrants brought out by the Government, but with people nominated by their friends and those who had paid their own passages. To show that these people are not left to their own resources after their arrival, of the total number 763 were found a second position, 413 were found a third position, 149 were found a fourth position, 68 were found a fifth position, and nine were found a sixth position. The association keeps in touch with the newcomers and, if there is any chance of their making good, opportunities are not lacking for them to do so. The association have 116 suburban and country branches. The officers of these branches are acting in an honorary capacity. They take just as keen an interest in the immigrant as the members of the executive do.

The Minister for Works: They are acting in an honourable capacity too.

Mr. MANN: I hope their work is recognised in this way. When the new settler goes into his first district he is given a letter of introduction to the secretary of the local

branch. He is advised, if he cannot get a fair deal from the farmer to whom he is attached, to get into touch with the secretary. The matter is then investigated, and in most instances adjusted to the satisfaction of both parties. The Premier did wisely in asking the association to deal with these new arrivals, instead of leaving them to Government officials who would treat the matter as an official one and allow it to end there. Under present conditions people who are interesting themselves in meeting these new arrivals and looking after their welfare are doing so from a desire to see that the immigrant gets a fair deal, and the State in general derives a benefit. It has been suggested that the State cannot absorb 25,000 immigrants. Between the years 1851 and 1861, without any organisation for the reception and care of new settlers, Victoria received immigrants at the rate of 40,000 a year.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: That was because of the goldfields.

Mr. MANN: The gold attracted them but did not keep them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: It kept a good many of them.

Mr. MANN: Possibly, for a time. At all events the State absorbed that number of people. Western Australia, with the organisation that now exists, can do the same. Several members who have spoken have doubted the ability of the Government to successfully settle so many new arrivals on the land, but not one member has yet commended the Government for their group settlement system. I have visited eight or nine of these settlements. The first one I visited was the lumpers' settlement at Pemberton. I have never seen a body of men more satisfied with their lot or more enthusiastic and determined to make good in a new sphere of life than the men who make up the No. 5 group. When I was there with the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen) the settlement had been established about 10 weeks. On many of the farms five acres had been cleared and 25 acres partly cleared. Homes had been erected on some and in a few instances they were already occupied. On one particular farm the settler was planting potatoes. It has been suggested that it will be costly to clear this land. Unless the clearing is done under good supervision and by skilful men it will prove costly. The lumpers are applying themselves well to the job, and according to the figures supplied to me by Mr. Brockman, the superintendent of the settlement, the work was costing about £11 an acre. If the other groups can be worked on these lines they will not be overcapitalised as a result of their clearing operations.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I think it is costing a little more than that.

Mr. Harrison: That is the picked group of the lot.

Mr. MANN: In company with the member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering), and the member for Forrest (Mr. O'Loughlen), I also visited groups Nos. 6 and 7 on the Margaret River,

where the men from Boulder are settled. For those who had known these men before it would be particularly interesting to see them in their new occupation. They are full of hope. The member for Forrest asked one of the men if he had got rid of his old trouble. The man replied, "I have got right away from it and am doing well." This statement will be borne out by the hon. members in question. The work at these group settlements is being systematically, and as far as one could see, economically carried out.

Mr. Harrison: They show the advantage of community of interest.

Mr. MANN: That plays a great part.

Mr. Harrison: Group No. 2 shows the reverse position.

Mr. MANN: The most successful groups were those that were being supervised by men who had spent some years in the district, who knew the local conditions, the timbers and the soils, and understood how to combat many of the difficulties that arose. That was particularly apparent on one group, where there appeared to be no confidence on the part of the settlers in their overseer. They were not getting the efficiency that was evidenced on other groups. We found upon inquiry that the supervisor was not well known in the district, that he had not the knowledge the other foremen had, and that his chief recommendation was that he possessed a good knowledge of tractors. If it is necessary to have men with a knowledge of tractors it would pay to employ an engineer to control the tractor, and still have as overseer a man possessed of local knowledge. These particular settlers had no doubt about how they would get along, but were not satisfied with their advisers. Since we were there a change has been made in the management of the group. I commend the Government for the speedy attention they are giving to these settlers in their isolated localities. At the No. 12 group, which had been established for about six weeks, there were postal and telephone facilities, the daughter of one of the settlers being in charge of the post office. We visited the group on a Sunday. The women had their Sunday dinner ready just as if they had still been at Fremantle.

Hon. P. Collier: Did you give the children a holiday?

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

Mr. MANN: There were several new settlers from the old land amongst the groups. They were shaping well at their work. We noticed that they were mixed with Australians or those who had been for some years in the country. I suggest that in the case of all groups of this description a certain proportion of experienced settlers should be placed with the inexperienced men, otherwise there will be overcapitalisation in some form or other. When allotting the blocks the Government should see that the settlers are not all amateurs, but that there is a fair

sprinkling of men experienced in bush-life and axe work. This should make for cheaper settlement. The Minister for Agriculture is to be congratulated upon the enthusiasm he has shown and upon the manner in which he has stirred up the settlers to increase their production. For many weeks he has toured the country addressing meetings on Saturdays and Sundays, and by his enthusiasm has encouraged the settlers to increase the areas they are putting under cultivation. It is reasonable to suppose that production will greatly increase. It is that kind of work that makes all the difference between success and failure. There will always be some people who will cast a doubt upon everything. When the Premier, as Minister for Lands, in the Moore administration, started the settlement of farmers in the wheat belt people said he had gone mad.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You were one of those who doubted him.

Mr. MANN: His foresight and the foresight of the Governments who followed, as well as the assistance that was rendered to settlers, has meant the success of farming operations. In just the same way I am sure success will follow in the train of group settlements. When the Labour Government assumed office they did not discard the work started by a previous Government, but carried it on to the extent of finding seed wheat during the bad seasons and conveying water into the dry areas. The result was that many farmers, who would have left their blocks, remained there and to-day own their own motor cars and are in a fair way to prosperity. I have no desire to create any antagonism between the interests of the city and those of the country, but I do deplore the fact that some members can see no virtue in anything that is not to their own interests. The city cannot prosper without the help of the country, and the country cannot prosper without successful business operations in the city. If there is no success in the city, the financial institutions will be very careful as to the money they invest in the country. Thus one section of the State cannot prosper and see the other section of the State go down. Both sections must stand together. Some hon. members on the cross benches think that the Government should pay for all development in the country, but that city people should bear the cost of all public enterprises in the metropolitan area. I do not like to hear hon. members objecting to the expenditure of public money in the city.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Those members do not object, but they want the money spent in the country.

Mr. MANN: Take the matter of water supply. Can a city like Perth be prosperous without a good and adequate water supply? Can we work our sewerage system without a well-established water supply? Can we control our affairs in the city without a proper tramway system? I do not want to hear complaints every time something is done for the

people who are settled in the metropolitan area. In this city of Perth I know of several families living in one house of four rooms, simply because there is not sufficient house accommodation available. In the city as much as 25s. per week is being paid for a four-roomed house. Tramway extensions will receive my support if they are going to enable people to obtain houses at a reasonable cost.

Mr. Angwin: There is a lot of land on existing tramway routes available at £20 per acre.

Mr. MANN: A good deal was said to-night by the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) about the establishment of secondary industries. The hon. member spoke very unjustly about certain interests in this State. He suggested that the members of the Chamber of Commerce were nothing short of pick-pockets, robbers and burglars. That was the category in which he placed them, and I am going to dispute his assertion.

Mr. Clydesdale: Are you in a position to do so?

Mr. MANN: I am. To lead up to the point I desire to make, I shall deal with an industry which has been started here after years of research and after the expenditure of a considerable amount of money. It has been assisted along by the Minister for Industries and the Bureau of Science and Industry. The industry I speak of is conducted by the Rowley Products Company. I have visited the works more than once, and have observed the progress of the company. While not forestalling any report which may be made by the Forests Commission, I may say that those connected with the industry are all men in business in Perth, and are members of the Chamber of Commerce. They are giving their money a chance to develop a new industry here, one which will lead to the establishment of other industries. They are working under great disadvantages, but are gradually making good.

Hon. P. Collier: What is the article?

Mr. MANN: I will enlighten hon. members. It has just occurred to me that it would be a good thing if hon. members were to visit the works of such new industries, and see the conditions under which they are being established, and the many difficulties and problems those engaged in the task are called upon to solve. This particular industry is one that concerns itself with the treatment of blackboy. The blackboy is brought from the country districts, and is treated at the works by roasting. From that treatment is recovered acetate of lime, tar, and also oils and methyl alcohol. The company have made contracts with firms in the Eastern States, where a ready market is being found for the goods. If there is any disloyalty towards the proposition, it comes not from the Eastern States but from our own State. When the company started operations, there was an agreement, or an honourable understanding, that the Perth City Council would take a gas which the company extract from the black-

boy. The Council did take the gas for a time, and then refused to continue taking it, on the ground that it contained some impurities. In fact, the council broke the agreement. The management of the company are endeavouring to remove the impurities, and they are hopeful that the Council will resume taking the gas, which will enable the company to carry on.

Hon. P. Collier: Is not that a matter for the Forests Commission to look into?

Mr. MANN: The Commission are doing so. To show that the members of the Chamber of Commerce are not all brigands, I will read a letter which the company received from the Colonial Sugar Refining Company. It is dated Melbourne, 12th December—

At Yarraville we have received two shipments of calcium acetate from you. No. 1 sample of six bags shows an analysis of 65.57 calcium acetate, but this was very impure, and was no good for the manufacture of acetic acid. The second sample of 36 bags analysed as follows: Calcium acetate 80.58 per cent., moisture 3.32 per cent. This sample contains too much phenolic impurity to use direct for acetic acid, so we are forwarding it on to Warburton to see if we can make any use of it as acetone. It is no use for acetic acid as long as it has the bad phenolic odour. The price of acetic acid has dropped considerably, and the last shipment of American acetate received by us some while back was £22 per ton. We are getting our chemist to experiment with some of the better grade of this material, to see if we can help you to clear the phenolic fractions. If we have any success we will let you know.

Here is another letter, dated the 29th June last—

We have just received a report of the last lot of 1 ton 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 17 lbs. of acetate of lime received from you, which is as follows: "This acetate is a good grade of commercial acetate, analysing 80 per cent. of acetate of lime, and 5.83 per cent. moisture. On decomposing, it gave a good grade of crude acetate acid. On distilling the acid, a very satisfactory pure acid was obtained. There was no phenolic smell, either in the acetate or the acetic acid, at any stage of the progress. This acetate is thoroughly satisfactory for the manufacture of pure acetic acid." It is very pleasing to note that you have got over your difficulties with this material, and we are prepared to arrange with our buying department to credit you with £30 per ton c.i.f. for acetate of the same grade and percentage as this material, instead of £25.

So they are not all burglars and out to take down people who are establishing new industries.

Hon. P. Collier: But those are Eastern States men.

Mr. MANN: The gentlemen who are interested in this proposition are business men of Perth, and they are dealing with business men of Melbourne. Just as there are hon-

ourable men in all other walks of life, so there are honourable men in the Chamber of Commerce. That is the point I desire to make.

The Minister for Works: No one disputes that.

Mr. MANN: I am glad to hear it.

Hon. W. C. Angwila: The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) was referring to representatives of Eastern States firms who are trying to block the establishment of industries here.

Mr. MANN: This firm has representatives here too. Now dealing with markets for our products, let me point out that while we have our own markets to look after and develop, and while we must see that our manufacturers get a fair return for their goods, we also have to look for new markets overseas. The member for Leederville (Mr. Carter this afternoon spoke of Plaistowe's endeavouring to deal with lemon peel. Recently I travelled down from Kalgoorlie with Mr. Davidson, and he told me that the firm of Davidson & Mills in their factory at Fremantle had dealt with 40 tons of lemon peel, for which they found a very ready sale, but that the lemon squash they made from the lemons was still on their hands, although it was a good article. He said that, though it was equal to the Victorian article, they were unable to sell it at all. Owing to their failure to sell the lemon squash, they were not going to purchase any lemons this year, nor would they manufacture any lemon peel. Wherever their travellers endeavoured to sell this local lemon squash, they were told that the people preferred Brooks' or Schweppe's.

The Minister for Mines: Ninety-nine per cent. of people who ask for lemon squash never ask for a brand. If you got the real reason, you would find that the wholesale merchants handling those goods will not take any others.

Mr. MANN: There is some reason. The fact remains that the article manufactured in our State is not getting a fair deal in our own State.

Hon. P. Collier: I am surprised that Mr. Davidson did not get over an obstacle like that. He did so previously by changing the label.

The Minister for Mines: That was years ago.

Mr. MANN: I should say that he would be justified in changing the label if it was going to promote the sale of the article and benefit the State. The member for Coolgardie also spoke about the tanning business. The largest tannery in Perth, owned by Mr. Rosenstamm, is being conducted on very extensive lines, and two-thirds of its production is being sold in Adelaide and Melbourne, as against the articles manufactured over there. Mr. Rosenstamm has assured me that he would not have been able to do that but for the fact that he had certain capital to call up. Thanks to great perseverance and thrift, he is now able to manufacture an article superior to those made in South Australia and Victoria, and to make

it so economically that he is able to ship it over to those States and sell it there against the locally manufactured article. But that gentleman made a complaint to me. He said that he had been experimenting with red gum in the endeavour to overcome the colour of the red gum dye. When the Federal authorities sent their chemist here to perfect the red gum tannin, Mr. Rosenstamm gave that gentleman all the information the firm had gained in their experiments. The Federal chemist has now mastered the colour trouble, and I understand the Federal authorities intend taking out a patent and charging a royalty on all the red gum taken from trees in this State and used by our own manufacturers.

The Minister for Mines: That is quite right.

Mr. MANN: I do not know that that is so.

Mr. Teesdale: They have been boodling the people long enough.

Mr. MANN: At any rate, they have been giving employment to our citizens, spending money and establishing the industry for the benefit of the State.

Mr. Teesdale: It is no credit to those people that they have been charging 5s. 6d. a foot for leather when hides cost them only 3d. per lb.

Mr. MANN: I do not know that the member for Roebourne (Mr. Teesdale) is aware of the difficulties these people have had to overcome.

Mr. Teesdale: I know sufficient about it to be aware of the difference between the price of leather and the price of hides.

Mr. MANN: Perhaps the member for Roebourne does not know that at certain periods of the year the tanneries have to bring hides from Spain, Italy and England to continue their operations. I am told that the hides here are too soft and cannot be economically tanned during certain times of the year.

Hon. P. Collier: Refer them to the conference in Wellington-street, and they will tan them.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How many hides were imported from overseas during the nine months ended 31st March last?

Mr. MANN: I do not know.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Fifty.

Mr. Teesdale: That is a knock out.

Mr. MANN: I want to bring under the notice of the Government an attempt made by one of our local business people to establish markets for our products. I refer to Mr. Trouchet who went to Mauritius on a business trip. I will read an extract from a paper published in Mauritius dealing with the opportunities of trade with Western Australia. The paper stated—

We have had the opportunity to admire the many samples of all kinds of goods which have been brought here by Mr. Trouchet to make them known to our merchants. We have been astonished at their neatness, for boots and shoes especially. The best

makers of Europe and America cannot possibly do better, and there is rather a sensible margin in the prices in favour of the Australian products.

One of the difficulties is in connection with shipping. On that point the paper said—

The scarcity of shipping between the two countries has naturally paralysed the transactions which Mr. Trouchet is endeavouring to re-establish on a larger scale. He is taking with him a large number of orders and proposes to execute them as soon as he can—but when? There is a direct service of quick steamers trading between South Africa and Australia. Would it not be possible to organise a service, if only a quarterly one, which would permit one of those steamers making a deviation on to Mauritius where the freight warranted it. It behoves the Commonwealth to examine the question in all its phases and to see if it would not be to its advantage to find a new outlet for her products.

The Minister for Works: This trouble has been apparent for years. We could not get shipping for our timber long ago.

Mr. MANN: Surely this difficulty is not insurmountable. If the market is worth exploiting, the Government should find some means of opening up trade with that country. Reference has been made to legislation to create a fair rents court. If such a Bill comes before us, I will be compelled to support it. I know of cases where properties have been purchased and the rents paid by the tenants have been increased 100 per cent. straight away. There are many instances where, after the purchase of property, the rents have been increased from 25 to 100 per cent. In some cases the tenants in possession have established businesses, and they are forced into the position of having to pay up and look pleasant. That does not always occur with land owners only, but with leaseholders as well.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Some people should be prohibited from owning property.

Mr. MANN: I do not know that we could do that, but we should have legislation to prevent the community being exploited by property holders.

Mr. Teesdale: It would be in the interests of the small householders.

Mr. MANN: It is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the Licensing Act. The Royal Commission appointed to deal with the sale of liquor devoted a considerable amount of time and attention to this question. If the Bill is presented to the House along the lines recommended by the Commission, I am sure all sections of the community will be satisfied that an endeavour has been made to secure better control over the sale of liquor and, further, to secure the sale of better liquor. For the remainder of the session I shall endeavour to assist the Government to carry through legislation that will be for the betterment of the State of Western Australia.

Mr. J. THOMSON: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Question put and negatived.

Mr. LATHAM (York) [8.25]: I desire to congratulate the Premier on his successful mission to London and his perseverance and the manner in which he was able to get so much financial support for Western Australia. I hope that at the end of five years, every one in Western Australia will think as highly of the Premier as they do to-day. I hope his immigration scheme will be such a success that it will put us on the road to prosperity. I feel that the easiest part of his task has already been accomplished. Difficulties lie ahead of him, and he wants the assistance and co-operation not only of members on his own side of the House, but on the opposition side as well, besides the assistance of people outside this Chamber. I hope due consideration will be given to the manner in which the borrowed money will be spent in Western Australia. I know the Premier has a great opinion of some of his officials, particularly those who are heads of some of the departments. I wish to sound a note of warning. It is possible to overwork some of these officers. I believe that Mr. McLarty, the Managing Trustee of the Agricultural Bank, will have control over the expenditure of the loan funds. Working it out on the basis of £1,000,000 a year, hon. members will recognise the enormous task that one man will have to handle. That will have to be done in addition to the work he is doing now in connection with the bank. I am afraid it is more than one man should be expected to shoulder. No doubt there is a lot of developmental work besides clearing to enable the men to be put on the land. Roads, water supplies, and many other works will have to be carried out, and I hope that when the Premier makes his announcement regarding the work to be done, he will inform the House that it will be done by contract. I am sure no one could object to having such work carried out on the contract system. Even the Labour Party found that it was in their interests to have work carried out by contract. I refer to the fine building the labour movement is erecting in Beaufort-street under the contract system.

Mr. Clydesdale: You know that they could not help themselves.

Mr. LATHAM: I hope the Government will not be able to help themselves too, and that the work to which I have referred will be carried out by contract. This will prove more satisfactory to the men and to the State as well. As to immigration, I am satisfied that the easiest part will be to get the people here. I think we will experience more difficulty in keeping them here. We have lost so many immigrants that it is really a matter that should receive serious consideration at the hands of the Government, so that we may be sure of retaining all new arrivals. One aspect which will probably influence the

newcomers is that, while the Australian soldier was at Home, he usually spent money at the rate of about £5,000 per year. It made the English people think we were all made of money in Australia. These people, when they land in Western Australia, will find that the Australian is not the same as he was in England, and they will find that Australia is not the land they anticipated.

Mr. Simons: They will not find any goanna farms here.

Mr. LATHAM: They may drift to the Eastern States to see if the Australian they expected to find, really does exist there. Every assistance must be given to those people. We require to take them in hand and make them realise that it is only by hard work and perseverance they can succeed. The opportunities are here, and we want to induce those men to stay here. We must show them that this State is as good as, if not better than, those in the East.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Do you not think the majority of those who go over to the Eastern States were born there?

Mr. LATHAM: No, unfortunately I have known many immigrants in my own district who, hearing golden tales of Queensland, have gone there, only to find that the place is not as good as this.

Mr. Simons: They have a better Government there.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not agree with that. We would have an ideal Government but for the obstruction from that side of the House.

Mr. Clydesdale: And but for your obstruction.

Mr. LATHAM: I know of several directions in which I would like to obstruct the Government if I could, such as the provision of city services. However, I hope that before the session closes some means will be found for handing over the whole of the city services to boards of control, thus relieving the time of Ministers. The city people are entitled to those services, but they should manage them for themselves and be responsible for any losses.

The Minister for Mines: Don't forget that you will be handing over, not losses, but profits.

Mr. LATHAM: Some of the services, such as sewerage, are not very profitable, and I doubt whether in the aggregate there is any great profit among the lot. We require to encourage to come to the State men with money. The member for Coolgardie (Mr. Lambert) correctly said that many of our own people cry stinking fish. People from the Eastern States have told me that they met over there influential men from our own State who declared that Western Australia was going to the dogs. It is not going to the dogs, and the sooner we teach the people of the Eastern States to realise that we have here just as favourable opportunities for land settlement as are to be found over East, the better.

Mr. Clydesdale: We require to educate our own people first.

Mr. LATHAM: That is so, but to infuse knowledge into the heads of some of them one would require a hammer and a chisel. We should do all that we can to advertise this State among Eastern States' people who, with plenty of money, are looking for land for their sons. We have heard a good deal about the drift to the city, and York, the district which I have the honour to represent in this Chamber, has been brought prominently before the public. I want to tell the "West Australian" that there is not a piece of land in York to-day which is not available to any man prepared to pay a fair price for it. All the big holdings of which we hear so much are on offer, some of them at £2 per acre. Many other areas much further back are for sale at £4 per acre, while those big holdings, favoured by railway and roads, are procurable at £2 per acre.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: What's the matter with the land? Is it not any good?

Mr. LATHAM: Yes, it is good enough. There are to be found there orchards just as good as any in the Upper Swan. I agree that we should go in for closer settlement, but I warn the Premier that we require to be careful about cutting up holdings into unduly small blocks. The Mt. Hardy estate was cut up a few years ago, and the settlers there have been practically starved off. We should give a man an area sufficiently large to enable him to make a living on it. The member for Coolgardie stressed the advantage of building up secondary industries. I hope the Minister will consider the establishment of some of those industries in our smaller towns. I do not see why everything should be concentrated in Fremantle simply because the electorate is represented by a strong man.

Hon. P. Collier: They have a doll factory at Narrogin.

Mr. LATHAM: Yes, and a butter factory and many other desirable things. We should have industries established wherever facilities are available. York offers more than reasonable opportunities to anybody prepared to establish industries in country districts. While we are putting men on the land, we require to consider what they are going to produce and how they are to market it. It is of no use settling the South-West unless we find markets for the produce. The Government will be well advised to appoint a thoroughly good man to look out for overseas markets. The provision of markets will be a serious matter, particularly during the first few years. We shall have to find means of enabling the settlers to turn their produce into immediate cash, whether through the Government or through private enterprise. If we do not make of the immigration scheme a complete success, Western Australia's name will be ruined for all time. I am a little afraid that the country districts do not always receive the consideration which is their due. During the last Address-in-reply debate I drew attention to the metropolitan water

supply. I do not object to the city people having their water supplies.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Do you think they have water supplies?

Mr. LATHAM: The hon. member's electorate is considerably better off in that respect than are some others which I know of. While I have no objection to the people of the metropolitan area having their water supplies, I do not think it should be at the expense of country people. Last session I made a statement which was not quite correct when I said that people in the country districts were charged 2s. 6d. per 100 gallons on rails. As a matter of fact the price was 2s. However, last year we paid 4s. 5d. per 100 gallons, and had to pay up before we got it.

Hon. P. Collier: The Government had previous experience of the farmers.

Mr. LATHAM: The State has benefited greatly by the farmers. If we depended on the city people we should be in a state of semi-starvation.

The Minister for Works: The city could not exist without the country.

Mr. LATHAM: I hope the Minister will carry that a little further and extend his sympathy by providing good water supplies in outback districts.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The Labour Government paid £4 per thousand gallons to supply farmers with water, and did not charge them a penny for it.

Mr. LATHAM: I give that Government due credit. During 1914 they did a lot for the farmers, but they had to do it for the salvation of the State.

Mr. Wilson: And now you give them the boot for it.

Mr. LATHAM: No, I am giving them credit for it. Unfortunately the goldfields are greatly depressed, and the water once used up there will have to be applied in some other direction. Could any better use be made of it than running it through the agricultural areas?

Mr. MacCallum Smith: Let North Perth have some of it.

Mr. LATHAM: North Perth will have to starve for it before I agree to North Perth having it at the expense of the country.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have to pay for our water. You do the same.

Mr. LATHAM: We cannot do the same, because we are already bearing more than our fair share of the burden. I have some friends on the Murchison who tell me the Minister for Works does not know of their existence. I do not wish to be selfish. While I want to see water from the goldfields main in the agricultural areas, and particularly in the York electorate, I wish to see the same consideration given to all outback districts.

The Minister for Works: Where are those people on the Murchison?

Mr. LATHAM: Out from Sandstone. I suppose the Minister knows where Sandstone is?

The Minister for Works: Yes, and I know a gentleman there who wanted me to sink a well for him alone.

Mr. LATHAM: Too much cannot be done for the man in the country. When he leaves the city he leaves all the attractions and all the conveniences. The man in the city is able to ride about; he has a ferry to take him across the beautiful Swan river on a summer night and every advantage possible.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: He pays for it.

Mr. LATHAM: It is only possible to give him the facilities by reason of the fact that so many people are settled in one portion of the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Why are you growling?

Mr. LATHAM: I am not growling. I am merely trying to emphasise the sacrifices made by the man in the country. What is the lot of the man in the bush? There is an everlasting sameness that makes one tired. There is no variety whatever. There are no picture shows; there is every inconvenience possible. I hope the hon. member does not object to my describing some of the inconveniences of life in the country. It is up to the Government, who have the interests of the whole State at heart, to endeavour to make the lot of the people in the country as easy as possible.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We are willing to do that, but you object to the town having anything.

Mr. LATHAM: I have no objection to the town having everything, so long as it is not provided at the expense of the country.

Mr. Simons: Let us wipe out the city altogether.

Mr. LATHAM: Regarding the Como trams, though the Premier has offered a very reasonable explanation, I still maintain that it is not so much a question of the construction of this tramway as a breach of faith with this House. I regret that one of the Ministers belonging to my own party was responsible. I have to accept the Premier's word that it was done in the best interests of the State, but I sincerely hope that there will be no like occurrence in future. I doubt very much whether the Como tram will be a paying concern. I am surprised to learn that there was a sum of money available for the construction of this tramway. When I have made application for absolutely necessary works in the farming districts, I have been informed that there was no money available in the Treasury.

The Minister for Works: But the psychological moment comes along.

Mr. LATHAM: Evidently the Minister struck the psychological moment.

Mr. Richardson: The member for Canning did.

Mr. LATHAM: I hope the House will seriously consider the matter of Royal Commissions. Altogether too many Royal Commissions were appointed after last session.

Hon. P. Collier: Especially when you cannot terminate some of them.

Mr. LATHAM: And particularly when some of them start operations too late to have any effect. The Leader of the Opposition put up a very plausible excuse but, when it is examined, it does not appear to be very sound.

Hon. P. Collier: It was genuine.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You were on one Royal Commission. Have you the report ready yet?

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. LATHAM: I was not chairman of that commission and I think the hon. member should give notice of the question. To make the railway system pay depends entirely on our success in settling the land already served by the railways. There is a considerable area of light land adjacent to existing lines which so far as I know will not produce anything. Repeated attempts have been made to grow wheat on this light land and have proved unsuccessful. In my opinion sufficient investigation has not been made by the Department of Agriculture to ascertain whether such land can be put to use. I am sorry the Minister for Agriculture is not in his place. While I was at Geraldton recently Dr. Boyd, who has interested himself in agriculture, showed me some plots of lupines, an excellent fodder for fattening sheep, and, being a legume, is helpful to the soil. Our experts should give up the idea of trying to grow wheat on the light land and endeavour to grow something else. Let it be used for dairying or sheep raising rather than allow it to remain idle. Neglected as it is at present, it is a very bad advertisement for the State. I hope the experts of the department will experiment with these light lands in a sound and sensible way.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They take only the best land to experiment on.

Mr. LATHAM: I do not agree with that, but they could experiment much more on land which to-day is a very bad advertisement for the State. This House will be called upon to authorise the construction of additional railways. Already on the statute book there is provision for railways authorised as far back as 1915 and not yet built. I would like an announcement from the Minister for Works as to when we may expect some of these lines to be put in hand.

The Minister for Works: I will give you that.

Mr. LATHAM: A line from Naremburn to Merredin is needed. The people living in that part of the State are paying the highest freight possible—5¼d. a bushel—to get their wheat from the rail head. Returned soldiers have to cart their wheat from 15 to 20 miles.

Mr. Corboy: Some of the settlers in my electorate have to pay 1s. 3¼d.

Mr. LATHAM: The hon. member's district has been neglected. If the hon. member joined the Country Party, his district would perhaps receive a little more consideration.

Mr. Simons: Spoils to the victors!

Mr. LATHAM: In some portions of the State farmers have to pay a freight of only a farthing a bushel. It is not so bad while wheat is bringing an inflated price, but when normal conditions return, the people so disadvantageously situated will find it impossible to make wheat growing pay. I believe it is intended to construct a line from Dwarda to Narrogin. It would be well if the Minister gave this project his very serious consideration before putting the work in hand.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I want you to back me up in the matter of these railways. We put them through the House.

Mr. LATHAM: I wish the hon. gentleman had gone further and constructed them. I do not profess to know much about finance, but I hope every effort will be made to get the Prime Minister to hand over the amusement tax now collected by the Federal Government, and that, when it is handed over, it will be devoted to the charities department. If the Federal Government will not hand over this money to the State, I hope the State Government will impose an additional tax on amusements. This would have the effect of getting the people up in arms and some pressure might then be brought to bear upon the Federal Government. The people would realise that there was a responsibility to the State as well as to the Federal Treasury.

Mr. MacCallum Smith: That belongs to the city.

Mr. LATHAM: It must not be overlooked that the amusements subject to the tax are usually the only diversions offering to country people when they come to the city. Very little of the charity vote goes to the country districts. The State cannot continue increasing its deficit indefinitely. I suggest that the Premier engage a financial expert to investigate the finances and see whether it is not possible to make the ledger balance. The deficit is a very serious matter. Every man is responsible for a proportion of the deficit. We do not feel it burdensome to-day and perhaps will not feel it for the next five or ten years, but our children must suffer for it. The matter is altogether too serious to be passed over lightly. It demands grave and earnest consideration. Free services will have to be reduced or cut out if the necessity arises. I do not know that the country man gets many free services. He might be willing to pay for the education of his children if the necessity arose and he was assured that by so doing the ledger could be balanced. We have reached the limit of taxation.

Mr. Clydesdale: We are not paying as much as people in other countries.

Mr. LATHAM: If we have to pay more, all I can say is God help this State. I do not know where the Treasurer will be able to raise any more taxation. We have all kinds of taxes now, local taxes, State taxes, Federal taxes. Even the Leader of the Opposition would not suggest any further taxes.

Hon. P. Collier: Why "even" me? I am not a tax maniac.

Mr. LATHAM: No, but the hon. member might be expected to object to the deficit and, if he were an unreasonable man, to suggest the imposition of further taxation. The hon. member, however, is a very reasonable man, and is willing to assist the Government as far as possible to wipe out the deficit. I hope the Premier will give this important matter that serious consideration which members of the House expect him to give it.

On motion by Mr. J. Thomson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 15th August, 1922.

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

QUESTION—REPATRIATION, MINERS' HOMESTEAD LEASES.

Mr. MUNSIE (for Mr. Corboy) asked the Premier: 1, Is it the intention of the Government to introduce during this session a Bill dealing with miners' homestead leases held by returned soldiers? 2, If so, is it proposed to enable such leaseholders to convert to conditional purchase conditions, allowing credit for payments made under leasehold conditions?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No; it is unnecessary. 2, Yes. Credits for payments made under leasehold conditions will be given by a corresponding reduction of the price of the conditional purchase.

QUESTION—GERMAN PAPER MONEY.

Mr. MANN asked the Premier: 1, Is he aware that a very large sum of money is being transmitted from this State by speculators to Germany, for the purchase of Ger-