

the hon. member descended to the level of others who have been there for some time, and forgotten their duties to their home State. A member referred to Mr. Latham's having been Leader of the Opposition for what, so far as he knew, is a record length of time. I offer him this solace—that Leaders of the Opposition in the other States have, dating from the commencement of the depression, been in the same position as he has here. It is not only in Western Australia that the position has been held by the same party for ten years. That position obtained in Victoria and also in New South Wales until McKell broke the hoodoo, and also in South Australia and, of course, Tasmania. I do not pretend that my sentiments are not tinged with a little disappointment, but if some one other than my close friend on my left or I had to get the position, I am satisfied that that other should be the member for Katanning. With other members who have spoken, I hope Mr. Watts will, as Leader of the Opposition, have as successful and happy a time as Mr. Latham who, as "Charlie Latham," has become more of an institution in this Chamber than has any other member I can think of. Certainly there is no one who has gained greater popularity than he has. I wish Mr. Latham in his new sphere of activity a period of very great success and such measure of happiness as can possibly come to a public man.

**MR. WATTS (Katanning):** I wish to thank the Premier and other members who have offered me their congratulations. I regret that we are losing Mr. Latham. In the seven or eight years I have known him, and in the seven years I have been a member of this House, he has been of great assistance to me, and I have never regretted sitting behind him as a member of this party and backing him up whenever I thought it could be done. I hope he will be elected to the Senate vacancy and, if he is, I believe he will do much good for Western Australia. I wish him all possible success. For my own part I feel some pleasure, tinged with a considerable sense of responsibility, and I will do my best in the position and trust by the forbearance of other members to get away with it moderately successfully. If I do as well as my predecessors have done, I shall have no regrets.

*House adjourned at 6.27 p.m.*

## JOINT SITTING.

### Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 8th October, 1912.*

Joint Sitting—Federal Senate vacancy ... .. Page 718

#### FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.

In accordance with the Standing Orders passed by both Houses of Parliament and approved by Executive Council, the members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly met in joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber, to fill the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Senate of the Federal Parliament caused by the death of Senator Edward Bertram Johnston.

The **PRESIDENT** of the Legislative Council (Hon. Sir John Kirwan) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., in accordance with the Standing Orders. He was accompanied by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. J. B. Sleeman).

#### *Election.*

The **PRESIDENT**: This joint sitting of both Houses is held in order to fill a vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Federal Senate. I am now prepared to receive nominations.

**THE PREMIER** (Hon. J. C. Willecock—Geraldton): I propose—

That Mr. William Wauhup, clerk, of 48 Duke-street, East Fremantle, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator Edward Bertram Johnston.

I have Mr. Wauhup's assurance that, if elected, he is prepared to act.

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West): I second the nomination of Mr. William Wauhup.

**MR. WATTS (M.L.A., Katanning):** I propose—

That Mr. Charles George Latham, farmer, of Narembreen, be elected to fill the vacancy in the Federal Senate due to the death of Senator Edward Bertram Johnston.

I have Mr. Latham's assurance that, if elected, he is prepared to act.

**MR. McDONALD (M.L.A., West Perth):** I second the nomination of Mr. Charles George Latham.

**The PRESIDENT:** I have received two nominations, and as there are no others, I declare nominations closed. The two nominations I have received are those of Mr. Wauhop and Mr. Latham. In order to lessen the possibility of error in voting I shall read from the Joint Standing Orders something regarding the way in which the vote is taken—

Each member present shall be provided with a ballot paper certified by the Clerks of the two Houses, and shall write thereon the name of one of the persons duly proposed, and shall place the paper in the ballot box.

Members will now proceed to vote.

The ballot having been completed by members present from both Houses,

**The PRESIDENT:** It is now necessary for me to appoint two scrutineers, one from the Legislative Council and one from the Legislative Assembly. I appoint the Hon. G. B. Wood to be scrutineer on behalf of the Legislative Council, and the member for Collie (Mr. Wilson), to act as scrutineer on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

The Scrutineers, together with the Clerks, tallied the votes and submitted the result of the ballot to the President.

**The PRESIDENT:** The result of the ballot is as follows:—

Mr. Wauhop .. .. .	26
Mr. Latham .. .. .	45

Mr. Latham, having received an absolute majority of the votes polled, I hereby declare Charles George Latham, farmer, of Naremben, elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of Western Australia in the Federal Senate. That concludes the business of the joint sitting.

*The President left the Chair at 2.54 p.m.*

## Legislative Council.

*Thursday, 8th October, 1942.*

Questions :	PAGE
Trams and trolleybuses, as to motormen and conductors .. .. .	719
Defence, as to Government employees .. .. .	719
Federal Senate, vacancy filled .. .. .	719

**The PRESIDENT** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS (2).

### TRAMS AND TROLLEYBUSES.

*As to Motormen and Conductors.*

**Hon. C. F. BAXTER** asked the Chief Secretary: 1, How many motormen and conductors have been transferred from the tramways and trolleybus services to other tramway activities? 2, How many have been transferred to office or administration positions? 3, How many females have replaced male members of the tram and 'bus crews?

**The CHIEF SECRETARY** replied: Since the 1st January, 1942—1, Eight; 2, Seven; 3, Fifty.

### DEFENCE.

*As to Government Employees.*

**Hon. H. SEDDON** asked the Chief Secretary: 1, What is the total number of persons employed in the State Government services and departments who have enlisted or have been called up for military service? 2, How many, in addition, have been engaged—(a) fully; or (b) on part time, in defence or Commonwealth work? 3, How many employees have been engaged on the work formerly carried on by those persons?

**The CHIEF SECRETARY** replied: 1, Seven hundred and seventy-three permanent officers employed under the Public Service Act have enlisted or have been called up for military service. 2, Twenty-one officers have been seconded for service to the Commonwealth Government, but in addition, a number of departments are undertaking defence and Commonwealth work as required, and the officers are engaged on full or part-time duty although their salaries are met by the State Government. 3, 457. So far as Government services and departments not under the Public Service Act are concerned, the total figures are not readily available.

*Sitting suspended during the joint sitting of both Houses to elect a Federal Senator (vide report ante) from 2.21 to 3.10 p.m.*

### FEDERAL SENATE—VACANCY FILLED.

**The PRESIDENT:** I have to report that at the joint sitting of members of the two Houses of Parliament this afternoon, the ballot to fill the vacancy in the representa-

tion of Western Australia in the Federal Senate resulted in the election of Charles George Latham, farmer, of Narembeen.

*House adjourned at 3.11 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

*Thursday, 8th October, 1942.*

	PAGE
Questions: Forests Department, cutting rights ....	720
Asiaties, as to influx and employment ....	720
Wheat acreage restriction, as to Agricultural Bank's claim ....	720
York electorate, seat declared vacant ....	720
Federal Senate, vacancy filled ....	722
Bills: Main Roads Act (Funds Appropriation), 1R. Public Authorities (Postponement of Elections), 3R. ....	721
Administration Act Amendment, 2R. ....	721
Colliery Recreation and Park Lands Act Amendment, 2R. ....	722
Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment, 2R., Com. ....	722

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (3).

#### FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

##### *Cutting Rights.*

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON asked the Minister for Forests: 1, Is he aware that the Parliamentary Draftsman advised that the provisions of the Forests Act, 1919, in Section 32, give discretionary powers to make available timber on the Crown lands within a radius of 15 miles of the metropolitan area to the saw-milling plants operating in the metropolitan area? 2, Did the answer to my question on the 17th September last on this subject correctly state the actual position? 3, Having discretionary powers under the Act, will he direct a more equitable distribution of available saw-milling timber by granting areas within the recognised carting distance of the metropolitan saw mills?

The MINISTER replied: 1, I was not aware of the advice. 2, Yes. 3, The distribution of sawmilling areas is governed by the working plan, which has received the approval of the Governor in Executive Council. The distribution is already equitable having regard to all the circumstances. The Act, Section 31, requires the policy of the Department to be set down 10 years in advance under working plans. When a working plan is approved, Section 31 (4), it cannot be altered except on the recommendation of the Conservator.

### ASIATICS.

#### *As to Influx and Employment.*

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Employment: 1, Has there been a large influx of Asiatics into Western Australia since Japan entered the war? 2, Is any protection given to Asiatics regarding wages and conditions of employment in this State?

The MINISTER replied: 1, No. The greater proportion of the coloured people who came to Western Australia as refugees and evacuees have since left the State on vessels proceeding overseas. 2, In any industry which is covered by an award or industrial agreement the wages and conditions would apply to any Asiatic employed therein. Where an industry is not covered by an award or industrial agreement the rate of wages for an Asiatic working in that industry would be protected by the National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulation 76 (15) (1) (b) which fixes the rate of wage that was being paid on the 10th day of February, 1942.

### WHEAT ACREAGE RESTRICTION.

#### *As to Agricultural Bank's Claim.*

Mr. DONEY asked the Minister for Lands: 1, In regard to the payment (stated by the Assistant Federal Minister to be 12s. per acre) of compensation to wheatgrowers for the area compulsorily excluded from production this year, is there any truth in the alleged intention of the Agricultural Bank to claim against that compensation to the extent of 6s. per acre in the case of properties whereon that institution has a cropping lease? 2, If this allegation is correct can he regard such a claim as fair to those clients of the bank who have, without additional outlay by the Government, ploughed and cultivated their normal area only to have one-third of that area remain unused?

The MINISTER replied: 1, No. Lessees of Agricultural Bank reverted holdings will be required to pay lease rent in accordance with the lease agreement unless such lease rent is varied for any reason by the Commissioners on the application of the lessee. 2, Answered by No. 1.

### YORK ELECTORATE.

#### *Seat Declared Vacant.*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a communication dated the 7th October, as follows:—

Dear Mr. Speaker,—I hereby tender my resignation as member for York in the Legis-