

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 31st July, 1923.

	PAGE
Questions: Migration and Settlement ...	14
Government Institutions, meat contracts—	
(1) Hospital for Insane, (2) Other institutions ...	14
Forests Department—(1) Wages, (2) Hewers, (3) Royal Commission's recommendations ...	14
State Hotels—(1) Price of rum, (2) Adulteration of liquor ...	14
Agricultural officers' transport ...	15
Ravensthorpe smelter, Privy Council decision ...	15
Fair rents legislation ...	15
Police recruits, quarters ...	15
Water supplies—(1) Metropolitan storage reservoirs, (2) Subsidiary weirs, (3) Kondinin district ...	15
Tuberculosis, Spahlinger treatment ...	16
Kondinin East, road facilities ...	16
Dwarda railway extension ...	16
Hospital accommodation, Busselton ...	16
Group settlement, costs ...	16
Temporary chairmen of committees ...	16
Bill: Supply, (No. 1) £1,790,000, all stages ...	16
Sitting days and hours ...	51
Government business, precedence ...	52
Committees for the Session ...	52

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

QUESTION—MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. MUNSIE asked the Premier: 1, What number of male migrants (nominated or assisted) arrived in Western Australia during the years 1920, 1921, and up to 30th June, 1922? 2, How many have remained in Western Australia for 12 months or more? 3, How many have been placed on holdings of their own?

The PREMIER replied: 1, 1920, 619; 1921, 1,821; 1922, to 30th June, 1,548. 2, It is not practicable to record movements of all arrivals, and the number, probably the great bulk, remaining cannot be accurately stated. 3, No record was kept of the birthplace of land selectors prior to immigration agreement, which covers migrants leaving Britain after 25th September, 1922.

QUESTIONS (2)—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, MEAT CONTRACTS.

Hospital for Insane.

Mr. MUNSIE asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Who are the contractors for the supply of meat to the Hospital for Insane, Claremont? 2, What percentage of the meat supplied during the past six months was frozen? 3, What percentage of the frozen meat, if any, was imported from the Eastern States?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Claremont Meat Company. 2, None. On two or three occasions chilled meat was supplied. 3, Cannot say.

Other Institutions.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, Is he aware that frozen meat is being substituted for fresh meat in supplies to Government institutions under the provisions of a contract that stipulates and pays for fresh meat? 2, Is he aware that, as late as Saturday week, some thousands of pounds of frozen meat were supplied to Government institutions under the fresh meat contract? 3, Will he take steps either by an inspection similar to that now operating over meat supplied to the Wooroloo Sanatorium, or some other equally effective method, to ensure that the State receives the article which the contractor is paid to supply.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1 and 2, No. 3, Answered by Nos. 1 and 2.

QUESTIONS (3)—FORESTS DEPARTMENT.

Wages.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Mines: 1, What rates are being paid by the Forests Department to axemen engaged in top clearing? 2, Was a reduction recently made in the wages of employees of the Forests Department? 3, If so, who authorised such reduction?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, 14s. per day, rising to £4 13s. per week; 15s. 6d. per day when the men have acquired the necessary special knowledge for the work. 2, Certain work at Mundaring Weir having been completed, the surplus men were paid off, but were offered top disposal work at the above rates. 3 Answered by 1 and 2.

Hewers.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Mines: Has any suggestion been made that sawmillers can get extended leases or more country from the Forests Department, provided they agree to the total abolition of hewers?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: No; not so far as I am aware.

Royal Commission's Recommendations.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Mines: 1, When is it proposed to carry into effect the recommendations of the Royal Commission on forestry dealing with (a) the appointment of an advisory board, and (b) the appointment of inspectors to overhaul machinery and plant in order to prevent accidents?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, (a) and (b). This matter is now under consideration.

QUESTIONS (2)—STATE HOTELS.

Price of Rum.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the wholesale price for rum per bottle purchased by the State

Hotels Department? 2, What is the retail price, by glass, secured over the counter for the same bottle?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, Price of rum per bottle ranges from 5s. 8d. to 10s. 4d. 2, 1s. per glass. A bottle contains from 15 to 20 glasses.

Adulteration of Liquor.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, At the recent departmental inquiry into adulteration of liquor at State hotels were the dismissed officers called on to give evidence? 2, If not, why not? 3, Is it his intention to lay on the Table the evidence and finding of the board of inquiry?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1, No. 2, Neither the Police Department nor the State hotels applied for them to be called, nor did any matter arise during the inquiry that in the opinion of the Public Service Commissioner made their evidence necessary, and they did not ask to be heard. 3, Not unless the papers are asked for in the usual way.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS' TRANSPORT.

Mr. O'LOGHLEN asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1, Is it a fact that the Department of Agriculture are buying motor cycles and side cars for their field officers? 2, Has the officer to pay interest and the whole of the purchase money no matter how unsuitable the vehicle? 3, Did some officers object to take machines, and were they thereupon threatened with dismissal? 4, How long has it been the policy of the department to compel employees to provide their own transport? 5, Do private employers impose this condition?

The MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE replied: 1, Yes, The wide range of field inspection requires modern and rapid means of travelling. 2, Yes; but no unsuitable machines are purchased. 3, Only one officer objected, and was informed that he must comply with departmental requirements. 4, Since 1st July officers have been required to provide their own vehicles, but the Department pay a mileage allowance sufficient to cover all running expenses, and to recomp the officer for the purchase price. In addition the Government have advanced the purchase money, and arranged for repayment on easy terms out of the mileage allowance. 5, Judging by advertisements, yes.

QUESTION—RAVENSTHORPE SMELTER.

Privy Council Decision.

Mr. CORBOY asked the Premier: 1, Has interest to be paid by the Government on the sum involved in the action of McNeil and Bernaldes v. the Crown? 2, If so, (a) what is the rate per cent.; (b) what is the total

interest to date; (c) what is the total interest since the Privy Council decision?

The PREMIER replied: The judgment ordered that an account be taken, and directed the Master to certify what is due from either of the parties to the other of them; and further consideration of the action was adjourned. Interest is not payable until judgment is entered for the amount certified to be due.

QUESTION—FAIR RENTS LEGISLATION.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN asked the Premier: Is it the intention of the Government to introduce this session a Bill providing for the fixing of fair rents in accordance with the request by motion previously carried by this Assembly?

The PREMIER replied: It has not been decided to introduce this Bill.

QUESTION—POLICE RECRUITS, QUARTERS.

Capt. CARTER asked the Minister for Mines: 1, What is the percentage of men serving as recruits to the police force that have been granted sick leave during their tenancy of the quarters provided for them at Roe-street? 2, Will he cause an inspection to be made of these premises which are situated in a loft above the stable, and if found to be unsatisfactory, cause other accommodation to be provided?

The MINISTER FOR MINES replied: 1, It is assumed the hon. member refers to the instructional schoolroom for recruits and not to the police barracks. So far as the 32 recruits taken in on June of last year are concerned, seven were affected with various illnesses during their probationary period, as follows:—1 tonsillitis, 1 cold, 2 influenza, 1 lumbago, 2 gastritis, and 1 abscess. 2, Representations have already been made regarding the necessity for more suitable accommodation.

QUESTIONS (3)—WATER SUPPLIES.

Metropolitan Storage Reservoirs.

Capt. CARTER asked the Minister for Works: 1, When will the works at Mt. Hawthorn and Mt. Eliza in connection with the creation of new reservoirs for the storage of water for the North Perth water supply be completed? 2, Is it estimated that the supply thus created will be sufficient to meet the demands next summer? 3, Will the Government consider the advisability of replacing with larger mains the old inadequate water mains which are now feeding the higher levels?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, (a) Mt. Hawthorn in December. (b) Mt. Eliza in January. 2, Yes. 3, Yes.

Subsidiary Weirs.

Mr. MANN (for Mr. J. MacCallum Smith) asked the Premier: 1, Is there any agreement in existence between the Government and the owner of the land below the Mundaring weir for permission to erect other weirs? 2, If so, will the Minister inform the House what are the conditions of such agreement? 3, Why have these weirs not been erected when Perth is so badly in need of an up-to-date and efficient water supply?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Careful search has been made, and no trace of any such agreement has been found. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, All engineering advice at the disposal of the Government has been against the erection of weirs as suggested, and a better proposal has been adopted.

Kondinin District.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Minister for Works: Has anything been done in the matter of providing a permanent water supply for the Kondinin district?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: Inquiries were made some time ago. The engineer in charge of this work is reviewing the various proposals for water supplies in agricultural districts, and this report will be shortly completed.

QUESTION—TUBERCULOSIS.

Spahlinger Treatment.

Mr. McCALLUM asked the Premier: 1, Have the Government taken any action to secure for local use Spahlinger's treatment for consumption? 2, If so, what stage have the negotiations reached? 3, Have the Government any advice as to whether the Commonwealth Government have endeavoured to secure the serum? 4, If so, will he inform the House what success has attended that Government's efforts?

The PREMIER replied: 1 and 2, No. 3, The Federal Government have taken the matter up. 4, I will inquire from the Prime Minister as to the position.

QUESTION—KONDISIN EAST, ROAD FACILITIES.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Minister for Works: 1, Is he aware there is a large area 20 miles east of Kondinin under crop this year? 2, If so, will he take steps to have a road cleared to enable the people concerned to get their produce to the railway?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2, Instructions have been recently given to an officer now in the district to inspect the feeder road which has already been cleared to a point 26 miles east of Kondinin, and to report on same.

QUESTION—DWARDA RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Mr. HICKMOTT asked the Premier: 1, Is it his intention to introduce during the present session a Bill to authorise the extension of the Dwarda line northwards up the Hotham Valley, as recommended by the Railway Advisory Board? 2, If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Because, subject to any deviation authorised by Parliament, it is intended to construct the Narrogin-Dwarda line.

QUESTION—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, BUSSELTON.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Colonial Secretary: In view of the defeat of the Hospitals Bill, what steps does he intend to take in order to provide the accommodation urgently required at the Busselton hospital, consequent upon the increased population due to group settlement?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: Such steps as may be necessary.

QUESTION—GROUP SETTLEMENT, COSTS.

Mr. PICKERING asked the Premier: 1, Can he state what has been the average cost of clearing individual blocks under group settlement? 2, What is the system of allocating costs under group settlement development?

The PREMIER replied: 1, It is not possible to state average cost, as the work is in varying stages of progress. 2, Papers setting out method of allocation will be laid on the Table of the House.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. SPEAKER: I desire to inform the House that I have appointed as temporary Chairmen of Committees the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) and the member for Hanuans (Mr. Munsie).

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £1,790,600.

Standing Orders Suspension.

The PREMIER and TREASURER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.55]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the

business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

Message.

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation in connection with the Bill.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into Committee of Supply, Mr. Angelo in the Chair,

The PREMIER and TREASURER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [4.58]: I move—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the service of the year ending the 30th June, 1924, a sum not exceeding £1,790,600.

Hon. members know that it is usual to ask for supply in the initial stage of the session. They know also that it is usual to ask for supply on the basis of the previous year's expenditure. I hope to bring down the Budget as soon as the Address-in-reply debate has been concluded, so that in a very short time we shall be able to discuss the whole question of finance with the statements and information which hon. members require before them. This motion asks for the usual authority, and is intended to cover two months' expenditure based on the expenditure for the corresponding two months of the last financial year. The actual results of that year are, of course, fresh in the minds of hon. members. We anticipated a deficit of £389,690, and the actual result was a deficit of £495,351, or some £15,000 in excess of my estimate. I expected to receive from licenses registration £116,000, whereas the revenue from that source amounted to only £54,654. Hon. members will recollect that the Licensing Bill passed through this House in an altered form and the result was a considerably reduced revenue.

Hon. P. Collier: That was for the half-year.

The PREMIER: It was intended to cover the whole year. However, my expectations were not realised and there was a shortage in this respect of £61,000. Then the Hospitals Bill failed to become law and, as a result of that, no less an expenditure than £53,000 had to be met. These two items give us a total of £114,000. Had I obtained the benefit that I expected under these heads, the deficit would have been £100,000 below my estimate. The total revenue was £52,850 short of the estimate and the expenditure was £37,103 below the estimate, but compared with last year there was an improvement of £326,784. I hope that will be considered satisfactory progress. The revenue was £300,385 greater than that of the previous year, and the ex-

penditure was £26,399 less. On the governmental side, the position improved by £244,063 and public utilities by £237,761. I wish to call attention to the fact that the public utilities are largely responsible for the improvement in the position. I have pointed out time and again that the public utilities were in the main responsible for the deficit, and I can only express the hope now that the improvement shown in the past year will be maintained. With the enormous amount of money which is invested in these concerns, it is important that they should earn interest and sinking fund. We know, however, that that has been impossible since 1914. But with increased activity and increased production, the result during the past year must be regarded as gratifying. I do not know that I need say very much about the railways because the subject will be discussed fully in a few weeks' time. I thought, however, that hon. members would be glad to be told that the railways and other public utilities had done much better last year than in the previous year. Last year we paid £138,148 towards the sinking fund more than in the previous year. All things taken into consideration, and remembering too that a great portion of the deficit is actually cash paid to the trustees of our sinking fund in London, I think that we can congratulate ourselves that there has been some improvement in the position due to the increase in our trade. After all, we may collect money by way of taxation, but the greater part of revenue comes from trade, and in the richer States trade is so great that revenue comes to the Treasury without much effort. The improvement in this State is reflected in the earnings from invested money.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [5.7]: It is rather disconcerting to members to have to begin the session with their execution placarded on the wall right opposite this side of the House. I rather think we might have made it 50-50 and placed one map on this side of the House to face members on the Ministerial benches. We are asked to discuss the important matter of granting Supply to the Government for one-fifth of the year when the minds of most hon. members are far removed from deficits and financial difficulties, due to the position which has just been revealed to us by the maps on the walls. However, there are one or two questions about which members might well ask Ministers for an explanation before agreeing to the Supply which is sought. I do not propose at this stage to make any observations regarding the finances because I intend to reserve what I have to say in that respect until the debate is resumed on the Address-in-reply. I should, however, like to ask the Premier what provision he proposes to make, from the amount of money he is asking Parliament to grant, to relieve the unemployed situation as it exists in the State at the present time. I have no desire whatever to exaggerate or to give undue prominence to the

fact that we have a considerable number of men out of employment at the present time in various parts of the State, but nevertheless it is essential in the interests of the State, apart altogether from the welfare of those who are more intimately concerned, that we should know what the Government proposes to do in the immediate future with regard to the number of men, and women too, who unfortunately find themselves out of work at the present time. I know it will be claimed that the number is not nearly so great as is contended in some quarters. It will also be asserted that the unemployment in the city is largely due to the fact that a considerable number of men migrate from the country districts to the city. But the fact stands that there are many men out of work practically throughout the whole of the country districts.

The Premier: I would like to know where.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I will be able to give the Premier one or two instances, and authentic instances at that. I am not going to deal with unemployment on the goldfields, but I could say with absolute truth that in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder districts alone there are several hundred men who find themselves out of work. I am aware of the difficulty in providing work in that part of the State; in fact it is an impossibility. If men there desire work they must move to other parts of the State, but if we find that the labour market is congested in practically every other part of the State, the prospects of those who are on the goldfields are pretty dismal indeed. There are numbers of men out of work in many of the agricultural centres. The Premier asked for proof. I have here a list of the names of 63 men who are out of work at Merredin. As a proof of the bona-fides of these people, the names are attested by reputable residents of the town of Merredin. I have no objection to hon. members seeing this list. If we find that as many as 63 men are out of work at Merredin, we may well assume that other important agricultural towns have a similar proportion of unemployed.

Mr. Harrison: What is the date of that list?

Hon. P. COLLIER: The 26th of the present month. This is how the statement reads:

We desire to draw your attention to the fact that at present we are unemployed in Merredin and we strongly object to the Government sending men from Perth while we, the residents of the district, are without means of sustenance.

They point out that, although railway construction is going on in the Merredin district—they refer to the Merredin-Narembeen railway—they are unable to find work because all the men employed on that construction work have been sent from Perth. If men in the country districts and in the immediate vicinity of railway construction works are unable to obtain employment, simply because those engaged on such works are sent from Perth, then one cannot be surprised

if there is a tendency on the part of those who are out of employment in the country to make their way into the capital city. It is the only way apparently by which they can obtain employment.

The Premier: Oh no, no!

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Premier has a habit of saying "Oh no, no!" but we know perfectly well that men for different works in the country are engaged from the Labour Bureau or from among the ranks of the unemployed in the city. That is a fact, and if the Premier is not aware of it he has not been advised by the officers responsible for engaging those men.

Mr. Harrison: Do you mind my seeing that list?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Certainly not. I have no reason whatever to believe that it is not correct. The names are all attested by local people of repute. Apart from those out of work in the country, we have a number suffering acute distress in the metropolitan area. I do not believe that the number of men who attend at the Labour Bureau daily nearly represents the full number of those out of work. Very many do not go to the Labour Bureau or take part in demonstrations. They desire rather to hide the fact that they are out of work. Further, I have passed by the bureau on many days and seen the men waiting there for employment. From long experience I can say I have never seen a body of men who appeared to be more genuine in their requirements, or of better class. They are composed largely of young men, many of them fairly well brought up and educated. One glance at them would convince anybody that they are not of the class unemployable. Unfortunately in capital cities there is always a percentage of such men, but the term does not apply to those out of work in Perth at present. The distress consequent upon unemployment is not observable on the surface. In addition to the men to be seen at the Labour Bureau, many hundreds of girls, women and youths resident in the metropolitan area are out of work, and have been so for many months. Were it not for the fact that a number of those young people, from 16 years of age upwards, are fortunate enough to have parents able to keep them, the position would be very difficult indeed for them. As it is, they do not parade their unemployment, for the reason that they are not actually suffering distress. However, that is the situation, and it is incumbent on the Government to take immediate steps to relieve it. We have a number of migrants in town, several scores of them, unable to obtain work. I do not altogether blame the immigration policy for unemployment; but there is something radically wrong with the administration of that policy when we find it recorded in the papers week after week that considerable numbers of migrants are steadily arriving in shiploads, and at the same time we have in our midst hundreds of men unable to find work. If we declare to the world, as we have done, that the State is able to absorb 75,000 migrants per annum—

The Premier: I think you ought to make that 25,000.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Yes, I am sorry, 25,000 is what I meant to say. Clearly there is something wrong in the administration. Either the Government have not yet got the scheme into working order, are not prepared with an organised method of absorbing the new arrivals, or there is something else radically wrong. There are due to arrive this week 500 migrants from the Old Country. Where are we to find work for them, if we cannot find it for hundreds already in the State? I noticed in the newspaper that the Premier of Victoria said that irreparable harm was being done to the policy of immigration by the stories that drifted to the Old Country of the dissatisfaction of those who had come to Australia. The true friends of a sound policy of immigration are those who endeavour to obviate the situation that, unfortunately, exists to-day. It is inevitable that those men who find themselves drifting about the country, unable to obtain work, will acquaint their friends in the Old Country of the position, will make known in the Old Country their situation in the new. That of itself will do great harm to the policy of immigration. I hope that before Supply is passed the Premier will be able to give us some information as to what he proposes to do in the matter. When a shipload of migrants arrive, they are taken to the Immigrants' Home, and the responsibility of finding employment for them is placed on the shoulders of a body of private citizens who voluntarily undertake the task and who have done splendid service.

The Premier: Why should they not do so?

Hon. P. COLLIER: Do the Government consider their duty discharged when they stand on one side and leave it to the New Settlers League to obtain employment by "drives" through the country, begging farmers—for that is what it amounts to—to find employment for the newcomers while there are already thousands of unemployed in the districts visited by the New Settlers League?

The Premier: No, no!

Hon. P. COLLIER: But there are. In many instances farmers have been induced to find employment for the newcomers by putting off those already employed.

The Premier: I should like to know even one instance.

Hon. P. COLLIER: This is how the policy works out: When the New Settlers' League find employment for those men, and the men prove unsuitable and are dismissed after a few weeks, neither the league nor the Government accept any further responsibility for them. The Government, having brought them here and found work for them, no matter how unsuitable they may be for that work, accept no further responsibility, and so the obligation is upon the newcomers to drift around the country and find work in other avenues for themselves. Surely the Premier will not contend that it is sound to decline all responsibility in respect of finding further work for those people? When once the newcomers have

been placed in employment, the Government's responsibility ends.

The Premier: No, no!

Hon. P. COLLIER: But that is how it is working out.

The Premier: No, no!

Hon. P. COLLIER: There can be no question about it. Those men, unable to find work in the country, come back to town and wait upon the New Settlers League, who say, "We cannot find any more work for you." Besides, in the discharge of their self-imposed obligations, the New Settlers' League always have their eyes on the Immigrants' Home with a view to placing newcomers as they arrive.

The Premier: They must have some organisation.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Their organisation consists in arranging "drives" through the country, calling on farmers and placing with them new arrivals, very often by the expedient of displacing others already in employment. This is the existing position: If the whole policy of immigration is not to receive a severe setback, it will be necessary for the Government to take active steps to relieve the unemployment situation. I hope the Premier will be able to give to the House an assurance that the situation will be relieved immediately, and that we shall not have the spectacle of men tramping around the country, quite unable to find work.

The Premier: They do not tramp very far.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Again, the policy is operating in the direction of reducing the wage standard of the workers in this State.

The Premier: No, it is very much higher than it was a few years ago.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It needs to be. The Premier's deficit is very much higher than it was a few years ago.

The Premier: No fear! It is very much less.

Hon. P. COLLIER: In any case, the cost of living has gone up a great deal. I understand the Government are making available some of the money voted by the Commonwealth Government for the construction of roads in country districts.

The Premier: Yes.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I know one district in which it has been utilised to reduce the wage standard of the town. I will give the instance: The Government, I understand, have advanced money to the Armadale Road Board for the purpose of the main road in that district. The secretary of the road board attended at the Labour Bureau to select men for the work, and the wage he offered was 1s. 4d. per day less than the ruling standard rate, 1s. 4d. per day less than the Minister for Works and the Government have been paying for two years past and are still paying. I have here the agreement signed between the Minister for Works and a union as to the rate of wage for all railway and road construction, both in the metropolitan area and in country districts. That rate provides

for 1s. 4d. per day more than is being paid on the work now being carried out on the Armadale road.

The Premier: That agreement was drawn up in accordance with the railway award.

Hon. P. COLLIER: It covers all road construction as well. It covers the rate of wages that has been claimed in the Arbitration Court during the past month or so, and of course the Government are bound by that rate of wage until the award of the court is delivered. If that award should have the effect of reducing the rate of wages set out in this agreement, the union, of course, will honourably observe the award; but until the award is delivered, no public funds should be available to enable road boards to obtain labour at a rate lower than the rate ruling in the district. If the Government were to carry out this work on the Armadale-road they would have to pay the rate set out in the agreement; but by making the advance to the road board, the Government enable that board to get the work carried out at 1s. 4d. per day less than the rate provided for in this agreement. It is not fair that any public body or semi-public body should take advantage of men's necessities in order to obtain their labour at a wage below the ruling rate. The result was that the unemployed in the city did not take this work, and they did quite right in not taking it; but the secretary of the road board, or those associated with him, obtained men in and around the district—somewhere between Kelmscott and Armadale—that were residents and small landholders and were not unemployed at all. These people were obtained to do the work, and so the work is being carried out at the reduced rate of pay, but this has not had the effect of relieving the unemployed market at all. If migration is going to have the effect of throwing men on to the labour market, thus tending to destroy the wage standards that have been built up in this State for many years, then we must expect very strong and serious hostility to be raised against the whole policy and principle. I do not know whether this sort of thing has occurred in other districts as well, but it certainly has occurred in the Armadale district. I hope the Premier will give an assurance that he will not be a party to advancing Government funds to any local body for the purpose of permitting such body to bring about a reduction of wages.

The Premier: We have nothing to do with the wages paid by the board.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I am aware of that, but I do say that the Government are finding money to enable the road board to carry out this work and that they are carrying it out in the manner I have described.

The Minister for Works: We adhere to that wages agreement in regard to all Government work.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I have not accused the Minister of not adhering to it; he cannot get away from it. There is his signature. At the same time, I do not suggest that he

has any desire to depart from it. The position is that instead of the Government doing this work at standard rates, this local body is getting the work done at rates below the standard. I hope the Premier will take immediate steps to find work for all in need of it, not only for those men resident in the town, but also for those in the country.

Mr. PICKERING (Sussex) [5.33]: Regarding one of the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition, it is not correct to say that, when migrants return to the New Settlers' League after having been once placed in a situation by that organisation, that is the end of the association between the migrants and the league. Had I known that the Leader of the Opposition was going to make such a statement, I could have produced the exact figures showing the number of migrants who had been placed in employment a second time. I can certainly say that there are some who have been placed up to four and even five times, and on each occasion when they have returned to the league, they have received all possible consideration and advice. It is not true to say that the league have allowed them to go their own way after having found them one situation.

Mr. Marshall: The league turned off one man who was efficient.

Mr. PICKERING: We are dealing with the bulk and not with individuals. This appeals to me as being a political dodge. Members should be honest about this matter. Since the House went into recess, it has been my privilege to be a member of the New Settlers' League, and I can vouch for the great work the organisation has done in the interests of the State.

Hon. P. Collier: No one denies that.

Mr. PICKERING: But the Leader of the Opposition said that these men, after having received one situation, had to look after themselves. I could obtain figures to show that some of them have been placed in employment no fewer than five times.

Hon. P. Collier: I am well aware of that, but the principal obligation ends after the first appointment.

Mr. PICKERING: No, it does not. Apart from the New Settlers' League, the State owes a big debt to the farming community of Western Australia for having absorbed the new arrivals. The farming community have done yeoman service to the State by absorbing the new arrivals as they came forward.

Mr. Hughes: By getting them to work for 25 "bob" when Australians were getting £2 10s. a week.

Mr. PICKERING: Such Australians would be men experienced in farming. Is it contended that the farming community should carry the whole burden of the immigration policy or the whole of the cost of educating these new arrivals? These people come here without experience and do not know how to use farm implements, and surely the farmers should not be expected to stand the whole of the expense of financing this policy. The

new arrival is well paid for the work he does in the early stages of his employment.

Mr. Willecock: Do you say he is fairly paid?

Mr. PICKERING: Yes, in the early stages of his employment he is well paid, and as he becomes competent, his wages are increased. It is very easy for members to make these statements, but it cannot be proved that they are founded on facts.

Mr. Marshall: I can mention one case—

Mr. PICKERING: I am not dealing with individuals; I am dealing with the bulk. The New Settlers' League are doing their best to place the migrants and they are doing their work very effectively indeed. It is only at this late stage that the Trades Hall authorities have adopted an attitude of solicitude for the welfare of the migrants. The reason is very evident. Without doubt the Trades Hall attitude will be inimical to the immigration policy of this State.

Mr. Hughes: If we did not do something, a majority of them would soon be unemployed.

Mr. PICKERING: So far there has been very little unemployment and I trust that the works already in hand, together with those about to be put in hand, will continue to absorb those men who are out of work.

Hon. P. Collier: In your district they are all on Government pay.

Mr. PICKERING: Why should not my district have a full share of Government expenditure? I shall at all times do my best to see that it gets a fair share. The Premier's announcement of the deficit has come as a big surprise to all of us. Instead of its being in the neighbourhood of £400,000, we all expected that it would approach the amount of last year's deficit. It is only fair to the Premier to say that we were pleasantly surprised at the excellent result he has achieved. It has been said that the deficit on this month's operations will probably be considerable, but that has been so in past years, and it will be a matter for surprise if it is not so this year. With a sound financial policy during the present year, I believe we shall be able to bring about a very substantial reduction as compared with last year's deficit.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [5.40]: I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition what has been done to cope with the unemployment, which is inseparable from this season of the year. I have told the public, and I told the House months ago, that the Government would reserve as much as possible of their loan works for this period of the year. We have to remember that our shipping business is practically at a standstill. At times 1,100 men find employment on the wharf, but at present not more than 200 are required. We have to remember, too, that a considerable number of people find employment in moving ships' cargo and storing it, and when the shipping business is slack, quite a large number of workers are necessarily rendered idle. Trade generally is affected also and a large number of

men are consequently thrown out of work. I do not know that we ever had less unemployment at this season of the year than we have at present, but I do know that on Government works in the metropolitan area—and every one is a necessary work—employment has been found for a great many men.

Mr. Hughes: How many?

The PREMIER: I shall tell the hon. member. When I returned from the Premiers' conference, I was asked to provide work for 400 unemployed. I have provided work for 1,640.

Mr. Munsie: And put about 300 off other jobs.

The PREMIER: I wish the hon. member would permit me to state the facts in my own way. The hon. member had a fair fling yesterday when he dealt with the sugar question.

Mr. Munsie: I have here a book bearing your signature. You said that sugar could be purchased in 1919 at 3d. per lb., and we know it could not.

Hon. P. Collier: They must have forged the Premier's signature that time.

The PREMIER: I have been credited with having said things I never did say. If we had had to find work for only those men whose homes are in the metropolitan area, there would not be a man out of a job to-day.

Mr. Hughes: That is not true.

The PREMIER: It is a criminal thing to encourage men to come from the country to the city and take the bread out of the mouths of those men who have their homes established in the city.

Mr. Lutey: Who is doing that?

The PREMIER: The men living in the metropolitan area are entitled to the work offering in the metropolitan area. Representatives of the unions saw me and I warned them against encouraging men to come to the city from the country. Of course, Perth is an attractive place. If the member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe (Mr. Lutey) were young—perhaps I should apologise to the hon. member for suggesting he is otherwise—he would want to come to Perth.

Mr. Hughes: What! Come to Perth to starve?

The PREMIER: The member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) is a migrant and has not starved here; in fact, this country has been good to him.

Mr. Hughes: I came from the goldfields.

Mr. McCallum: By the way, did not you come from the country to the city?

The PREMIER: Yes.

Mr. McCallum: Then what are you growling about?

The PREMIER: I am not growling. I welcome you all.

Mr. Hughes: You got in early and took the cream before we could get here.

The PREMIER: As a West Australian I never had a chance to pull the door behind me. I welcome everyone who comes to Western Australia. I know I have made mistakes in welcoming some, but I have always said—"Let them all come." Every member on

the Opposition side, without exception, has come to this country.

Mr. Lutey: But a long time ago.

The PREMIER: Some have rendered excellent service; some are doing excellent work to-day.

Mr. McCallum: You were pretty dead until we came into the country.

The PREMIER: We would be dead now—

Mr. McCallum: If it had not been for us.

The PREMIER: No, if it had not been for the exertions of some people to make us prosperous.

Mr. Hughes: There is more energy available if you can use it.

The PREMIER: Some men have rendered excellent service to this State but, as to others, I am praying to God to learn why they ever came here. It is wrong to bring these people into Perth. I do not say the Trades Hall has brought them, but they have been encouraged to come to the city.

Mr. Munsie: By whom?

The PREMIER: The hon. member is very impatient.

Mr. Munsie: Why keep on referring to the Trades Hall? Why not say what you mean? Who has encouraged them to come to Perth? We have done more to keep them out of Perth than you have; to keep them in the country and find work for them there.

The PREMIER: If the hon. member had remained quiet I would have told him that they have been encouraged to come to Perth by the published statement that there was work to be done here.

Mr. Munsie: That is your fault. You published it. Why blame us?

The PREMIER: I plead guilty to all the hon. member charges me with. That is so much more simple than arguing the question. I know there is work for men in Perth. Some of the men, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, are a very fine and respectable body. I meet them in my walks in the morning, and have talked with many of them in King's Park. Unfortunately, we shall not be starting the work in King's Park until later in the week, but I have discussed things with the men. Some men have complained that those who have come from the country have not been able to get work. It would be so different if there was not enough work in the country, but there is plenty of work there. I hardly think the Leader of the Opposition has been credibly informed regarding the number of unemployed. I believe Mr. Clementson stated we said we would take 400 men, but that we did not do so. We did take the 400 men and far more. On new public works 609 men have been engaged, on water supply work 460 men, on the railways 513, on the tramways 60 men, and in private engagements 524 men. That is a considerable number, far greater than the number of men who can be out of work in the metropolitan area. The building trade is active. I am informed if there were 100 more bricklayers they could find employment, and these would create employment for many other people.

Mr. Munsie: It is not so active as it was six months ago.

The PREMIER: The tradesmen cannot be obtained.

Mr. Davies: The brickyards are just as active.

The PREMIER: The building trade has never been more active. The Leader of the Opposition said something about boys and girls being unable to get employment. There is work for the girls to do, for people are very short of domestic help. The wife of every working man needs help occasionally.

Mr. Munsie: The wife of the average working man cannot afford it.

The PREMIER: I do not think any girl is completely out of work. I have been asked to deal with the men and I have done so. For the relaying of rails on the railways 40 men are wanted, the Public Works Department want 50 additional men within the next two weeks, and the Water Supply Department want 100 men, particularly at King's Park.

Hon. P. Collier: Where is the relaying?

The PREMIER: On the Denmark line. The Hadfield Steelworks are starting, and will want a few men for permanent employment at West Guildford. I believe the Cement Works are taking on 70 men.

Mr. Heron: They will not take as many as that.

The PREMIER: There are, therefore, about 210 men already required for Government departments within a few days, and some 75 required by the other two works I have mentioned. To-day there are applications for work in Perth from 217 men, and 68 for work at Fremantle.

Mr. McCallum: That is a long way out. Quote the month's figures.

The PREMIER: One cannot do that. Those are the men who applied this morning.

Mr. McCallum: You mean they called this morning, and that if they do not call every morning they are supposed to have work?

The PREMIER: I assume the men who want work call to ask for it.

Mr. McCallum: You have no right to assume that. They are to waste their time calling at the bureau. You would call them loafers if they did that. I will give you some figures.

The PREMIER: The hon. member can quote any figures he likes. He can say that 680 men are looking for work, and I will not interrupt him either.

Mr. McCallum: I will tell you the truth.

The PREMIER: I suppose some of the men who are out of work do not want it. We had an unemployed demonstration at Parliament House last week. They held a meeting on the following day, and a deputation waited on me. The men talked to me quite frankly and told me their position. One man said—he was a decent, respectable, intelligent chap—"I am a bachelor. I am not looking for work. I have saved some money and I am studying social questions."

Hon. P. Collier: During the slack winter months, I suppose.

The PREMIER: He said "I am not short of a shilling or two." He is therefore a free man and is entitled to come to Perth.

Mr. Willcock: I suppose he did not want to put another man out of a job, if the truth were known.

The PREMIER: He said, "When I want work I will look around and select one of the jobs that is offering." I said, "Were you at the demonstration at Parliament House?" and he replied that he was. I then said, "Were you at the unemployed meeting this morning?" and he said "Yes. I have come to you to see what I can do for the unemployed."

Mr. Hughes: What did Francis, who had his furniture sold, tell you?

The PREMIER: If the hon. member would stop his chatter, I would tell him.

The Chairman: Order! The hon. member will have an opportunity of speaking later.

The PREMIER: I will tell the Committee about Francis. I should like to know what the hon. member did for him. Francis is a cripple. He suffers from disabilities that make it impossible for him to do anything but light work. Did the hon. member try to get him a light job? He knew him, and I did not.

Mr. Hughes: The Premier does not know of a job in town.

Mr. Marshall: What about ours; that is a light job.

Mr. McCallum: Whose function is it to provide work?

The PREMIER: He was at the demonstration. He told me that his furniture had been seized for rent, and asked if we would endeavour to get him a job. I said I would endeavour to do so.

Mr. Hughes: He has not got a job yet.

The PREMIER: The hon. member know him before his furniture was sold.

Mr. Hughes: Nothing of the sort. Do not make any more misstatements.

The PREMIER: I apologise; the hon. member did not know. He seemed however to have known all about the man, and has just as much time as I have to look round for the unemployed.

Mr. Hughes: There is no job in the town for him.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition said something about the work of the New Settlers' League. We all know how lonely a newcomer to this State must be, feeling as he must do that he is a stranger in a strange land. It is a good thing to have someone to take him by the hand when he arrives.

Hon. P. Collier: I am not complaining about that.

The PREMIER: I know. The New Settlers' League furnish an excellent means of welcoming the newcomer.

Hon. P. Collier: They are doing excellent work. I have never said otherwise.

The PREMIER: I thought the hon. member said the Government ought to do this work.

Hon. P. Collier: I say that if the League fail the obligation is upon the Government to find work for the newcomers.

The PREMIER: The hon. member also said we could not have a migration policy without first organising the work for the people. We have organised the work. During the year just concluded the Agricultural Bank authorisations totalled £1,077,000, and the authorisations outstanding amount to £1,505,000.

Mr. Willcock: At 7 per cent., but have they taken it all?

The PREMIER: That is the amount authorised. The sum of £874,000 has been drawn. A good deal of the money has been spent in the wheat belt. I have told the Committee that if the country has to face an active policy of migration there must be active development, particularly in the wheat belt. Profits can be made more quickly there, and there is the annual production which means employment for a lot of people. This year there should be 500,000 acres more under crop than there was last year. This will be a big thing for Fremantle, Bunbury, Geraldton, and Albany, and will mean a great deal of employment. The money has been well spent in clearing and improving the holdings. The Leader of the Opposition said we ought to have plans made for the absorption of people so that they will not interfere with the local labour market. Such plans have been laid, and well laid. The labour that is coming here is being absorbed. If it were not for the work done because of the migration policy we should be in a sad plight to-day. There is much work going on all over the State as a result of the policy of development. Railways are being built, roads constructed, drainage works put in hand, and buildings and houses generally are going up in almost every country town and on the farms. All that work is being done, and very largely being done by our own people. I confess that in the area of building, employment is not quite as plentiful as it was, possibly owing to the falling-off on the goldfields. The season has been against country work, particularly in the South-West. In the metropolitan area there has been more rain than the average, and the same remark applies to the wheat belt. The Leader of the Opposition said that on the goldfields some men were out of work. I hope they will come down, and we will endeavour to absorb them in the agricultural areas. In those areas work is waiting to be done, and it cannot be done because there are not the men to do it.

Mr. McCallum: Where is the work?

The PREMIER: From Geraldton to Albany, £750,000 worth.

Mr. McCallum: It is up in the skies, then; it has not come down to earth yet.

The PREMIER: Yes, it has.

Mr. McCallum: The men cannot find it. Where is it?

The PREMIER: I was going to say that no one but an idiot could expect me to give the name of each individual farmer offering

work. The Labour Bureau gets every week lists of farmers who have work to offer. Let us face the situation squarely. The work in the country is not being done because there are not men willing to do it. Recently one man wrote to me from Bruce Rock saying, "I can get 30s. for clearing, but as food is 75 per cent. dearer in Bruce Rock than in Perth, I cannot live on that rate of pay." I should say that food and house rent together are cheaper in Bruce Rock than in Perth.

Mr. Willcock: Well, they are not.

The PREMIER: I tell you it is so.

Mr. Willcock: "I have spoken." That is all that needs to be said about it.

The PREMIER: I know about Bruce Rock.

Mr. Willcock: I have been there this year, and I do not suppose the Premier has.

The PREMIER: The Leader of the Opposition read a petition from unemployed men at Merredin. My friend the member for York (Mr. Latham) tells me that those men have been absorbed on the line to Narroben. The men in question wrote to me, and I sent the letter on to the local officers. The Leader of the Opposition also said there were men out of work at Narrogin. I keep pretty closely on the track of the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes).

Mr. Hughes: There were 90 men out of work at Narrogin.

The PREMIER: Of course in every country town there are some men not working, simply because they have spent three or four months on a job and have come into the centres for a rest or to look for other employment. It was said there were 50 men out of work at Narrogin.

Mr. Hughes: Ninety, and your representative came down when they were all away repairing the washaway.

Mr. Munsie: They would have been out of work if your representative had been there four or five days later. It was an act of God that got you out of that trouble.

The PREMIER: Our representative found that there were 24 single men and six married men at that moment out of work at Narrogin. He was down there long after the washaway. The number is not an unusual one. Men are not slaves; they are not going to be chained in the bush; they will come into the centres for a rest, or to buy things that are necessary. I believe the member for East Perth, when he was at Narrogin, called a meeting of the unemployed.

Mr. Hughes: No. The meeting was held after I left.

The PREMIER: There were 15 men at one meeting, and an endeavour was made to obtain the attendance of another man, but he refused to come, saying, "I have been here 10 years and never wanted a job yet. I can get a job on a farm any time."

Mr. Hughes: An immigrant asked couldn't he get a "stiff" pass from town to town on the railway to look for work.

The PREMIER: The position at Narrogin is as I state, and I do not think it is possible to have every man in the country at work

in the country all the time. The man in the country must have the right to a little recreation.

Mr. Munsie: Where was all this work between Albany and Geraldton while those 20 men were out of work at Narrogin?

The PREMIER: I dare say those men have been absorbed since. I understand it is now impossible to get a man at Narrogin.

Mr. Munsie: There would have been more than those 15 unemployed you mentioned if it had not been for the Trades Hall, if we had not stopped them from coming here. We stopped them for you.

The PREMIER: I do not think there are men really out of work in the country districts. There are men not working, but they can get work. We have always had trouble at this season of the year. When my friend the member for North-East Fremantle (Hon. W. C. Angwin) was in office, the migrants introduced into this State were as follows:—1910-11, 7,744; 1911-12, 9,780; 1912-13, 7,265; 1913-14, 4,317; 1914-15, 4,323. During all those years there was some unemployment, but the migrants, of course, were absorbed. It is not possible always for men to get work just where they want it, but I do think it is right that they should have it as near to their homes as possible. I do not know about the wages offered by the Kelmseott road board. I understood that the award rate was 13s. 4d., and that the secretary of the road board offered 13s., and that the men were told not to go to work. I think the secretary might have been told what the award rate was.

Hon. P. Collier: The secretary declined to have anything to do with the union official or the union. He said he did not know and did not want to know the union official and would not discuss the matter with him. He also told the union official, in reply to a question, that the chairman of the road board would not see him.

The Minister for Works: Was it not a question of hours?

Hon. P. Collier: It was a question of wages. The hours did not enter into it.

The PREMIER: I was told about the position by a member of the unemployed deputation. I do not know that £4 a week is the wage in that area, but I think the secretary should have been told that what he offered was 4d. per day too little.

Hon. P. Collier: He positively refused to discuss the matter with the man who gave him the information.

The PREMIER: That is not right.

Hon. P. Collier: He went out and engaged residents, small holders.

The PREMIER: In my opinion the secretary had no right to refuse to discuss the matter with a view to arriving at some arrangement. The wages paid by the Government are wages which were fixed under a railway award. As hon. members know, the Government adopted that award and applied it to all the men in the Government service, which was a perfectly reasonable thing to do. When the revised award came into opera-

tion, however, the men who previously had their wages raised retrospectively by the railways award, were not reduced; and they cannot be reduced until the Arbitration Court deals with the question. As a matter of fact, men working for the Public Works Department on railway construction are drawing higher wages than men doing similar work in the same district for the Railway Department.

Mr. Willcock: The one class of work is casual, and the other permanent.

The PREMIER: I do not know that I need say any more. There is work that needs to be done in the country. There is some more work that we have to do in Perth, and I shall authorise the expenditure of the money for that work so soon as I am satisfied that the men who are to get the work will be residents of this area. There is work in the country for the men who are there, and I think it is a pity that they should come here to take this work from our own people. From the large number of men whom we have employed, it will be seen that the jobs within 20 miles of Perth are likely to cut out much sooner—by reason of the numbers of men employed on them. However, I doubt if, when the works I have mentioned are started, there will be many men in the metropolitan area genuinely out of work. I will see that there is work somewhere for everybody. I will not say that I am going to take a man to his work. Nobody could expect the Government to do that. Work has to be looked for. There is work in the country that needs to be done, and work that I hope will be done because it represents the only means of getting wealth year by year and so providing constant employment.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MUNSIE (Hannans) [7.30]: The Leader of the Opposition, when discussing the question of granting Supply, asked the Premier to give the Committee some information. During the course of the hon. member's remarks, he mentioned that certain things had happened regarding the replacing of people who were already in work, by migrants. The Premier interjected, "Give us a specific case." The Leader of the Opposition replied that there were plenty of instances, but he was speaking generally. Evidently the Premier wanted some specific instances mentioned. I do not think that anyone will dispute the fact that when the Premier rose to reply, he merely spoke in generalities himself. If there is any reply to the request for information made by the Leader of the Opposition, hon. members will admit that we are just as far off having that information, as we were before the Premier rose to speak. The Premier made his usual statements that there is plenty of work in the country and that there should be no unemployment. I will ask the Premier one direct question. Recently there was a considerable amount of rain along the Great Southern Railway

with the result that there were many washaways. Did the Premier have to send any men from the metropolitan area to carry out the special work caused by those washaways?

The Premier: I do not know.

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not think a single man was sent from the metropolitan area. I admit that a crane and a relief gang were sent from Midland Junction in order to replace an engine on the line.

The Minister for Works: These washaways you refer to were in connection with the railway system?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes. No man was sent from the metropolitan area to carry out the work I have referred to. At that time, there were four gangs picked up between Wagin and Albany, inside 12 hours' notice. Two gangs comprised 25 men each; one gang contained 38 men, and the other gang 40 men. Where did those men come from? Did they leave employment to get work in connection with the washaways?

The Premier: They probably went from Perth.

Mr. MUNSIE: Not one of those men went from Perth. They were all picked up between Wagin and Albany and were all unemployed until they got the job in connection with the washaways. Yet the Premier says there is no unemployment in the country! He makes that statement, and yet within 12 hours gangers on the different sections of the railway line were able to pick up nearly 100 men between Wagin and Albany! The Premier is always asking people why they do not go to the country. In view of what I have mentioned, I want the Premier to tell the Committee where all these men came from and what they were doing.

Mr. Lutey: What are those men doing now?

Mr. MUNSIE: The men are unemployed still. I want to be fair and I admit that 40 men, who were picked up in Albany, were usually employed on the wharves. As there had been no boat calling at that port for a long time, the men I refer to were practically unemployed. As a matter of fact, I had the experience, not altogether unpleasant, of being marooned at Tambellup for a few days. Because of that fact, I know all about these gangs, and the men who are working there. I got into touch with the different gangers, because we wanted to get away from Tambellup as soon as possible. I also got in touch with the Commissioner of Railways to see if we could not get away a little earlier. It will be readily understood that what I have stated is not hearsay, but is based on facts. These men were unemployed and were waiting for a job to turn up. The Premier, again speaking in generalities, said it was a crying shame that people should induce men to come from the country to the city to look for work. I am heartily in accord with the Premier in that view of the question. It certainly is a crying shame to induce the men to come to the city seeing that there are already at least 400 or 500 persons who are

unemployed in the metropolitan area at the present moment. The point I want to make is that the only inference to be drawn from the Premier's general statement is that the officials of the Trades Hall are those who have been inducing men to come to the city for work. I point blank deny the truth of that suggestion. I asked the Premier to state frankly who was responsible. When cornered, the Premier said that the men were induced to come to the city because of the statements made concerning work that was to be provided. The Premier was responsible for those statements, and surely the Trades Hall is not to be held responsible for utterances of the Premier. The Premier issued the statements about the work which was being provided for the unemployed in the metropolitan area, and yet the inference to be drawn from his statement was as I have indicated. As a matter of fact, the officials of the Trades Hall have done as much as, if not more than, the Premier to prevent people from coming into the town. We do not desire to see any more unemployed here, for we have enough at present. I also want an explanation regarding the remark made by the Leader of the Opposition that the duty, or moral obligation upon the New Settlers' League ended when a migrant was provided with a job. The member for Sussex (Mr. Pickering) said that he could mention many instances where the New Settlers' League had provided the one individual with as many as six different jobs. The Leader of the Opposition did not state that the League had done nothing of the kind, for he knows that the League has done so. His statement is true, nevertheless, that the moral obligation resting upon the League finishes when the League provides a man with a job. In order to place before the Premier a specific case, let me tell him that quite recently—I have the newspaper cutting here but I do not wish to mention names—two men were charged in the Perth Police Court with being rogues and vagabonds. The police admitted that they had nothing against the men, who had not committed any crime, but had been found sleeping in someone's back yard, where they had gone to seek shelter from the boisterous weather. These men were warned by the city magistrate to get out of the town within three days. Neither of the two unfortunate men had a penny in his pocket. They were remanded for three days and advised to take advantage of the respite. How could those men do so? They had no blankets to cover themselves with had they gone into the country, and they had no means of getting to work. They went to see the officials of the New Settlers' League, who were responsible for providing them with their first job. They were advised to go to the Ugly Men's Association. I know that the two bodies are one and the same so far as the executive in Perth is concerned. However, they went to the Ugly Men's Association and there they were advised to see Mr. Crawcour, the head of the Immigration Department.

They saw Mr. Crawcour and he told them he could do nothing for them. He said, "We have about 600 migrants on our hands now. We have to place the new arrivals and you must battle for yourselves." What did these unfortunate individuals do next? They went to that much-despised place, the Trades Hall. They came to us to see if anything could be done for them. One of these individuals was an ex-service man, and practically the whole of the fleshy part of his left arm had been shot away. Despite that fact, he had come out under the migration scheme. The Government responsible for bringing him here are responsible for providing him with work, not the Trades Hall. The man has been sent out on a clearing contract, but it was obviously impossible for him to do the work.

The Colonial Secretary: Are you sure he did not go on to a poultry farm?

Mr. MUNSIE: I am sure he went out clearing and that he could not do the work.

Mr. Latham: That man must have been in receipt of a pension from the Imperial authorities.

Mr. McCallum: What has that to do with it?

Mr. MUNSIE: It has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Latham: But that man should not be penniless.

Mr. MUNSIE: I can assure the hon. member he was.

Hon. P. Collier: The Old Country's pension would not carry him very far.

Mr. MUNSIE: When those two men came to us at 11 o'clock in the morning, they had not had tea the night before nor breakfast that morning. We got in touch with the Immigration Department and asked what they intended to do for the men. The official there was pretty snappy at the outset and said that nothing could be done and the men would have to battle for themselves. When we explained the position, and pretty warmly too—I believe this official wants that, too—he said that we had better send them along and he would endeavour to get the men out of the town within three days. I presume that the men were fixed up satisfactorily because they did not return to the Trades Hall. How would those two men have got on had they merely approached the three recognised institutions to which I have referred? I have yet another instance. I admit that all migrants are not farmers or farm labourers. If the Premier desires to make a success of the immigration scheme and wishes to get rid of unemployment, thus preventing people from gravitating from the country to the city, he does not want officials who are responsible for sending migrants out into the country areas to take up clearing contracts, without sending someone who knows something about the business to help them. In one case six men, who were probably the best men in the country, were sent out on a clearing contract without knowing anything about the job. They could not be expected to make a success of the work. I can give names, particulars as to dates, and

so forth. In one instance, a gang of six men were sent out on a clearing job. They worked for a fortnight. Three of the men, recognising that they could not make a success of it, decided to leave the job. The other three decided to remain there and get all the experience possible in their endeavour to learn how to effectively carry out the clearing contract. They worked for a fortnight and then the farmer sacked them. He was fair enough to give the men their railway fares, but the men came back to Perth without a shilling in their pockets.

Capt. Carter: What was the farmer's reason for sacking them?

Mr. MUNSIE: The men were not competent to do the work. That is only a natural result if inexperienced men are sent out in this way. If four such inexperienced men were sent out with two men who understood the work, they would be able to carry on, for they are willing and able-bodied. The trouble is that they do not understand the work.

Capt. Carter: The farmers should show the men how to do the work.

Mr. MUNSIE: A farmer cannot be everywhere on a contract covering 300 odd acres.

Mr. Latham: It is hard to get new chums to take on clearing.

Hon. P. Collier: Is it fair to send new chums out on jobs like that without any assistance?

Mr. MUNSIE: We will never get these jobs done under such circumstances. The three men who were sacked went through the same routine as the other two to whom I have already referred in an endeavour to get something from the people responsible for providing work and they were told exactly the same thing. Eventually they came to us. We rang up the immigration officer. He asked us their names, and on receiving them said, "That is all right. I have a letter in connection with those fellows. They cleared out. They are not the second lot. I have two letters. Wait till I read them to you." He got the file and read the letters, but was sorry he did so. The first letter was a complaint from the farmer that six inexperienced men should have been sent to him. In the second letter the farmer explained that three of the men left after working a fortnight, that the other three had remained longer, but that in the end he had paid their fares to Perth. The names of those three men were given in the letter, from which it was seen that their story to us was a truthful one. That is how this officer tries to bluff people off. When migrants come back to Perth there is no responsibility on the part of the department to find them further work. Yet the Premier wonders why those men should be looking for work. The other day we had a conference of 70 migrants, including a few women. All of them had jobs. The majority were candid enough to admit that they were not farm labourers, that they had come out here to learn. Many told us what they had to go through to get here. If the Premier does not want unemployment, he must devise better means of selecting the men in England, and

better means of providing for them when they get here. Alternatively, he will reap utter failure. I am not decrying the State. There are still splendid opportunities here. Western Australia is about the best State in the Commonwealth, if not in the world, but without organisation we cannot make the best of the existing opportunities.

The Premier: Everything is wrong.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, I do not say so. But the method of selecting the men at Home is certainly wrong. On my trip to the South-West I met several migrants, all in work, some satisfied, some dissatisfied. In answer to my queries the majority of them told me they had but three questions to answer before leaving England. The first was, "Have you ever done any farm work?" the second, "Do you understand horses?" and the third, "Can you milk?"

Mr. Marshall: The two last would be pretty hard to answer.

Mr. MUNSIE: A man in England out of work for 12 months and hearing the stories told of the wonderful conditions in Western Australia, and all that is done here for the newcomer—the man is not human who would not answer "Yes," to those three questions. Apparently they all answer "Yes." Some of them get bowled out, but in the majority of instances no further questions are asked.

The Premier: How do you know that?

Mr. MUNSIE: The men admit that they are not farm labourers.

The Premier: Of course they are not. There are no farm labourers in England.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes, there are. One of whom I know left a good job in England to come here because he thought he would have here a chance to better himself. He is as fine a young fellow as ever I have met. In England he had the overseeing of 21 men. He showed me his qualifications and the recommendations he had brought from his employer. He admits that when he left his job it was to go to London with the idea of paying his passage out to Australia. In London he heard about the Premier's migration scheme, and finding that he could save £40 by coming out as an migrant, he adopted that plan. He is of the right type. He has a job and is well satisfied.

The Premier: Thank God for small mercies!

Mr. MUNSIE: Yet that man, with all his experience, is getting only 25s. a week.

The Minister for Works: And his keep.

Mr. MUNSIE: You would not expect him to find himself on 25s.!

Mr. McCallum: Dad has wakened up!

Mr. MUNSIE: That young fellow is going to put in another two or three months as a farm hand, and then apply for a block for himself. I hope he will get it.

The Minister for Mines: That is what he had in view when coming here.

Mr. MUNSIE: Of course. I mention him to show that they are not all inexperienced. I could name half a dozen more, but I say emphatically that if the Premier is to make a success of his immigration policy, he requires

to alter the method of selection in England, and also that of finding employment in Western Australia.

Mr. J. Thomson: Hear, hear!

Mr. Underwood: He should endeavour to get migrants like my parents, who, without any selection, just came out here.

Mr. MUNSIE: So did mine.

Mr. Underwood: The migrant who wants ten bob a day and a lot of other things, is not much good to us.

Hon. P. Collier: No, he ought to be happy to work for his tucker.

Mr. MUNSIE: I wish the Premier had been present at that conference in the Trades Hall the other day.

Mr. Latham: Did you invite him?

Mr. MUNSIE: He knew of it. It was made public.

Mr. Hughes: He was actually invited.

The Minister for Mines: How many attended the conference?

Mr. MUNSIE: About 70.

The Minister for Mines: How many have we brought out altogether?

Mr. MUNSIE: I do not know, but I want to tell the Minister that not any of them was brought out here to work on a farm in Perth.

The Premier: Of course not!

The Minister for Mines: Of all we have brought, 70 is not a big percentage to float into the city.

Mr. MUNSIE: Do you think that 70 represents all the migrants in the city?

The Minister for Mines: Apparently it was all you could dig up.

Mr. MUNSIE: That is another wild and woolly statement.

Mr. Hughes: We invited the Premier, but he would not come.

The Minister for Mines: What did the conference cost you?

Mr. MUNSIE: The price of one advertisement published three times in the "West Australian." Primarily the object of the conference was to get first-hand information as to how the migrants got out here, what tests they had to pass. Secondly, we wanted to learn their complaints, and thirdly—

Mr. Underwood: Of course they have a few votes amongst them.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, not yet, not until they shall have been here six months. When they do get votes we shall get a fair percentage of them. The member of Parliament who does not think it worth while to look after those men industrially and economically, who does not take any interest in them, is not worthy of their votes; but those who try to do something for the migrants are entitled to their votes. The third reason for calling the conference was that on the 4th of next month the second annual conference of the New Settlers' League will meet in Perth. Incidentally they ought to give that conference some other title.

Mr. Pickering: Why?

Mr. MUNSIE: Because not one of the delegates to attend that league will be a new

settler, although all will be prospective employers of the men who are coming out here.

Hon. P. Collier: Some of the league are employers, and some are third-rate architects.

Mr. MUNSIE: The league who will employ the migrants are to sit in conference for the purpose of fixing the wages to be paid. Will they invite the migrants to come along and discuss the rate of wages? I do not think so; I do not think the migrants will be admitted.

The Premier: If they were admitted you would say it was the wrong thing to do.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, I believe it would be quite right. I do not believe an employer has the right to fix wages without consulting his employees.

The Premier: You cannot do that.

Mr. MUNSIE: The New Settlers' League are doing it. They fixed it first of all at 15s. per week.

Mr. Clydesdale: The New Settlers' League raised it from 15s. to 25s.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes, on the motion of two industrial representatives.

Mr. Clydesdale: It was raised long before the conference.

Mr. MUNSIE: No, not until Messrs. Butler and Clementson moved for the increase.

Mr. Latham: The League do not fix the maximum.

Mr. MUNSIE: Sometimes they engage men at less than the minimum. The conditions of employment set up by the New Settlers' League, or by the Premier through his migration scheme, do not class a man as a man until he is 21 years of age. If you get a young fellow of the right class, he is as good a labourer at between 19 and 21 as he is at any later period of life.

The Minister for Mines: You would not fix that as a rule?

Mr. MUNSIE: I say that a man at 19½ is as good as he ever will be for manual work.

Mr. Underwood: Then you are wrong.

Hon. P. Collier: It is so long since the member for Pilbara was 19 that he has forgotten.

The Minister for Mines: You say that because a man is able-bodied at 19, he should be paid the full rate. When a man reaches 55 and is not so able-bodied would you cut him down?

Mr. MUNSIE: No; the Minister cannot catch me so easily as that. I was not born yesterday. The Minister knows perfectly well that in many instances, when a man becomes aged, he is not wanted for manual work. There is hardly an agreement operating in this State that does not make provision for the aged and infirm worker.

Mr. McCallum: The Arbitration Act makes it compulsory.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes, it is so provided, and the Minister knows it.

Mr. Underwood: Then the Act is wrong.

Mr. MUNSIE: I am not arguing that. When a man becomes old, he can be provided for under the arbitration laws. Under almost

every award in this State, a man of 19½, unless an apprentice, receives the adult's wage.

Hon. P. Collier: And he was considered old enough to fight.

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes. Yet a migrant of 19½ is employed at 15s. a week. When one man arrived at the farm of the prospective employer, he said that he expected to get £1 a week. The employer said that he had asked for a man at 15s. However, he did not argue about the difference; he paid the £1. The man worked for ten weeks. The employer said he was satisfied; the migrant was a really good worker. The man was then told that there would be only another week's work for him. There was a chance of getting a job in a clearing contract and the man drew his cheque for his ten week's work. The mate with whom he intended to work had no blankets, so the other migrant agreed to lend him money to purchase some. The contractor was going to town, and the migrant asked the contractor to purchase blankets for his mate and a tent for the pair of them. The contractor undertook to do so, and the man handed over his money, but the contractor was never heard of again. These men were left without money and had to come to Perth.

The Premier: What is the contractor's name?

Mr. MUNSIE: I will supply it to the Premier.

The Minister for Mines: The police should have it.

Mr. MUNSIE: I agree that it is a matter for the Criminal Investigation Department. This new chum was robbed of the only "tenner" he had. He ascertained subsequently that the cheque, which he had handed over to the contractor, had been cashed, but he did not get a shilling of it. The farmer had to pay the fares of both men to Perth.

Mr. Latham: Was the contractor a clearing contractor?

Mr. MUNSIE: Yes.

Hon. P. Collier: And a member of the P.P.A.

Mr. Latham: I am darned if he was.

The Minister for Mines: You say that this man did not know the proper course was to go to the nearest police station and lay an information against the contractor?

Mr. MUNSIE: He did not do it.

Mr. Underwood: Yet you tell us he was worth an adult's wage.

Mr. MUNSIE: It is the duty of the Immigration Department to do that for him. The circumstances were explained to Mr. Crawcour, who informed the man that he had 300 new arrivals who would have to be placed first, that this man had had one job and would have to battle for himself. Eventually Mr. Crawcour got him another job. The whole business of placing these people requires to be reorganised. The present state of things cannot be permitted to continue much longer. The first and greatest consideration

should be to select the right class of migrant at the other end.

Mr. WILLCOCK (Geraldton) [8.6]: I do not feel inclined to vote Supply at this stage while unemployment exists in the State.

The Minister for Mines: There will be more unemployed if you do not vote Supply.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I want to be satisfied as to how this money is going to be spent. The immigration policy is not working out to the benefit of our citizens that are unemployed. It is operating detrimentally to the man on the labour market at the present time. The Premier tells us that at this time of the year there is always a certain amount of unemployment. Of course we are aware of that. The Government were aware of it, but they did not take any steps to obviate the difficulty.

Hon. P. Collier: On the other hand, they are landing hundreds of new arrivals at this very season.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The Government tell us they will absorb 30 unemployed this week and 40 next week, but their efforts make no impression on the number of men out of work, and presumably the majority of these men will have to continue tramping around the country during the next three or four months searching for work. I am uncompromisingly hostile to this scheme unless we have a settled method of dealing with the whole business. Throughout the country we hear murmurs of aggravated discontent by people out of employment and by citizens generally that there is no comprehensive scheme in regard to immigration. If the Government take the responsibility of bringing people to this State, it is equally their responsibility to find employment for them. If people came here of their own accord, if there were no alluring advertisements and glorious picture shows displayed in the old country to attract people hither, it would be their own funeral; but when we and the Commonwealth are spending thousands of pounds to induce people to come here and to bring them here, and when those people after being here three or four weeks are cast adrift on the labour market—well, I cannot support a policy of that kind. The people of this State are not anxious that such a policy should continue. I have travelled a good deal in Western Australia, and in almost every portion of it I have heard statements detrimental to our immigration policy. Farmers have declared that the new arrivals are absolutely inexperienced. Why bring a lot of inexperienced people here, make no effort to impart the necessary knowledge to them, and expect them to battle around the country? The Government undertake to give them 12 months' employment, after which they are deemed sufficiently experienced to become farmers; but there are plenty of young fellows in the State to-day having experience of 12 years and upwards who cannot get farms.

Mr. Latham: They will be alright when the 3,000,000 acres at Esperance are available.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Those are the 3,000,000 acres which the Premier saw some years ago and did not recognise, but to which the Minister for Agriculture has just awakened. It is an extraordinary fact that the land we intend to open is always in some remote part of the State devoid of railway communication where enormous loan expenditure is necessary to develop it. We all know that there are huge estates near existing facilities which might be advantageously broken up, but nothing is done to make those estates available for settlement. It should be the Government's responsibility to look after the migrants who come here. The Government announce that these people, after training for twelve months, will be sufficiently experienced and will have an opportunity to take up land. A considerable number have served their 12 months, practically for tucker only, and then, when they have secured blocks, have discovered that they cannot get an Agricultural Bank advance until they have actually done their clearing and other work. No man can get a job at agricultural work if he wants much more than 25s. a week.

Mr. Latham: That is wrong.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not say that applies to workers who have been in employment for some years, but if a man goes looking for a job, he cannot expect to get more than 25s. a week. A man came into our Geraldton office the other day and asked for a ploughman at 35s. a week. I said, "You have been paying £2 10s. a week; what about paying the usual rate? I know of two or three suitable men available." The reply I received was, "No, I shall get two pommies; I shall be able to get more work out of them."

Mr. Latham: Of course, that is not a typical case.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I think it is a typical case.

Mr. Latham: I have heard of many instances where £2 10s. had been paid to men capable of driving a plough of six or eight horses.

Mr. WILLCOCK: That is to men employed from year to year.

Mr. Latham: No, men asking for teamsters to-day.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I know men of considerable experience who to-day are out of employment. The organisers sent out by the New Settlers' League, with no responsibility to the people of the State, tell the farmers that it is their duty to the country to find work for the migrants. They do not tell the farmers to look for experienced men. They say, "We want to give these migrants a chance. What about you giving them a chance?" And invariably, to their credit or discredit, they give the migrants a job, and our own people who engage in agricultural work are unable to obtain employment. This appears to be the thin end of the wedge to lower the standard of wages that has prevailed heretofore. We are flooding the country with unskilled labour, that is being utilised in the farming areas. The wages paid

amount to 25s. a week and keep, the latter often being of a miserable nature. I know of a man on a farm who did not get any meat for six months because there was no fat stock. If he wanted meat he had to go out and shoot kangaroos, and the farmer charged him for the cartridges used. There are incidents of this sort that would make one's hair stand on end. This was a callous individual, and certainly an exception to the rule in the agricultural districts. The employment of migrants in the agricultural industry has a distinct tendency to lower wages. We should be candid and honest in regard to this policy of immigration.

Mr. Pickering: Give it up.

Mr. WILLCOCK: No, go on with it, but do so on proper lines.

Mr. Underwood: You try to pay these wages, and see how you will get on.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I object to exploiting any immigrant.

Mr. Underwood: Like many other members of Parliament, I sold my farm.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The hon. member was not prepared to pioneer it and battle alone with it.

Mr. Underwood: I could not make wages on it.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The standard of wages in the agricultural industry is being cut down to 25s. a week. Australia has been developed by means of hard work. The people in the country have worked throughout the hours of daylight in developing their land. That is a man's own choice. If he makes good, at the end of 10 or 15 years he has an asset worth several thousands of pounds. The citizens of this State have no desire to exploit the labour of those who come to Australia as migrants so that they may build for themselves an asset out of these people. No doubt the newcomers want experience. If the Government were honest they would say straight out that these men are not worth more than, say, £1 a week and would then give them sustenance to the requisite amount. The Imperial Government are sending out thousands of migrants, the majority of whom would, if they remained in England, be receiving sustenance from a labour exchange at the rate of, say, 15s. a week. If there must be a period of training, why should not the Imperial Government contribute something towards the sustenance of these people during the apprenticeship period? When we are arranging to receive migrants here we should say that there is work for them at a certain price, and undertake to find employment for them after 12 months' residence or after they have gained enough experience to earn the ordinary rate of wages. What they are told in England concerning Australia is far removed from the facts. I have here a pamphlet issued from Australian House, containing a typical instance of what happens when a migrant arrives in Australia. This particular migrant said he had arrived in Australia on Monday, the 6th August, and stayed with his uncle only two or three days. He received an offer of work

s a station hand some 300 miles from the Victorian border, the wages being £3 10s. a week. He could not take the position, but a week after he received another offer of work as a borer and driller in engineering works at £5 10s. a week. This is one of the glorious pictures they print about Australian conditions. The migrant went on to say he accepted the job and liked his work. As soon as he got together more capital he intended buying some land at Liverpool, 30 miles from Sydney, and starting a poultry and pig farm. He said this country was full of opportunities, that no man or married couple need be out of work a day, and that the wages ranged from £3 5s. to £3 10s. a week and keep. He said there were some unemployed, but that there was no excuse out here for being out of work. He also said that a lot of stations kept on advertising for men and yet there were some who were unemployed because most of them did not want work. This pamphlet was issued by the Overseas Settlement Offices, London, by the Director of Migration and Settlement for the Commonwealth of Australia, under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922.

Hon. P. Collier: He is a wicked prevaricator.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I suppose the director is Percy Hunter. He takes the responsibility of printing such lying documents.

Mr. Latham: He says it is from a migrant.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I suppose it is. Mr. Hunter is sufficiently acquainted with Australian conditions to know that this is an absolute distortion of the facts.

Hon. P. Collier: If he fathers it he must stand by it as official. He is not obliged to father all such statements.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I know of another man who came from Birmingham.

The Minister for Works: Is his name Smith?

Mr. WILLCOCK: This man, whose name I could give, states that according to a notice posted outside the Birmingham Labour Exchange, the wages in Australia range from 30s. to £2 a week for inexperienced people, and from £2 10s. for experienced people, both jobs comprising keep as well.

The Minister for Works: He must have struck a patch.

Mr. WILLCOCK: This is one of the labour exchanges which dole out sustenance to people that cannot get work. They say to these people, if they do not take advantage of the conditions in Australia, they will consider whether the unemployment dole will be continued or not. In that respect they constitute migration recruiting agencies. In actual fact, when they get here they find their wages are only 25s. a week.

Mr. Latham: That is not right. The minimum is 25s.

Mr. WILLCOCK: It is said to be.

Mr. Latham: I could mention people who are paying £2 a week to these migrants.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Hundreds are not doing so.

Mr. Latham: I do not know of them.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The migrant who creates a disturbance is generally found a job. I know of a man who was engaged in a temporary capacity on the railways—the flying gang, and who was an exceedingly good man for the position. This man was put out of his job to make room for one of the migrants. He is a married man and has a family, and although his position was a temporary one it could have been made permanent. The migrant was appointed in his place a few days afterwards.

Capt. Carter: Did the migrant stop there?

Mr. WILLCOCK: I do not know what happened to him.

Capt. Carter: You surely could have got the man back again.

Hon. P. Collier: That is not within the hon. member's province.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Some of our own people are being displaced from their employment by the migrants.

Capt. Carter: There must have been something wrong with your man.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Not at all.

Capt. Carter: They why did you not take up his case?

The Minister for Mines: There cannot have been much in the case or I would have heard of it. Things of that sort are not allowed to slide without a noise being made.

Mr. WILLCOCK: He was a battler and got another job. If the Minister wants me to make a fuss about the case, I will give him the full particulars. This man is known everywhere, and only took on the railway work because he was a shearer.

Capt. Carter: You spoke of this as a typical case, but have not given us the full particulars.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I used this as an illustration of how our own good citizens were being displaced from their employment. This man is a wool presser and would have left the job in a month's time.

The Minister for Works: That was probably known.

Mr. WILLCOCK: Nothing of the kind. The man wanted to stay another month.

The Minister for Works: He was making the railway job one of convenience.

Mr. WILLCOCK: He was pushed out. No one knew what his occupation was. He was not foolish enough to let people know that he had a job to go to in a month's time. He was pushed out for the other man.

The Minister for Works: I would like to hear the other side.

Mr. WILLCOCK: I am prepared to place the Minister in full possession of the facts and go into the question with him. The Leader of the Opposition has dealt with unemployment at Merredin, but I would have been glad if he had read the document signed by 70 or 80 men and witnessed by all the leading people in the town, including Mr. Duff, formerly a member of this Chamber. The witnesses include the butcher, the baker, the grocer and so on—people who would not

sign unless they were satisfied the position was as stated in the document. The immigration policy has certainly had the effect of reducing wages in the agricultural industry. We are told that the migrants are mostly agricultural people, people who have followed an agricultural career in the Old Country; but it appears that such is not the case. We are told there is a dearth of skilled artisans in the building trade. That does not work out to the advantage of the employer, and therefore an atmosphere is being created with a view to asking the Premier to import skilled artisans. When we get 400 or 500 skilled artisans in that occupation imported, they will all be scrambling for a job, and we know what will happen then. In a month or two the Premier will be asked to extend his immigration policy to include these skilled artisans, and the ultimate result must be reduction of wages owing to the men rushing the jobs. We know very well that all the migrants coming to this country are not finding work in the agricultural industry. Throughout the State people whose appearance distinguishes them as being new arrivals are found filling all sorts of positions. We hear the twang of the new arrival on the tram and on the train and everywhere. In order to promote immigration, it is only necessary to create such a condition of industry here as will induce people to come of their own initiative, without any expensive immigration policy. Twenty-five or 30 years ago the whole world knew that good employment was offering here, and as a consequence this State had rapid immigration. There is no necessity to spend £30 or £40 a head on migrants if we can offer remunerative employment.

Capt. Carter: The return from gold is a quick one, and that is why goldmining attracts population.

Hon. P. Collier: There are quick returns to the promoter.

Mr. WILLCOCK: We have listened to the Premier's usual statements about everything in the garden being lovely and work having been found for two or three hundred men during the past few weeks. My quarrel with the Government is that, though everybody knows this seasonal unemployment occurs every year, no steps are taken to cope with the difficulty. The unemployment is said to be not so bad this year as it was last year.

Mr. Hughes: It is worse this year.

The Minister for Mines: Look at the records and see.

Mr. Hughes: I take the people, not the records.

The Premier: You were not interested in the matter last year.

Mr. Hughes: Indeed, I was.

Mr. WILLCOCK: As regards the accumulated savings of the people, the State Savings Bank during the last three months showed an excess of fully £3,000 in withdrawals as against deposits.

The Minister for Mines: You should take the Commonwealth Savings Bank into account as well.

Mr. WILLCOCK: But we are not slipping as regards the State Savings Bank.

The Minister for Mines: Yes, we are.

Mr. WILLCOCK: The accumulated savings of the people of this State as represented by the State Savings Bank have during the past three months been depleted by about £3,800. The same thing occurred last year and should have made the Government alive to their responsibilities in the matter of unemployment. The Government should have been led by that fact to make provision for the recurrence of unemployment. It represents an economic loss to this State to have 1,000 or 2,000 people walking about doing nothing. The Government should organise the country so that the people will be employed. In Geraldton I have been deluged with correspondence from men desirous of obtaining employment on or about the Geraldton Harbour Works. The Press state that the works would be proceeded with as speedily as possible; the Minister for Agriculture, when visiting Geraldton three or four months ago, said the work would be commenced almost immediately; and the Minister for Works also made statements to that effect. I am not growling about that just now, though I may have something to say on the subject later. I know that the engineer in charge, and others, are very dissatisfied with the way the work is going on. The numerous people who have written to me as regards obtaining employment on the works have drifted into the back country. The number of men employed on the work is about 15 or 20. There is considerable dissatisfaction regarding the immigration system, which seems to be without organisation. I hope the Cabinet will get a co-ordinated plan of dealing with migrant labour. Referring to the conference of migrants, the Minister for Works said that it was not very much that out of the large number of arrivals here some 60 or 70 should meet in conference.

The Premier: Do you dislike these English people?

Mr. WILLCOCK: Certainly not. I have seen the great Nationalist Party advertisement meetings, the party which, according to the representation it enjoys in this chamber should have more than half of the population behind it, and those meetings have not been exactly rushed. People do not rush to go into conferences of that kind.

The Minister for Mines: There are countless attractions.

The Premier: What have those conferences to do with this question of Supply?

Capt. Carter: What have you to say about the percentage of failures?

Mr. WILLCOCK: We know there are failures. I know of boys who have had the labour exploited, being made work 70 or 80 hours per week, and who have come back with skin diseases, the result of malnutrition. If the Premier wants particulars of those cases, he can get them from Mr. Wake. The boys who came out under church auspices. There is no proper method at present of al-

soaking migrated labour, and if no proper scheme is brought into existence, I personally will not be in favour of immigration.

The Premier: I know you are not in favour of it. That is perfectly true.

Mr. WILLCOCK: According to the "West Australian," practically everybody is perfectly satisfied with the working of the immigration scheme. Therefore I think it necessary to draw attention to these matters.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [8.44]: Viewing the industrial position as it stands to-day, we must say that unfortunately there is not the least doubt of the existence of a fair number of unemployed in the metropolitan area. During the last two or three weeks I have been going around my electorate, and I have been surprised at the number of men there who are genuinely out of employment. The position regarding these people is very severe. I regret the tendency apparent in certain directions to belittle the ability of the newcomers who arrive in Western Australia. I am not prepared to admit that every man who comes here is incapable of doing the ordinary work on a farm. During the period I was in charge of the Immigration Department I had several letters from farmers asking for experienced ploughmen at 15s. a week! The same thing is happening to-day. Wages nowadays are a little higher, due to the increased cost of living and the increased cost of clothing, which brings the position back to practically the same basis as that operating in the earlier years I referred to. What is the cause of this position? In my opinion, the greatest factor in creating unemployment has been the handing over of the Immigration Department to the Commonwealth authorities. While the control was in the hands of the State we had an opportunity of exercising that control effectively. Every year we used to take care that during the slack periods in this State, no migrants were allowed to arrive. We notified the Agent-General that no migrants were to come forward to arrive in June, July, or August, which months represent the slack period. We recognise, when we see that 500 new arrivals were landed in Western Australia recently, that those men are given employment temporarily, and at the same time our own people cannot get work. When the position is such as I have described, it is only natural that our own people will be dissatisfied with present-day conditions. I know what it is to be unemployed. I walked the streets of Melbourne for three weeks with only a halfpenny in my pocket.

The Minister for Mines: I am doubtful if you could do it to-day and keep your money.

Mr. McCallum: He was not too well-known in those days.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Having had that experience, I place myself in the position of these men to-day. We must take into consideration the feelings of the man as well as the feelings of his family. We are bringing

in married men. I admit that married men are the best we can bring to Western Australia, so that they will remain here. We realise that they will stay here, for the reason that they cannot get away again. What is the position regarding these men? Some have been told in England that they could go to Western Australia, leaving their wives behind for the time being, that they could take up areas in a group settlement, and having made provision for their wives and families, send for them later on. When these men arrive here, they are told that they must work in the country for 25s. per week. I have been asked by one man: "How can I do anything to assist my wife and family in England, when I get only 25s. per week here?" This is wrong. The Premier says there is plenty of work available.

The Premier: You want it all for your friends in the metropolitan area.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I admit that I have worried the Premier for work for those who are unemployed here. When I went to the Premier he told me to go to the Labour Bureau at Fremantle where, he said, there were 190 men registered for employment. When I made inquiries I found that the 190 men had registered in one day. I found also that there were over 500 registered in one month. It has to be recognised that these men cannot go to the Labour Bureau every morning. If they did so, they would lose the chance of getting work individually on jobs, where they know it may be possible to get employment. That being so the men cannot afford to go to the bureau to register every morning. I saw 40 men outside the Labour Bureau waiting for work—and they were not all wharf lumps. I asked the officer in charge of the bureau if he had any work available. He said that he had not work available for the moment, but that he would be engaging 25 men on the following Monday morning. When the men went to the bureau in anticipation of that number being employed, they were surprised to find that only five were to be engaged. Some of those men who entered an appearance that morning may have lost the opportunity of getting work individually on one or other of the jobs in town. They took that risk, however, thinking that it was possible that they would be one of 25 men to be employed.

The Minister for Works: Someone else got the jobs so that the number of the unemployed was correspondingly decreased.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is so, but these men who turned up may have missed opportunities of work elsewhere. This sort of thing is continually happening at Fremantle. On no one occasion has the full complement, as previously announced, been engaged. This has given rise to a good deal of ill-feeling. For my own part, I believe in immigration. I believe it is necessary to fill up our empty spaces and to develop our lands. At the same time, what we want is settlers, not population.

The Premier: You cannot have settlers without population.

Mr. McCallum: But you can have population without settlers.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The Premier knows exactly what I mean. We do not want people to come here to live in the towns, where we have no openings for them.

The Premier: I know that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Those in charge of migration in England do not care a hang so long as they send the numbers here.

The Premier: I think you are wrong.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, I am not. When the Government took charge of immigration, the first thing they did was to spend a large sum of money in England. They established a large staff, taking men from the Eastern States, but none from Western Australia.

The Premier: They have them now.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I think the second in command was here for one night. He came in the boat and went away next day—that is all he saw of Western Australia. A large staff has been built up in England, and some of the statements that have been issued have been misleading. Large staffs have been appointed in the Eastern States, but that does not apply to Western Australia. Here they took control by appointing our immigration officer to be the Commonwealth immigration officer, giving him a large increase in salary. The Federal authorities had to show the Commonwealth Parliament and the people of Australia generally some return for this expenditure of money, and the only return they could show was represented by the number of people sent to Australia. The only places from which they could draw those numbers were the towns of England. It is well known that they did not go into rural England, Scotland or Wales to secure migrants for Australia.

The Premier: You are wrong.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, I am not. I questioned some migrants upon this point at Fremantle. The true position regarding Western Australia had not been explained to them. I spoke to one young man who had a wife and two children. He came from somewhere near Manchester, where he had a business and had sold out. He had a few pounds and decided to come to Western Australia. He had received glowing reports regarding the group settlement scheme and he decided to participate. I asked him if he had come out as an assisted migrant. He said, "No, I was not aware, nor were any of us aware of the fact that the Governments of Australia were assisting persons to come here by paying passages and providing a home on arrival. I was not aware of that until I arrived in Fremantle. The result is that the trip cost me £40 or £50 more than I need have paid, and the money would have been useful for expenditure in Western Australia." To a large extent that has been the cause of the position many of the newcomers find themselves in to-day. We have

been receiving a hundred migrants at time, when we could not absorb them. We have been swelling the labour market because work has had to be provided for the new arrivals, to the exclusion of our own people.

The Premier: That is not so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It has been so. I have known of many men in Fremantle during the last few weeks who have been employed on farms or in the country, and they told me distinctly that they had merely the option of working for smaller wages (giving up the position in favour of a migrant).

The Premier: Well, I do not believe it.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I cannot vouch for the statement; I can only say what I have been told. If that is the position, it simply means that we are sending newcomers into the country and driving out men who have been there for years, and forcing them into the city. That is wrong. We should take the new settlers direct from the boat to the position where they will settle down.

The Premier: We do that to a large extent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: There are very few cases where that is done.

The Premier: That is not so.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I will not refer to that at any length, because I notice in the Governor's Speech that the number of migrants settled on the land to the end of June is 232 out of 10,654 who have arrived during the past 18 months.

The Premier: The newcomers have to wait for 12 months before they can go on to the land.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: How can a married man wait for 12 months? How can a man getting 25s. a week keep his wife and family in the city? Some say that the wives should go to work too. I was in the Immigration office myself when I heard an application read for an experienced tractor driver one who understood the machinery, the wage offered being 25s. a week and keep. The man wanted an experienced teamster, thoroughly accustomed to horses, at 25s. a week and keep, and also a thoroughly experienced milker for 25s. a week. I heard the letters read by the immigration officer.

Mr. Latham: Who offered those rates?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They were offered through the Immigration office. I heard the letters containing the offers read out on the wharf.

Mr. Latham: It is regrettable that those wages should have been offered.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I can only say that that is what I heard read out on the wharf at Fremantle. There were very few jobs available then because it was holiday time. An experienced traction driver could have got £5 per week at that time, while an experienced teamster could have got £2. And, surely to goodness, a man accustomed to milking is worth more than 25s. per week. It is impossible for a man to work for 25s. per week and keep his wife and family. I have instanced another case at that time. A man

driving here could not get work through the department, because he was a nominated migrant. Searching for work, he was offered £s. per week for himself and his wife, he worked on the farm, and his wife to do the cooking. I read that offer in a letter at the Labour Bureau, Perth.

The Premier: You are quoting isolated instances.

Mr. Munsie: When we tell of these things, the Premier asks for specific cases, and when I quote a specific case he says we are giving isolated instances.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not one job offered at the Labour Bureau that day was worth more than 25s. per week and keep.

Mr. Munsie: At the Labour Bureau, Perth, last week request was made for a lad experienced in driving a team of horses, wages 6s. per week.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I have been giving some of the reasons for the existing difficulties. We should not have this annual unemployment if we were to adopt the policy of starting secondary industries.

The Premier: A bad policy.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It is not. Recently has the Premier declared that the policy of State enterprise is bad; yet just as frequently does he attend functions and point out the amount of money we are sending to the Eastern States, telling his hearers of the number of people employed in the Eastern States at the cost of Western Australia. When private enterprise will not undertake an industry, it is the duty of the State to step in, if it will result in money being kept within the State.

Capt. Carter: What lines of industry could be started by the State?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know of many with which, perhaps, the hon. member's party would not agree. It is almost heartbreaking to have the mothers of boys interviewing one day after day in the hope of getting those boys placed in secondary industries.

The Premier: They cannot get apprenticed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It was significant that the deputation which waited on the Premier yesterday in respect of apprentices were not so keen on getting artisans as they were on getting improvers. The system of improvers is one of the greatest curses in trade.

The Premier: They wanted tradesmen.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They did not want them to be apprenticed.

The Premier: They are not allowed.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: They are. The deputationists said a boy could be trained in a shorter period than was possible a few years ago. They did not want to give a boy full training, to turn him out a competent tradesman.

The Premier: You have no right to say that.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No boy can learn a trade without a thorough training. Certainly he cannot be trained in two years, notwithstanding what the deputation said. Improvers are very bad for an industry, be-

cause they are neither tradesmen nor labourers.

Mr. Pickering: It used to take seven years to train a lad.

The Colonial Secretary: It is not necessary nowadays.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes it is, if the training is to be thorough. But there is this difference now as against then: most of the joinery work to-day is made in factories, whereas when I was a boy the builder used to make his own, and train his apprentices in the work. To-day employers do not want to take the responsibility of keeping the lad in employment for the period necessary to make of him a competent tradesman; they want to get rid of him, to send him to somebody else.

The Premier: In your time it was an easy matter to keep apprentices on.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Yes, we used to do things that are not done by apprentices to-day. If there were no contract work, our employer would put us on at making stock size doors and windows.

The Colonial Secretary: In many instances wages and conditions render the employment of apprentices unprofitable.

Mr. McCallum: Now you are exposing your own hand.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: It might be unprofitable to employ apprentices for a couple of years, but if you employed them for a proper period it would not be unprofitable, because during the closing years of his term the apprentice will do work equal to that of some of the men.

The Colonial Secretary: I have known a young fellow learn a skilled trade in 15 months.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I know of many boys who have gone through our schools and passed our standards but who, six months afterwards, knew nothing of what they were supposed to have learnt; it had not been properly impressed on their brains. Every boy in a trade should be properly trained. However, I was pointing out what I consider some of the reasons for unemployment. As the Premier has said, we are short of secondary industries. There is in Western Australia to-day nothing to encourage a man from England to come here with a large family, unless he be assured that the whole of his family will willingly take up land.

Mr. Pickering: When we get the land settled there will be plenty of opportunity for all.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Unfortunately, the trade of Western Australia is in the hands of agents. Those agents are kicking up more row about the State trading concerns than are the actual employers of labour. It pays those agents better to bring the stuff here and collect their commission than it would to have it manufactured here. We are sending our money away by millions annually to provide employment in other States, for goods which ought to be manufactured here. Take the State Implement Works. We have been advised to sell them.

The Premier: I wish somebody would buy them and carry them on.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: That is the point. Would they be carried on? If you were to sell them, in all probability you would throw out of employment 200 men, who would have to go to the Eastern States, where machinery is manufactured. We are importing approximately £300,000 worth of agricultural implements annually, while there is produced in the State between £50,000 and £60,000 worth. If we are anxious to assist the State to provide employment for the newcomers by building up secondary industries, is there not a market there? Private enterprise will turn round and say, "We cannot start, because the State will compete with us, will cut the rates." Only the other day I saw a letter from a contractor who went to a firm for a quote for joinery work. Thinking the price too high, he wrote to the State Sawmills for a quote. The reply was, "You have already got the quote of our association."

Mr. Pickering: More combines!

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I saw the letter. I have known contractors in this State, when prices were put up on them like that, send to the Eastern States for their joinery. These are some of the reasons why we have unemployment.

Capt. Carter: I have heard you give other reasons for the failure of secondary industries.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am going to give one now. It is this: The time will come when the Government will be forced to start these industries. The mothers and fathers of the boys and girls of this State will not much longer be content to see their children walking the streets when there ought to be employment for them here and while money is being sent to the Eastern States to purchase goods which ought to be manufactured here.

Capt. Carter: They will have to cut out Nestle's milk and insist on eating Victorian butter.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Western Australian butter is good enough for me.

Capt. Carter: I am talking of the popular taste.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: And the local butter is also cheaper than the imported.

Capt. Carter: You know that what I am saying is true.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I think the majority of the people buy in the cheapest market.

Mr. Cunningham: What will you replace Nestle's milk with?

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I hope the time will come when we shall be able to supply our own requirements. Summing up, the trouble is due to handing over control of immigration to the Federal authority instead of keeping it in our own hands, to bringing migrants from English towns instead of from the rural districts, and to failure to build up our secondary industries in order to provide continuous employment for our people and supply our own requirements. I hope the Premier will take these matters into con-

sideration. I know that his principal hobby—and a very laudable one it is—is to settle people on the land, but it is impossible to employ a large population on the land. Secondary industries are necessary to support a large population. If our population is to attain proportions commensurate with the populations of other States, we must have secondary industries going hand in hand with primary industries. Yet we are trying to increase our population by depending solely on our primary industries, and the consequence is we have a large number of unemployed. Unless the Premier does take action on the lines I have suggested, he will find that his immigration policy will be seriously affected. If any one of us were living in England and received a letter stating that the wage offered migrants was 25s. a week and that families had to stay behind in the city, would he come here under such conditions? Of course not.

Mr. Pickering: Those are conditions which one has to put up with.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Not at all. I in England I never worked for 25s. a week after completing my apprenticeship, and it is no fair to ask people to come here for such a wage. It is not a fair wage. I wish to disabuse the minds of members that have not been to England regarding the conditions of farm labourers in the Old Country. For labourers there are getting higher wages than are paid here, though they are not fully found.

The Premier: Not to-day.

Mr. Davies: Colonel Newcombe said the wage was 25s. a week without keep.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Is the hon. member aware that a farm labourer gets a proper house to live in?

The Premier: He has to pay rent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: No, he does not.

Mr. Money: He has to pay a very small rent.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: In Cornwall I pays no rent, and that is the worst part of the country in England. The farm labourer gets milk, receives pork when a pig is killed, has his own kitchen garden, and in fact receives two-thirds of his living free from the farm.

Mr. Money: That would apply only to yearly men; not to an ordinary labourer.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I am dealing with men who are employed continuously, not with casual labourers. On the majority of farms the men are kept all the year round. When I was in Cornwall three years ago, farm labourers were receiving 35s. per week for eight hours and casual labourers were getting 10s. a day.

Mr. Davies: Engineers are getting only 3s. a week.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: The figures I have quoted are correct. I am not concerned as to what engineers are receiving.

The Premier: Anyhow, it has nothing to do with this vote.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: I should not have dealt with these matters but for the interjections. We must not run away with the

idea that the conditions offered to farm labourers here are better than those obtainable in England. A new arrival receiving 25s. a week here is in a worse position than the general farm labourer in England. I am anxious—and I think this applies to every member on my side of the House—to see this State populated, but I do not want to see it populated under other than fair conditions of life for the people being brought into the State. Rather than impose unfair conditions upon them, I should prefer that they did not come, but that they remained in England among their friends and relatives. I hope the Premier will look carefully into this matter and adopt some system, in order that migrants may not be asked to work for 25s. a week, but may be placed on holdings of their own so that they may assist to develop the State.

Mr. HUGHES (East Perth) [9.23]: I wish to reply to the insinuation of the Minister for Mines that I was interesting myself for political purposes in the unemployed movement.

The Minister for Mines: Did I say that?

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister insinuated that.

The Minister for Mines: The cap must have fitted.

Mr. HUGHES: It is true I mentioned the unemployed to the Premier on the afternoon of the opening of Parliament.

Capt. Carter: And you did make a speech on the Esplanade.

Mr. HUGHES: And I shall do so whenever there are unemployed. If the hon. member had the heart, he too would do so, but he would not be permitted by his party.

Mr. Latham: Would that improve the position?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. The Minister knows very well that last year I was president of the metropolitan council of the Labour movement, and I was brought into the unemployed meetings by virtue of holding that position. Mrs. Hogarth, Miss Greenough, and Mr. Needham and I, in the Minister's office, gave the Minister just as much cheek and bounce as he gave us, and he is "some" bounce.

The Minister for Mines: You behaved yourselves for once.

Mr. HUGHES: No, we did not.

The Minister for Mines: Not for once?

Mr. HUGHES: We went along prepared for fight, and we got some bluff from the Minister. We thought we would be thrown out, but we were not.

The Minister for Works: He does not throw anyone out.

Mr. HUGHES: He did not throw us out or bluff us out.

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister for Works put the mayor out.

The Minister for Mines: I put out the man who tried to put the mayor out.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister for Mines has many things to his credit, but I do not think he will ever have to his credit what he

now claims. The insinuation of which I complain, however, is worthy of the Minister.

The Minister for Mines: Then why complain of it?

Mr. HUGHES: There is no pleasure in trying to battle some sustenance or food out of a callous man like the Minister in behalf of an army of unemployed. There is no pleasure in trying to get food for starving men, women and children from a Minister who said, "Let them go to hell."

The Minister for Mines: Who said that?

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister for Mines.

The Minister for Mines: I should like to call you what I think you are.

Mr. HUGHES: Do so and I shall reply. When I asked the Premier to meet the unemployed, the Minister for Mines said, "The cows! Let them go to hell; hooting the Governor." He was quite indignant.

The Premier: He certainly did not say it in my presence.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, he did. He was alongside the Premier at the time. If the Premier did not hear it—

The Premier: I did not hear it.

Mr. HUGHES: It goes to show that the Premier's hearing is failing just as his memory is failing. I know the Minister for Mines does not want to stand up to that statement. He made the statement, however, and I gave his message to the unemployed.

The Minister for Mines: That is just like you.

Mr. HUGHES: Such a statement ought to be made known all over Western Australia. To send a callous message like that to a body of hungry men, desirous only of getting a little food for themselves and their families—

The Minister for Mines: That message is untrue. I sent no message at all.

Mr. HUGHES: You made the statement, and I took it to the unemployed.

The Minister for Mines: Trust you to take the message out.

Mr. HUGHES: I should always do so.

The Minister for Mines: Be a pimp all your life.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not a pimp. In reply to the Minister's insinuation that I am associating myself with the unemployed movement merely for the purpose of vote catching—well, fancy that coming from a man who has changed his political views four times and, I believe, is contemplating a fifth change owing to the redistribution of seats. Whether he changes or not, I shall stand for East Perth; and I shall not run away from my own constituency.

The Minister for Mines: You cannot do anything else.

Mr. HUGHES: I shall not run away as the Minister for Mines did, and as he will do again.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I hardly think the hon. member is keeping within the subject of the debate.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not wish to go outside the subject of the debate, but I think I am entitled to reply to the dirty insinuation of the Minister for Mines.

The CHAIRMAN: I did not hear any dirty insinuation.

Hon. P. Collier: It was made. You should wake up.

Mr. HUGHES: When an insinuation of that kind is made, I am entitled to reply to it.

The Minister for Mines: Go for your life!

Mr. HUGHES: I am not afraid to go for the Minister in the House or outside of it.

The Minister for Mines: You are very courageous.

Mr. HUGHES: I have sufficient courage to stick to my political opinions and to sink with my own electorate. That is more than I can say for the Minister. As one who took a prominent part in the unemployment movement last year as well as this year, I can say that the difficulty is decidedly greater this year. No doubt there are more unemployed this year. One of the painful features of this year's unemployed demonstration was the presence of an enormous number of lads between the ages of 18 and 22, lads who had been well brought up and had received a fairly good education. They were unable to secure employment. Some young fellows who were not used to hard work, and who had gone out to work for contractors, had some painful experiences. The Premier says there are some good things to come. I have heard a lot about that sort of thing, but nothing seems to materialise. We were told the same tale last year.

The Premier: I told you the number who have been employed.

Mr. HUGHES: I have here a list of men in the metropolitan area who have not been employed.

The Premier: I take no notice of your list, for I have the official list.

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier will take no notice of men in the flesh.

The Premier: Will I not?

Mr. HUGHES: No.

The Premier: I have done more than you have.

Mr. HUGHES: What have you done?

The Premier: Everything.

Mr. HUGHES: Here is a list of 150 men who cannot find work.

Capt. Carter: What about the 1,500 men for whom the Premier found work? Try to be fair.

Mr. HUGHES: Where are they?

Capt. Carter: Working!

Mr. HUGHES: Where? The hon. member does not know where they are working.

Capt. Carter: You were not awake when the Premier made the statement, or you would know.

Mr. HUGHES: I have heard so many of his statements with regard to finding work for the unemployed.

Capt. Carter: You only remember the statements that suit you.

Mr. HUGHES: I remember them all. We have had the painful experience of the promises of the Premier to find work for men.

The Premier: That is not true.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course, not.

The Premier: I will tell you something in plainer language if you are not careful.

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier may say what he likes. Last year a number of unemployed were taken to Lake Grace. Nine or 10 days elapsed before they could go. When they went to work they were supplied with equipment by the department, and this was charged against them.

The Premier: Why not?

Mr. HUGHES: After a while the conditions became so bad that the men jumped the rattle to Perth. When some of their claims were investigated, we found that the department had charged them for equipment whether they had received it or not. There were instances of men who had brought along their own tents and equipment, and yet the department had debited them with equipment as they had done in other cases.

Mr. Mann: That would have been adjusted.

The Premier: Many of them received stuff they did not pay for.

Mr. HUGHES: One man who had returned his equipment, and held the receipt of a departmental officer, was debited in his statement of accounts with his equipment.

The Minister for Works: Was that not adjusted?

Mr. HUGHES: That was in 1922.

The Minister for Mines: We have had a Parliament since then and it has all been discussed.

Mr. HUGHES: After they had been working for some time they found themselves still indebted to the Government, and they left the job and returned to Perth. Heaven knows how much the Government lost over the deal. After such an experience the unemployed are getting wary of the statements of the Premier that work will be found for them. Some of the men were married, and were not able to earn sufficient to pay for the equipment and the food they got on the job.

Mr. Mann: Why? Were they incapable or was the contract too low?

Mr. HUGHES: The contract was too low.

Mr. Mann: It was the ruling price.

Mr. Marshall: They were to a large extent inexperienced men.

Mr. Mann: It was not that the price was too low?

Mr. HUGHES: Two of them were exceptionally fine axemen and yet could not make wages.

Mr. Mann: What was the price?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know.

Mr. Mann: Then how do you know the price was too low?

Capt. Carter: The excess charges you spoke of were taken off the men's accounts. You know that to be so.

Mr. HUGHES: After we kicked up a row! The unemployed are chary about going to these good jobs in the country.

The Minister for Works: Do not dig up ghosts; give us some recent instances.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister has seen the unemployed every year, but their case does not perturb him.

The Minister for Works: I have found work for a great many of them during the last few weeks.

Mr. HUGHES: The Premier said he was reserving work in the metropolitan area, and would find occupations for those who lived in that area, but not for those who came from the country. I have a list of unemployed here. Out of all these names only two or three are not resident in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Mann: The Premier said men have come from the country and taken the positions they should have had.

Mr. HUGHES: He said he would make work available within the metropolitan area for men living there if they were in need of employment.

Mr. Mann: He said he had made work available, but that men had left work in the country and taken it in the city.

Mr. HUGHES: Here is a list of men for whom no work has yet been found.

The Minister for Works: Are they married or single?

Mr. HUGHES: Some of them are single.

The Minister for Works: Why do not the single men get out into the country like their forebears did?

Mr. HUGHES: I was at Narrogin a fortnight ago and addressed a public meeting there.

Capt. Carter: Have they an esplanade at Narrogin?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and it would do the hon. member good to speak there. He would learn a little about life.

Hon. P. Collier: All the liberties we enjoy have been won in the past on esplanades.

Mr. HUGHES: After the meeting three immigrants approached me. They said, "For God's sake, can the Labour Party do something to place the position of immigrants in Australia before their comrades in England." They told me they had come out to Australia and had been found positions by the New Settlers' League. Their jobs had lasted two or three weeks and they were then turned adrift. They had battled around the country looking for work. One of them was down and out. When he arrived at Narrogin he was told there was to be a meeting of unemployed and he was asked to register his name at the Town Hall. He said that most of the 90 men who had registered were immigrants. Fortunately, there was a washaway at Woodanilling, he said, and some of them had been able to get work. He told me that he was all right because he knew where his next meal was coming from. Evidently the washaway had created an opportunity for some of these men to get employment. They complained that the position in England had been

misrepresented to them. They also said that the agents who had got hold of them were going about the country telling these beautiful tales about Australia, some of which we have already heard from the member for Geraldton. They said these agents received £1 from the Government for every migrant they nominated, and another £1 from the shipping company. I do not know whether the statement is true or not.

The Minister for Works: It was a case of 40 pieces of silver over again.

Mr. McCallum: It was 30.

Mr. HUGHES: If it is a fact that the State or Federal Governments are paying this money to men who wilfully misrepresent Australia to people in England, it is a crime, and ought to be stopped immediately. If the shipping companies are doing likewise it is a double crime.

The Minister for Works: That is profiteering.

Mr. HUGHES: It is bringing people out under false pretences. Here is a pamphlet that is printed in Perth. Upon the cover is depicted a shovelful of sovereigns. Has any one seen a sovereign in Western Australia for the past eight or 10 years?

The Minister for Mines: Yes, at the Mint.

Mr. HUGHES: If it had been a bundle of notes on the cover, it would have been some attempt at accuracy. Those who got up the pamphlet were careless in that they printed the facsimiles of coins that have not been in circulation for some years.

The Minister for Mines: They are being made all the same.

Mr. HUGHES: Such a picture as this, published in England, would be sufficient to attract anyone.

The Colonial Secretary: That is artistic latitude.

Mr. HUGHES: How many new settlers have been able to earn a shovelful of sovereigns?

The Minister for Works: What right have they to expect to earn so much in so short a time?

Mr. HUGHES: If advertisements such as these are circulated in England people who come here naturally expect to find an Eldorado.

The Minister for Mines: It is a most artistic cover.

The Colonial Secretary: It is a credit to the Government Printing Works.

Mr. HUGHES: It amounts to misrepresentation. Here is another document which was published as a supplement in connection with the Western Australian annual dinner. Just as a straw shows which way the wind blows, so does this document indicate the kind of information that is being supplied in the Old Country concerning Western Australia. "The young giant State of the Commonwealth" is set in big type. Then there is in block type, "Accumulated sinking fund amounts to £8,000,000." Next we have the statement that 64 per cent. of the population have accounts with the Savings Bank, the average amount to the credit of each de-

positor being £34 5s. "Land settlers and country workers welcome." Welcome to walk the streets of Perth in idleness, I presume. "Liberal assistance offered. Amount already advanced to new settlers by the Agricultural Bank, ten million odd. Three million acres under cultivation. Thirty million acres available with proved rainfall for new settlers. Imported into Western Australia bacon and dairy produce of the value of £640,000." Two things are not mentioned in this pamphlet—our fast progressing deficit, and our national debt. If the Government wish to tell the truth, why do they not tell the whole truth? To show the national debt alongside the accumulated sinking fund would put a very different complexion on the matter. When the debt is not shown, people may think there is an accumulated surplus of £8,000,000 represented by a sinking fund.

The Minister for Mines: Surely it is obvious, if you have a sinking fund, that you have a debt.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course, but the extent of the debt is not obvious. Neither is there any mention of the heavy taxes here. The only reference to taxation would lead people to believe that there are no taxes in this State. "No absentees tax or double income tax on British investors. No tax on investors in our loans." There is no reference to the fact that the Government of this State proposed to put a tax of one penny in the pound on the earnings of newshays.

The Minister for Works: Who signed that paper?

Mr. McCallum: The writer was ashamed to sign it.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. It is headed, "Supplement to the Western Australian dinner report." Here we have a specimen of the misrepresentation indulged in at Home with a view to bringing people to this State. I believe in migration properly controlled. This country has fine resources, but it is being badly administered. Surely if year after year a large body of men is left without work or sustenance at a certain season, no one can say that this country is well administered. It is the Government's duty to find work for the men, instead of sustenance. Sustenance is degrading not only to those who take it, but to those who give it. There is not a man among the unemployed but would prefer to give some return for the sustenance.

The Minister for Works: You do not know all the unemployed.

Mr. HUGHES: I know more about them than the Minister knows. One cannot expect these men, especially if married, to go on tramping through the country when there is no work available.

The Minister for Works: They pull your leg.

Mr. HUGHES: Next as regards the picture painted of the possibilities in Western Australia—£3 10s. a week and keep, as mentioned by the member for Geraldton (Mr. Wilcock). Here is a letter written by one pommy to another, showing the difference between what a migrant is supposed to get

and what he actually receives. The writer of the letter is known amongst his mates as "Straight Joe." The tone of this letter shows what kind of treatment he has been getting—

Dear Bill,—I write to you on this day, which is the first anniversary of the day we sailed from dear old England. Twelve long weary months of struggle and strife, and not one inch nearer the achievement of our plans to make a fortune. Dash it all, Bill, I am fed up, I have had enough. I can't see any fun or pleasure in just working for my bare tucker. I have had no wages for ten weeks, and by the way things are looking I shall be lucky if I get any in the next ten weeks. What do you say about it? Do you think I am a damn fool for sticking it? I suppose I am, but it is no use, I have got to do it as I have got no money to stand in. Honestly speaking, Bill, I wish I had never set foot in this country—hard work and very little pay for it. I have been in this place close on eleven months, and I have only been in town about a dozen times. I have not seen a picture house or a theatre. All the pleasure I have had since I came here was to go to some horse races, and my holiday lasted about four hours. Fancy, Bill, four hours' holiday in eleven months. I am breaking records. Well, Bill, I hope you get that job at the garage, and if you see a chance of getting me a job, write and let me know, as I will come over there, if I have to walk it.

When the migrants arrive here, they are handed over to the New Settlers' League. Why is it necessary for the Government to delegate their functions to a body of private citizens?

Mr. Mann: Have you any objection?

Mr. HUGHES: Certainly. What are Ministers employed by the people for? If the Government are fathering a migration scheme why are they delegating their duties in connection with that scheme to someone else?

Mr. Latham: They consider they are getting rid of some of the red tape for which the departments are so often blamed.

Mr. HUGHES: The Government could do that without delegating their responsibilities.

Mr. Harrison: Do not you trust your delegates on that league?

Mr. HUGHES: I do, and I wish I had the same confidence in the other delegates. The hon. member interjecting, who frequently boasts about his fairness, knows that our delegates have only two votes.

Capt. Carter: Let us have a concrete charge.

Mr. HUGHES: I have to-night given cases of men being sent to jobs which lasted only two or three weeks.

Capt. Carter: But those charges are not made by your delegates.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Interruptions are disorderly.

Mr. HUGHES: It shows how irresponsible the Government are, and how little they regard their obligations to the people migrating

to this State, when they hand over their obligations to a body of private citizens. I believe there are well-meaning people in that league, but I have not unbounded faith in the whole of the league. I believe some of them are prepared to cut wages, to send out migrants to work for 15s. a week and their keep.

Capt. Carter: I should like to hear the member for Canning (Mr. Clydesdale) on that point.

Mr. HUGHES: The member for Canning is not one of those people, but I venture to say the member for Leederville (Capt. Carter) would be willing to send out men to work on such terms. He was prepared to pluck the poor charwoman of a shilling a day and, therefore, would be prepared to support a wage of 15s. on the farm. That is a fact the hon. member cannot deny. That is his great achievement as an arbitration agent—he got a shilling knocked off the charwoman's wages! If the Government were sincere they would not throw their responsibility away so lightly, but would recognise that as they induced people to come here, it was their duty to look after them. They should do that instead of delegating their duties to—I will not say irresponsible people, but certainly to people who have no responsibility.

Mr. Clydesdale: That is worse still.

Mr. HUGHES: They have no responsibility whatever to the people generally. What responsibility to Western Australia has the New Settlers' League? The members of that organisation are simply acting in an honorary capacity.

Mr. Mann: Do you not think they are doing their best?

Mr. HUGHES: That is not the point.

Mr. Mann: Do you think they are acting in an irresponsible way?

Hon. P. Collier: That is not the question.

Mr. HUGHES: Would the hon. member be in favour of handing over the control of a Government department to the Trades Hall?

Mr. Mann: That is quite a different proposition. The Trades Hall and other public institutions are well represented on the league.

Mr. HUGHES: Surely the hon. member does not suggest that the control of a Government department should be handed over to an outside organisation or to the Trades Hall!

Mr. Latham: Some are already handed over to boards.

Hon. P. Collier: Yes, but only under the laws as passed by Parliament.

Mr. Mann: Many departments are controlled by boards, such as the Council of Science and Industry. Then there are the I.A.B. and Soldier Settlers' Board.

Hon. P. Collier: Those are created under Acts of Parliament and their functions defined.

Mr. HUGHES: And those boards are responsible to this House.

Mr. Mann: Well, make this institution responsible to Parliament.

Mr. HUGHES: The statement is blazoned forth in England that there are 30,000,000 acres of land here within a suitable rainfall belt, available for approved settlers. Yet, when I went to the Group Settlement office the other day, I found 60 men waiting to participate in the scheme. If we have 30,000,000 acres available, why do not the Government make land available to those 60 men and give the native-born Australian an opportunity? Why should not our own people have the same opportunity as is available to the migrant?

Mr. Mann: Have they not the same opportunity?

Mr. HUGHES: No, because those 60 men are waiting for blocks.

Mr. Mann: Of course, they have the same opportunities.

Mr. HUGHES: They have not. While the New Settlers' League endeavours to get work for the newcomers, the native-born Australian must fend for himself, for there is no institution to look after his interests.

Mr. Mann: Fifty per cent. of the people on the group settlements are ex-miners, ex-soldiers, and local people.

Mr. HUGHES: What about the Australian who is out of work at the present time? There is no institution available to find work for him.

Mr. Mann: There is the Government Labour Bureau.

Mr. HUGHES: We hear the complaint that there is a certain anti-"pommy" feeling amongst Australians. Such a feeling is only natural when the native-born Australian is out of work and finds that someone is looking after the interests of the migrants while he is left severely alone. From time to time we hear that there is work available in the country where clearing contracts can be taken up by men seeking employment. I have had cases brought under my notice where men have worked for farmers who have been assisted by the I.A.B. In one instance, when the man had done the felling, he was paid £1 an acre and he had 14s. to collect when he burned off.

Mr. Mann: That was a good price.

Mr. HUGHES: How can the hon. member say that until he knows the class of timber on the block?

The Minister for Works: Because that is the average for country areas.

Mr. HUGHES: When that man returned to do the burning off, the contract provided that the farmer was to cart the necessary food and water for the contractor's sustenance. He took four men with him to do the cleaning up quickly, and notified the farmer of his requirements. When the gang started on the Monday, no water was available. On the following morning they received 20 gallons of water, but it was unfit to drink and had to stand for two or three days to settle.

Mr. Latham: That helps you to realise the difficulties country people are labouring under.

Mr. HUGHES: Does the hon. member think I have never been out of Perth?

The Minister for Works: You look like the finished product of the town.

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister does not look very weatherbeaten. At any rate, the farmer refused to do the carting, and this man had to leave the job. That meant that he had to lose the profit he expected to make out of the burning off.

Mr. Mann: Do you blame the Government for that?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, because the Government who assisted that farmer through the I.A.B. and helped him to prosperity should see to it that the farmer treated the men he employed in a proper manner.

The Minister for Works: What sort of men are they who want the Government to assist them through everything? Why not teach them to be men, not kids? You will want us to do up their waistcoat buttons next!

Hon. P. Collier: The Minister for Works should not forget that he has been disrated!

Mr. HUGHES: The Government should see, through their inspectors, that farmers who are assisted with Government money should do the best possible for these men. We hear a lot of talk about pioneering in the agricultural areas, and surely the man who does the clearing is pioneering just as much as the man who stays and cultivates the land?

The Minister for Works: He does more.

Mr. HUGHES: The Government should take this matter in hand. In another instance a man who was accustomed to city life became unemployed and took a job in the country. He was expected to work from daylight till dark, and it was made so hot for him that after three or four weeks he could not stand the job any longer and had to return to Perth. Another boy, 20 years of age, went to the country because he wanted to learn farm work. He was engaged by people who had a tractor. After working for them for six or seven weeks he found that the people had gone out of business, and that no wages were available for him. The Minister for Mines would probably say that he should sue for his money, but such lads are inexperienced and have not the money to proceed to law. For such lads, in such circumstances, there is nothing further to do.

Mr. Latham: That sort of thing is not general.

Mr. HUGHES: I know there is a good deal of it going on.

Mr. Latham: You don't want me to get up and give the other side of the story.

Mr. HUGHES: I have not the slightest objection.

Capt. Carter: Have you ever heard of one successful migrant?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; and also a lot of successful farmers who want all the privileges and migrants to work at 25s. a week. The Taxation Commissioner's report shows that the average income of a farmer is £539, as against the average of £225 for the wage-earner, indicating who is the prosperous individual. It is time some of the privileges extended to farmers were taken away from

the more prosperous ones. It is up to them to take a share in the financial burden and shoulder some of the deficit on the railways.

Capt. Carter: Have you ever heard of a migrant who is doing well?

Mr. McCallum: Have you?

Capt. Carter: Yes, dozens of them.

Hon. P. Collier: Where are they located?

Mr. McCallum: They are settled at Leeder-ville or at Dead Dog Swamp.

Mr. HUGHES: The sustenance allowance provided by the Government is bad. It would be better to provide useful work so that the men employed could earn good money. Men who are in the unfortunate position of receiving sustenance allowances would be better off if the Government exercised a little initiative and made an arrangement with the City Council to repair our streets, and thus get some return for the money expended.

The Minister for Works: That is what the Perth ratepayers want, some return for their money.

Mr. HUGHES: They are allowed 3s. 6d. per day for groceries and meat and that is to keep a man, his wife and a child! There is a case of a returned soldier who was told that when he returned from the war he would want for nothing and that Western Australia would be a place for heroes to live in. Now, when he comes back he cannot find a job and all he can get is 3s. 6d. per day.

Mr. Latham: That is an isolated case.

Mr. HUGHES: That may be so, but it shows what is going on.

Mr. Marshall: Like the intellect of the member for York, it is isolated.

Mr. HUGHES: If these are isolated cases, here is another, that of a returned soldier with a wife and three children.

Mr. Latham: There are such cases, I know, but there are not many.

Mr. HUGHES: Well, what are the hon. member and other patriots going to do about them?

Capt. Carter: Are you posing as a patriot?

Mr. HUGHES: No, I do not wish to be classed with the patriots. That is all they can do for the returned soldier now, 3s. 6d. per day!

Capt. Carter: You are the returned soldiers' champion.

Mr. HUGHES: No. The hon. member poses as their champion, although he has done nothing to help them.

Capt. Carter: I would like to know what you have done. You have emitted more wind and words to-night than I ever heard before.

Mr. HUGHES: The hon. member, although one of their champions, is not permitted to go out and state his case; his party would not like it.

Mr. Latham: These cases are not in the majority.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course not, but from the promises made, one would think that when such an instance was brought under notice, somebody would remedy it.

Mr. Latham: You say they are returned soldiers, and married.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes.

Mr. Latham: Will you let us have their names?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, and I will take the hon. member to where they live, if he desires to help them. There is another case I want to ventilate, probably the action of a patriot, and showing callous indifference to the misfortunes of the unemployed. The victim is invalided, but not sufficiently so to secure an invalid pension. He was renting a basement room for 5s. a week, but owing to unemployment extending over 30 weeks he was £5 5s. in arrears with his rent. For that paltry sum the landlord put in the bailiffs, sold the bed from under him, and turned him out into the street. The landlord's name was Templeton. His callousness ought to be trumpeted throughout the State. The bailiff, one Evans, went to the victim and threatened him, saying that if he did not sign an authority to sell his goods, and forthwith get off the premises, he would be liable to two years' imprisonment. When one makes inquiries of these heartless people, one is told "The man authorised us to hold the sale." Of course he did; he was bluffed into it. The Premier should stop such things as that by instituting a moratorium relieving people from the danger of having their goods and chattels sold up while they were out of work and so unable to pay rent. One other very objectionable thing has come under my notice. In times of distress people have to go to money-lenders and pledge their goods and chattels in order to buy food and necessities. Those people borrowing money from pawnbrokers on security are charged 1s. per month per pound, or 60 per cent. per annum. Surely that is excessive! Very little risk is taken by the lenders. They have full security, generally jewellery and other realisable assets, yet they are allowed to charge 60 per cent., simply because the unfortunate borrower cannot decline to pay it. The Government should reduce by statute that 60 per cent. to a maximum of 15 per cent. which, surely, would be sufficient! I hope that for once the promises of the Premier will be fulfilled. It is not nice to have an army of unemployed, nor is it any pleasure to Labour members to be trying to find work for them. The Government should reorganise their immigration policy and endeavour next year to arrange for sufficient work to preclude unemployment.

Mr. McCALLUM (South Fremantle) [10.22]: I should like to be able to cultivate the Premier's breezy optimism, to accept like him the situation, quote figures, and dismiss the problem as being solved. To-night he has quoted the number of men registered at the Fremantle Labour Bureau this morning—68. The Premier puts up that 68 as being the number of men out of work in Fremantle to-day.

The Premier: I said registered to-day.

Mr. McCALLUM: I called at the Labour Bureau to-day and found that the number registered since the first of the month was 559, and that the bureau had found employ-

ment for 101, leaving 458 unprovided for. There is just as much logic in that deduction as in the Premier's. It cannot be expected that the whole of the 458 should call at the Labour Bureau each morning.

The Premier: No, because probably they are all in work.

Mr. McCALLUM: Of course they are not in work. They go out looking for work. If they were to waste their time calling at the bureau each morning, nobody would denounce them more strongly than would the Premier. Yet he seems to rely on the daily registration as a certain indication of the position. The practice at the bureau is to announce on, say, Monday morning that in all probability so many men will be required on Wednesday or Thursday, and that until then no situations will be vacant. Only this morning they told me at the bureau that about Thursday next they will be picking up some 20 men. How, then, can the Premier expect the whole of the unemployed men to call at the bureau each morning? The Premier has quoted, times out of number, the list of works proposed to be put in hand. We know it off by heart. We wonder when those works will come to light. The Premier is not so callous as to disregard the unemployed, but he ought to realise that those of us who confront those men every morning have a painful task to perform. If we present their case to the Government we are told, "All this work will be available in a few days." We go back to the men and report. Day after day, week after week slips by, and the work does not materialise. This sort of thing embitters the men and shakes their confidence, not only in our report, but in the statement of the Minister. It would be far better to say straight out what the situation is.

The Premier: We do that.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Premier said to-night that all this work, from Geraldton to Albany, was hung up for lack of men to do it.

The Premier: That is true.

Mr. McCALLUM: Fancy a statement like that going out from the head of the Government, when there is a crowd of men unemployed! "There is always work" said the Premier. I do not know what work he referred to.

The Premier: Work authorised by the Agricultural Bank.

Mr. McCALLUM: Cannot the unemployed men be put in touch with the work? The Premier knows that the loans from the Bank have not been taken up; that the settlers are complaining of the rates of interest.

The Premier: Nothing of the sort. Apparently any argument is good enough.

Mr. McCALLUM: Apparently any argument is good enough for the Premier, when he says that all this work is waiting for want of men to do it.

Hon. P. Collier: There are crowds of men at the Labour Bureau every day. Why not send them all out to-morrow?

The Premier: Half of them would be sent back.

Mr. McCALLUM: Because there is no work out there for them. If the Agricultural Bank has approved of the work, the department must have knowledge of that work. Why cannot the men be put in touch with the work? The truth is the work is not there. If the work were there, the men would be only too ready to take it on. Do men remain idle for the fun of it? Does the Premier think that they stay out of work because they do not want work?

The Premier: They are told not to take it.

Mr. McCALLUM: Who has told them that?

The Premier: Of course they are told it, constantly.

Mr. McCALLUM: No one has been told not to take such work. As regards the men drifting from the country to the city, we have all tried to prevent that. From the very start of this trouble, when the Premier asked us to discourage this sort of thing, each time we have addressed the unemployed, we have told them that the Government would not provide work in the city for men from the country. We have stated that men in the country must stay in the country, and that if they came into the city, they would have to find their way out of it. I have laid that down each morning and have endeavoured to make it known far and wide. I do not know that there is a large percentage of unemployed drifting in from the country. Naturally, there are some, and the Government to an extent are responsible for it. One instance was mentioned of 40 men having been put off the Nyabing-Pingrup railway construction owing to there being no sleepers available. A day or two after they reached Perth, 40 men were sent to the same spot by the Works Department for road construction. The 40 men from the railway work had their tents, equipment, and cooking utensils, and yet they were brought back to Perth and another 40 men were sent to the same district. What kind of management is that?

The Minister for Works: When was that?

Mr. McCALLUM: A fortnight or three weeks ago. The men were present and gave us the particulars, and I told the Premier about it on the following morning. Why were not the men on the railway construction put on to the road job instead of bringing them back to Perth and sending others out? I voice an objection to the New Settlers' League handling public funds and doing Government work without Government control. They are performing functions that belong to the Government, and the Government have no right to hand over such functions to a body of citizens who are not responsible to anyone. I understand the league have the expenditure of large sums of public money. I do not know what accounts are submitted or what control there is. Who constituted this league? How were they formed? Did anyone elect them? What right have they to have public funds doled out to them and to control such an important part of public policy as the settlement of migrants, without any say on the part of

those responsible to the people of the State? The position is a most objectionable one.

The Premier: It is a very good arrangement.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the Government think that this work can be better controlled by an outside body, instead of by red tape departmental methods, they should first obtain the approval of the House. The people's money should not be handled by outside individuals to do as they like with.

The Premier: Not to carry on this good work?

Mr. McCALLUM: The Premier is handing the job over to men who are making use of their positions for party purposes.

The Minister for Works: Oh, no!

Mr. McCALLUM: How is it that any busy-body who likes to come along and interest himself may address a body of migrants, while a member of a trades union or a representative of the working class is denied that right? Why such a distinction?

The Premier: It is not so.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Premier has denied the right of a trades unionist to address the migrants.

The Premier: I have not.

Hon. P. Collier: Well, your Minister has.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Colonial Secretary has. We have been advised that this was the decision of Cabinet. Are all these wealthy squatters, all these wealthy farmers, all these business men of the city and any busy-body of Fremantle entitled to go along and address the new arrivals?

The Minister for Works: There has never been anything of the sort brought before Cabinet.

Mr. McCALLUM: We can produce the correspondence from the department denying trades unions the right to send delegates.

The Minister for Works: You said it was a Cabinet decision.

Mr. McCALLUM: I said we had been advised it was a Cabinet decision.

The Minister for Works: It is untrue.

Mr. McCALLUM: Does the Minister for Works deny that we have been refused that right?

Hon. P. Collier: The Colonial Secretary denied us that right.

The Premier: I do not see why any political organisation wants to send representatives there.

Hon. P. Collier: Every organisation is political more or less, but their representatives need not go there in a political capacity. Every Tom, Dick, and Harry can go there, but not our representatives.

Th Colonial Secretary: It is not a fact.

Hon. P. Collier: It is a fact. What is wrong with a Trades Hall representative? Is he not as good as any other representative?

The Minister for Works: It is all right, so long as they leave politics out.

Mr. McCALLUM: Who said they would introduce politics? Is the Trades Hall any more a political organisation than the Pastoralists' Association? Which is the stronger

political organisation—the Trades Hall or the Weld Club?

The Premier: The Trades Hall.

Mr. McCALLUM: I know we never get a vote from the Weld Club but the Government get a number of votes from our side. Representatives of the Pastoralists' Association go to Fremantle and address the migrants. Nearly every woman of the Nationalist association, Fremantle, has been permitted to do likewise, and why should trades unionists be denied the same right? Here is a letter from the Colonial Secretary dated the 1st July.

Hon. P. Collier: Why should not the president of the Trades Hall be permitted to go there?

The Premier: I do not see that politics are wanted there at all.

Hon. P. Collier: It is not a matter of introducing politics.

Mr. McCALLUM: Why were the Leader of the Opposition and myself ordered off the premises when we went to the migrants' home? There might be more reason for ordering us off than for precluding visits by members of trades unions. Surely the migrants are entitled to have the conditions of employment explained to them.

The Colonial Secretary: The request was to address the migrants.

Mr. McCALLUM: Are not they entitled to that? Are not representatives of the Pastoralists' Association, and nearly every member of the executive of the Nationalist League in attendance there every week?

The Colonial Secretary: No political body is permitted to send representatives there.

Mr. McCALLUM: Are not these political bodies? They are more pronounced political bodies than are trades unions.

The Colonial Secretary: No permission has ever been given to any political body.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Pastoralists' Association is a political body; so are the Nationalist League, Fremantle, and the Weld Club political bodies, and all of them have their representatives at the Fremantle home. I have no reason to doubt the Premier's sincerity when he says he does not desire immigration to be used to reduce the standard of working conditions in this State, but if that is the attitude of the Government, what earthly objection can there be to permitting the industrial standard being explained to new arrivals by representatives of industrial organisations? What logic can there be against it? If the Government have nothing to hide, there can be no objection to the standard of conditions being explained to these men before they are asked to go out into the country to take jobs. That is the function of the trades union. If the trades union does not do it, who can? The migrants have a right to look to the trades union to do this. If they cannot do so, who is to explain the standard to them and tell them what they are entitled to receive? Are the Government afraid that if the new arrivals have the true position of affairs explained to them, they will refuse to take these jobs on the

ground that the conditions are not up to the standard? Why is it that the Government are so anxious to keep up all this secrecy?

The Premier: I am not anxious to keep anything secret.

Mr. McCALLUM: I pass the Immigrants' Home every day and I see these busybodies addressing the immigrants. Every one of these persons is an anti-laborite, a pronounced opponent of our party and an anti-trados unionist. Why are they permitted to go there? As soon as anyone has the least inclination towards labour in politics he is prevented from getting near the immigrants at all. That decision should not be allowed to stand. I ask the Colonial Secretary if he does not think the Leader of the Opposition would be just as fair in addressing new arrivals as he himself would be. Does he think there could be any more objection to the Leader of the Opposition addressing them than there would be to any member of his own party?

The Colonial Secretary: The Leader of the Opposition or any member of the House will be welcome at the Immigrants' Home.

Mr. McCALLUM: But the Leader of the Opposition and I were ordered off the premises.

The Colonial Secretary: That was a long time ago.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have here the minute the Minister sent only this month.

The Colonial Secretary: No member of a political party would be allowed to address them on political matters.

Hon. P. Collier: The people the hon. member is talking about are members of political parties and are talking to the migrants every week.

Mr. McCALLUM: In this letter written by the Colonial Secretary he regrets that the decision already given cannot be varied in respect to representatives of industrial unions addressing those who are at the Immigrants' Home. These are not political bodies, but that is the text of his letter.

Hon. P. Collier: There are all sorts of politics at the Trades Hall.

Mr. McCALLUM: The hussies that I see visiting the home are all engaged in politics. They are busybodies stirring up trouble and creating strife.

Mr. Pickering: Why not cut out all the addressing?

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear! Why have one side excluded?

Mr. McCALLUM: What explanations can be offered? A decision should be given that has some decency about it, not one that is so strongly partisan as to permit one side to enter the home and not another. It seems to be a carefully prepared scheme to prevent new arrivals from getting into touch with anyone who is likely to tell them the conditions in Australia, and to explain the industrial situation in the State. I heard the complaint that while a body of migrants were travelling from Albany to Perth the member for Hannans had the impudence to talk to

some of them on the train. He should not have dared to do it.

The Premier: I suppose they were the young ladies.

Mr. Munzie: The men. I have heard the same thing since I got back. I have as much right as anyone else to talk to them.

Mr. McCALLUM: Are members to be treated as if they had some vile disease, and were not fit to be brought into contact with the new arrivals? If this sort of thing goes on there will be such a revulsion of feeling that strong action will have to be taken to overcome the position.

Mr. Lutey: It has been going on for years.

Mr. McCALLUM: We brought it up last session. We now find that a new Minister carries on the policy that was laid down in the case of the Leader of the Opposition and myself. I promise him that if there is not some alteration in the policy things will not work so smoothly as they have done in the past.

The Premier: What is that?

Mr. McCALLUM: If the Minister does not alter his policy of permitting only one side to be heard—

The Colonial Secretary: No side is allowed to address the immigrants.

Mr. McCALLUM: The Minister's letter says so. He will not permit industrial unionists to go there. If he does not alter his policy he will stir up for himself a lot of trouble.

The Colonial Secretary: You will be welcome at any time.

Mr. McCALLUM: We were ordered off. Let the Minister name one person from our side who would be welcome.

The Colonial Secretary: Anyone who presents himself.

Mr. McCALLUM: He cannot name one individual from our side.

The Minister for Works: Perhaps you have never tried since.

Mr. McCALLUM: Here is the Minister's own statement contained in his letter warning trade unionists away.

Mr. Munzie: In his first letter he said he would not object to industrialists, but in a later letter he did object to them.

The Colonial Secretary: I know of no nationalist, Country Party, or labour organisation being permitted to enter the home and address the immigrants.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the secretaries of the Trades Hall and the members on this side of the House formed themselves into a "Jolly good fellow society," and asked the Minister to permit members of that society to address the migrants, would he agree? He would want to know who they were.

The Colonial Secretary: Yes.

Mr. McCALLUM: Those who are anti-labour and vigorous opponents of trades unionism are permitted to address the migrants when they like.

The Colonial Secretary: The Salvation Army and the churches are not necessarily op-

posed to labour unions and they are permitted to address the new arrivals.

Hon. P. Collier: There are bodies that go there not of a religious character.

The Colonial Secretary: No political body is permitted to address the migrants.

Hon. P. Collier: Then we will address them outside the home, and will say more to them than we would if we addressed them inside.

Mr. McCALLUM: We will address them all right whether the Minister gives permission or not. It is just as well for him to know this. We will reach them all right.

The Colonial Secretary: They cannot be addressed politically.

Mr. McCALLUM: There was never any suggestion of that. Why is it that only those who are opposed to the labour movement are permitted to have anything to do with the migrants? Apparently everyone connected with the labour movement is branded as being a party to some political intrigue. They cannot be separated from political action. What a narrow-minded, bigoted view to have! What a conservative attitude! Does the Minister think we are less anxious than he is to see this State progress? Do not the men representing the trade unions of this State know the difficulties of the country just as well as people sitting opposite know them? Why are we denied the right? Because members opposite want to build up an idea that we have horns and fangs and tails. We are most serious in presenting our case that we are entitled, if anybody is entitled, to go and speak to the migrants. A prominent journal of this State publishes an advertisement addressed to migrants, "Do not allow yourselves to be used as tools to reduce wages. Join the trade unions." Is there anybody better fitted to give information to the migrants on that subject than the representatives of the labour unions? The present position cannot continue. We urge the Government to agree to the proposal to let representatives of the trade unions address the migrants. The Government should stop busybodies going there and telling tales with a view to creating an atmosphere unfavourable to this side in politics. Will the Minister say that this is not a political statement? "I appeal to you, men and women, to have nothing to do with any person who will come round to interview you and ask you to join certain associations with a view to taking action which will make you discontented with your work."

The Colonial Secretary: I would take that to be very improper. The only people who have addressed the migrants when I have been present have been representatives of religious bodies.

Mr. Corboy: The Minister is present only at convenient times.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am told that advice of the kind I have quoted is given to the migrants at every opportunity by busybodies from the National League at Fremantle.

The Colonial Secretary: There is going to be a fair deal, and I say that if the National body, or any other body—

Mr. McCALLUM: You say that Brown, Jones and Robinson of the National League, when they go there, go as citizens of Fremantle, but that when McCallum and Collier go there they go as representatives of the Labour Party, and therefore must be kept out. The people I refer to are prominently associated with the Pastoralists' Association, and the Weld Club and the Farmers and Settlers' Association. I did propose to give a whole list of specific cases, as asked for by the Premier earlier in the evening; but at this late hour I shall not do so. However, I may give one case stated from a Fremantle pulpit last Sunday night. It was the case of a migrant who was sent to work in the country at 25s. per week. He worked from half past three in the morning until 9 o'clock at night, and at the end of the week he was given 25s. and was told that he was not suitable. It cost him 25s. to come back to Perth. From Perth he walked with a friend to Fremantle to the Home, where he was refused admission. His friend had a brother in the country, who wired him to come up there. He wired to his brother asking could he bring the friend with him. The reply was "No." The friend, when the brother had left for the country, attempted to commit suicide. He was placed in the Fremantle hospital, and was to come out yesterday. A collection was taken up in the church to assist that young fellow. That man was a draftsman, sent out here to settle on the land.

The Colonial Secretary: What kind of work did this man do?

Mr. McCALLUM: I can easily locate the case and give particulars. Now as to the deputation which waited on the Premier regarding a shortage of artisans in the building trade. I wish to tell the Premier some of my experiences in that connection. For many years back I have sat in conference with the building trades unions to discuss the problem of apprenticeship. I have sat in the Arbitration Court when the two sides have argued that question. I have sat in conference with the master builders on the same subject. I want to know whether it is proposed to use any of this money for the purpose of introducing building trade artisans, because I am not prepared to vote any moneys for such a purpose. My experience in this matter should be worth something to the Premier. I have genuinely tried to find a solution of the problem. I had the privilege of attending a conference on the subject convened by Mr. Allen, who is in charge of technical education here in Perth. The conference met several evenings at the James-street School and discussed the question. I remember when the Carpenters' Union made application to the Arbitration Court that the contractors be compelled to take a certain number of apprentices. But contractors will not take apprentices. At the same time they present their case to the public to the effect

that the trades unions are at fault and are responsible for the limitations imposed on the employment of apprentices.

The Premier: We should make an inquiry.

Mr. McCALLUM: I have participated in such inquiries and I know what the result will be. The Premier should remember one occasion when the position was the reverse of that operating now. There is no industry that fluctuates so much as that comprising the building trades. Four or five years ago we had to ask the Government to expedite the building of workers' homes to absorb the men who were out of work. At that time men were leaving the State because there was nothing for them to do here. A few months after that deputation there was no man out of work and it was impossible to get an artisan for building operations. Although there is a boom in the building trades at present, and although everything points to its lasting, it may not do so. I have known an occasion when work representing some two million pounds was in the hands of the architects. Yet they closed down! If the Government were to import artisans they will find that in time the bottom will fall out of the building boom and there will be no work for those on the spot. The only way out of the difficulty is to compel these people to take a certain number of apprentices.

The Premier: You have been fond of holding things up.

Mr. McCALLUM: I am not fond of compelling people to do things, but when these contractors want the Government to spend money in bringing out artisans it is time to put forward the other side of the case.

The Premier: What would you do about it?

Mr. McCALLUM: There is a tribunal already established where these people can state their case. If a trades union asks for any concession which it is competent for the Arbitration Court to deal with, that union is informed that it should go before the tribunal.

The Premier: Yes, to fix wages.

Mr. McCALLUM: But the court fixes industrial conditions as well. The court says how many apprentices are to be employed and the conditions under which they can be taken on. What is the use of these contractors asking the Premier to permit them to employ improvers when the Arbitration Court has set its face against that position?

The Premier: I do not think they asked for improvers. Where did you see that statement?

Mr. McCALLUM: It appeared in the reports of the deputation in the "Daily News" and the "West Australian." That was suggested as one way of relieving the situation.

The Premier: I think that was a mistake. I really do not think that request was made.

Mr. McCALLUM: I know that the contractors have put that proposition forward on previous occasions. They make the lack of continuity of contracts the excuse for not encouraging apprentices because they say they cannot guarantee work for the apprentices.

The trades unions offered the right to transfer apprentices from one contractor to another so as to get over that difficulty.

The Premier: I do not know why either side should decide whether a boy shall learn a trade or not.

Mr. McCALLUM: But the law already provides that the Arbitration Court is to regulate the employment of apprentices. I take a deep interest in the apprenticeship question and I made investigations in the Eastern States regarding the systems operating there. As a result of my inquiries, I say emphatically that we are turning out in Western Australia the finest tradesmen that can be found in the Commonwealth. Our apprentices are more thoroughly taught and are under stricter supervision than elsewhere owing to the scheme formulated by the court.

Mr. Pickering: What period is necessary for training purposes?

Mr. McCALLUM: I am prepared to leave that point for the decision of the court after hearing both sides. I believe, however, that the time has come when there should be a shortening of that period in some of the trades.

The Premier: This is not the time to deal with that question.

Mr. McCALLUM: If the Premier will give us an assurance that none of the money we are asked to vote will be spent in bringing out artisans, that will satisfy me. We have to remember that the Premier promised sympathetic consideration of the requests of the deputation.

The Premier: I will tell when I do so. I said I would inquire into the matter. You cannot keep people living here without homes because we have not the buildings for them!

Mr. McCALLUM: No one wants any industry hung up or its operations curtailed, nor does any one desire that any boy should be deprived of the right to learn a trade if there is an opening for him. A very one-sided case was presented to the Premier by the deputation. Undoubtedly the contractors endeavoured to place the responsibility on the trades unions, but the fact remains that the contractors have consistently refused to take apprentices at all.

The MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. J. Seaddan—Albany) [11.10]: I should like to refer to the subject mentioned by the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes).

Hon. P. Collier: Perhaps the Minister would prefer to reserve his remarks until the member for East Perth is present.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I am not responsible for his absence. I cannot let the occasion go without having something to say. In 19 years of Parliamentary experience, it is the first time I have known of something said privately in the Chamber being carried outside and used for political purposes, as was done by the member for East Perth. After leaving the Chamber on Thursday last I was surprised to learn that I had sent out a message to the unemployed. Now, to-night, I discover what happened. While the member

for Perth (Mr. Mann) was speaking to the Address-in-reply, the member for East Perth came across here and asked the Premier to go out and see the unemployed. A little earlier I had witnessed the arrival of the Governor, and heard a small section of the unemployed hoot him. I felt that the behaviour of those responsible for such conduct showed a lack of decency, and when the member for East Perth preferred his request to the Premier I said to him in an undertone, "If they do not know how to behave themselves, I would see them in Hell before I went out of the Chamber to them." "Hell" was the word I used. Although I have not yet discovered whether there is such a place, the member for East Perth, if it exists, would know where it is. It is a pretty state of affairs when such tactics are resorted to by hon. members, and the position is not greatly relieved by a plea of ignorance. If statements privily made in the Chamber between one member and another are to be carried out to the public, I do not know where we shall find ourselves. Many things not intended for publication have been said to me in the Chamber. I had no intention of sending out any message to the unemployed, and I was surprised on learning from the hon. member that he had conveyed my remark to the unemployed as a message from me. The Premier told the hon. member plainly and distinctly that he was prepared to receive at any time representatives of the unemployed, or those acting for them. I do not wish to say any more. Whether as Minister or member, sometimes at great inconvenience, I have done as much to find employment for men as has anyone in the Chamber, and probably more than the member for East Perth has done or is likely to do. Indeed I once made myself unpopular in some quarters by finding employment in his constituency for men previously employed in the mines. I have done my best for men unemployed, because I have been through the mill myself, and I know it to be the most miserable time in a man's life when, although willing to work he cannot find work, notwithstanding that probably his wife and family are running short of necessities. Therefore I strongly resent the statement made by the member for East Perth. Certainly I am as much in sympathy with the unemployed as is the hon. member. I did everything I could for them last year, and was roundly abused for beginning a certain work in the metropolitan area to provide employment for married men. I was prepared to stand that abuse rather than have it said I was out of sympathy with men wanting work and unable to get it.

Hon. P. COLLIER: [regret that the member for East Perth has left for his home. I ask the Premier to report progress.

The Premier: We cannot do that.

Hon. P. COLLIER: There are several matters of importance which I should like to discuss before agreeing to grant Supply.

The Premier: We have discussed things for hours and hours past.

Hon. P. COLLIER: The Premier will agree that we have spent the sitting in discussing a matter of the utmost importance to the well-being of the State. The sitting has not been wasted. The discussion throughout has been a perfectly legitimate one.

The Premier: I do not know whether it was entirely genuine.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I do not think the Premier is entitled to say that. The Premier ought to report progress.

The PREMIER: I suppose that never before has a Supply Bill been so treated in this House. In the past the finances have been discussed, or the use to which the money is to be put, but to-night nothing has been discussed which could not be discussed on the Address-in-reply. I do not see why we should not pass the Bill now. Everyone who wants to speak has spoken, and if we report progress, and if to-morrow everybody repeats in Committee all that has been said to-night, where shall we get to? I do not wish to burke discussion, far from it, but it seems obvious that everything we have been discussing to-night has been widely apart from expenditure.

Hon. P. Collier: Unemployment means nothing but expenditure.

The PREMIER: No doubt as I leave this place half a dozen members will make as many requests for interviews in my office to-morrow. Already have we discussed many things.

Mr. Willecock: There are several others which we want to discuss.

The PREMIER: The hon member has had a very fair innings to-night.

Hon. P. COLLIER: I move—

That progress be reported.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	..	..	..	..	11
Noes	..	..	..	..	18

Majority against	..	7
------------------	----	---

AYES.

Mr. Angwin	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Chesson	Mr. McCallum
Mr. Clydesdale	Mr. Munste
Mr. Collier	Mr. Willcock
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Lutey	(Teller.)

NOES.

Mr. Carter	Mr. Pickering
Mrs. Cowan	Mr. Piesse
Mr. George	Mr. Sampson
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Scaddan
Mr. Hickmott	Mr. J. H. Smith
Mr. Latham	Mr. J. Thomson
Mr. H. K. Maley	Mr. Underwood
Mr. Mann	Mr. Mullany
Sir James Mitchell	(Teller.)
Mr. Money	

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM (Kalgoorlie) [11.20]: Before agreeing to Supply, I wish to refer to the statements made by the Premier in reply to the Leader of the Opposition regarding unemployment in Western Australia. During the recess and on the first occasion for a great many years, I saw men tramping along the railways, carrying their swags, searching for employment. Recently I had occasion to travel to Mullewa and on the section of railway from Wongan Hills to Mullewa I saw quite a number of men, carrying their swags, travelling towards Perth. They were seeking employment. They were not desirous of coming to Perth, but the trouble was no employment was offering in the country. Where employment such as land clearing is offering, especially land clearing by contract, the conditions are such that many men willing to undertake this class of work are unable to do so. A considerable outlay is necessary before workers can equip themselves to undertake clearing. To obtain the necessary equipment in outback centres costs up to £10. We have been told that a number of men in the metropolitan area are not prepared to go to the country to engage in land clearing. How is it possible for men having their homes in the city, particularly married men, to undertake a liability of £10 for tent, equipment and food; and chance the conditions of the bush—the class of timber to be cleared—on land they have never seen? This aspect should be considered by those people who are prone to criticise metropolitan unemployed for not undertaking clearing in the country. It is very difficult for men at the Labour Bureau to contract for work the nature of which they do not know, and those men who can appreciate the difficulties often realise that these contracts are unpayable. Another factor militating against the land clearer is the price of stores. Men working in the bush have to pay exorbitant prices for the necessities of life.

Mr. Mann: Where?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Anywhere in the agricultural areas.

Mr. Mann: They simply pay the railway freight added to the ordinary price.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: They do nothing of the kind. I can take the hon. member to an agricultural district where there is a difference of no less than 5d. on a lb. of butter and 5d. a stone on potatoes. This difference makes the cost exorbitant, and this is a reason why men are disinclined to undertake clearing work in the country.

The Premier: I am sorry to hear that.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: I can produce dockets to prove my statement.

Mr. Mann: I can understand a difference equivalent to the railway freight.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: It does not cost £50 to freight a ton of butter 300 miles into the country. It has been said that the unemployed problem this year is not so acute as it was last year.

Mr. Mann: Nor is it.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Will the hon. member accept the figures provided by the department? In July of last year there were at the Labour Bureau 1,420 registrations and renewals of men seeking employment. In July of this year the number was greater. That should be sufficient to satisfy even the member for Perth (Mr. Mann) that the difficulty is more acute this year. When the member for Geraldton (Mr. Willcock) was speaking, he pointed out that our Savings Bank deposits were on the decline.

Mr. Mann: If Savings Bank deposits have decreased the Associated Banks' deposits have increased.

The Premier: He said the State Savings Bank deposits. A great deal of money is put into the Commonwealth Savings Bank, unfortunately.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The savings of the workers go into the State Savings Bank, and the decline in deposits indicates an unsatisfactory position for the workers.

The Premier: You must realise that there are two savings banks.

Mr. Marshall: In which bank does the worker lodge his deposits?

The Premier: In both banks.

Mr. Marshall: The worker puts his deposits in the State Savings Bank.

Mr. Mann: And also the Commonwealth Bank.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The figures show that the workers who are out of employment are withdrawing their savings from the State bank and going to the Eastern States.

Mr. Mann: They are coming from the Eastern States.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The records show that this is the position. We are replacing experienced workers with inexperienced workers. We are not gaining in population.

The Premier: We are.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The figures given in the quarterly "Statistical Abstract" prove that our immigration policy has not led to an increase in population.

The Minister for Agriculture: You mean if we were not getting immigrants we should be losing in population.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: If we had no immigration policy we should be losing badly. There must be some reason for the decline in population.

The Premier: People do not send in their census forms.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: This unemployment problem is State-wide.

Mr. Mann: We are better off than they are in the Eastern States.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: On the 14th June 80 men presented themselves at one mine in the Kalgoorlie and Boulder district to seek

employment there. This state of unemployment is due to the decline in gold production.

Mr. Mann: Was it not due to one of the mines breaking down and 600 men being turned out of work?

Mr. Marshall: It was due to the desire of the employers to beat the arbitration award in Kalgoorlie. They shut down the mine.

Mr. Mann: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: There was a breakdown in one of the mines in Kalgoorlie during the year, but a number of employees were dismissed from another mine in Kalgoorlie.

Mr. Marshall: In order to beat the Arbitration Court.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The number of men employed in the gold-mining industry is steadily decreasing, and the position has become worse of late. The Government have done nothing to improve the state of affairs, or to overcome the decline in gold production. It is true that certain numbers of men, who are employed in seasonal occupations, are thrown out of work at certain times, but this does not apply to all industries. The gold-mining industry is faced with high railway freights and high charges for water supplies for mining purposes. Repeated efforts have been made to bring about a reduction in the cost of water, but without success. The Government have been approached on many occasions to reduce the price.

The Minister for Agriculture: The Government have approached the mines.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: On two or three occasions last session representatives of gold-fields brought directly under the notice of the Government the need for reducing the price of water. When the Premier returned from the Eastern States a few weeks ago, deputations also asked him for a reduction. Many months have passed since the matter was first brought up, but nothing has been done to assist the industry in this direction. Notwithstanding this, we are asked to put through Supply to enable the Government to carry on. Quite recently a deputation from Kalgoorlie waited on the Minister for Mines, and he himself paid a visit to Kalgoorlie. There has been no result from all these representations to the Government. We should not overlook those who have been trained to work in the gold-mining industry. If we allow these men to leave the State, we shall be losing a valuable asset, and a new set of workers will have to be trained when a better state of affairs arises. We are certainly losing population on the goldfields. I have met several new arrivals from overseas, and they have told me that the Australian worker has been grossly misrepresented in England. Immigrants who arrived here on the 2nd July last have told me of the advertisements circulated in England setting forth that Australian workers are disinclined to work in the country, and that this is why Western Australia is advertising for people overseas to come here and do the work. That is a misrepresentation of the position. It is work that must be done if the country is to be de-

veloped, and the Australian workers were accused of unwillingness to do it. If this is true it is the duty of the Government of Western Australia to withdraw such advertisements. I was told of these advertisements by several migrants whom I met. Such misrepresentation of Australian workers should be stopped. They are prepared to work in the bush, and they have done so ever since Australia was Australia. As long as the employment is made available on fair terms, plenty of Australians can be found to accept it. It is useless to replace Western Australians by new arrivals; this simply means driving our experienced workers to the Eastern States.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder) [11.43]: Before the motion is put, I should like information on two points. Do the Government contemplate the purchase of the Fremantle Freezing Works?

The Premier: No, certainly not.

Hon. P. COLLIER: Those works are not under offer to the Government in any way?

The Premier: Certainly not.

Hon. P. COLLIER: And the question of their purchase is not under consideration?

The Premier: Absolutely not.

Hon. P. COLLIER: That is satisfactory. Do the Government intend taking any definite action regarding the tenders for the cutting of sandalwood which were called some time ago? Further, will the Premier lay on the Table the papers connected with that subject? Most of those interested are very much in the dark regarding what has been done and what is proposed to be done.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [11.46]: I do not propose to discuss the question of sandalwood to-night, but I should like the hon. member himself to see the papers before asking that they be laid on the Table.

Hon. P. Collier: The matter will no doubt occupy a good deal of time on the Address-in-reply.

The PREMIER: I should like the hon. member to inform himself of the position regarding sandalwood. The question is, of course, an important one for the goldfields.

Hon. P. Collier: In any event, no definite action will be taken until the House has had an opportunity of discussing the matter?

The PREMIER: The hon. member can see the papers for himself. I should like the hon. member to see them before any further discussion takes place.

Hon. P. Collier: I have not time to do so now, before speaking on the Address-in-reply.

The PREMIER: It would not take the hon. member more than five minutes to understand them. If the hon. member wishes, I will take an opportunity to make them available to him.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means.

On motion by the Premier, resolved—

That towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1924, a sum not exceeding £793,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, £668,000 from moneys to credit of the General Loan Fund, £18,600 from the Government Property Sales Fund, £5,000 from the Land Improvement Loan Fund and £300,000 from the Public Account for the purpose of temporary advances to be made by the Colonial Treasurer.

Resolution reported, the report adopted.

Bill introduced.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced and read a first and second time.

In Committee, etc.

Mr. Munsie in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 -- Issue and application of £1,790,600:

Hon. P. COLLIER: What was the loan expenditure of last year?

The PREMIER: It was £3,644,699, of which amount 69 per cent. was spent on agriculture.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2—agreed to.

Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

The PREMIER (Hon. Sir James Mitchell—Northam) [11.58]: I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4.30 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.50 p.m. onwards.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fremantle) [11.59]: I am surprised that the Premier should press the motion at this juncture. He knows very well that at the commencement of almost every session exception is taken to the hours mentioned in the motion. They have been opposed by members of the Country Party, only two of whom are present now. It looks as if the Premier wants to get this through without opposition. I do not think it fair that the motion should be pressed at this time. The Premier should leave it till to-morrow.

The Premier: But nobody objects.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: Perhaps you have agreed to it at a joint party meeting.

The Minister for Agriculture: I will take the responsibility for it.

Mr. Marshall: But you have to do what the executive tells you.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN: This is of importance to the so-called representatives of farming districts. Therefore I hope the Premier will defer it till to-morrow, for to press the motion now is to take an unfair advantage of his Country Party supporters, of whom so few are left in the House.

The Premier: Your last train has gone.

Question put and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

On motion by the Premier, ordered:

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

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

Library: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Mr. J. MacCallum-Smith.

Standing Orders: Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Durack, Mr. Money, and Hon. T. Walker.

House: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Mullany, Mr. O'Loughlen, and Mr. Teesdale.

Printing: Mr. Speaker, Mr. O'Loughlen, and Mr. J. MacCallum-Smith.

House adjourned at 12.5 a.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 1st August, 1923.

	PAGE
Questions: School site, Bibra	52
Irwin Coalfield	52
Yuna-Mullewa Railway extension	52
Committees for the Session	52
Bill: Supply (No. 1), £1,790,600, all stages	53, 60
Chairman of Committees, election	60
Address-in-reply, third day	60

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

QUESTION—SCHOOL SITE, BIBRA.

Hon. G. POTTER asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government received as a gift, three acres of land situated at the junction of Warwick road and North Lake road in the Bibra and North Lake district? 2, What conditions, if any, governed the gift? 3, When will the Government comply with the conditions?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, The condition was that a school should be erected within twelve months, dating from 31st August, 1922. 3, The work will be carried out as soon as possible.

QUESTION—IRWIN COALFIELD.

Hon. T. MOORE asked the Minister for Education: In view of the favourable indications discovered by the Government boring party on the Irwin coalfield some months ago, do the Government intend to proceed further with boring operations there?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: When boring was discontinued it was decided that, should the Government again assist in this direction, it would only be on the distinct understanding that the owners of the land on which the bores were put down would agree to repay the whole of the expenditure incurred in regard to such bores should the coal seams be worked; this for the reason that the titles to the land did not contain a reservation of coal to the Crown, and therefore it is the property of the freeholder. Consequently Government expenditure with such a stipulation would mean that the Government was proving the value of the coal measures owned by land owners. This decision was intimated to the parties concerned, but so far no consent has been forthcoming.

QUESTION—YUNA-MULLEWA RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Hon. T. MOORE asked the Minister for Education: 1, Have the Government decided to send the Railway Advisory Board to inspect the land along the route of the proposed Yuna-Mullewa railway extension? 2, If so, when?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, As soon as possible.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

On motion by the Minister for Education sessional committees were appointed as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Minister for Education, the Chairman of Committees, Hons. J. Nicholson and A. Lovekin.

Library.—The President, Hons. A. J. H. Saw and H. Stewart.