

stick to the old title and call ourselves Country Party representatives." Here is the futility of the last conference, a conference called together for the purpose of reviewing the work of the parliamentary representatives. We need only look at the agenda paper of the conference to see that one of the objects is to amend, alter, or remodel the constitution. We find the president of the Primary Producers' Association advising delegates to drop the subject of politics.

Hon. M. F. Troy: I do not blame him.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: "Leave that to the Country Party representatives and the executive," he said. After bringing delegates from all portions of the State, that was the advice he gave them.

Mr. Munsie: Did not Monger tell the delegates they could not move an intelligent motion?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: One man told them that. There is the position, and the representatives of the Country Party are backing a Government in whom they have no confidence.

Hon. P. Collier: There was a three-hours speech the other night against the Government from the Government benches.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: Only to-night we heard the Minister for Agriculture give one of his supporters a dressing down for remarks he made yesterday evening.

Hon. P. Collier: A well-deserved dressing down.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM: The present Government are made up of several political parties, and many members of those parties have no confidence in the Ministry, although 50 per cent. of the portfolios in the Ministry are held by members of their party. They do not disguise the fact that they have lost confidence in the Government. I can quite understand now why we have so few Bills foreshadowed in the Governor's Speech. There is no cohesion on the Government side of the House. The present Ministry cannot trust their followers to give the support necessary to put legislation through. Before concluding, I just wish to mention that last session we passed a Miners' Phthisis Bill. So far as I know, that Bill became an Act. It was to come into operation by proclamation. At the time the measure was enacted, it was pointed out that this was a very desirable piece of legislation, and one very urgently needed. It was also pointed out that many of the men working in the mining industry were suffering from tuberculosis, and that it was essential, in the interests of the health of other men working in the industry, to get the tubercular cases out of it. Accordingly the measure made provision for finding employment for those who, upon removal from the mines, were in a fit state physically to undertake work. Provision was also made to compensate men taken out of the industry until employment was found for them. Up to the present we know nothing of the operation of that measure. All we know is that a number of men have been forced out of the mining industry since the measure was enacted. We know that those men have gone into the Woorloo Sanatorium. I want to know is the present Minister for Mines, or are the present Government, going to continue this peculiar state of affairs after the enactment of such a piece of legislation? Is that position

of affairs to continue until the next general election? Is the difficulty one of finance? Is there no money available for the carrying out of the provisions of the Miners' Phthisis Act? Is finance the stumbling block? Surely it is not a matter of waiting on what action the Federal Government proposes to take. It is not necessary to await the establishment of a laboratory at Kalgoorlie, because we have the very evidence of men being forced out of the industry on account of their suffering from tuberculosis. We had that evidence before the measure was enacted. We know of those cases without further medical research. Surely it is time that the present Government brought into operation the legislation which was passed last session for the purpose of relieving the situation that I have outlined.

On motion by Mr. Hickmott, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Thursday, 16th August, 1923.

	PAGE
Question: Liquor traffic, U.S.A., Mr. Walker's report	280
Papers: Government wells	280
Address-in-reply, eighth day	281

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

QUESTION—LIQUOR TRAFFIC, U.S.A.

Hon. T. Walker's Report.

Hon. A. LOVEKIN asked the Minister for Education: When will the reports of the Hon. T. Walker on his investigations of the liquor traffic in the United States be laid upon the Table?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: As soon as possible.

PAPERS—GOVERNMENT WELLS.

On motion by Hon. T. Moore (for Hon. J. W. Hickey) ordered:

That all the papers dealing with the cost of sinking Government wells between Mullewa and Dalwallinu (Nos. 1 to 9, inclusive) be laid on the Table of the House.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The papers are now on the Table of the House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Eighth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. J. CORNELL (South) [4.35]: Before proceeding on the even tenor of my way, I desire to join with other hon. members who have preceded me, in extending my congratulations to certain officers of the House. I will begin with you, Mr. President. Allow me to offer my felicitations to your good self. Despite the trials and tribulations you have had to undergo both inside and outside the House, I am pleased to see that you bear them with that jaunty manner so characteristic of yourself, and apparently the virility with which a beneficent Providence has endowed you, is in no way impaired. I extend my congratulations to the Leader of the House who already knows my personal views. His genial manner, courtesy and tact will serve him in good stead in his new position. I fully realise that his faith in this country and in the leader under whom he has chosen to serve, may tend towards his ardour getting the better of his judgment. I am satisfied that the Minister in his new office will make mistakes, but the man who makes no mistakes commends himself to none. For such men there may be a place in heaven; for them there is no niche on earth. I also desire to express my appreciation of the many acts of courtesy and kindness extended to me by our late Leader who has been called to act in a capacity on behalf of the nation, to which any citizen might well aspire. To adopt the words of the clergy, he has received a call to a higher position and he has responded to it. Doubts have been expressed as to whether he will succeed in his new capacity. I can only reiterate what I said at the send-off tendered to him, that if he fails it will not be his fault, but the fault of the State adopting a parsimonious policy regarding his new office. I also desire to congratulate the two officers of the House on receiving their permanent appointments. For many years they have served us in good stead, and I feel confident that during the years that lie before them, they will serve us as faithfully and as successfully as in years past. Lastly, I desire to extend a few words of congratulation and, I hope, of encouragement, to our excellent "Hansard" staff. We all owe an unpayable debt of gratitude—I know that I at least do so, if no other member does—to the "Hansard" staff for the simple reason that they make bad speeches read—

Hon. J. M. Macfarlane: Pretty well.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The "Hansard" staff make bad speeches read as fair expositions of the forensic art and tolerable speeches as excellent examples of oratorical effort.

Hon. G. Potter: What about the good speeches?

Hon. J. CORNELL: They constitute about the only rays of sunshine that penetrate the daily routine of "Hansard" but, like swallows that arrive here in the winter, their visitations are all too infrequent. From my

place in the House, I have already offered my congratulations to my colleague, Mr. Kirwan, on his appointment to the Chairmanship of Committees. There is no need to reiterate what I have already stated here in extending further congratulations. Hon. members who have preceded me have referred scathingly to the Governor's Speech. They have abused it for its bad phrasing, for its grammatical defects, for its disregard for our language and for its emptiness. So far as the first three counts are concerned, I desire to say nothing because they represent failings common to most people. As to the last indictment, I have gone through the Governor's Speech carefully. It covers three pages and includes 35 paragraphs. It cannot be said to be empty of words and phrases. It has been my privilege and pleasure to listen to about 13 speeches delivered by Governors in this Chamber, and those preceding the Speech under discussion, if my memory serves me aright, contained more phraseology, more declarations of piety, more vagueness and more ambiguity. When the acid test was applied to those speeches the logical outcome amounted to very little. So will it be, in my opinion, with the Governor's Speech now before us. One would have thought, seeing that the mining industry has done so much for Western Australia, that a little more attention would have been given to it in the Governor's Speech in recognition, if for no other reason, of those past services to the State, and some consideration shown for what has been the most dutiful child of industry Western Australia has known. Although the Speech contains 35 paragraphs only one applies to mining. It reads—

Prospecting for gold and oil is proceeding actively—

That may be so regarding gold, but I have yet to discover that prospecting is proceeding actively for oil, unless it be on the part of those people whose business it is to sell oil in bottles. Only two parties are boring for oil. The paragraph continues—

There are 82 parties searching for gold: 141 parties have been assisted during the year in addition to two Government parties.

That represents the whole of the reference made in the Speech to mining. In view of what gold mining has done for this State, and the fact that gold is usually considered to be synonymous with Western Australia, the framers of the Speech might at least have put the references to oil and gold in separate paragraphs. Gold we have; oil has yet to be discovered. Mr. Hickey, perhaps owing to lapse of memory, inferred that no goldfields member had mentioned this matter. I think Mr. Ardagh and Mr. Seddon both referred to it. If the Government cannot revive the industry, they should aim at keeping it going on its present scale. Cheaper water would greatly assist, and we have been promised an opportunity to consider this question during the session. If the taxpayers are to be called upon to bear any loss on the

water scheme, the attitude of some of the producing mines should be ascertained on one or two pertinent points. Assuming that cheaper water is supplied, would they give an undertaking to maintain the present pay roll or would it lead to the employment of more men? There are many mines which could be galvanised into activity if cheaper water were made available. I refer to the low grade propositions. The response from the struggling mines, I think, would be generous, and I trust the big mining companies, which have taken so much out of the State, would be prepared to shoulder their share of the burden. Just at the time when the cheaper water proposal is before us, we learn that the two wood companies have amalgamated, and that the cost of firewood to the mines has been raised 1s. per ton. An increase of 1s. per ton may sound very little, but approximately 1,200 tons of firewood is consumed on the Golden Mile daily. This increase, therefore, represents a sum of £60 per day, or about £22,000 a year. This is another burden that the mines are being called upon to bear. Assuming that the Government granted the industry relief to that extent by reducing the price of water, the position would be relatively as it was. The position is fraught with grave possibilities. Relief cannot come from the men employed in the industry, because no one would countenance a miner, working 3,000 feet below the surface, being paid less than a man who pulls a broom about the Kalgoorlie railway station. Relief must be found by cheapening the cost of production.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Are the Tariff Board doing anything?

Hon. J. CORNELL: We have no control over the Tariff Board. Another way in which relief could be afforded the industry is by reducing the railway freight of £10 per ton on dynamite. This is a murderous rate. I trust the Minister will use his influence to secure some relief in this direction.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And in railway freights generally.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Dynamite is all-important to the industry.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The industry deserves more sympathetic treatment than it is receiving from the Government.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The farming industry could not progress as it is without superphosphate, and reasonable rates are granted for its carriage.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Dynamite should also be carried at a reasonable rate.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Speech refers to prospecting and several members have spoken in complimentary terms regarding the State Prospecting Board. On every occasion the Minister has been sympathetic towards the board, which is composed of laymen and departmental officers. At present there are three Government prospecting parties operating in practically unprospected country, and there are also individual prospectors under Government assistance

distributed practically throughout the mining fields of the State. Two mining engineers, for whose ability I have the highest admiration, have referred to the circumstances attending the closing down of certain mines. They are of opinion that the old fields, Menzies for preference, Coolgardie and Norseman should be systematically tested by diamond drilling. They consider that an expenditure of £10,000 per annum would most likely result in immeasurable good. It was generally believed that the great auriferous belt of Witwatersrand was continuous for 56 miles. It was found that this was not so; a fault occurred at Brakpan, and the mining companies at Johannesburg discovered one of the greatest gold-producing centres on the Rand—Boksburg and Benoir—by the systematic use of the diamond drill. We have not a diamond drill operating in Western Australia to-day. We spend a considerable amount of money in other directions, but not one penny is being spent to search by means of the diamond drill for new lodes. The only other method is to unwater shafts and undertake the costly work of sinking and driving. At Coolgardie the other day it was brought under my notice that on the Eastern Goldfields there are certain shrubs containing tanning material second to none in the world. These shrubs grow in unlimited quantities and, in contradistinction to the wattle, the second year after being cut down are again available in almost the original quantities. There are a few men struggling at Coolgardie to launch this business, and turn it into the only form in which the material can be made practically available; that is, they are trying to establish an extracting factory with a tannery as a side line. During my short stay in the South African Union I travelled through Natal, and in Pietermaritzburg saw at least five up-to-date extracting mills. The Coolgardie people understand that the lowest output from such a mill is 40 tons per day, and there are at least five of these mills at Pietermaritzburg. Let me call attention to the fact that these South African people, who imported wattle seed from us originally, are to-day returning wattle bark to Pearce Bros. at Fremantle, priced at £15 or £17 per ton, and are placing on the Australian market annually between £70,000 and £80,000 worth of the same commodities. The wattle bark flourishes no better in South Africa than it does here, but they grow it there. We do not grow it here, we ruthlessly cut it out and destroy it.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is the point.

Hon. J. CORNELL: We have at our doors, in the Coolgardie district, a tanning material considered to be second to none in the world; and yet we cannot float in Western Australia a company with a capital of £10,000 or £50,000 to establish the industry. If we are not prepared to utilise the resources which the Almighty has placed at our disposal, it serves us right if they are taken advantage of by other people. Now I wish to touch on goldfields agriculture possibilities. If it had been said a few years ago that the Westonia

district would be peopled with land settlers, as in fact it is, or that there would be 40 applicants for 21 blocks at Bullfinch, and that 14 bushels of wheat to the acre could be grown at Southern Cross, the man who said it would have been made the subject of an inquiry into his state of mentality. But such are the facts to-day. Land for agricultural purposes has been selected 23 miles from the railway at Westonla. All the blocks available around Southern Cross and Bullfinch have been selected. Little or no Agricultural Bank assistance has been given in those districts. A gentleman named Forester, in Southern Cross, demonstrated the agricultural possibilities of that district, without receiving one penny of assistance and without receiving much encouragement from any Government department. That is the type of man most valuable in this country.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Encouragement and assistance were given by the Agricultural Department.

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Agricultural Department said wheat would not grow successfully at Southern Cross.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: The facts are quite otherwise.

Hon. J. CORNELL: There is the position. In these agricultural possibilities on our goldfields we have an asset corresponding to that which followed on the decline of goldmining in Ballarat, Charters Towers, and many other Eastern goldfields. The population of Southern Cross is maintained to-day by agriculture, despite the decline of mining there. I hope ere long to see that piece of country between Beneubbin and Bullfinch linked up by a railway. If anything I can do will help towards that end, it shall be done. Now let me return to that part of the country which Mr. Baxter said was discovered by the Minister for Agriculture. Speaking in another place last evening the Minister for Agriculture said that he did not pose as the Christopher Columbus of Esperance. The analogy, if not strictly correct, was fairly apparent. Columbus was the original discoverer of America.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: That is doubted by many people.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But it is so as far as our history goes. The original discoverer of Australia was a chap named Dirk Hartog, who landed somewhere on the west coast.

Hon. E. H. Harris: The Chinese preceded him.

Hon. J. CORNELL: For that matter it is asserted that the Chinese anticipated Christianity, Confucius having taught the "Golden Rule" some seven hundred years before Christ did. However, to return to Australia, Captain Cook came along a hundred years after Dirk Hartog and discovered Australia on the eastern side. That is really what the Minister for Agriculture did; he went to Esperance and rediscovered what had been discovered 20 years ago. But the discovery of 20 years ago brought no profit. I believe that the rediscoverer of to-day will stand up for his recent find.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: The Premier went down to investigate your trip, did he not?

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is said that icebergs, as they drift south or north from the North or South Pole, invariably become part of the ocean. And so I believe it will be with the Premier as regards the Esperance district. Let us assume for a moment that there is a doubt about this locality.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: What locality are you referring to?

Hon. J. CORNELL: The part from Circle Valley to Scaddan, 40 odd miles. That has been damned internally, externally, and every other wise.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: Is there a place called Scaddan there?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, and at a meeting of settlers I asked who named that place Scaddan. The reply I got was that no one would own up to having done so. Despite what George Thompson did at Grass Patch during a lengthy period, that country was damned eternally. But what is the position there to-day? Out of approximately 540 blocks of 1,000 acres each, less than 50 remain unselected; and those remaining unselected are so remote from the railway that the Agricultural Bank will not grant the usual assistance. Is not this a sufficient testimony to that part of the State? One finds there mallee farmers from the Eastern States who say that for an outlay of 12s. or 13s. per acre they are getting land exceeding in value land costing £6 or £7 per acre in the Eastern States. They are putting in their own money. Is not that a sufficient guarantee? An elector of Mr. Baxter's with six sons went to the Esperance district, having sold his farm at Bruce Rock for £4,000 or £5,000. He took that money to the Esperance district, and he chose land in what is known as "The Glue Pot." He and his six sons have selected 7,000 acres there. This year they have 400 acres under crop right in the heart of "The Gluepot," and they propose putting 1,500 acres under crop next year. All this has been done without advice, and also without assistance from any individual in the State. I regard it as an apt demonstration of the possibilities of the Esperance district. I venture to say that that farmer and his six sons will do more to demonstrate Esperance possibilities in two years than all I and Mr. Kirwan and other goldfields members have done during the last 20 years. That farmer and his sons are applying the acid test of practicability to the locality. I wish to pay a tribute to the good work done by the Agricultural Bank officers in the Esperance district. It has been said in other connections that the Premier has not time or does not find time, and that his officers are not cognisant of the work to be done. So far as my information goes, the people throughout the Esperance district are perfectly satisfied with the calibre of the Government officers doing the work there, and regard them as live wires. That came to me unsolicited. As we know,

the railway stops at Salmon Gum. There is a strip of country from Salmon Gum 50 odd miles northward. I advise members to go through that country, particularly from Dundas to Salmon Gum. After they have done so I will ask them to take me to any other piece of country in Western Australia showing land of such uniformly good quality.

Hon. F. E. S. Willmott. What about the rainfall?

Hon. J. CORNELL: The Minister for Agriculture has travelled over a great deal of this State, and he is satisfied that on his Esperance trip he saw a longer continuous stretch of good land than he had previously seen in Western Australia.

Hon. J. Mills: What about the timber?

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is all salmon gum and gimlet. Now as to the rainfall. Great credit is due to the Minister for Agriculture as the first man to visit the Esperance district within the coastal influence. It is now generally understood that, even assuming the Esperance rainfall were two inches per annum less than that of land east of Merredin—which it is not—we have a different set of circumstances from those presenting themselves in the Esperance wheat belt. We know what could happen next month if the rainfall east of Merredin were short by an inch and the wind chopped round to the north. One knows that under such conditions in the eastern wheat belt past occurrences would immediately repeat themselves. The damage in such circumstances is irretrievable. But those conditions do not apply in the Esperance district, even for a considerable distance northwards, because from October until crops are harvested, the seasonable winds are south-easterly. Any member who has lived in Kalgoorlie a number of years knows that on rare occasions there one gets a north wind within this period. At Norseman a 13-inch rainfall has been recorded for the last 15 years. At the Merredin State farm last year 17 bushels of wheat were grown on an actual rainfall of seven inches. During the trip to Esperance we discovered two men from Yorke's Peninsula, each with £1,000 in his pockets, glad to get land between Norseman and Salmon Gum. From a railway standpoint dead-end railways are unjustifiable. I am not advocating the extension of the line in order that the farmers' produce might be hauled to Perth. That would be suicidal. Their port is Esperance, and all the wheat they produce must go through Esperance. But if the extension be not constructed for about two years, it will be found that on the Esperance line there is not nearly sufficient rolling stock to shift a quarter of the wheat that will be grown. The only satisfactory way to put rolling stock on to that line is to transport it by sea. From a railway viewpoint the present position is intolerable. The proposed extension must be constructed. Then why not construct it now, while the men and the plant are on the spot? I advocate its construction right away, as I ad-

vocate also a thorough survey of that country and the taking of proper steps to bring under the notice of farmers in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales the possibilities of the land. This certainly would introduce into the State a highly desirable class of settler, namely, an Australian with his own money. Close to Seaddan is a strip of sand plain. Mr. Bowe, a farmer, has demonstrated that by mixed farming he can live on that sand-plain. In my view the sand plain is not fit for that purpose, but is eminently fit for the planting of pines. There are there thousands and thousands of acres of land with a 17 inch rainfall. Fourteen years ago two local farmers planted pines which are now 100 feet high. The district is wind-swept, certainly, but if there be one part of Western Australia which pre-eminently lends itself to the growth of pines, it is that piece of country beyond Seaddan in the Esperance district. Now I should like to touch upon that part of the Esperance country about which Mr. Baxter expressed grave doubt. It may not be known that, according to the Commonwealth records, the rainfall at Zanthus is 10½ inches, of which over seven inches falls between April and October. If anyone wishes to see a more magnificent stretch of country than that from Cardonia to Zanthus, I do not know where it is to be found. Men who have recently gone through from Zanthus to Eyre declare that that stretch of country continues almost to Eyre, and contains approximately three million acres. Those men had no axe to grind. Mr. Thompson, of Grass Patch, and Mr. White, of Esperance, are both free from any charge of axe grinding; yet they say the continuous belt of mallee country runs 70 miles to Mt. Ridley, and is equal to, if not better than, the land at Grass Patch. Out from Balladonia for the past 14 years excellent crops have been grown without super. It is all very well to say there is no rainfall down there, but I ask critics to point out where in that country the rainfall can be ascertained. In point of fact, it can only be ascertained at Balladonia or at Fraser's Range, where alone records have been kept.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The growth of timber will show the rainfall.

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, and the growth is perfectly satisfactory. We have in that part of the State an asset second to none in the Commonwealth. We are foolish not to develop it, for there are thousands of people in the Eastern States hungering for good land and prepared to pay anything up to £20 an acre for wheat country. It has been said that we have no more wheat land in the State. How foolish a statement it is, is seen when we consider the Esperance district, the Newdegate district right through to Ravens-thorpe, the Southern Cross district, Bullfinch, Geraldton-Mullewa and the country served by the Wongan Hills line. The man who says we are at the end of our land for cereals and mixed farming, ought to get out of the State. The localities I have enumerated should be developed simultaneously with the South-

West. The South-West has had its settlers for the past 80 years. Their results might be compared to lighthouses in the ocean. A new method, that of group settlement, is now being tried, but I say the South-West probably will break the hearts of two generations. However, the job has to be gone on with, for we cannot sit idly by and see a country with a rainfall of from 35 inches to 40 inches lying undeveloped. But I strongly advise that simultaneously with the development of the South-West lands, our more easily accessible country should also be developed. I wish to say a few words about miners' phthisis. Last session we passed a Bill which was contingent on the Federal Government doing something. The Federal Government have done nothing. All that the Bill itself does is to propose to remove from the mines any person suffering from tuberculosis. It gets us very little "forrader"; nevertheless it is a step in the right direction. The obligation is ours, and if after a reasonable time the Federal Government fail in their obligation, we must shoulder it, as indeed we should have done years ago. There has been an agitation for the application of industrial insurance to tubercular victims, and another agitation that such men should be included in the Workers' Compensation Act. But the highest duty we, as humanitarians, can be called upon to perform is to so circumstanciate the miner that there shall be a minimum risk of his contracting phthisis. It has been proved indubitably that phthisis is preventible. To the advocates of the application of the Workers' Compensation Act or of industrial insurance, I say they are missing the main point, which is prevention. We should compensate only until such time as we shall have eradicated the disease. The Mine Workers' Relief Fund is up against it. Men who have contributed to that fund for the last ten years would, if they fell victims to the industry, receive but half the sum they contracted for when first they subscribed to the fund. The position is appalling. The Mine Workers' Relief Fund is going to the bad at the rate of £60 a week, and is not meeting its obligations.

The Minister for Education: The Government are considering the position.

Hon. J. CORNELL: But if it be not immediately relieved, the scheme will become insolvent. It is obligatory on every miner to contribute so much per week to the fund. When he dies or is incapacitated, and his wife or widow and children obtain relief from the fund, it is counted against them if they ask for assistance from the Charities Department.

The Minister for Education: Do all miners subscribe to the fund?

Hon. J. CORNELL: Yes, it is obligatory. If John Brown, a miner, paying into the fund for 20 years, dies or is incapacitated, and draws 36s. a week from the fund, his dependants can get nothing from the Charities Department. If he had drawn but 35s. from the fund, they might get 1s. a week from the Charities Department in order to make up the sum to 36s. Workmen in other industries are

not asked to make provision for their future, and when the time comes they or their dependants can draw up to 36s. weekly from the Charities Department, whereas when a miner makes provision for the future, it is counted against him, or his widow and children.

Hon. E. H. Harris: He is penalised for that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is wrong: A man died and left a widow and four children. They were getting 28s. a week from the Mine workers' Relief Fund, and the State Aid Department made them a weekly allowance of 8s., the total being 36s. a week. The Wesley Church thought it would assist that widow by giving her 15s. a week for cleaning out the church. The State Aid Department immediately cut off 15s. from its payments, and the widow is worse off than ever.

Hon. A. Lovekin: They generally do that.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I put the matter before the Colonial Secretary for sympathetic consideration, and he noted it.

Hon. J. Nicholson: That is penalising thrift.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is penalising the man who makes some provision for the future.

Hon. A. Lovekin: It is quite general. I know of many such cases.

Hon. J. CORNELL: It is fundamentally wrong. Some people say the group settlement project will result in failure and catastrophe. The development of our South-West ought to be tackled and it is being tackled. Who can say it is going to be a failure? If members could see parts of the Eastern States analogous to the South-West they would conclude that probably in the final analysis a considerable amount of capitalisation will have to be written off. What does that matter? A considerable amount of money will have to be written off from the Wyndham Meat Works. I say to Mr. Baxter that the worst calamity that could happen to the South-West group settlement scheme will not square the calamity of the Wyndham Meat Works. In the former case the asset will be there represented by the improvements made to the land. The development of other parts of the State should run side by side with that of the South-West. It is not the slightest use offering carping criticism. In the South-West we have to put our hands to the plough and must go on. Members representing goldfields provinces have nothing so scathing to say concerning the group settlement scheme as is said by members representing provinces much closer to the groups than we are. Taking goldfielders by and large, their minds are not warped. They take a big view and a broad outlook upon things. The financial side does not trouble them because they are on the verge of bankruptcy almost every day, although they always get through. My last subject is the all-absorbing one of migration. Some members began with it; others continued with it, and others ended with it. I propose to follow the last named course. Many and varied are the propi-
 eters who have arisen in the world of immigration.

They are humming like bees in springtime. It has been said by the "West Australian," as was said by Mahomet, there is only one true prophet. In the case of Mahomet it was himself, but in the case of the newspaper it is Sir James Mitchell. That which is agitating the minds of many is the question, will Sir James Mitchell's ideas mature? Many say they will not because the doctrine he preaches is unsound. They do not either amplify or qualify that view. These things have been said of all prophets who have come and gone through the ages. Those prophets who said something definite and stuck to their doctrine are invariably those who have succeeded. I have had many a row with the Premier, but I say that when we are all gone much that has been said to-day of the late Lord Forrest concerning the broad outlook he had over the country will be said of the present Premier. No doubt he will make mistakes. What man has ever been worth a rap who has not made mistakes? It is by our mistakes that we progress. Nothing attempted means nothing done. The man who made no mistakes accomplished nothing. It is rather amusing to look for an analogy between the various controversies now going on. I have to turn to a well known author to find anything comparable with the criticism levelled at the Premier. No doubt treading the path he has chosen he will meet with his talkative Thomsons and the facing-both ways Thomsons, the pliable Baxters, the worldly-wiseman Stewarts and the doubting Mongers. He will go on, however, because his policy is a bold and courageous one. If it were not so it would not be worth while. We are an integral part of the British Empire. Australia has a heritage such as is possessed by no other people, and we have a people equal to any other race. We have all those things that nature has ordained shall go towards the making of a great country. One thing we lack is population. When we follow the coastline of Australia and see its extent, and realise the presence of the teeming millions to the north, we must see the necessity for filling our own empty spaces with the right class of people. If for no other reason than defence Australia must be peopled. If we are to hold this country and keep it upon the high pedestal of a white Australia, we must hold it by our own efforts and bring people here to defend it. The best way to defend Australia is to do so from without, and to meet the common enemy coming here. In England, Scotland and Ireland there is an unemployed problem embracing 5,000,000 people. If a man can convince himself that Great Britain will return to what she was before the war, he must be placed in the same category with the man who believes that the cost of living will come down to what it was in pre-war days. If the British people are to continue to be the salt of the earth, there must be reciprocity of exchange in the people of the Empire not alone reciprocity of trade.

Hon. G. W. Miles: There must be both.

Hon. J. CORNELL: There should primarily be reciprocity of people. They are coming into Western Australia. It is said they are coming in too great numbers. It was also said that the wrong type of man was coming here, that we ought to get agricultural labourers from England, crofters from Scotland and so on. They say the type we are getting is not good from the physical point of view, and various other objections are raised to the newcomers. Whom do we want? Do we want people from the country from which we all sprung, or from elsewhere? If we cannot people this country with those of our own race, we had better give up the job. Mr. Potter will bear me out when I say that the critics who have spoken concerning the type of migrant know very little of the history of England during the last war. At the close of hostilities at least 80 per cent. of the men in England and Scotland were considered unfit to bear arms in any way, or take part in active service. Six million men from Great Britain bore arms, and one-third of these died. This must of necessity have a terrible effect upon the physique of the men of the nation. People have asked, why do we not get the type of men who came here 50 years ago? Conditions in England have altered. Segregation in the cities has perhaps had a deteriorating effect upon the physique of the race. We remember the dark days of April and May of 1918. I happened to be at a base camp in France at that time. I saw 50,000 Tommies come in on one day. A good many of them were boys, and the majority were men over 55 years of age. They had come over to bear arms and push back the Hun. That was the last of England's strength, but they succeeded in pushing back the Hun. Physique does not matter. Good food, good sunlight and warm clothes will work wonders.

Hon. G. W. Miles: So long as their hearts are in the right place.

Hon. J. CORNELL: I am not concerned about physique. Mentality is the main thing. Immigrants, however, should be free from all pulmonary complaints. If we can get men of that type the rest is easy. It is said that they should undergo 12 months' training. What at? I followed the plough, I drove a harvester and turned a winnow at 15. So far as farm labouring is concerned, and many other occupations as well, if the "Pommie" is given a chance, which he has not had up to date, I am convinced that he will make a good citizen. All he requires is encouragement. To say that it takes 12 months to make a farm labourer is absurd. The first job I had was on the Golden Mile, and I was up against it at that time. I was a "holder-up" for a boilermaker on a steam stack 8 ft. in diameter and 120 ft. overall, but I got through the job successfully. On another occasion, when I wanted my fare from Melbourne to New South Wales, I took on a job as groom and coachman. We can take on anything when the necessity arises. It is said that the people who are

brought out here are primarily brought out to eventually go on the land. There is only one place where they can get the training necessary and that is on the farm. In days gone by it was the single-furrow plough as against the 8 disc plough of to-day, and, so far as the newcomer is concerned, he is about as comparable as the boomerang of the blackfellow and the pyramids of Egypt.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You would not put new arrivals on blocks of their own without 12 months' experience?

Hon. J. CORNELL: There are some people I would not put on the land even though they had 20 years' experience, because the personal equation is not there. But many of the "Pommies," provided they have any nous at all, will make farm labourers in six months or less if the man who employs them will give them a little encouragement. The position is largely determined by the help and encouragement given by those who employ the new arrivals. I desire to say, in conclusion, that this is the country of my adoption. All that I have, and it is not much, is here. But I will play second fiddle to no one in the belief that I hold that this country is one of great possibilities. Those possibilities, however, can only be brought to materialisation by our retaining unbounded faith in the State and working hard to develop it.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS (North-East) [5.50]: I join with other members in extending congratulations to Mr. Ewing on his attaining Ministerial rank. I am sure that if his judgment in arriving at decisions is as sound as it was during the period that he occupied the position of Chairman of Committees, he will have no occasion to regret having accepted the portfolio. I also extend congratulations to Mr. Kirwan on his elevation to the position of Chairman of Committees. I feel sure that he, too, will give as much satisfaction to members as did his predecessor. I have listened with considerable interest to the speeches made by hon. members and particularly to the remarks relating to group settlements. I feel tempted to add something to the debate in this direction, but having regard to the position that the mining industry is in at the present time, I have decided to confine what I have to say to that industry. Gold-mining has done much for Western Australia and to it we can claim that the advancement of the agricultural industry is to a great extent due. We cannot too often remind the Government of what the gold-mining industry has done in the past. His Excellency's Speech contains but two brief lines in respect of this industry.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Very important, though.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Certainly, but those two lines gave no indication as to what the intentions of the Government were regarding the future of the industry which we know to be in a parlous state to-day. I commend the Government for the assistance they have rendered to the genuine prospec-

tor. The Government have invariably assisted genuine prospectors to go out into the back country. If we look up the figures of the past few years, we find that they are sufficiently interesting to quote. In 1920 no fewer than 117 men were assisted. In 1921 the number was 255 and in 1922 it was 316. It is encouraging to see that the Government have helped the industry to this extent. In 1902 the Government then in power passed the Mines Development Act, which provides for the rendering of assistance to pioneer mining and prospecting, and also for the erection of batteries, etc. The batteries have done much to assist those who are engaged in the industry. But if we examine the assistance that has been given under the headings (a) pioneer mining and prospecting, (b) assistance in the erection of batteries, (c) miscellaneous, and (d) boring, we find that the total outstanding as the result of assistance given, at the end of December, 1921, amounted to £87,569. These are the latest statistics that are available. I mention these figures to show the amount that had not been returned to the Government on that date. In addition to those advances, there had been written off, up to the same time, no less a sum than £31,834. So that in a period of 20 years the Government have advanced, and did not have returned, £119,403, or an average expenditure of £6,000 per annum. Hon. members are well acquainted with the assistance that has been rendered by the Government through the Agricultural Bank to those who are settled on the land. The assistance rendered to mining does not at all compare favourably with that given to the farming section of the community. I am not able to give hon. members the amount that has been written off by the Agricultural Bank, but we can rest assured that the assistance rendered to mining suffers by comparison with that rendered to agriculture. Gold-mining at the present time is under a cloud, and, unfortunately, it is not one of those clouds that can be driven away by a ray of sunshine. It is rather a dark cloud and we feel that it will affect the future prosperity of the industry. At the same time we have not arrived at that stage when we need to send out S.O.S. signals. Yet we wish to appeal to the Government to extend to the industry further help than that which has been given up to date. The goldfields people feel that the industry has not had that support that circumstances warrant. It is vital to the industry and to the State that the Government should grant any and every assistance possible. Recently the people of Kalgoorlie took advantage of the presence of the Premier in that town to submit to him a comprehensive scheme for a revision of the water charges; in other words, to grant assistance by that means to the industry. The water charges for the mining supplies and also for domestic purposes have been very heavy. In view of the fact that the sinking fund

in connection with the Goldfields Water Supply has been provided for—the loan matures in 1927—it was thought that the Government, having secured relief from those payments, could grant relief in the direction I have indicated. That is only one of the many ways in which it is considered help could be given to the industry by the Government. We want it made abundantly clear that the mining industry is not down and out. A further curtailment or cessation of the industry will put us in an awkward position. If ore valued at 50s. cannot be treated profitably and the gold premium is lost, it will be difficult to say what the position will be very shortly. I have some figures dealing with the value of ores crushed and working costs, which will demonstrate to members clearly what the economic position is. Before leaving the question of the goldfields water scheme, however, I would like to mention, as pointed out in the Governor's Speech, that the sinking fund was relieved to the extent of £32,500 for the financial year 1921-22 and of £75,000 for the year 1922-23. The latter amount will also apply to the financial year 1923-24. In those circumstances, we considered that the Government, having that substantial lift, could spend that money by way of grants or further assistance in the interests of the goldfields.

The Minister for Education: By reducing the price of water?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: That is one of the many ways in which the Government could assist. As Mr. Cornell pointed out, many of the freight charges applicable to mining commodities constitute a heavy burden and they are not applicable to any other industry in the State. Early action on the part of the Government in order to relieve the position would be greatly appreciated. I understand the Minister for Mines has left for the goldfields to-night to further investigate the position, which is a serious one. I hope he will suggest a slogan in connection with the mining industry, just as the Minister for Agriculture did when he set out to double our production. The Minister made a strenuous effort to increase the wheat production of the State, and I would like to see some such slogan given to the mining industry. The statistics I have compiled may be of value, and may more graphically describe the position of the mining industry to-day than mere words could disclose. When the war broke out in 1914 the average grade of ore crushed throughout the State was valued at 37s. 10d. per ton. The working costs were 20s. 6d., and thus a margin of 17s. 9d. per ton was left. With the increased cost of every mining commodity, it was found in 1920 that it was necessary to crush gold ore valued at 42s. 6d. per ton, with working costs amounting to from 29s. 6d. to 37s. 3d. per ton. This left the small margin of 8s. 11d. per ton. In 1921 the average grade ore crushed was valued at 51s. 6d. per ton; working costs amounted to 38s. 7d., leaving a

margin of 13s. 6d. In 1922 the average grade ore dealt with was valued at 53s. 2d. The figures regarding working costs are not yet compiled and are, therefore, not available. The outstanding feature of these figures is the increased working costs. During the last year or two the average grade ore crushed has been higher than the average grade mined, and obviously that sort of thing cannot last for any time.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: That would mean that low grade shows must close down.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Some low grade mines have closed down, because they could not stand the increased costs, and the mines that have had the richer grade ore have been crushing that ore for the past three years in order to make both ends meet. The average grade of ore that has been crushed during the past two years throughout the whole State averages 52s. 4d. This is, roughly, 13dw. ore and that, of course, will leave very little margin. Mines that have not been working better class ore have had to make up with the richer ore so that they can balance the ledger.

Hon. V. Hamersley: Can working costs be reduced?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: We are suggesting that the Government should assist in many ways, such as lower freights, decreased water charges, and so on. Even at that grade, few mines with so little margin to spare could exist. The ore valued at from 40s. to 44s., which would be mined under the old conditions, cannot be crushed now as it would be dealt with at a loss. Ore broken in mines has to be dealt with or left there. One cannot pick it over as is possible with copper ore. The result is that much low grade ore has been buried in mines and is lost for ever. Western Australia cannot afford to allow 10-dwt. ore to be buried in any mine.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Hear, hear!

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: It is important that ore should be crushed when broken. It cannot be brought to the surface, handled and made a payable business as it is, seeing that most of the ore dealt with is low grade and must be broken. It has been found that it does not pay to crush it. Rich shoots are limited, but there is a plentiful supply of low grade ore. While the industry has been kept going on the lines I have indicated, there is a minimum beyond which it is not safe to go.

The Minister for Education: What is that minimum?

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: To-day the minimum would be ore carrying from 12 dwts. to 13 dwts. Formerly ore carrying from 8 dwts. to 8½ dwts. could be dealt with. On the 17th June last, the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the birth of the East Coolgardie goldfields. It was on that date 30 years ago that Hannan applied for a reward claim for the East Coolgardie fields, which later brought Western Australia so prominently before the public, and which proved such a Godsend to the State not only from the standpoint of the mining

discoveries, but of the population that came here. During the war period the gold-mining industry proved of very great benefit to Western Australia. For some years later, the gold mines had to sell the commodity produced to the banks at a standard price, while others engaged in various industries were permitted to sell their output on the markets of the world and secure the benefits accordingly.

Hon. J. Mills: The wheat growers did not.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: They did not at one time, but latterly they have had their own pool. Since 1919 the gold-mining industry has been able to get good returns because of the premium on gold. Had it not been that the gold premium was available, the whole of the Golden Mile would have been closed down 18 months ago because of the economic position that confronted the industry. Relying on the goldfields, is a population of between 25,000 and 30,000 men, women and children, and in addition to that there are the railway, wood supply, water supply, and many other considerations of importance where the industry is concerned. The goldfields represent a large consumer for the products of the agricultural areas. In fact, the goldfields represent one of the best markets for the South-West. Should something happen to cause the industry to close down, a very valuable market would be lost. A stoppage of crushing operations would affect about 80 per cent. of the employees on the goldfields, but it would not affect in the least, the gold that is in the mines waiting for the hand of man to direct its course to the surface. That gold would simply remain in the earth for a further period. Probably if the mining companies were to consult their own interests purely from the financial point of view, they could cease crushing operations for a year or two and devote their attention to development work. The development of the mines has been retarded and if crushing were stopped, the ore in other parts of the mine could be broken. It is customary in connection with the mines to keep development work well ahead, but, for reasons I have stated, this branch has been retarded. It would pay some of the mines to close down until further development work has been carried out. That would mean the discharge of 80 per cent. of the men on the Golden Mile. There are many thousands of men employed on the Eastern goldfields. That will indicate the position that will be created if the miners are thrown out of work. It is admitted that the population of the goldfields area has been decreased considerably because of the decline in the industry. This fact is reflected in the new Redistribution of Seats Bill under which the goldfields will lose five seats. When the Electoral Districts Bill was before the House, I declared that the loss of population was but temporary, and I still hold the view that if some assistance is not rendered at an early date, and the electoral redistribution is maintained on these lines, we will in the end lose not five seats, but nearer nine. It is obvious that without work

there will be no population. They are fighting under circumstances over which they have no control.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: When the sitting was suspended, I was about to point out that we are fighting against circumstances over which we have no control. The price of gold is governed by the rate of exchange between London and New York. When it is to the advantage of Britain, it is decidedly against the industry. If other commodities were to fall correspondingly in price with gold, we could carry on. The price of gold has fallen, and yet the prices of commodities remain at practically the same level. During the past few years there has been a decline in the tonnage, in the production of gold, in the number of men employed, and in the dividends paid by the mining companies, while there has been an increase in the grade of ore, in the tonnage produced per man, in the ounces of gold won per man, and in the production per man employed in the industry. The East Coolgardie goldfield is the largest producer of gold in the State. Western Australia produces 60 per cent. of the gold raised in the Commonwealth. The State yield in 1921—the latest figures available—was valued at £2,286,325 while per man engaged in the industry the gold produced was valued at £408. Members should notice the difference between the gold produced per head of the men engaged in the industry on the East Coolgardie goldfield as compared with the average for the whole of the State. The East Coolgardie goldfield produces over 70 per cent. of the gold yield of the State, and it absorbs 48 per cent. of the total men engaged in the industry. In 1919 the average grade of ore treated on the East Coolgardie field was 3s. 9d. above the average for the State, while in 1920 it was 4s. 9d. above the average. The increase was necessary to meet the increased cost of commodities. In 1921 the State average was 51s. 6d., while that of the eastern goldfields was 50s. 4d. In 1922, when the State average was 53s. 2d., the eastern goldfields grade was reduced to 42s. 8d., a difference of 4s. 6d. per ton. The point is that they could not continue to crush the higher grade of ore, as they had been doing for three years previously. That cannot be maintained. The average production per man for the whole State—quite apart from the gold premium—in 1918 was £476, 1919 £412, 1920 £381, 1921 £378, and 1922 £408. I have taken the average for five years in order to arrive at a fair basis, and the mean for that period works out at £411 per man engaged in the industry. On the eastern goldfields the production in 1918 was £547, in 1919 £548, in 1920 £507, 1921 £579, and 1922 £578, which gives an average of £572 per man engaged. This demonstrates clearly that while the average for the State was £411, the average for the eastern goldfields was £161 per man greater. Hence the necessity for extending some early and substantial consideration to the eastern

goldfields which produce the major portion of the gold and employ 50 per cent. of the men engaged in the industry. The value of gold-extracting machinery in the State is roughly £2,000,000, and 50 per cent. of it is on the eastern goldfields. I have pointed out that the value of gold produced per man averaged £411 for the State and £572 for the eastern goldfields. I have explained the production per man in relation to the number of men employed and the value of production. There is no industry to compare with mining save the pastoral industry. The figures for the pastoral industry work out at about £804 per man.

Hon. V. Hamersley: That is the best paying industry of the lot.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: There is not the same risk in the pastoral industry as there is in other industries. The East Coolgardie goldfield, which is now in difficulties, produces a value per man in excess of any of the primary industries except pastoralism.

Hon. J. J. Holmes: An industry which can produce £600 per man should not want assistance.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: The explanation is that increased costs have necessitated the crushing of a higher grade of ore, and it is no longer possible to pick out the higher grade of ore. There is only one alternative unless assistance be granted and that is to close down. I am taking this opportunity to urge the need for assistance. If we compare the production in the mining industry with that of the manufacturing industry, we find the former is twice as great. As to the uncertainty of mining, I might instance the Great Boulder Perseverance Company. In 1918 it was decided that the mine was about worked out. The company had no funds and they appointed a liquidator and let a few tributes with a view to rooting out the small quantity of ore left in the mine. Since then there has been crushed from that mine 200,000 tons of ore valued at about \$5s. per ton. The tributers have done extremely well out of it and, from the royalty paid by the tributers, the company have divided amongst the shareholders £11,600. Last week it was decided to sanction a reconstruction scheme for the company. When things improve I look forward to this mine once more employing a large number of men. This illustrates the uncertainty. I shall be interested to hear what the Government intend to do. The Premier has certainly broken his oyster-like silence as to affording us help. In another place recently he discussed the subject at some length. He said all the things we expected him to say save mentioning what amount he was prepared to make available. The eastern goldfield has been the saviour of the mining industry in this State. On this goldfield are the people who would receive the major portion of any help forthcoming, most of the other centres being under exemption or doing very little mining. The Mines Department are collecting specimens to send to the Empire Exhibition. The

exhibit should be a very fine one because they are bringing together not only the specimens that the State possesses, but others belonging to private individuals. Before the exhibit is shipped abroad, the people of Western Australia, particularly those in the metropolitan area, should be afforded a chance to view it. Recently the Government made a display of local industries and the public patronage then bestowed should induce the Government to place this exhibit on view. Messrs. Dodd and Cornell, referring to the Miners Phthisis Bill passed last session, spoke of the failure of the Government to proclaim the measure. I realise the Government's difficulty; they are waiting on the Federal Government, but I do not know they have made any inquiries as to the most suitable site for the proposed building. Notwithstanding the efforts made by private members to induce the Federal Government to expedite matters, the State Government should again impress upon them the necessity for reaching finality. At the time of the inauguration of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund it was pointed out that if a measure of this kind were put into operation, the number of men coming within the scope of the fund would increase. I can endorse Mr. Cornell's remarks as to that fund, to which every man engaged in the industry is compelled to subscribe. Should a subscriber later on in life meet with difficulties, so that his dependants come on the Charities Department, the State gets the benefit by having that relief deducted from the amounts payable to the man by the Mine Workers' Relief Fund. During the first year or two the relief granted by the fund amounted to roughly £4,000 annually. During the next two years it rose to over £5,000 annually. The contributions were thereupon increased. During the year 1921 a sum of over £6,000 was subscribed by the men employed in the industry. Since the inauguration of the fund, the mine workers have paid into it roughly £40,000, which amount has been subsidised to a similar extent by the mining companies and the Government.

The Minister for Education: Are you sure that everyone in the industry is compelled to pay into the fund?

Mr. HARRIS: Yes. I subscribed to it myself for a time. A crisis has now occurred as regards the fund by reason of the limited number of men latterly engaged in the mining industry; and an appeal has been made to the Government so that the beneficiaries on the books will not be disappointed. Either the contributions must be increased, or else the Government must take over the fund. The matter is of great importance, and should receive the earliest consideration. It is really owing to the decline in the industry that the number of subscribers to the fund has decreased so materially. It is certain that the number of men coming within the scope of the fund will tend to increase as the mines go down deeper, by reason of the increased liability to disease under such conditions of

working. On a previous occasion I mentioned that when the fund was inaugurated, a suggestion was made to the Government that the board of management of the fund should be permitted to take up a considerable tract of agricultural country. Men coming within the scope of the fund would then have been given facilities to go on the land, where they could earn something by light work; they are, of course, quite incapable of hard work. In 1914, just prior to the inauguration of the fund, Mr. Dodd, then an Honorary Minister, spoke as follows:—

Attention had been given to the possibility of settling those in the early stages of the disease upon the land. The chief difficulty was to find a suitable piece of land sufficiently large for a settlement of this nature, and inquiries were being made regarding the suitability of the Esperance land for such a purpose. But any settlement in that district would of course be contingent upon the railway being constructed. He was of opinion that in the next session a Bill would be passed.

In the next session a Bill was passed, and, in addition, the Government provided a reserve of 60,000 acres of land for the purpose mentioned. Had that scheme been put into operation at the time the fund was inaugurated, many of the miners, men with families, who came on the fund would have willingly gone on a block of land, and their sons would now have been the potential farmers of a few years later. Nine months later Mr. Dodd said:—

In furtherance of the scheme the Government reserved 60,000 acres of land in the Esperance district for those who have contracted miners phthisis in its early stages, the Government realising that it is just as well to try to save the lives of those in the State, and give them a healthier and better outlook, as to spend money in inducing others to come here.

That was true eight years ago, and it is true to-day. The area of land which was reserved is in the district lately rediscovered by the Minister for Agriculture, and lies somewhere near the route of the then proposed Esperance railway. Mr. Maley is reported as having said that the province to be served by the railway would become one of the most important wheat producing districts of Western Australia. The point is that with the construction of the railway it might still be possible for the Government to vest in the board of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund that area of country, thus enabling sufferers from miners phthisis to engage in farming in a small way, and thereby augment the slender sums received from the fund. The money paid out would then earn some slight rate of interest, which naturally it cannot do to-day. That gets us to the point of construction of the section of railway from the present head of the road to Norseman. I know Sir James Mitchell vigorously opposed the construction of the Es-

perance railway, opposed it with all the power at his command.

The Minister for Education: That is a long time ago.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: Yes; but I do not know that the hon. gentleman has altered his opinion. Recently at a Premiers' Conference Sir James Mitchell said that the people who would oppose the construction of a railway from east to west right through to Brisbane would be doing a miserable, paltry, and abominable thing.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is right.

Hon. E. H. HARRIS: I, too, endorse that remark. The goldfields people, paraphrasing the Premier's observation, might say that it was a miserable, paltry, and abominable thing to oppose the connection of their railway with the Eastern Goldfields. I hope that now funds are available the Government will take an early opportunity to connect up Esperance with the goldfields. I trust that the Government will grant the board of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund an area of land adjacent to the line, so that goldfields residents may in future migrate there and make their homes on that land.

Hon. G. W. MILES (North) [7.55]: Before making a few remarks on the Address-in-reply I wish to join other members in congratulating Mr. Ewing on having attained the position of Leader of this House. Personally, I regret greatly that our late Leader has left us, but I feel sure he will prove just as great a success as Agent General as he did during the seven years he led this House. I also wish to congratulate the House on having elected Mr. Kirwan Chairman of Committees. I feel sure, having regard to Mr. Kirwan's Parliamentary experience, that we could not have elected a better man. I wish to endorse Mr. Cornell's remarks regarding the neglect of the mining industry. Past Governments should have recognised, and the present Government should recognise, what that industry has meant to Western Australia. If anything can be done to foster the industry now, I hope the Government will lose not a minute in doing it. I understand from mining men that they have been burying hundreds of thousands of tons of 30s. stuff. No country can afford to have that ore buried. I am glad the question has been placed before the Tariff Board, and I hope the board will do something to decrease the imposts upon the mining industry. I understand that owing to the high tariff, and also owing to the increased wages due to high cost of living, mining costs have been raised by at least £300,000 a year. If the Government can assist the mining industry by letting it have water practically as a gift, they should do so. Likewise, railway freights should be reduced. I am informed that if the Government are prepared to construct a line from either Sandstone or Meekatharra to the Wiluna district, there is money available for the development of the Wiluna mining fields. I understand that £300,000 or £400,000 would be available if the line were constructed. I

have it on reliable authority that the mines there have produced more than £1,000,000 worth of gold down to the 100-foot level. The proposed line would open up not merely one mining district, but other areas of vast importance to the State. There are various matters in the Governor's Speech which I endorse. One of them is the construction of the railway from Esperance northwards. I am very glad to know that that work is pretty well completed. With goldfields members, I hope the Government will see fit to connect that line up with Norseman. A remark in the Speech is as follows:—

My advisers are fully seized of the importance of agricultural education, and active steps are being taken towards the establishment of an agricultural college. I hope to see that agricultural college established as soon as possible. I regard such a college as one of the most urgent requirements of the State. I will revert to the subject of agriculture at a later stage of my remarks. The Speech also makes mention of the export of about 400,000 cases of fruit. As has been stated by previous speakers, the chief consideration must be the marketing of our products. I hope the Federal Government will be induced to get out of the Commonwealth ships, so that the money they are losing on those ships may go to subsidise a private line, thus bringing Australia four or five days, or possibly a week, nearer England. In that way the Federal Government would be doing more for the benefit of primary producers than they could achieve by any other course. I had the pleasure of travelling home with a man who represented the Dried Fruitgrowers' Association of Western Australia, and he informed me that some of our apples, sent Home in the "Orsova," were sold in Covent Garden market at 9s. 6d. per case. A lot of them were knocked down by auction at 9s. 6d., and the man who bought them distributed them in lots at 13s. and 14s. per case. The fruit growers should form an association and, if possible, do their own marketing in the Old Country. It seems to me there are too many people handling the product before it reaches the consumer. I am glad to see in the Speech a paragraph referring to the development of the North-West. I hope the Government really mean to do something. Reference is made to the assistance of private enterprise. Personally I thank the Premier and members of the Government for the assistance they have given to schemes which I have put before them. As for the Yampi iron ore deposit, I can only say that engineers are coming out to investigate it, and that the Government are doing all they can to establish that industry in the North. Reference is made to schemes for adequate water supplies in agricultural areas. I am convinced that we are not making sufficient use of the gifts God has given us. Our rainfall is a generous one. This year in particular there has been abundance of rain in almost every district, but it is allowed to run into the sea. These key-dams talked

about, are essential. In the South-West water could be conserved for irrigation purposes if necessary, and in the North there are untold possibilities, if only water be conserved for irrigation. On my recent trip Home I went up to Cairo and saw the work being done there. When the Mundaring scheme was constructed it was one of the biggest in the world, but since then the Assouan dam has been erected on the Nile, and to see the irrigation there is nothing short of astounding. What can be done in Egypt can be done also in Australia. If money were spent in water conservation the people this country would hold could be counted by their millions. As the Premier has said—Mr. Cornell repeated it to-night—the problem of the Empire is migration within the Empire. Migration and preferential trade will together solve the Empire's problem. Out here we can scarcely realise what the keeping of her people within the four corners of the Empire means to England. In 1921 England's trade with Canada amounted to £2 4s. 4d. per head, with Australia £8 7s. 4d., with New Zealand £12 4s. 5d., and with America 8s. 2d. Last year our trade increased to £11 18s. per head. The day before I was speaking in Scotland, 347 Scotchmen landed at Halifax to get into America before their quota was exceeded. I told my audience that those Scotchmen would become American citizens within two years, and so would represent to England a trade of 8s. 2d. per head; whereas if they had been diverted to Australia or New Zealand it would have meant to England additional trade of £11 or £12 per head and therefore so much more work for those left at Home. England at present would be prepared to advance us money at a lower rate of interest than ever before, if only we were prepared to come out with a bold public works policy. It is essential that every State of the Commonwealth should have a public works policy going hand in hand with a policy of land settlement. I read with regret the decision of the Premiers to oppose the unification of Australian railway gauges. There is altogether too much interstate jealousy. The unification of those gauges must come about, and every year that passes means a million extra on the cost. The scheme I have advocated for the building of a railway from Kimberley across to Queensland should be taken on at once, together with the connecting link from Meekatharra. If £200,000,000 were spent on those public works to double our population in 10 years' time, it would mean reducing our debt from £150 per head to £100 per head, and a material increase in our trade with England, thus enabling the Old Country to keep her factories going instead of lying idle or, at most, working half-time. England has a million more people than she can absorb, and the surplus is increasing at the rate of half a million per annum. What they want in England is scientific agricultural education, not only for those migrating to the Dominions, but also for those remaining behind. They want at least

a couple of million people on the land in England. It will be necessary to give them some assistance there, just as is given out here. At the conference to be held next October, preferential trade within the Empire will be strongly advocated. It will be forced on the people of England that the time has arrived to put up a tariff against foreign importations and allow the Dominions to export to the Old Land duty free. That would provide unlimited markets for everything we can produce in Australia. Some people ask where markets are to be found for the produce expected from the South-West. As the Premier has pointed out time after time, we have first to overtake our own requirements, and there is an importation from the Eastern States of the value of £600,000 per annum. In my opinion the best industry, whether for the South-West or for Kimberley, is pig raising—that is, so long as the right type of pig is secured. Down in Sussex I saw a stud pig farm. A lady was in charge, a refined woman speaking nine languages. On that farm they breed the middle-white, and the black Berkshire. A conservative estimate of the increase is 10 per annum, whereas with sheep or cattle the annual increase is only one, and three or four years have to pass before the animal can be sold. On that Sussex farm they paid £600 for one breeding sow. In the pig industry, it must be remembered, it costs just as much to run a mongrel as it does among cattle or sheep. It is the duty of the Government to import a decent breed of pigs and assist the man on the group settlements to get the right type. The class of pig I refer to weighs 200 lbs. when six months old, and the ordinary market price for them in England is £8 per head. If a man had 20 breeding sows, the increase would be at least 200 per annum. Where lucerne or barley can be grown for topping up, a man can make £600 per annum out of pigs at £3 per head. Contrary to popular opinion, pigs ought to be the main line, and dairying a side line. England is importing £68,000,000 worth of pork and bacon per annum, so there is there a market for everything we can grow in that line for the next 50 years. Again, when there came a slump in fruit or in grain, our produce could be put into pork. Americans have made huge fortunes out of hog raising, but Australia has never yet tackled it. I hope the Premier will do something to assist men on the group settlements to get the right kind of stock and to work pig breeding as the main line.

The Minister for Education: What breeds of pigs are raised in Sussex?

Hon. G. W. MILES: Middle-whites and black Berkshires. Here are some figures of interest which were published in England while I was there, and used in the House of Commons: Preference given by the Dominions to the Mother Country last year amounted to £11,750,000 and of that amount £8,770,000 represented Australian preference. England's preference to Australia was only £257,000. I pointed out that the figures

revealed an anomaly which could be remedied at once. Another thing, in the Old Land they had an Empire shopping week. I asked, "Why not an Empire shopping year?" It is like a mother with four sons, asking one to go out and grow wheat, another to go and grow wool, a third to raise sheep and a fourth to raise cattle. However, when the boys have something to sell, the mother says, "No, I can buy cheaper from the Germans and the Japs; you boys go and sell where you like." If the Empire is to stand, the solution is to people all the empty spaces of the Dominions. Our friends have said they want to see the wars of Australia fought out of Australia. To support the naval base at Singapore, it is necessary that we should people our country, including the North as well as the South. Previously I have referred to the harbours along the northern coast. Submarine bases should be established right around the coast, and the hinterland should be peopled without delay. I intend approaching the Government to see whether if they are not prepared to establish closer settlement schemes in the North, they will not allow private enterprise to do it, developing the farms, stocking them and putting homes on them. I hope to see the Government sell the Wyndham meat works; but whether or not those works are sold, if this development of the North were brought about we would have up there a colony, and so instead of taking up from Fremantle each year a big gang of hands to run the Wyndham meat works, paying fares and half-time while on the voyage, we would have the men on the job to run the works, and in addition to putting through 30,000 head of cattle they could also put through a hundred thousand pigs per annum, and so the works would become a payable proposition. Last year, when the Dairy Bill was before the House, I read a report of a Government official as to the possibilities of the Kimberley country. That gentleman said that a man who had seen only the South-West and the goldfields could not but be astounded at the quality of the land in Kimberley. He declared that three tons of sugar grass to the acre could be cut and put into hay or ensilage. As for pigs in that country, one killed within the last five years went 400 lbs. Pigs introduced there by the Emanuels in 1886 ran wild and lived on roots and native grasses. To-day there are to be found litters of young pigs running wild in all directions. All that is necessary is to catch and fatten them. Pigs will thrive in a hot climate. All that is required is freezing works to put them into when killed.

Hon. J. Cornell: They want plenty of water, that is all.

Hon. G. W. MILES: There is plenty of water in the Far North for them. The statesmen at Home have a better grip of the immigration scheme than the men in Australia or the leaders of men in Australia. We are only tinkering with the job. While Sir James Mitchell's scheme is a good one, and I have supported it through thick and thin both here

and in the Old Country, there should be dozens of such schemes going on throughout Australia at the same time if we are to people this country before it is too late. The Home authorities have shown their realisation of the position by starting a naval base at Singapore. They know that the storm centre of the future will be in the Pacific. During the last few months Japanese writers have referred to the comparative emptiness of Australia, and have asked why they are not allowed into the empty spaces of the North. The only right we have to hold Australia is the right of population. I put this up to the Overseas Settlement League in England. People connected with that league are getting evidence from retired squatters who do not want to be disturbed from their holdings, and who say that Australia is not a white man's country. I referred them to Sir Ellison Macartney and suggested they should ask him if he remembered meeting in the North-West a family named Cooper, and if he had ever seen a healthier family either in Scotland, England or Wales. I said that Cooper's children had been born at Marble Bar, the hottest place on earth, and that there were no healthier children in the world. The heat in the North is dry and the climate is totally different from that which we get here. For six months in the year on the tableland country the climate is perfect. True, it is hot in the summer, and very different from that of England and the climate on our coast here. At last they wrote to me and said that if we got a settlement scheme going for the Kimberleys they would consider giving assistance to fifty Britishers if they cared to try the experiment in the North, such assistance to be on the lines given in respect of people in the southern parts of Australia. Viscount Long said—

It can be done and it should be done without delay.

The Duke of Marlborough said—

The time has gone by for merely passing resolutions at conference.

It is more essential to have this organisation for immigration and preferential trade than it was to organise the Empire to win the war. The British nation will do more to spread the peace of the world through a properly handled migration scheme than by any other means. Criticism has been levelled at the class of people who are coming here. I discussed the matter with the Minister for Labour, who said we were too particular with regard to the class of people we were taking; that we were taking the best in the country and leaving the others at Home. I maintain, as Mr. Cornell did, if the newcomers are given fair treatment and encouragement when they come here, they will make good, as long as they are prepared to work when on the land and that their hearts are in the right place. After all, we are descended from the Motherland. I admit that our forefathers did not get the assistance the present settlers are receiving, but the policy of the country is to give that assistance, and it is

the duty of every man and woman in the country to welcome and assist them as much as possible.

Hon. J. Cornell: The British people in days gone by were pleased to see the backs of our forefathers.

Hon. G. W. MILES: There is no more room to-day in England in the professions, trades and manufactories for any more hands except to replace those who are dying off. It is essential that would-be migrants should receive some agricultural education at Home, and that we should put in hand an Empire migration scheme and a scheme for preferential trade. That is the only solution of the Empire problem. Goodness knows when the peace of Europe will be restored. When in England I was struck by the quantity of foreign stuff that appeared on the breakfast table. In the leading hotels one could not get Australian wines to drink because of the quantity of foreign wines that were bought. We in the Dominions are more British than they are in the British Isles. At the various Colonial luncheons that are given in London the guests are invited to drink foreign wines. We are asked to make wine in Australia but no opportunity is given to Australian visitors in England to drink it.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Very often Australian wine is not sold as such.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Some of our sparkling wines are as palatable as many of the French wines. The Earl of Birkenhead said—

The fragment of a larger and ever more important subject, the present and future of British trade.

The Duke of Devonshire said—

Immigration was not a policy of despair; it was a means by which the great untouched natural resources of the Empire could be turned to the most useful account for the benefit of civilisation and mankind.

These quotations will show that leaders at Home have the Dominions very much before them. The First Lord of the Admiralty, who introduced the Overseas Settlement Bill last year, thoroughly understands the necessity for peopling the Dominions. Side by side with the South-West scheme we need a policy for the development of every part of the State. I hope the Government will do everything to assist schemes for the development of the country. I had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Compton Wood, a gentleman who has put money into Queensland cotton growing. He says that at the start it is necessary to have certain areas planted and to find out exactly what these areas will produce. Cotton growing can be run as a side line with pig raising in the Kimberley. There is no doubt about the profitable nature of the industry, provided the holdings are small, so that the family of the grower can pick the cotton. Experts do not advocate the ratoon business. They want the ground cleared after every season's crop, has been taken off. Mr. Wood advises the Government to give a guarantee of 4d. a lb.

at the nearest port, and that small experimental plots should first be planted so that the industry in any particular locality may be tested. There should also be a practical cotton grower present to assist the settler, I understand that a tropical agricultural expert has been appointed. I hope he is a practical man. The gentleman I have referred to, advocates getting a cotton grower from Queensland.

The Minister for Education: One is coming from there.

Hon. G. W. MILES: Is he a practical man?

The Minister for Education: Mr. Colebatch said he was all right.

Hon. G. W. MILES: I hope the Government will do all they can to revive the gold-mining industry. The Government have promised to give all the assistance they possibly can to the scheme we are putting up in connection with the North-West. If schemes for settlement can be organised throughout every part of the State they will benefit the whole. We can only claim the right to hold this country if we people it and develop it quickly. If we delay we shall be forced out by other races. We have no right to hold Australia unless we people it and make use of it. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply.

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

BRITISH OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT DELEGATION.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (Hon. J. Ewing—South-West) [8.27]: The Premier desires me to extend to members an invitation to meet members of the British Overseas Delegation at Parliament House at 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. He is very anxious that all members should be present so that they may have an opportunity of discussing overseas immigration with the delegation.

House adjourned at 8.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 16th August, 1923.

	PAGE
Question: Carnarvon port finances	295
Overseas settlement delegation	295
Address-in-reply, ninth day	295

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

QUESTION—CARNARVON PORT FINANCES.

Mr. HICKMOTT (for Mr. Angelo) asked the Colonial Secretary: What was the profit or loss made by the Harbour and Light Department in operating the Carnarvon goods shed, jetty, and tramway for the years ended 30th June, 1919, 30th June, 1920, 30th June, 1921, 30th June, 1922, 30th June, 1923?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied: 1919 (loss), £170 2s. 8d.; 1920 (loss), £226 5s. 11d.; 1921 (loss), £93 3s. 4d.; 1922 (profit), £352 3s.; 1923 (profit), £1,176 6s. 7d.

BRITISH OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT DELEGATION.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been requested by the Premier to inform hon. members that he has issued invitations to them and their wives to afternoon tea to-morrow at 4 o'clock, that they may meet the British Overseas Delegation. Owing to the crowded business of the Delegation, it has been difficult for the Premier to give hon. members sufficient notice by letter, and in consequence he has asked me to make this announcement.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from previous day.

Mr. HICKMOTT (Pingelly) [4.37]: I have had pleasure in listening to a good many speeches in this debate. It is gratifying to note the mild, agreeable manner in which the various speakers have discussed the motion. There has been very little drastic criticism. Indeed, it is all very different from what it used to be when first I came to the Chamber. The Premier, as stated in the first paragraph of His Excellency's Speech, has launched out on a bold scheme of immigration. No doubt if he had done nothing he would have been criticised; although he is trying to do something useful, he is criticised just the same. It is easy to criticise, but difficult to suggest something that will help to build up and advance the State. We all agree that we require more population, and the bulk of the increase settled on the land. We all agree that we must produce more, since only by production can we lift ourselves out of our unsatisfactory position. However I, like others, am inclined to think the class of migrants we are getting is very different from what we want. I have had an opportunity to judge some of them. Four or five migrants have been working on my place. I tried to give them a fair deal and help them along by teaching them what they had to do before making a start for themselves in Western Australia, but I regret to say that three out of the four did not seem to wish to learn. They had no knowledge of general farm work, or