

"I was educated as an engineer, and I was taught that the greatest water scheme in the world was your Coolgardie water scheme. I had read tributes to its efficiency in almost every European language. I never heard it condemned or run down anywhere except in Western Australia. The first thing I did on arriving at Kalgoorlie was to go to the water scheme office there, to see one of the engineers. I approached the engineer with these words, 'I have come to see your magnificent water scheme.' This fellow said, 'Magnificent! Where did you get that word from?' I replied that I thought the scheme was a magnificent one. He retorted, 'It is not; it is a rotten failure, and it is going to bankrupt the State.' I said, 'Are you telling me the truth?' He said, 'Yes. Come to-morrow and I will prove it to you.' And the next day, when they went along the pipe track together, the engineer had a navy with pick and shovel proceeding in front to expose various portions of the track in order to convince this visitor from another country that the pipe line was rotten and was going to drive Western Australia to bankruptcy. The visitor's comment to me was, 'In any other country they would have had a navy going ahead to cover up the bad points. If ever you put up a monument to typify the spirit of the West, model it on that man with the pick and shovel: he would be emblematical of your citizens.' That man with the pick and shovel exposing the faults of our land to a stranger is, I fear, typical of only too many Western Australian citizens. I believe that the proper spirit is that of healthy optimism, for which I heartily commend our Premier. With that optimism and this wonderful land of which we have been made the guardians and inheritors, everything is possible for Western Australians, and our over-draft need not worry us too much. But we have to be more optimistic, we must have a stronger and more abiding faith in this great State of which God has given us the guardianship.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 24th August, 1921.

	Page
Questions: Old Women's Home	365
School Teachers' Strike Pay	365
Committees for the Session, additional Member ...	365
Address-in-Reply, Fifth day	366

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

QUESTION—OLD WOMEN'S HOME.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is there an official visiting committee to the Old Women's Home at Fremantle? 2, If so, who are the members of the committee? 3, Is a report furnished by the committee to the Minister? 4, If so, on what date was the last report furnished?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, No, but some weeks ago steps were taken to reappoint a committee, and the following organisations were each asked to nominate one member:—Labour Women's Organisation, Women's Service Guild of Western Australia, National Council of Women. 2, Nominations have only just been received, and the new committee will be appointed forthwith. 3, The last report of the previous committee was in November, 1920.

QUESTION—SCHOOL TEACHERS' STRIKE PAY.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is it a fact that the full deduction of strike pay was made from the salary of the deceased school teachers, Miss Mullet and Mr. Prisk? 2, Is he aware that the Teachers' Union refunded the amount to the relatives of the deceased teachers? 3, Does he consider rigid insistence in such cases in the best interests of the Education Department? 4, Will he issue the necessary authority to prevent future deductions in similar cases?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. 3, In no case has the decision of the Government that advances made against wages lost during the strike period must be refunded, been departed from. 4, The refunds will be completed next month and an anomaly would be created by issuing the authority suggested.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

Additional Member.

On motion by the Minister for Education, Hon. J. J. Holmes was appointed to act for the President on the House Committee.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Fifth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM (North-East) [4.35]: I congratulate the Leader of the House on having sufficiently recovered his health to be once more amongst us. I also desire to congratulate the new member (Hon. F. E. S. Willmott). His Parliamentary experience gained in another place should stand him in good stead in this Chamber. The first paragraph of His Excellency's Speech points out that the Government received £926,064 additional revenue for 1921 as against that of the previous year, and that we finished up with a deficit of £686,726. Some five years ago, when we had a Labour Government in office, there was not only Press criticism of the finances, but criticism also from every member in opposition to the Labour Party. Strange to say, during this session the criticism that, in my opinion, should be levelled at the Government is not forthcoming. Apparently, the majority of members are of opinion that nothing can be done by criticism in the direction of bringing the Government to effect necessary economies. Year after year for the last five years have we been promised that the Government would take in hand the question of our financial position, and that every effort would be made to remedy the drift. When we find that we have a deficit of no less than £686,726 for the financial year, we are justified in asking ourselves in what direction have the Government effected the desired economies. The deficit for the last financial year brings the total deficit to £4,773,431. This drift on the part of the Government is reflected right through the industries of the State. Whatever the reason, there does not appear to be that confidence in the industrial life of the State which we should have. I am prepared to admit that our ever accumulating deficit has a great deal to do with the position industrially throughout the State. There has been some criticism on the part of at least the Labour members in another place, but on the other hand we have members saying that they are prepared to render every assistance to the Government in the remedying of the financial position. However, very few suggestions are offered, while all that we can get from the Government is that they intend to economise. Further, it has been pointed out that at the close of this financial year we exceeded the estimated deficit by £285,425. This has been attributed to the strike of locomotive drivers and firemen early this year. In this connection it might be pointed out that considerable bungling made that strike possible. The Commissioner of Railways, the Minister for Railways, and the Government generally had due notice of what was likely to happen unless the matter was taken in hand and dealt with before the expiration of the agreement. Unfortunately, the Commissioner elected to pose as a strong man, a man prepared to fight his employees

every inch of the road. The result is we are now told that the strike represented a loss to the State of £285,425. The Government are deserving of censure. Not the whole of the responsibility can be thrown on the Commissioner of Railways, because after all the Commissioner is responsible to the Minister, and had the Minister and the Government taken this matter in hand it would have been ended in a very short time. While it may be that the loss of £285,425, the amount by which the estimated deficit was exceeded, has been contributed to by the locomotive drivers and firemen's strike, it is as well that we take into consideration the statement, presented here only yesterday, of comparative results of the working of the railways for the last five years. I draw attention to item 29, showing that the total tonnage of goods and live stock for the year 1920 amounted to 3,071,936 tons, while the total number of persons employed in the railways that year was 7,669. For the year 1921 the total tonnage of goods and livestock was 3,015,704 tons, while the total number of persons employed was 8,083. From this it will be seen that there is an excess of 404 persons employed in 1921 as against 1920, although we are faced with a decreased tonnage of 56,232 tons. The Commissioner of Railways has now launched out on a policy of retrenchment. Men are being put out of employment, for the purpose of effecting the necessary economies in the railway system. The explanation I want is as to why so many extra employees were placed in the railway system for the year 1921 as against 1920. There has been a decrease in the total tonnage by 56,000 odd tons. Certainly, there seems something wrong in the administration of the railway system; and an explanation should be forthcoming from the Commissioner of Railways, from the Minister for Railways, and from the Government. Let me explicitly admit that I am not opposed to the cutting out of waste labour, or of trains which are run at a loss. But, still, I do wish to see the efficiency of our railway system maintained. If retrenchment is to go on without sufficient care for our industries, a hardship will be inflicted not only on the primary producer but on the whole of our people. Indeed, we shall be doing something which, instead of having the effect of economising, will in the long run merely cut out a large proportion of the tonnage carried by our railway system. I would warn the Commissioner of Railways to exercise care in the direction which I have indicated. The Speech mentions that the State's credit is good. Yet, on the opening day of this session we were asked to pass a measure for the purpose of enabling the Agent General in London to sign Treasury bills to the amount of two millions sterling with a view to tidying over a few months, until a more favourable opportunity should present itself for the flotation of a loan of two millions. If our credit is good, why the issue of these Treasury bills? If it is imperative that a

loan should be floated, have not the Government had sufficient time to make the needful arrangements for the flotation? To my mind, the Government have failed in connection with the proposed flotation, but are not prepared to admit the fact, and therefore come to Parliament asking for the passing of a measure to enable the Agent General to sign those Treasury bills. No doubt we all have our own opinion on the matter. Now as to the mining industry. We have been told many times by the greater part of the Press of this State that the mining industry is severely depressed. We have been told, further, that that depression is largely due to the increase in wages granted to the men employed in the industry. In fairness to those workers, however, we should take into consideration also the heavy additional imposts placed on the mining industry by increases in the cost of mining requisites. We are all fairly familiar with the heavy increase there has been in the price of drill steel. I am told that the increase is one from £24 to £98 per ton; that is for ordinary drill steel required in the carrying on of mining operations. As regards special steel for what is known as the lining drill, a drill which carries water through the centre right down to the bottom of the hole for the purpose of killing dust at the place of origin, the price has risen from £60 per ton to £160. Cyanide has gone from £8 to £18 per case; detonators from 3s. 9d. to 11s. 9d. and 12s. per box. Another item which it is well to mention here is the price of dynamite, which term includes gelignite, gelatine, and other grades of explosives used in mining operations. Shortly after the signing of the Armistice, Nobel and Co. of Glasgow were responsible for the amalgamation of 37 explosive-producing companies operating in Great Britain, the object being to combine the production and sale of explosives. That combination has meant an additional burden of no less than £72,000 per annum on the mining industry of Western Australia.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And there is also the operation of the high tariff imposed by the Commonwealth.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: That is another matter.

Hon. J. Nicholson: But how much of the increased cost is due to the high tariff?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: That is apart from the question. My friends may know the operation of the tariff better than I do. Certainly, I am aware that an explosive manufacturing company in Victoria a few months ago circularised all the Parliamentary representatives in this State with a view to having the duty on dynamite raised. If that company achieved its object, no doubt that means yet another burden on the mining industry of this State. These things should be taken into account when members of Parliament and the Press of this State tell investors and the public generally that from an increase in wages and alterations in conditions of labour in the mining industry

here, the depression in the industry has resulted. It is not only a matter of increased wages. As Mr. Panton has pointed out, the increase in wages has been brought about as the result of the action of people who are in a position to force the worker to make greater demands upon his industry owing to the fact that his cost of living is increased. Even to-day, as also pointed out by Mr. Panton, the wage received by the miner will not in point of purchasing power compare with the wage which he received eight or ten years ago.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The purchasing power of the present wage is less by 1s. 9d. per day.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: Then there is also the question of higher railway freights. If I remember rightly, we have had no less than three increases in railway freights during the past five years. The Governor's Speech mentions that the Minister for Mines has been glad to assist in equipping 72 prospecting parties for the further prospecting of this State's auriferous country. In that connection it is well to take into account how the State is assisting those prospectors in the matter of railway freights. Unless the Government are prepared to reduce those freights, we cannot look forward with confidence to a revival of prospecting. One need only travel through the Eastern Goldfields and the North Coolgardie areas to know that the prospector whom we had a few years ago has disappeared.

Hon. J. Cornell: Owing to Federal and State taxation.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: To-day we are trying to create prospectors by a system of apprenticeship, having lost the men who had devoted many years of their lives to acquiring the necessary knowledge of particular stretches of country and other details which stand one in good stead when on a prospecting expedition. Railway freights must receive attention for the sake of the mining industry. Unless the cost of production in gold mining is reduced by the cutting down of railway freights, the Government will not be rendering the assistance which is essential to the opening up of our mining fields. There is no need to despair of mining in this State. Only within the last fortnight a find has been reported about 37 miles from Kalgoorlie on the Great Western Railway. Up to date the news from the find has been most favourable. We all know that sometimes it is necessary to do a great deal of prospecting work before new mines can be located. What the Government should do is to render every possible assistance to prospectors who are prepared to go out and risk their own money in trying to make new finds.

Hon. J. Ewing: Are not the Government doing that?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: I am pointing out that in the absence of reduction of railway freights the Government are not doing all that should be done to foster prospecting

and so develop the mining industry. Let me draw the attention of the House to the many centres in the North Coolgardie and Eastern Goldfields districts which in years past were gold-producing, but to-day are in a stagnant condition. In the Laverton district, outside a few prospecting parties, very little mining indeed is being done. At Leonora the same condition of affairs obtains. At Kookynie, which produced a great quantity of gold in years gone by, there is now stagnation. And so right down the line to Kalgoorlie, not omitting mention of Menzies and Comet Vale. There must be some reason for this. I say the reason is not far to seek. The increase in the cost of production is so great that the mines have not been able to live profitably to the shareholders. It is not merely a question of wages and conditions of labour; the real issue is the cost of mining requisites. Where only a few thousand pounds extra results from an increase of wages obtained by an appeal to the Arbitration Court, the higher cost of mining requisites amounts to scores of thousands of pounds.

Hon. A. H. Panton: And then there is the taxation.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: That is another question. I was pleased to note from the Speech that it is the intention of the Government to relax taxation on the sale of mines. I know that that action will have a tendency in the direction I desire to some extent. At the same time I would like to see the Government make representations to the Federal Government with a view to taking similar action. If we desire to foster the mining industry, we must do something in that direction. We must reduce taxation.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Why not get the Labour Party to oppose the Federal tariff?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: The Federal Labour Party are in exactly the same position as we are in this Chamber. They are in the minority.

Hon. G. W. Miles: They helped to carry the high tariff against the mining industry.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: Surely Mr. Miles knows sufficient to appreciate that the Federal Labour Party are not in a position to bring down a Bill.

Hon. G. W. Miles: They are in a position to vote against taxation.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: But they cannot bring in a Bill. The tariff has been levied by the Federal Government.

Hon. G. W. Miles. Supported by the Labour Party.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: In addition to that, as Mr. Miles or the party with whom he is associated—

Hon. G. W. Miles: I am not associated with any party.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: Neither Mr. Miles nor the party he represents made any representations to the Federal Government on this matter.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Yes, the member for Dampier took action and put up a fight against the tariff.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: That is only one man and he is a representative of the Country Party—not the party with which Mr. Miles is associated. I am pleased to note that the Government intend to remedy the position regarding taxation on the sale of mines. It is perhaps well known to members that only recently two properties were offered for sale. Mining companies were prepared to investigate the values of those mines, and they were prepared to put capital into them with a view to developing the propositions. When it came to a question of sale, however, the price placed upon those properties for the purpose of giving the prospector, who discovered the value of the mines, an adequate return for the proposition, plus taxation, was such that the options were abandoned. Incidents of this nature do not make for the prosperity of the mining industry.

Hon. J. Duffell: Do the instances you refer to include the Comet Vale proposition?

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: No. If conditions prevail owing to taxation which result in restrictions being placed upon capital being invested in the mining industry, that position has to be remedied. Last session Parliament passed an amendment to the Mining Act and part of the amending Bill was for the purpose of controlling tributing in mines. That Act has not met with goodwill at the hands of the mine owners. The tributers say they are prepared to continue tributing under the provisions of the Act; the mine owners say they are not prepared to let tributaries under the amending legislation. Strange to say, without the Act being given a trial, the Minister for Mines appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into tributing on the eastern goldfields. It seems to me that the Minister recognised the claims of the mine owners and that he was prepared to say he was in favour of a modification of that particular section of the Mining Act Amendment Act. In my opinion, that attitude is wrong. The Minister for Mines brought down the Bill last year and, with certain minor amendments, the Bill went through both Houses and became an Act. It has never been given a trial and yet we now have a Royal Commission appointed to go into the whole matter because the mine owners state that they will not let tributaries under the Act. The Act should have been given a trial. If the mine owners were not prepared to let tributaries under the Act, then it is high time for Parliament to take into consideration the best means of keeping the mining industry going. If the companies have worked mines profitably for a number of years and then closed down and still want to hang on to the leases simply by complying with the labour conditions—which labour conditions were not enacted to deal with old mines, but merely for new leases—then Parliament should see that

legislation is passed which will be in the best interests of the mining industry. Seeing that the Commission's report has not been received yet, I will content myself with these few remarks on that aspect. It might be as well to mention that there are a number of leases under which large areas of country are held up at the present time, through the application of the clause in the Mining Act dealing with concentration of labour. Some of these leases have not been worked at all and some have not been developed to any extent. One mining company holds something like 337 acres, owing to concentration of labour. If we allow that sort of thing to continue we will have the mining industry whittled down to such an extent that only a few mines will be operating. This position should occasion concern to the Mines Department and the Government should consider whether concentration of labour should be permitted in cases such as I have dealt with. I am pleased to know that an important discovery of coal has been made in the Irwin River district. I do not know the value of the product which has been discovered, but it is to be hoped that it will represent an additional asset to this State. For some years past I have heard members representing that particular portion of the State, speaking in favour of the establishment of smelters at Geraldton for the purpose of treating lead and copper ores from Northampton and the contiguous districts. If this coal should prove suitable, it will mean that we shall see a great development in that portion of the State. I want to touch upon a question that is giving the Labour movement much concern and that is the large numbers of men who are out of employment. Only a few weeks ago I visited the Eastern Goldfields district and was given to understand by people who should know, that between 800 and 1,000 men were out of work up there. In a State like this, with the deficit which we have to face, there is something wrong in permitting 800 to 1,000 men to continue to be unemployed. It is a distinct loss to the country. I know there have also been demonstrations in the metropolitan area and requests have been put before the Premier with a view to dealing with the unemployed problem down here. Outside the land settlement scheme, however, no provision has been made to cope with the unemployed difficulty. All our people are not suitable for farmers, nor, irrespective of what training they may receive, are they men suitable to go on the land. There has been a tightening up of the expenditure of money on public works. There are few undertakings in hand with a view to establishing public works of benefit to the State and thus utilising this labour. It is a responsibility resting upon the Government to find suitable employment for the men who are out of employment. Men who have been employed in the mining industry for 10 or 15 years are not suitable

to wield axes and mattocks and other tools necessary for clearing land. They are not suitable for that class of work. They require some employment in which their labour can be used to the best advantage to the State. If they were sent to do clearing work, they would not clear enough to pay for the whisky they bought on the way down to the job—and that would be little enough, because they have so little money. Some more congenial form of work should be found for these men, so that their labour can be utilised to the greatest advantage.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Is it not a pity that these men do not take on shearing and earn from 30s. to 40s. a day.

Hon. A. H. Panton: There are not many men taken on who have not had training in shearing.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: The same thing applies in connection with the pastoral industry. These men who are out of work are not shearers and shearers require to be trained before they can take on that work. It also requires training over a period of many years to make a good miner. No doubt some of the younger men could be turned into shearers, but they will not accept work in connection with the pastoral industry until the present dispute with the shearers is settled. Perhaps Sir Edward Wittenoom and some people that hon. member happens to know pretty well, are desirous of getting more men to go out and if more reasonable conditions were offered no doubt we would assist them. Regarding land settlement I am pleased to note that the Premier a little time ago made known the fact that some 400 blocks would be made available in the Esperance district to men, no doubt, who had been thrown out of work in connection with the mining industry. It would be interesting to know, however, how the Premier intends those men should get to their blocks and what provision he had made to place 400 men on the blocks he has referred to. The majority of the workers in the mining industry have not sufficient capital to go immediately upon the land, even with assistance from the Agricultural Bank. I believe that the Government can do something by way of organisation to place these men in an adequate manner on the blocks in the Esperance districts. It is advisable that something of that sort should be done rather than they should be blocked at the first hurdle because they were not possessed of the necessary finances. We are also told that 800 blocks are to be made available in the South-Western portion of this State. The same position will apply to the South-West as I have indicated in connection with the Esperance district. Unless these men are assisted to get down to the blocks in the South-West I cannot see how we can get any large number of men to leave the goldfields and take up blocks in the South-Western areas. No doubt many of them will make efforts to secure one of the 400 blocks to be made available in the Esperance district. This brings me to the

question of immigration. A few evenings ago we heard members complaining of the small number of immigrants arriving in this State. It would be as well to take into consideration at the same time the large number of our own people who are out of employment. It is useless to bring people to this State from the Old Country if they have to seek work when they arrive here.

Hon. J. Duffell: Eighty-six landed at Albany from the "Themistocles" the other week and 83 of them were engaged before they got to Perth.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: Yes, for about 25s. a week, and some of them were even offered positions to enable them to get colonial experience, with a promise of a job when they had acquired such experience.

Hon. H. Stewart: You mean 25s. a week and keep.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: Some people even made offers to take these immigrants in hand, giving them their food and training in order to fit them for work in the agricultural areas.

Hon. J. Duffell: Find out what they were engaged at.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: In my opinion it would not be in the best interests of the State to bring workers out from the Old Country to seek employment here seeing that our labour market is congested at the present time. We have hundreds of men out of work, apart from those who follow the shearing industry. I am not opposed to immigration so long as we get suitable immigrants, men who are prepared to do their best in the direction of developing the State and who bring the necessary capital with them. It is useless to bring people here, and then turn them adrift to seek employment, while there are so many of our own people out of work. I do not know that much good can result from my continuing the discussion on the Address-in-reply. I certainly think that, in view of the state of the finances, it is not in the best interests of good government that we should sit down and say that all we are prepared to do is to assist the Government. I am prepared to admit that I intend to criticise the Government. As I stated at the outset, we have been told year after year for the last five years that economies were to be effected, and yet we find at the end of the financial year the deficit is still growing. The accumulated deficit has now reached approximately five millions. It is not for us to tumble into this rut and say that all we are prepared to do is to assist the Government, but I would ask, "How can we assist the Government unless the Government are prepared to assist themselves by effecting the necessary economies?" I said I was not averse to economies being effected in the railway service. It has been demonstrated very clearly by the figures I quoted that economies could be effected in the railway service. I fail to see how the services of 404 more railway employees could be utilised to the best interests of the State in 1921 as com-

pared with 1920. In addition, I agree with the Minister for Railways that he should cut out trains which are now running at a distinct loss.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Ninety per cent. of the trains are running at a loss.

Hon. J. CUNNINGHAM: The Minister should modify the services which are being run at a loss. There are districts in this State which have four or six trains a fortnight, and which could very well do with three trains a fortnight. This is an aspect of the matter which should be considered. The ambition of the Minister for Railways should be to carry on the railways efficiently. In conclusion, I would urge the Government to do everything possible to assist the mining industry. We know that the mining industry has done a great deal for the State of Western Australia. We know also that if the industry gets that measure of support which its past achievements in gold production entitled it to, it will assist largely in reducing the deficit. I hope that not only the Minister for Mines, but the whole of the members of the Government, will give mining a much better chance of reviving and thus secure for it a greater measure of prosperity than has been the case during the last three or four years.

Hon. H. STEWART (South-East) [5.21]: Before referring to the Governor's Speech, I wish to congratulate the Leader of the House on being present again to lead the House and conduct the business as he has done so efficiently in the past. I am sure I am only echoing the hopes of all when I say that I trust his indisposition has completely passed away, and that he will suffer no ill-effects from the strenuous work which lies before him during this session. I wish to congratulate Mr. Willmott on being returned as a member for the South-West Province, and to express my sense of the loss which the House has sustained by the death of Mr. Clarke, whose mature judgment and ripe experience proved of great assistance to this House. Although most members have touched on the subject of the finances, and although it forms the opening paragraph in the Governor's Speech, and undoubtedly is of outstanding importance, I do not intend to deal with it at length because, in the near future, I hope to be able to go fully into the question of finance and administration when discussing a motion of which I have given notice, and which appears on the Notice Paper. My remarks, therefore, will be confined largely to other matters referred to in the Governor's Speech. One thing I would like to say on the subject of the finances is in connection with the statement made in the Speech and to which attention has been directed by Mr. Cunningham that "the credit of the State is good." To put it briefly, if the finances of the State continue to be conducted as they have been during the last four or five years, and if the deficit is al-

lowed to grow as it has been doing, the time must come when the credit of the State will no longer be good, and when higher prices will have to be paid for any money to be raised.

Hon. J. Kirwan: The price is pretty high now.

Hon. H. STEWART: So it is, but some countries have to pay even higher prices for the money they borrow, when the people who have the money to lend have no confidence in the administration of such countries. I might instance some of the South American republics, which are continually in the throes of revolutions. There is one reference I was particularly pleased to see in the Speech, and that is the reference to the intention of the Government to inaugurate a wheat pool in connection with the forthcoming harvest. I commend the Government for the attitude they have adopted. Not only is it in the interests of the people who grow the wheat, but it is in the interests of the whole of the community of the State and in the interests of the finances of the State to obtain better prices. The Speech contains a paragraph as follows:—

With a view to further encouraging prospecting for new goldfields, an amendment of the Land and Income Tax Act removing the heavy impost on the sale of mines will be submitted for your consideration.

This is a step which I and other members in this House advocated last session, and I congratulate the Government on their expressed intention to give effect to it. I believe that very soon a Bill will be introduced having for its object the amendment of the section responsible for the imposition of the present charges. Mr. Cunningham has already referred to this subject and there is no need to take up the time of the House in elaborating it. The charge is one which has undoubtedly imposed such a heavy burden on the industry that it has absolutely held up the sale and development of promising mining properties.

Hon. Sir Edward Wittenoom: Mining is the great thing we want to promote now.

Hon. H. STEWART: The hon. member's interjection is very much to the point. The Government have undertaken to remove this impost. The Premier has given a promise that legislation to this end will be brought down. Such legislation will remove what is undoubtedly a restriction which has absolutely held up business in connection with the disposal of mining properties, namely the sale of them by prospectors to companies which would develop and work them on a scale which would probably be remunerative.

Hon. J. Ewing: What about the Federal taxation?

Hon. H. STEWART: I am pleased to have this opportunity of speaking because I have a set of figures which I think will interest members. They deal with the comparative productiveness of the different portions of the State, and show the necessity

for keeping before us bedrock principles and for seeking to encourage the development of the outer portions of the State. I congratulate the Premier on his selection of Mr. Maley as Minister for Agriculture. When Mr. Maley was chosen for that portfolio, he was a man whose abilities were to a large extent unknown. Regarding his administrative acts since he has occupied the position, I must express my appreciation of the straight-out pronouncements he has made from time to time, and commend him for the steps he has taken for the reorganisation of the Department of Agriculture. In doing that he has done what I have advocated ever since I have been a member of this Chamber. He has taken into account the necessity for the recognition of industry, and the utilisation of technical men with technical training. I have deplored the fact that our Technical Departments should be in the hands of clerical heads. The Minister for Agriculture has appointed a director of agriculture to be head of the department, just as we have a medical man at the head of the Public Health Department. I trust and believe that the step thus taken will prove to be warranted, and will lead to the development not only of the wheat belt, but of all branches of the agricultural industry, in a more intelligent as well as a more economical manner than has been the case in the past.

Hon. J. Ewing: He is entirely a wheat man.

Hon. H. STEWART: The hon. member is entirely wrong. I know that the Director of Agriculture, before he had anything to do with wheat or became a specialist in wheat breeding, was closely associated with the dairying industry in New South Wales. A man interested in agriculture or a Director of Agriculture cannot know or attend to all the branches of his department. He must have administrative gifts and be able to delegate his authority to others.

Hon. J. Ewing: And have the requisite knowledge.

Hon. H. STEWART: That is so. The hon. member would probably take some exception to a Director of Agriculture who happened to hold a diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in London. The Director of Agriculture in Victoria happens to be a veterinary surgeon, but he is certainly conversant with other branches of agriculture, and has specialists dealing with different branches of the department. I appreciate the fact that in his scheme of reorganisation the Minister intends to utilise our University. This University has a specially endowed Chair of Agriculture, which is turning out graduates in that subject and giving them an opportunity, if they are efficient and good men, of obtaining the necessary training and practical experience to fit them to become officers in the department. The State will thus have an opportunity not only of utilising the brains of these young men, but their training and ability. If that is done, it will be

a step in the right direction. During my remarks on the Speech last session I adversely criticised the Minister lately administering the Agricultural Department. It was no doubt with the best of intentions that he had made provision for the appointment of six cadets of the Agricultural Department to be dairy officers in the department, and to receive their instructions from other officers of the department. With the greater facilities offered at the University and with the necessity for our young men obtaining the requisite local and detailed knowledge in order to best them to become officers connected with the development of the State, it seemed to me to be wrong that these cadets should be appointed without any provision being made to see that they obtained the best possible training to render them suitable to fill higher positions in the department and to gain a full and complete knowledge of the work required of them.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: If you are referring to me, I wish you to know that these six cadets were never appointed. There was not enough money available.

Hon. H. STEWART: I am pleased to hear that. Some cadets were appointed, however, but I believe that under the new scheme they will have a better opportunity of obtaining proper training and of becoming more useful officers than would otherwise be the case. Similar steps have been taken in connection with the Works Department. If these departments appoint cadets to become officers they should also make provision for the cadets to obtain the best possible training available. I have expressed the opinion in this House that besides having a technical head of the Agricultural Department it would be better to have the department administered by a permanent board of agriculture. If, for instance, the Mines Department were administered by a board a continuity of policy would be ensured, which would lead to the better development of the industry than has been seen in the past. It would also provide against any sudden variations of policy or against the head of the department, who might be very conversant with the work, being supplanted by another officer owing to some disagreement with a temporary Ministerial head. I am not referring to any particular instance, but officers who have been almost in the position of control have been treated in this way. Last session the Leader of the House made certain remarks concerning me. I was not present at the time when he made the speech, but he said, in commenting upon the motion brought forward by Mr. Dodd in regard to the taxation on land, that I had not spoken. He also went on to say that when the motion came to a division I did not vote. That is quite correct. I did not speak, and I do not intend to speak on every motion or every second reading that comes along. I speak when I have some-

thing definite to say, and when I think my remarks will effect some good. If I had been present I would have voted on the subject. The Minister, however, seemed to imply that I had rather dodged the issue, and appeared to be hurt that the farmers' conference in one year had passed a motion in favour of this taxation while in another year it passed a motion opposing it. If I were to read out the passage I refer to it would convey the impression that it was a wrong thing for them to do. In effect, the Leader of the House said it was too bad that they should have done this thing. At the farmers' conferences in 1917 and 1918 I was largely responsible for the motion not being carried. When it was passed in 1919 I was not at the conference at all or indeed, I think, in the State, and then it was passed at the tail-end of the conference when the attendance was small. Last year I did attend the conference and spoke against it, and it was defeated. My attitude has been well defined in the House on this question over a series of years. I am in accord with Sir Edward Wittenoom and Mr. Nicholson and others in holding that land which is not utilised along our railways should be brought into use. I have always held that before we rush into some measure which may do a lot to lessen production, the first thing the Government should do is to put a tax, not on the unimproved value of all lands, but on the land which is unimproved land. If land were taxed on the unimproved value basis, the man who is utilising his land and is faced with a crop failure, would have to pay the tax as well as face the loss of his crop.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The more improvements he makes the more he is taxed.

Hon. H. STEWART: The position is too serious to justify its being rushed into without careful consideration. There is a possibility of some Ministry taking notice of the remarks published in the daily Press, and desiring to deal with the matter immediately. I hope members will not allow themselves to be rushed into this thing. For years past the people have, practically without any remonstrance, willingly borne the burden of increased taxation and they have looked for economy in administration. I do not think they will bear the burden much longer. The agriculturist has asked in many instances for opportunity to develop and carry on his business as a producer, and to be allowed to pay his way. He has not asked the State for assistance. There are many people in my province, which is not in the wheat belt, who have out of their own pockets established butter factories and freezing works and have engaged in storing fruit. All the subsidies previously paid to the agriculturist have been cut away in connection with roads, agricultural societies, and so on. He is still endeavouring to produce, and all he asks for is protection so as to be enabled to market his produce, not at the expense of

the State. The idea seems to exist that these people are being subsidised by the Government, and that the State is carrying them and paying moneys on their behalf.

Hon. G. W. Miles: What is the reply to Mr. Panton's statement in regard to the railway freights?

Hon. H. STEWART: I have not had an opportunity of investigating that statement, but will be able to deal with it later on. A special rate has been given for fertilisers because this is the best way of encouraging production and increasing the wheat yield, and adding to the revenue of the railways.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Why is wheat carried at such a low rate?

Hon. H. STEWART: Because it is desired to increase production in the State. The same position obtains in regard to minerals being transported for treatment from one part of the State to another. The same position also holds good with regard to Collie coal. When the Labour Government were in power they put an impost on coal, minerals, timber, and fertiliser. Later on when the representatives of the country constituencies became organised, they, together with the representatives of the timber and coal industries, waited on the Government and the result was, the Government removed the increase on coal and timber, but allowed the rate on fertiliser to stand.

Hon. A. H. Panton: They did not.

Hon. H. STEWART: It was not until a National Government came into power that the position was remedied.

Hon. J. Ewing: And the rate has now been doubled.

Hon. H. STEWART: There is one thing that I deplore in connection with the Governor's Speech and it is the amount of legislation that is to be brought forward, unimportant legislation, as Mr. Lynn remarked. I am in entire accord with him that many of the proposed measures probably could be done without. To my mind the increase in legislation means an increase in the cost of government, an increase in the cost of administration. There is a long list of Bills set out for us to deal with during the session. I do not know just now what evils they are intended to remedy. There is one there which we have heard of for many years, the Gold Buyers' Bill. There is also to be an amendment to the Land and Income Tax Act, and others which may be necessary, but of course we shall have to see what they are all about when they come forward. It seems to me that if more attention were given to administration and to finance, and to the discussion of matters in connection with these subjects, it would be better for the country.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Then we have no right to be here if we do not pass legislation.

Hon. H. STEWART: I was very much struck by what was revealed by the recent census returns. They showed that the population for Western Australia had during the decade, increased by 46,800. The population

of the metropolis in the meantime increased by 49,611, in fact the country had so stagnated comparatively that there were 3,000 fewer people in the country districts. One of the latest returns issued by the Government Statistician speaks for itself. This points the way by which we could get back to fundamental things, and the basic principles which would lead to the development of the State, and it emphasises, as I endeavoured to show in my first speech in this House, and as I have done on many occasions since, the necessity to foster primary production in all parts of the State. Everything else will grow of its own accord. I may quote some figures for the year 1919 to bring home to hon. members a few striking comparisons. The metropolitan-suburban area of 134 square miles contain a population of 159,000 people, that is to say, 48.3 per cent. of the total population of the State. The production from that area was approximately £2,341,000, a percentage of the total production of the State of 10.4 by 48 per cent. of the population. The North-West—and I am pleased that there are two representatives of the North-West present—with an area of 216,000 square miles, and with 2.2 of the population of the State, had a production of a little more than that of the metropolitan area, viz., £2,371,000, or 10.5 of the total production of the State for the year. That is to say in comparison with the metropolitan area, taking the percentage of production over the percentage of population, we get an index figure showing that the ratio for the metropolitan area was less than a quarter as against that for the North-West of 5. The production is in proportion of over 20 to one, and if we remember what the relative populations are we must admit that in that 48 per cent. of population in the metropolitan area there are far more children and women than in the great North-West. What I have said here and outside is that if we want the State to progress and develop we have to improve the conditions in the country and make them so attractive as to take the people away from the city. For my friends who are concerned particularly with the position of the industrialists—and I do not blame them—I try to preserve that relative importance and to bring this fact home, that we must develop the country, and we can only do that by giving those people who go out, sufficient inducement, and if necessary provide them with Government facilities that they may reap the reward of their industry. With the position as I have explained it, I am on firm ground when I say that I stand for the improvement of the conditions of those who are out to develop the country, whether they be 200 or 2,000 miles from Perth.

Hon. A. H. Panton: We said that 20 years ago.

Hon. H. STEWART: The goldfields water supply scheme was carried out to assist in the development of the mining industry. Mr.

Kirwan told us that nothing had been done for the mining industry. My opinion is that too much help cannot be given in the proper direction to develop any of our primary industries, but the difficulty just now is how best to spend the money. The representatives of the mining, pastoral, or agricultural industries come to these legislative halls to endeavour to point out the best way to develop the country. If more has been spent in the development of agriculture than in the development of mining, which I very much doubt, we must see that in the future we avoid making the conditions difficult. There are other comparisons to be drawn from the table I have before me. I have quoted the two extremes, the North-West and the metropolitan area. The Eastern Goldfields with 11.9 per cent of the population and an area of 72,000 square miles, produced £3,257,000 or 14.5 per cent. of the total production of the State. The other portions of the State—excluding the North-West, the Eastern Goldfields, and the metropolitan area—with 37 per cent. of the population produced £14,427,000, or 64.4 per cent. of the total production. The total production was £22,396,000. If we take the figures that I have already given them, the index figure of percentage of production over the percentage of population, we have for the metropolitan area one quarter, and on the Eastern Goldfields 1.4. We can cast our minds back to the time when the goldfields figures would have been in the ascendancy and when the returns would have been higher than the figures in other parts of the State. We all hope that that position will come about again. In the other parts of the State the index figure is 2 per cent., and for the North-West it is 5 per cent. Those figures bring home the position in a nut shell. There should be an inclination on the part of those who are here to exercise care and not to make the conditions on the coast so attractive that they will prevent people going out and bettering themselves, and becoming bigger men with bigger incomes; at the same time we must not impose restrictions which will prevent the development of the country.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: What about the land near the railways which is not being used?

Hon. H. STEWART: I do not know whether the hon. member was in his seat when I referred to that matter. I mentioned that Mr. Nicholson had dealt with it and had made certain suggestions, and that I had during the period of years that the hon. member was sitting on the Ministerial bench referred to the matter of such land as had never been improved, and that before taking steps to tax the whole of the land of the State it was incumbent on the Government to see what could be done in the way of further taxing only the land which was not improved. A good deal of that land may be too poor to utilise. However, there is an opportunity for testing it. Further than that, in any motions that have been brought forward

for the imposition of a land tax, there has been the qualification that the revenue received from such a tax should be allocated to the reduction of railway fares and freights. Hon. members know that that cannot be constitutionally done, that the money will have to go into consolidated revenue.

Hon. A. J. H. Saw: A sprat to catch a mackerel.

Hon. H. STEWART: Exactly, and we would still have to pay the same old fares and freights. I appeared before the Royal Commission on Education, and gave my views on the subject. Some of the Commissioners, I fear, got tired of me. Certainly the "West Australian" reporter did, because he did not report me at all. I put before the Commission the position of outback people. I am pleased to see that the Commission have dealt with this phase of the question in their report. A case has come under my notice of a boy who, being over 14 years of age, was no longer eligible for instruction. But the teacher in the district school was good enough to give that boy and his sister additional instruction. Because it is a low grade school, the inspector advised the teacher that the department did not encourage that kind of thing. If he had been in the city, that boy could have attended a continuation class. The inspector debarred him from getting instruction from the teacher, and advised that his sister should be sent to the town, 12 miles away, for her instruction.

The Minister for Education: Let me have the case.

Hon. H. STEWART: It is too late now, the damage is done.

The Minister for Education: It is not too late to inquire into it.

Hon. H. STEWART: I deprecate the extent to which commercial education is given in country continuation schools. All the young people rush into typewriting and shorthand, and then they are off to the city. The Minister, at my suggestion, started a blacksmithing class. It was an immediate success. This year, in order to cut down expenditure I suggested that the class should be made alternative with wool classing, a very necessary study. The Minister authorised the arrangement. A suitable local instructor was found, and a fee of one guinea per student was fixed. Here in Perth the Technical School affords the same tuition free. I asked the department what fees were charged for wool classes, and I got the reply that in Perth and Fremantle a fee of £1 per head was charged. Subsequently I wrote to the Minister with a similar request, and he informed me that the charge made in Perth and Fremantle was £1. On investigation I found that the charge was made only for overflow classes, classes formed after the regular classes were filled, and that the overflow class at Fremantle had fallen off. From this we see that a number of people in the city get their instruction in wool classing free, while our people up coun-

try have to pay for it, which is not fair. Also it is inimical to the settlement of the country and the development of the State. The tuition can be arranged for just as economically in the country towns as in Perth, because all the wool for the classes in our district was donated, whereas I presume that the wool utilised in Perth and Fremantle has to be purchased by the department. However, our class was satisfactory and everybody was pleased. It is only on the point of principle that I raise this issue and show that the people of the country are under a disadvantage.

Hon. J. Cunningham: You liked your boy being in the class.

Hon. H. STEWART: The interjection serves a useful purpose. Mr. Cunningham, speaking of immigration, declared that only 25s. per week was paid on the farms. I interjected "and keep." I have known the sons of farmers, worth £2 weekly to their fathers, go elsewhere for experience and be glad to take half of what they might have received on their fathers' farms. When a man is learning he cannot expect to get the same as when he is a fully experienced man. Last year the Narrogin School of Agriculture was transferred to the Education Department, which in my opinion was wrong. I am pleased to see that the Royal Commission on Education in their report stress the necessity for agricultural education as soon as the finances permit. This is what the Commissioners say:—

It cannot be said that Western Australia has yet taken this matter seriously. The only attempt at agricultural teaching here is that at Narrogin. The Narrogin agricultural school is utterly inadequate. It is situated on soil declared to be very unsuitable. It is very poorly equipped for the work. Its range of teaching, while useful to the boys as far as it goes, is altogether too limited.

A school for the junior section established on suitable soil in some place accessible by rail from various parts of the State, equipped with the material for elementary teaching of the agricultural sciences, organised under a staff qualified in both the scientific and practical sides of agriculture, supplied with the best examples of stock, is the first necessity. Even at Narrogin if the school were reorganised in this way good work might be done until a more suitable location for it could be found.

The school at Narrogin has been recently transferred to the Education Department. The advantage of such a transfer is that such a school can always be linked with the schools that must supply it with pupils. At the same time, the general direction of an agricultural school or college requires the co-operation of agricultural experts with the educational authorities. Above all, the college needs a highly trained scientific staff, consisting of men who can

combine with their scientific knowledge a practical application of it, so that in all the instruction given at the school the fact is never forgotten that it has to be remunerative to the student.

And they add—

It is clear to the Commission that the Narrogin school as it stands at present should be entirely reorganised, and its scope materially extended, if it is to meet the needs of the State even for the training of junior students. For such a State as this, with possibilities in agricultural production that cannot be estimated, the Commission urges that the very best provision should be made for the agricultural training of its young men. The demand for it already exists, and there is probably no expenditure which the State can make that will prove to be so productive as that devoted to the provision of a well organised agricultural college.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Hon. H. STEWART: Before tea I was making a few prosy remarks as to the Royal Commission on Education. The Commission make the following general observation on agricultural education:—

Seeing that the future of this State will largely depend on the development of its agriculture, the need for agricultural teaching is even more pressing than for any other form of technical education.

Some of the illustrations which I have given, if taken apart from their context and the general tenor of my speech, may seem almost paltry. However, they are only used as illustrations of difficulties that can occur and of evident hardships that can arise from a country residence. Just before the adjournment I was quoting from the report as to the need for teachers in agricultural colleges having special scientific knowledge. Turning over the report, I looked to see whether the matter was referred to at all in connection with the training of teachers. However, I find there no suggestion whatever for providing either for country school teachers or as regards agricultural college instructors, any training for that work. Those men, apart from having a natural agricultural bent, must be born teachers. I have not had time to peruse the whole report; I have only glanced through it since coming into the Chamber. When speaking to Dr. Saw on this subject, I gathered that he did not think the report contained any reference to it. Let me draw attention to what has been done in New South Wales. With that, the chairman of the Commission, Mr. Board, will of course be thoroughly familiar. First let me mention that in this State a few years ago there was inaugurated a farmers' winter course at Narrogin. That course has been so highly appreciated by the farmers that the accommodation has been over-taxed. Now, in New South Wales there was estab-

lished, about 1902 or 1903, a summer school at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, designed for the purpose of giving teachers in country schools the opportunity of gaining a knowledge of agricultural operations and some knowledge of stock, so that in teaching they could use illustrations which would bring those matters home to the pupils. Something in that nature might be adopted here. Even a summer school in connection with our agricultural colleges would be something. From the inadequate attention which I have been able to give the report so far, I feel disposed to point out that whereas the Commission were given a very wide scope, they were also given definite points on which to direct their investigations and recommendations. I think their report would have been considerably more helpful if their conclusions had been summarised, by way of returning terse answers to the questions which were given the Commission as the basis of their investigations. When the voluminous report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture was issued, the recommendations, apart from the general matter, were summarised, with definite pronouncements and advice. In this case, unfortunately, that appears not to have been done. There are many other matters which one would like to deal with on the Address-in-reply, but I do not propose to do so. I listened with interest and attention to the various speeches delivered in the debate. Sir Edward Wittenoom's remarks on land settlement and on the sphere of taxation by roads boards, and on the sphere of taxation and enterprise to be covered by municipalities, appealed to me very much; and very largely they have my sympathy and support. Mr. Nicholson made a most valuable contribution, giving evidence of a desire to regard matters broadly from the point of view of the interests of the State as a whole, and realising difficulties and making suggestions. Mr. Lynn dealt with finance in a similar spirit. Mr. Pantou, in the course of his criticism of the Railway Department, submitted a case which I intend to investigate at the earliest possible opportunity, with a view to discovering, if possible, some solution of the problem. I was glad to hear Mr. Cunningham deal with the railway reports as he did. In 1917-18 there was a proposal for the appointment of three Commissioners, which proposal was rejected. Mr. Cunningham dealt with the increase in the staff of the Railway Department, as compared with the want of increase in traffic. There must be surplus men in the department, and they should be dispensed with. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion before the House.

Hon. E. ROSE (South-West) [7.37]: In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, I desire to refer to a few points in the Governor's Speech. First

of all, I desire to congratulate the Government on their success in settling returned soldiers on the land. The fact that nearly 4,000 settlers have been placed on our lands during the last three years is a thing to be proud of. I hope, however, that the Government will not stop there, but that they will see the settlers obtain facilities for conveying their produce to market, and, further, see that the settlers receive the fair value of their produce. In the past very little notice has been taken of the man placed on the land once he has been placed there; practically, he has been allowed to fend entirely for himself after that. This is evident if we look at the men now on the land, and consider the treatment that has been meted out to them. Many settlements are hardly able to get their produce to market, because of the bad state of the roads. The Government should see that the settlers have at all events decent roads to the nearest railway station. In the past we have urged our people to "produce, produce, produce"; but, as one hon. member has said, the tendency now is to economise. As regards dairying and mixed farming, in view of the low prices realised it is evident that the Government are making a mistake in not putting forth greater efforts to keep the men engaged in these industries on the land. The dairying industry has made strides, but unless it receives more fostering care from the Government, it will retrogress to such an extent that a man will not be able to make a living in it. I am sorry that the Governor's Speech makes no mention of a Margarine Bill. The matter is a very important one and should be taken up promptly by the Government. Last year there was nearly 100 per cent. more of butter substitutes imported into this State than during the year before. The re-manufacture of those butter substitutes here gives employment to only two or three men, whereas we have thousands of farmers engaged in dairying, or about to engage in that industry. Butter, of course, costs very much more to produce than margarine. We do not for a moment wish to prevent the sale of margarine in this State, but it would be desirable to adopt here the Victorian Act, which prevents the introduction of colouring matter into margarine. Moreover, margarine is a foreign product, and it should be sold in its natural state, as the Victorian Act requires. In the Bunbury district alone there are about 500 farmers supplying cream to a butter factory, and they and other dairy farmers should be protected, as regards the sale of their butter in the open market, against unfair competition. The Minister for Education: There is very little margarine being sold now.

Hon. E. ROSE: Last year £40,952 worth of butter substitutes were imported into this State. That value, sold retail, would represent probably £100,000. The re-manufacture

of butter substitutes is very profitable, though it employs very few hands. I have to speak in much the same strain concerning the need for Government assistance to the potato growing industry. Potato growers have no means of curing potatoes and preventing their being ruined by the potato moth when stored. Last year the Government announced that they would endeavour to discover some means of providing cool storage for potatoes and so preventing the losses from moths. This matter is of great moment to the people of the South-West. I am certain that if the Government set their experts to work, these would devise some means of safely storing potatoes during a glut, until such time as there was a possibility of selling them to some profit. The position of the potato grower has been a very hard one of recent years. Among them there are many returned soldiers, who, from no fault of their own, but simply through occurrence of a glut, have lost very heavily by the moth while holding their potatoes in store. As regards the dairying industry, I am a dairy farmer myself, and also a director of the largest butter company in Western Australia. Therefore, on the subject of the dairying industry I can speak with some confidence, the matter being one that I thoroughly understand. The Government ought to assist all the settlers they are placing on our lands, not only by providing facilities for the conveyance of their produce to market, but by furnishing what I may term social amenities. In the case of men accustomed to town life, the Government should see that they have a recreation ground and hall when they settle on the land. With that assistance, such settlers will soon make a little town, and live much more happily and contentedly. Things are different now from what they were when we were boys. We had to work 12 or 14 hours a day then. We know what the hours are to-day. I would be sorry to see the old times come back when we had to slave on all day. The Government would be wise to provide these facilities not only in the interests of the young men, but of their wives as well. We all know that they like to get together and have their pleasures and enjoy their dances as a community. In settling areas such as the Peel estate and other similar stretches of country, we have before us the task of settling that same belt of country right through from here to Bunbury, Busselton, the Margaret River and around the coast. There is room for thousands of settlers in that belt, and when the iron horse is provided so that they can get their produce to market, settlement should be greatly encouraged. The Government, I understand, are running a tram line through the Peel estate, and I think it would be wise to carry that system through to other similar areas. Last session a Stallions Registration Bill was presented to Parliament, but it failed to pass. I cannot understand why this Bill

is not mentioned in the Governor's Speech for this session.

The Minister for Education: That Bill will be introduced during this session.

Hon. E. ROSE: I am glad to hear that. Both this Bill and the one I have been dealing with were omitted from the Governor's Speech, yet they are important Bills. The South-West is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and I am sure the Government will realise that it is essential that they should give the farmers every assistance to get their produce to market with expedition. I think that it is highly necessary that a Bill should be introduced to deal with our main roads. I believe that the Victorian Roads Act, if it were introduced in Western Australia would prove highly beneficial. I believe it would prove so because the Government can borrow £50,000 to £100,000 at a much cheaper rate than the roads boards would be able to. It is quite certain that we shall have to borrow money to put the roads in order because the roads at the present time are in such a state that if something is not done promptly, it will be impossible for the farmers to use those thoroughfares in connection with the marketing of their produce. When we look at the list of importations from the Eastern States, we realise how much comes into the State than could be produced in Western Australia. Last year we still imported about £408,000 worth of butter although we have overtaken the leeway in that connection to some little extent. That sum represents in itself sufficient to keep a good number of men in employment. Each day throughout the year, something like £2,000 is going out of the State for dairy produce alone, quite apart from other produce that could easily be supplied by Western Australia for her own requirements. The same applies to a great many other things, and yet money continues to go out of the State for these different products. We have to see what the mixed farmer is doing to appreciate the difficulties the producers have to overcome. The mixed farmer is engaged in raising pigs, poultry and eggs at the present time, but he is paying exorbitant prices for wheat. It may not be known to hon. members that we can purchase South Australian wheat in Fremantle cheaper than we can procure our local wheat. Where is the pool? What is it doing? What is the Prices Regulation Commission doing?

Hon. J. Ewing: There is plenty of wheat going to waste in the South-West.

Hon. E. ROSE: I know one merchant who applied to the pool for wheat at Bunbury but he could not get it. He made inquiries at Fremantle for one or two trucks and the price quoted was 7s. 11d. per bushel. He thought that price was too high and he approached a broker and asked him for a quote for second grade South Australian wheat. He received a quotation of 7s. 6d. per bushel f.o.r. Fremantle. If we can ship wheat from South Australia

to Western Australia for 7s. 6d. per bushel, why cannot the wheat pool in this State supply local requirements cheaper than that? That is another way in which the Government are handicapping farmers in the South-West. The farmers cannot get wheat for their poultry and pigs at a reasonable rate and yet £103,000 worth of ham and bacon was imported last year. Why should those importations continue when we have men on the land who are capable of producing the article locally? If the Government do not render more assistance, I am afraid that a lot of these men will have to cease farming, and we will lose them from this State.

Hon. G. W. Miles: They will make something doing each other's washing.

Hon. E. ROSE: One cannot make a profit out of that work as well. Referring to the railways and the effect of the railways upon the deficit, I contend that there is one way in which the railways can be made less costly, and that is by running less mileage and spending some money in reducing the grades. In the South-West thousands of tons of coal from the Collie coalfields are railed down to Brunswick. Trains have to come down half loaded to Fernbrook and return empty because the grades are too high to enable them to be loaded to their full capacity. If the Government spent some money in securing a route with more suitable grades, as for instance, through the Ferguson areas, or by some other route which appeals to the engineers, they would be able to haul the coal much more cheaply than is possible to-day. They have to make two trips instead of one at the present time and the engine and the men have to work day and night. At Collie the railway yard is so congested that they cannot do any shunting. Some few miles out there is a mine known as the Westralia Black Diamond Mine. A good many thousand tons are shifted from that mine down to the siding and have to be shunted back to Collie because there is no weighbridge. As a result there is about seven miles of extra haulage and I am sure it would pay if a weighbridge were supplied to meet their requirements.

Hon. J. Ewing: That is quite true.

Hon. E. ROSE: There are quite a number of things like that requiring attention in the South-West. The harbour at Bunbury is not provided with adequate facilities for the bunkering of coal. Instead of the open trucks which are provided now, a number of six or eight ton hopper trucks and a couple of 10 ton cranes to haul them should be provided at Bunbury. If that were done, bunkering could be carried out in half the time it takes at present. Such coal trucks as I mention would be useful for Fremantle as well as for Bunbury, and they would be of great assistance to the bunkering trade and they would lessen the mileage necessitated by that trade. The Bunbury harbour should have more money spent upon it so as to induce larger

boats to call there, not only for bunkering coal but for shipping produce and fruit from that district. I do not see why the fruit growers should rail their product from Bridgetown to Fremantle, a distance of 120 miles further than if they railed their fruit to the natural port of Bunbury. We should have one or two boats calling at Bunbury every year for fruit, and if the Government gave encouragement by providing adequate shipping facilities, the interests of the industry would be conserved. The bunkering trade is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and Collie coal has proved to be one of the greatest assets we have in Western Australia. That industry should receive every possible assistance from the Government. Fremantle is too far away. Why should the coal be hauled to Fremantle when there is the natural harbour for the Collie coalfields at Bunbury? There is an unlimited supply of coal at Collie, and we do not know how much there really is. We have seen the announcement that coal has been found in the Irwin River district. We do not know what the extent of that field or what the value of the coal will prove to be. I hope, however, that it will prove to be good quality coal, and, if that should be the case it will be a very great asset for that part of the State. In any case, that coalfield will not be of any material assistance to the port of Fremantle unless the calorific value of the coal proves to be very high. Collie coal has proved of great assistance in the past and without it, the cost of running the railways would have been much higher than it has proved to be, and furthermore, the deficit would have been greatly increased. There are other matters in connection with the South-West that I would like to touch upon but I will refrain from doing so at the present juncture. I have listened with a great deal of attention to the previous speakers and particularly to Mr. Stewart who has gone most carefully into the figures dealing with production in the different parts of the State. It was extremely interesting to listen to those figures. I am firmly convinced that the South-West will be something like Victoria and that it will prove to be the salvation of Western Australia. The South-West is the garden of Western Australia and when it is properly populated we will have a thriving and, I hope, a happy population in that part of the State. I congratulate the Government on the settlement scheme they have adopted and the manner in which they have established a number of settlers in different areas. The work of the tree pullers is very effective and I am convinced that by the use of these machines the cost of clearing the land will be much less than anticipated. Of course, it is well known that in hilly country there, we have to do a good deal of heavy clearing before the land can be put under cultivation. I hope before very long the drift in the finances will be stopped. I think the Government realise that something has to be done to prevent us from drifting on to the financial rocks. I have every confidence in Western Australia, for I

believe we have a great future ahead of our huge territory which possesses so much unknown wealth. I hope to see in two or three years time that we have not only stopped the financial drift, but commenced to place the affairs of this State on a highly satisfactory basis.

On motion by Hon. V. Hamersley, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 7.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Wednesday, 24th August, 1921.

Questions:	Page
Tramway extension, South Perth-Como	379
Perth Technical School, Shed hands and union tickets	379
Free Passes for returned soldiers	379
Education, interchange of teachers	379
Railway buffet cars	380
Busselton Jetty	380
Railway carriage lighting	380
Cattle freights	380
Cattle ticks	380
Traffic Act, fines	381
Address-in-Reply, Tenth day	381
Bill: Supply, £1,640,320, returned	412

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

QUESTION—TRAMWAY EXTENSION, SOUTH PERTH-COMO.

Captain CARTER asked the Minister for Railways: 1, When was the material for the proposed South Perth-Como tramway extension ordered? 2, When was the specified date of delivery, if any? 3, Has the material been shipped yet? If so, on what boat or boats? 4, When is the material expected to arrive?

The MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS replied: 1, Preparation for ordering necessary material to commence extensions of the metropolitan tramway system was made soon after the passing of the Loan Estimates last year, and definite orders for rails and fastenings were made in May last, balance of the material at subsequent dates. 2, Approximately three to three and a half months from date of placing orders. 3, No definite advice available. 4, Towards end of September or early in October.

QUESTION—PERTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

Shed Hands and Union Tickets.

Mr. A. THOMSON asked the Premier: 1, Is it a fact that the following notice was exhibited in the Technical School: "Wool-classing: (i.) Intending shed hands should take out union tickets before they leave the metropolitan district. (ii.) Students should follow the 'Advice to Students' dated 21/6/21, posted in the classrooms, and before finalising their arrangements should interview either the Director or the Secretary"? 2, If so, who is responsible? 3, Is it the policy of the Education Department to compel students at the Technical School to join trade unions?

The PREMIER replied: 1, Yes. 2, Director of Technical Education. 3, No.

QUESTION—FREE PASSES FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Mr. WILSON asked the Premier: 1, Have the Federal Government recouped the Railway Department of Western Australia for the moneys expended in granting free railway and tramway passes over the Government railways and tramways to ex-members of the A.I.F. who are (a) blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated; (b) inmates of or attending for treatment at military hospitals, sanatoriums, convalescent homes, and hostels; (c) eligible for full membership in the Maimed and Limbless Men's Association; (d) eligible for full membership of the Tubercular Sailors and Soldiers' Association of W.A.? 2, Is it the intention of the Government to carry out the above provisions until finality has been reached with the Federal Government?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Yes.

QUESTION—EDUCATION, INTER-CHANGE OF TEACHERS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD asked the Premier: 1, Has he read the following paragraph in the latest issue of the "Sunday Times":—"Miss Jessie Horton, of the Education Department, who is one of the teachers from Western Australia sent on an observation tour to England, and with her mother, Mrs. J. Horton, of Queen's Park, is now settled in London. Miss Horton, under directions from the London County Council of Education, is observing in different schools each week. Between times they enjoy sight-seeing in London"? 2, Are the statements contained therein substantially correct? 3, How many teachers have been sent on observation tours, and at what cost to the Department?

The PREMIER replied: 1, No. 2, Miss Horton was granted twelve months' leave of absence without pay under the scheme of the League of the Empire for the interchange of teachers with the London County