

mist, W. H. Mallock, in his production entitled "Wages, War, and Capital," comes to the conclusion that if the annual savings of the United Kingdom were divided equally between the inhabitants of the United Kingdom it would only increase their income by £4 per head; or to put it another way, if the income from the investment of the home capital in the United Kingdom were divided amongst the inhabitants therein, it would only mean £7 per head. There is no royal road to prosperity, and there is no quack panacea or cure-all for the evils of poverty or disease. Their causes lie deep rooted in human nature. Wise legislation has done much in the past but there remains still much more to be done. The violent dislocations of industry only defeat their own ends by diminishing production, enhancing prices and decreasing employment. I am glad to hear that the Government, in conjunction with a vigorous land policy, intend to start an agricultural college. A scientific education is as necessary for the farmer as for any other professional man. It quickens the interest in country life, besides rendering the land more productive. If we wish to attract people to the land and arrest the constant exodus which is taking place from the land into the towns, we must do so by rendering country life more varied and more interesting. I hope the Government will be able to do something in the way of higher education for the toiler in the cities. The number of students at our University has increased from 184 in 1913 to 400 in 1919, and there is every prospect of a further increase next year. If these figures are increased it may be necessary to augment both the accommodation and the staff, as a result of which a larger expenditure will be required upon the University. The University has been starved in equipment and buildings since its inception. I am not one of those who think that money spent on higher education is wasted. I believe that the future of democracy depends on the amelioration of the lot of the masses of the people and upon their higher education. During the war the battle cry has been to make the world safe for democracy. The problem presenting itself to us now is how to make democracy safe for the world. If there is to be any permanent improvement in our condition it can only come about by raising the moral, mental, and physical status of our people. It may surprise hon. members to know that in London and Leeds more money is spent on education proportionately than in this State, whilst in the United States of America even double our amount per head of the population has been expended. The Government intend, I believe, to ask Parliament to continue the existing hours for the sale of alcoholic liquors, namely, from 9 to 9. In 1921 the subject of liquor reform will be submitted to a local option vote, and it is to be desired that a solution of the evils of excessive drinking will be found. I do not regard total prohibition as a satisfactory solution, because I consider it to be an unwarranted interfer-

ence with the enjoyment of the people, and furthermore, I believe it will bring in its train worse evils in the way of sly grog selling, bad liquor, secret drinking, and the increased consumption of such harmful drugs as cocaine and morphia. The experiments being carried out in the United States will be watched with interest by all lovers of temperance. Nor am I satisfied with the present condition of things whereby men and women ruin their bodies and minds and become a burden to the State. I believe that reasonable temperance reform will include State control of hotels, the lessening of the alcoholic contents of wines and beers, and a further reduction of hours. I would plead with all my power for a greater spirit of tolerance and good will in our midst. During the past five years a heroism has been shown unexcelled at any period of the world's history. In the storm of shot and shell on the narrow beach at Anzac Cove, where men wasting from dysentery kept their posts, in the trenches of France and Flanders, in the cold and wet, and where hell itself seemed to have let loose its fury, in the stifling heat, dust, and malaria of the Jordan Valley, on sea and on land, a courage and endurance have been shown which have immortalised the name of Australia. Victory has been won and Peace declared. Let us not by our internal dissensions throw away the fruits of Victory, but let us resolve that the same high courage and self-sacrifice shall consecrate our labours in solving the difficult problems of Peace.

Hon. J. F. ALLEN (West): I formally second the motion.

On motion by Hon. R. J. Lynn debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 4.20 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Thursday, 31st July, 1919.*

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The Legislative Assembly met at noon pursuant to proclamation, which was read by the Clerk (Mr. A. R. Grant).

# MESSAGE—OPENING BY COMMISSIONER.

A Message from the Commissioner appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary for the opening of Parliament requested the attendance of members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council Chamber. Hon. members having accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and heard the Commission read, they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

## ARMISTICE—LETTER IN REPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the following letter from His Excellency the Governor:—

Government House, Perth, 3rd April, 1919. Mr. Speaker. I am requested by the Secretary of State to inform you that he laid the Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia on the occasion of the Armistice with Germany, before His Majesty the King, who was pleased to receive it very graciously, and commanded him to request me to convey to the Assembly his warm appreciation of the feelings which prompted the Resolution and of the terms in which it was expressed. I have the honour to be, Mr. Speaker, Yours faithfully, William Ellison-Macartney, Governor.

## AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES—LETTERS-IN-REPLY.

Thanks to Australian Army.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the following letter from the Commonwealth Department of Defence:—

Melbourne, 27th May, 1919. Dear Sir, Following on the Minister's letter, dated 28/11/18, No. 109186, relative to the resolution carried by your Assembly commending the services of Australian soldiers abroad, I am directed to inform you that advice has now been received that the resolution in question was published in the Orders of the Australian Imperial Force for the information of all ranks. Yours faithfully, W. A. Newman, Acting Secretary.

Lieutenant McCarthy, V.C.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received the following letter:—

Dublin, 27th May, 1919. I am in receipt of your very kind letter of 30th December last, and desire to thank, through you, the Assembly for the resolution of 20th December. The appreciation expressed therein is deeply valued and will always be among my most treasured souvenirs. L. McCarthy.

## SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS.

Mr. SPEAKER: The lamented death of Mr. H. Robinson (member for Albany) during the recess necessitated the issue of a

writ to fill the vacancy. I have also received writs for the electoral districts of Beverley, Northam, and West Perth, from which it appears the following have been elected:—Albany, John Scaddan; Beverley, Frank Tyndall Brown; Northam, James Mitchell; and West Perth, Thomas Percy Draper. I am prepared to swear in those hon. members, together with the hon. member for Collie (Mr. A. A. Wilson), who has been on active service since prior to the general election.

The above-mentioned members took and subscribed the oath, as required by Statute, and signed the roll.

*Sitting suspended from 12:19 to 3 p.m.*

## SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Speaker and hon. members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber, and, having heard His Excellency deliver the opening Speech (vide Council report ante), they returned to the Assembly Chamber.

## BILL—GENERAL LOAN AND INSCRIBED STOCK ACT AMENDMENT.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move without notice for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Act, 1910.

Leave given; Bill introduced and read a first time.

## MOTION—PEACE.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): I move—

That a joint message of both Houses be transmitted to His Majesty the King expressing deep and sincere gratitude to Almighty God on the consummation of a righteous and victorious peace and congratulations on the success at arms of the British and Allied Nations.

I hope the House will agree that this is not an occasion for speech making. It is rather a matter on which we can touch with profound gratitude.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder): I second the motion.

Question put and passed.

## OBITUARY—Mr. HERBERT ROBINSON.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): It does not often fall to the lot of the Premier of this House to have to submit two motions of condolence. We know, of course, that the angel of death has been hovering about us for some years now, and that the whole world has been in mourning. This House has not been spared, for since we adjourned, Mr. Herbert Robinson, who for nearly two years had been a member of this Assembly, has passed away. During the period

that the late gentleman represented the constituency of Albany, he displayed courage, ability, and energy in the discharge of his duties. The late Mr. Robinson, as hon. members probably know, served his country not only as a member of this House, but as a member of the Albany municipal council for several years, and on a couple of occasions was mayor of that southern town. The motion which I have to submit with very great regret is as follows:—

That this House places on record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Herbert Robinson, M.L.A., and tenders to his family its sincerest sympathy in the loss they have sustained, and desires that the terms of this resolution be communicated to the widow and family of the late gentleman by the Speaker.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder): It is with very great regret that I feel the necessity has arisen for me to second the motion which has been submitted by the Premier. During the period that the late Mr. Robinson occupied a seat in this House he displayed unusual energy and earnestness in the discharge of his Parliamentary duties. On the last occasion when he appeared in the Chamber it was apparent to hon. members that he was a very pick man indeed, and had it not been that he was possessed of a keen sense of the responsibilities of his position, I feel sure he would have relinquished active life at a much earlier period. In the death of the late Mr. Robinson, Albany has lost perhaps its most active citizen, and Parliament has lost a member whose career promised to be very useful in the service of the State. I am sure I voice the sentiments of every hon. member when I say that we extend to the bereaved relatives of the deceased gentleman our deepest sympathy.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon): As leader of the Country party I desire, with deep regret, to support the motion which has been submitted by the Premier. Hon. members occupying the cross benches recognise that the late Mr. Robinson was a keen and earnest advocate for his electorate. We, too, desire that our deepest sympathy be accorded to the bereaved relatives.

Question put and passed; members standing.

#### OBITUARY—SIR HENRY BRIGGS.

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Mitchell—Northam): I desire briefly to refer to the death of a prominent member of another place in the person of Sir Henry Briggs. Hon. members will agree with me that the death of Sir Henry Briggs has removed a figure well known, not only to members of this House and another place, but to all the people of the country. Everyone knew the late gentleman, and all will agree that he will be very much missed. He was always a good citizen and a good friend, and he always did useful work. We are all

aware that after he arrived in this country his life became devoted to the important work of educating the young people of the State. As a public man the late gentleman sat in the Legislative Council for 23 years, during 13 years of which he occupied the high and honourable position of President of that Chamber. We all know, too, that he possessed a very wide knowledge of Parliamentary procedure, and his personality and ability made it possible for him to fill the high position he occupied with credit and dignity to himself and with immense benefit to the State. We are aware also that the late Sir Henry Briggs played many parts during his 23 years of public life. He was a member of the Royal Commission which was appointed in connection with the establishment of the University. We know also that he took a very active interest in the framing of the Federal Constitution, having been a representative of Western Australia at the Australian Convention in Sydney and Melbourne in the years 1897 and 1898. The late Sir Henry Briggs played an important part in the public life of Western Australia, and he was always regarded as a man who could be entrusted with the duty of safeguarding the interests and welfare of the people of the State. I move—

That this House desires to place on record its deep appreciation of the great loss Parliament and the State have sustained by the death of Sir Henry Briggs, who for the past 13 years presided over the Legislative Council.

Hon. P. COLLIER (Boulder): I entirely endorse the sentiments expressed by the Premier regarding the great loss the State has sustained in the death of Sir Henry Briggs. The late President of the Legislative Council was a conspicuous figure in the Parliamentary and public life of this State for many years. Those of us who may count ourselves as amongst the older members of Parliament have a keen appreciation of the kindly interest taken by the late Sir Henry Briggs in newly elected members; in fact, it is true that he always displayed a paternal interest in members on first entering Parliament, and his passing away at a ripe age will be felt, especially in those Parliamentary circles where he was more intimately known. It may be said of the deceased gentleman that the early period of his life was spent in the service of his native country, and the latter portion of it in serving the best interests of Western Australia.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon): I rise to support the motion which was moved by the Premier, and to say that country members always found that the late Sir Henry Briggs was most courteous and always genial, and was ready to assist newly elected members.

Mr. MALEY (Greenough): On behalf of the old boys of the school controlled by the late Sir Henry Briggs in the eighties and nineties, I would like to add a few remarks to those which have already been submitted. I desire to place on record the regret the old

scholars feel at the death of Sir Henry Briggs. He was a gentleman of scholarly attainments, and successfully moulded the characters of a great number of men in this State, who, in their subsequent careers, proved themselves useful citizens. I voice on their behalf their sincere sorrow at the death of Sir Henry Briggs.

Hon. W. C. ANGWIN (North-East Fre-mantle): As one of the representatives of the district which formed part of the Province represented by the late Sir Henry Briggs, I desire to say that by the death of that gentleman the loss to the Province has been a great one. There is no doubt that of late years, owing to the age which the late gentleman attained, he did not take that deep interest in the affairs of the Province which he did for many years previously. No man did more for the advancement of the Province he represented than the late Sir Henry Briggs, and his loss will be severely felt by every elector in that Province. For the past 15 years I have been attending the sittings of Parliament in the company of the deceased gentleman, and, as has been already stated, the advice he gave, not only to myself but to other hon. members, was such as to enable all who were fortunate enough to receive it to fulfil their duties far better than would otherwise have been the case. I also desire to express my regret at the loss which has been sustained by the death of Sir Henry Briggs.

Question put and passed; members standing.

#### GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER: His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to deliver a Speech to members of both Houses of Parliament, of which Speech I have for greater accuracy, obtained copies which have been circulated amongst hon. members.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### First Day.

Mr. MONEY (Bunbury): In reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—"May it please your Excellency. We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

I move this motion with a certain amount of diffidence. I have searched in the past for any results which have come from the debates on the Address-in-reply. Often the results have been very trifling. Seldom have the ideas expressed in the debates been given that serious consideration which they have often deserved.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: I have seen Governments turned out on it. The results have not been trifling then.

Mr. MONEY: If I thought the results of the debate on this occasion would be the same, I should simply formally propose the motion and sit down, but I am satisfied that the times are acknowledged to be so serious that any suggestion made by any member of the House will receive that due consideration which it deserves at the hands of those in authority and that some result may probably eventuate. It is gratifying to know that the utmost efforts are being made for the successful repatriation of our soldiers. We all know that there is more stir, more work and more settlement through the Lands Department to-day than there has been in the State for some years past. I would like on this subject to suggest that we give more consideration to our fishing industry, which is a new industry to the State. It affords a good opening for returned soldiers and many of them are desirous of following that particular avocation. I hope that every consideration will be given to them. In the Speech, reference is made to industrial turmoil. There is very little doubt that one of the chief causes of this turmoil is the excessive cost of living.

Mr. Lutey: True.

Mr. MONEY: I notice also that it is intended to introduce a Bill to regulate prices. Of course a Bill of this nature can only be a temporary and artificial expedient. If we have a scarcity of supplies, any measure to regulate the prices can only increase the scramble to obtain the supplies desired. The only true remedy is to increase the supplies so that there shall be sufficient for the people, and it is towards this end that we should as far as possible direct our attention.

Hon. T. Walker: What about cornering?

Mr. MONEY: This subject is not new to the House or to Western Australia, but it is of sufficient importance to repeat and reiterate until some great improvement is accomplished.

Mr. Lutey: Nothing is done or will be done.

Mr. MONEY: It seems deplorable that approximately one million pounds per annum is being sent out of this State to buy farm products that should be produced here. It is not because we have not the land to produce them. We have in this State land equal to any in the whole of Australia, and some of it equal to any in the world. From Fremantle to Albany along the whole of the coastal districts we have rich swamp lands capable of growing all the potatoes we require, capable of producing all the butter and bacon we require and some for export, too.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They are sending that away and charging 2d. per pound in addition to bring it back again.

Mr. MONEY: That land is in exactly the same condition as was some of the lands in some of the other parts of the world which are now being intensely cultivated and are proving intensely profitable. These lands were under water and so are ours. Imme-

diately these lands were drained—I am speaking of the marshes and fen lands in the Old Country—they were put in a condition for cultivation and a tremendous amount of production was the result. Even in the wettest season every particle of that land can be cultivated and is in use all the year round. Our land here for six or seven months in the year is under water, and the only way to get any safe use out of it is to drain it. Immediately the water dries up in the middle of summer there are some people plucky enough to plant potatoes, and if they have a dry season they can get their crops out before the water again swamps the land. As for dairy farming, it is impossible to undertake this industry until the land is drained. I want to stress this subject all I can. If by the expenditure of a million on drainage we can save £300,000 from going out of this State per annum for produce which can be grown locally, it will be money well spent, besides increasing the productive value of our land.

Hon. P. Collier: This figure of a million is catching. You are all speaking in millions now.

Mr. MONEY: These lands are very similar to farm lands in that it may be the expenditure of the last hundred pounds which will make them pay, whereas all previous expenditure has seemed as naught. This land is already served with railways. What it requires now are drainage and roads and people to settle on it.

Hon. P. Collier: And you think a million will cover it?

Mr. MONEY: The question is whether what I have stated is correct or not. If it is correct, if the land is good and will produce as I have stated, and we acknowledge that it will, the question then is are we going to wait so much longer and let it remain idle and be of no use to the State. The time has arrived when something must be done.

Mr. Lutey: It has gone by.

Mr. MONEY: If it is right to develop the State, it should be developed without any further delay.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Whose land is it, private or State land?

Mr. MONEY: I do not know whose land it is, but in the swamp from Fremantle to Albany I daresay there is some Government land. I care not whose land it is. In treating with the affairs of State, the time has arrived when it is not for us to ask whose land it is, Government or private. The whole of the land in the State is a national asset.

Mr. Lutey: It should belong to the people.

Mr. MONEY: It is there and should be used for the benefit of the State. It is useless for us to ask whether it is Government or privately owned. The time has arrived when the whole of the land belongs to the people and should be worked for the people and by the people.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Have you seen the reports that the State is paying through the nose for the repurchase of land?

Mr. MONEY: I am glad to see a reference that at last Collie coal has been appreciated.

If we could develop that asset still further, it would be of benefit to the State in every way. The bunkering of the whole of the steamships at the Western Australian port for Collie would save freight and give employment and convert the raw material into money which is so needful to-day. This matter has not been stressed sufficiently in the past, but I am hopeful of seeing great development in future. There is a note in the Speech regarding public education. I would have preferred that note to be amplified to some extent. I am satisfied of the necessity for agricultural education, more so than the education which merely fits one for a town life. If we can educate the children to like the country life, the life of the producer, and educate them that they will be able to earn a living on the land, we shall be doing a greater service to the State than by educating them to take positions in offices and live their lives in the city. I would like education to include political education. Until the people of this State take that keen interest in their duty and realise the seriousness of political education, many matters which require remedy will remain in their present position.

Mr. Lutey: Who shall be the judge of the class of politics?

Mr. MONEY: The financial problem is still with us and in as acute state as ever, and it is necessary to try to show how it can be remedied. If we can save the amount of money which is going out of this State annually for the purchase of products capable of being grown here, we shall undoubtedly be assisting to solve the financial problem. It is not merely a matter of revenue and expenditure, but a matter of increasing the national asset which is the security for the whole of the debts of Western Australia. It is desirable that there should be more co-ordination in our Government departments. It is unsatisfactory that a matter referred to a certain Government department, because it is considered to infringe upon the work of another department, should be laid aside as being none of their business. Not only do we want more co-ordination, but we want more open administration. The method of administration whereby roads and bridges are supervised and reported upon and estimates given by someone who has to make a long journey from Perth, is absurd and costly, and no business house could be conducted on such lines. As regards the finances generally, I feel that they are not so black as many people paint them. But, if we are not to go under, it is absolutely necessary to have this productiveness which we have been proclaiming for so long, and that co-ordination of which I have just spoken. As an illustration of the want of co-ordination I may adduce the wastefulness arising from the want of it in one respect. It is well known to hon. members that there are in this State hundreds of miles of main roads running parallel to railway lines. It is well known also that the country people through their representatives on the roads boards pay as much as 8s.

and 9s. per load to have their road material carted to the places where it is required. We have it also of our own knowledge that the material for railway purposes, ballasting and re-ballasting, is carried and delivered to the spot where it is required at a cost of from 1s. 9d. to 2s. per cubic yard. Then why not have the material for road-making carried to the spot where it is required over the railways parallel to the main roads, and so do two or three times the same length of road for the same money? Applications on this point have been made to the Commissioner of Railways two or three times already, but the answer has been that he cannot do it. Why cannot it be done? Simply because to do it does not suit one department. It is necessary that we should as far as possible abolish this departmental friction. That applies not only in Western Australia, for an inquiry set on foot through a Committee of the British House of Commons discovered a similar state of things at Home. We want here in future only one department, and that is the people's department. Where there is any conflict whatever between one department and another, the interests of the people must suffer. I hope that every inducement will be offered to make country life more profitable and more enjoyable. I was amused to read in the newspapers recently grave complaints because in the city of Perth there are holes in the footpaths. In the country districts the people are only too glad if they can get an ordinary road, quite irrespective of any footpath. Good roads are essential to the country districts, and I hope that in future the attention of Parliament will be turned in that direction. We know that the population of our cities and towns is far and away too great in proportion to the numbers of our country population. We have not in this State enough producers. Less attention should be directed to what may be termed unproductive employment in the cities, and more to productive employment in the country. I am not paying much attention to the list of measures set forth in the Speech, because until we have the Bills themselves it is impossible to discuss them. Moreover, I feel that it is far more important to have good administration than to have legislation. In the past legislation has accomplished very little, and I am satisfied that in the future ordinary legislation will not accomplish more. Years ago it was thought that by means of legislation bankruptcy could be avoided, and a new Bankruptcy Act was passed. That new Act did not prove satisfactory, and another Bankruptcy Act was passed, and after that yet another, and finally Parliament reverted to the original measure. I mention this as an illustration that legislation cannot make a State prosperous. The prosperity of a State depends on administration, and on the encouragement of the work of the people. Further on the subject of co-ordination. I am more than satisfied that it is essential we should have a spirit of co-ordination in this Chamber if we are to recover our position of the past. Unless there

is throughout the people and Parliament the will and the determination to conquer our present troubles we shall never conquer them, but shall go under. Sometimes when the doctor comes along the patient will tell him that he is going to die, in which case the chances are nine to one that he will not recover. Some people are under the impression that Western Australia will never get out of her financial troubles. We shall not get out of them if there are too many people who think like that and act under that belief. However, it is quite possible to overcome our difficulties by a spirit of determination and co-ordination which will enable the State to resume its former solvent condition.

Mr. HARRISON (Avon): In seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply I feel a certain degree of pleasure, because of the knowledge that we have at the head of affairs an optimist. We must have confidence in our country first, and then confidence in the men who administer affairs of State, and lastly confidence in ourselves. Everything for the future rests on the one word "Work," and that applies not only to one section of the community but to every section, and to every department of State. There are two points in the Governor's Speech to which I shall refer more particularly. The first is repatriation. On that subject I hold strong convictions, believing that nothing this State can offer to the returned man can be too good. However, I entertain a feeling that we could achieve more definite action and more promptitude in finalising matters in regard to the individual soldiers. I know that it creates unrest in the mind of the returned soldier if he is compelled to appeal week after week, and in some instances month after month, without being fixed up definitely. On this subject I have seen the Premier as well as his officers, and in regard to the cases I have brought under the Premier's notice the hon. gentleman has promised that he will see they are dealt with speedily. In some of those cases the delay has arisen through the wrong officer having been approached. However, we should take our soldiers as they come along, and we should get the individual cases finalised as the men return to the State. In this connection I wish to emphasise the desirability of making the greatest possible use of the district repatriation boards, because their local knowledge can render the Government very material assistance. Another grievance I have in connection with repatriation is that our returned men have not been given sufficient information in regard to what we have been doing during their absence.

Hon. F. Collier: I think it is best to hide that up.

Mr. HARRISON: We have been particularly interested in all that our men have done in Gallipoli, France, Egypt, and elsewhere, and we are proud of the valour they have displayed—a valour second to none in the Empire or among the Allies. I have been able to learn of cases where Australian soldiers have been surrounded and taken pris-

oners but of no cases in which our men have been driven back. They have been ordered to retire, but it has been almost an impossibility to get them to retire. Such having been the conduct of our soldiers, what have we been doing while they have been away? Have we shown the same degree of earnestness as our men at the Front? So far as the section of the community which I represent is concerned, I say our stunt has been a good one. Let me quote the figures of the areas put under crop since the year 1914, during a period when ten per cent. of the population left this State, which means that considerably over 25 per cent. of the masculine energy over 18 years of age departed from Western Australia. During that period what did we do to keep up the production of the State? The area under crop in 1914 was 1,537,923 acres, and each year since 1914 has shown an increase. In 1915 there was a considerable increase, in 1916 there was a still further increase, in 1917 there was a slight falling-off, but 1918 was still better than 1914. Our acreage under crop has been more than maintained, and therefore I say that we on the land have done our part. We have produced the crops, and the pastoralists of Western Australia have produced the wealth of mutton and wool and beef. Had it not been for the returns from the land in wool and wheat, Australia to-day would be in a very bad position indeed. We would not have been able to get credit on our surplus goods which have had to be stored for lack of ocean transport. Nevertheless, we have not had the full value of our production. The task of the States and of the Commonwealth has been to carry on during the war, and that has been done. Any officer who has been wounded at the Front has told his men still to carry on, and I contend that the Country party, including pastoralists and miners, in fact the primary producers generally, have done their part. Then, who have failed? There are two extreme wings that have not done their duty while our soldiers have been away at the Front—the profiteers in commerce at one end, and at the other end the industrial section who have created strike after strike during the period of war, causing the loss of millions of money to the Commonwealth as a whole, and of enormous sums to Western Australia in particular, causing also a great deal of misery to the wives and families of the men at the Front, wives and families to whom all of us should have stood as guardians. It was the duty of all who had influence over those parts of our commercial energy to do what they could in the interests of the men who went to the Front and of their families who remained behind.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Yes, by sticking up their rents!

Mr. HARRISON: The great trouble is shown in the high cost of living. What has been the cause of all this? First of all, the cost of all material throughout the world rose. Manufacturers in the Old Country found their machinery taken and their lines of commerce dispensed with for the time

being, and they had to engage in munition works. We have not been able to get the manufactured goods. The enemy destroyed a large proportion of our mercantile marine. Other portions of that great service had to transport our troops and munitions, and attend to Red Cross work. But for them the war could not have been carried on. As a matter of fact, the war was won, not only by the men in the trenches, but by all the communities behind those men. If any section of the work had broken down, those men could not have beaten Germany. The war has been won by co-operation through every section. In April of 1918 things looked very black indeed, and we could not then have believed that we should have won through to a glorious victory. It was the united power, not only of the soldiers themselves, but of every branch of the community behind them that won the war. The people as a whole had the confidence that we should ultimately win, and they gave our men that confidence.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The soldiers did the biggest part of it.

Mr. HARRISON: They were the actual men engaged. It was the duty of every young man to be there. Had the hon. member and I been younger we should have been there as well. However, to revert to the cost of living: manufacturing machinery was diverted from ordinary uses and given over to the making of munitions. Shipping was of insufficient capacity for transporting commodities, and we in Australia, being further away from the centre, felt that disability in undue degree. Had it not been for the Empire guaranteeing our ships we should not have got any shipping at all. That, of course, meant higher freights. Freights rose on an average 300 per cent. Costs throughout were increased from 50 to 100 per cent. When, in normal times, a merchant takes into consideration the capital cost of the stock in his store and, over and above that, charges the usual profit, it is a legitimate proceeding; but under the conditions I have referred to, that proceeding becomes a criminal action. Merchants who added the customary percentage of profit to the inflated cost of their stocks amassed money to a greater extent during the war period than they could possibly have done without the war. I am told by a leading retail merchant that, during the war, sales increased to an enormous extent. If the capital cost of their stores was doubled and trebled and the merchants still added the same rate of profit, their action was nothing short of criminal. Take the manufacturers of our woollen goods. Here in Australia we have the finest quality of wool, and the largest selection to choose from. Mr. Jowett, a member of the Federal Parliament and also a member of the Wool Board, stated in the Federal House that the woollen manufacturers could get any sample of wool that suited their industry at the price the British Government were paying, that price being fixed by two sets of appraisers, one on behalf of the

growers and the other on behalf of the Imperial Government. With those advantages one would have thought that the woollen manufacturers would have shown not only the Commonwealth, but the other nations, what they could do with Australian wool and how they could build up that industry. If they required other machinery they could have made an effort to get it, and in all probability that effort would have succeeded. Thus, they could have increased their output on legitimate lines without any profiteering. What have they done? They have increased their lines by hundreds per cent. to the retailers, and the retailers have put their excess profits on the goods. I am glad to see that something is to be done, not only here but in the Commonwealth Parliament, by way of restricting those profits. Undoubtedly both extreme wings have damaged our prosperity during the war period. The leaders of the men connected with shipping should have done their utmost to imbue them with the justice of appealing to the machinery provided; they should have urged them to seek redress through the Arbitration Court.

Hon. P. Collier: Do you forget that the shipowners made 14 millions profit during the war period? Do you approve of that?

Mr. HARRISON: I am with you there; if I had the power I would prevent it.

Mr. Lutey: Who got the "boodle"?

Hon. T. Walker: Did the seamen get it?

Mr. HARRISON: The seamen are stopping all trade. This profiteering is a compound matter; it touches the pockets in every way. Costs are abnormal, and for some years to come it will be impossible to get back to normal conditions. Consequently we are bound to have high prices. The member for Perth (Mr. Pilkington) in his public addresses has touched on one phase of the causes of increased prices, namely the inflated currency. It is not only from that cause but from many others that the high prices have arisen. It is largely through selfishness that this has been brought about. I commend the Government on their determination to stop it. I shall be pleased to support the Government in their endeavour to crush anything that may be barring our progress in Western Australia. It has been stated that the primary producers also have been profiteering. Certainly the price of our meat has been considerably higher. But this is not due to profiteering. Never have we attempted to keep our products off the market. Wherever trucks have been available, whenever cattle and sheep could be sent to the markets, they have been sent. It has been simply the law of supply and demand that has increased our prices.

Hon. T. Walker: Cornering!

Mr. HARRISON: The chief reason why our prices have been high has been the lack of shipping to bring down beef from the North-West.

Hon. T. Walker: That is not all.

Mr. HARRISON: I know that mutton has been sold at considerably lower prices than those quoted in the newspaper—I can prove

that of my own experience. I wish it to be known that we as producers have kept our compact and gone on producing to the best of our ability. Of my own knowledge I know a boy of 11½ years who, while his father was ill, took off over 300 acres of crop. He harvested 1,100 bags of wheat. In the first week of January last I saw him driving a team of four horses delivering the same wheat.

Hon. T. Walker: Can not you see that the producers are being just as much skinned as are the workers?

Mr. HARRISON: Undoubtedly the producers are at one extreme. They are next to nature, and therefore cannot pass on the burden. They have to bear their burden, but the workers are increasing that burden, because every one of those increases which cannot be maintained by production means that the spending power is decreased by more than the amount provided by an increase in wages. If the Ministry can give effect to the objects laid down in the Speech, there will be cause for satisfaction. Unfortunately, there is nothing definite or decided regarding the way in which they intend to carry out those objects. I would have been pleased if the Government had announced their intention to reassess the whole of the charges for the agricultural districts in connection with the Goldfields Water Scheme, for unless the water is used, it is valueless to the settler and the Government. The Government might also have stated what they intended to do to provide facilities for the settlers located more than 12½ miles from a railway. I would have liked something definite on these points, in order that we might look to the Government to give effect to them.

Hon. P. Collier: Hear, hear! Too vague altogether; too much generality.

Mr. HARRISON: Regarding our gold production, which is waning, something should be done to facilitate further development. We have miles and miles of auriferous country and if a board, advisory, if deemed desirable, such as we have to assist the Minister with the wheat, and in connection with the Industries Assistance Act, were appointed to assist the Minister for Mines and the departmental officers, I would be willing to go so far as to demand no security for the capital out-laid. I believe great wealth still exists in our auriferous areas, and nothing would prove so great a stimulus to internal production or attract outside capital so much as the discovery of new fields. I would like to see that portion of Coolgardie, which yielded such rich surface gold, proved thoroughly.

Hon. P. Collier: In which way?

Mr. HARRISON: By developmental work and by testing with bores. I am satisfied great wealth, as yet untapped, exists there, and if we could find some deeper strata, Coolgardie would prove a greater magnet to capital than anything that is likely to be achieved in some other directions.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Where are the Government going to find the money to do this?

Hon. P. Collier: We have already allocated a few millions to the South-West.



Hon. T. Walker: And Bunbury has swallowed another million.

Mr. HARRISON: We can still obtain money for developmental work, and in fitting out prospectors with plant—the Repatriation Board is furnishing them with supplies—we could take advantage of the knowledge of local roads board officials to ensure that such assistance was given to genuine men who would do their part thoroughly. The member for Bunbury said if we were in earnest we could do something. We as politicians can only give facilities. We want every citizen to be earnest and then, if we provide the requisite facilities and show confidence in the Government and in our country, we shall stimulate confidence in the men who are developing the State.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: We have confidence in the State but not in the Government.

On motion by Hon. P. Collier, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 4.52 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Tuesday, 5th August, 1919.*

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

### QUESTION—TORBAY-GRASSMERE DRAINAGE.

Hon. H. STEWART asked the Minister for Education: Will the Government lay on the Table of the House all papers dealing with the Torbay-Grassmere Drainage Scheme?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: Yes. The papers are now being collected, and will be laid on the Table in a few days.

### QUESTION—SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENTS, GERALDTON.

Hon. H. CARSON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Will the Government give immediate attention to the question of providing land in the Geraldton district for soldiers' settlements? 2, Will the Government have

further inquiry made in regard to estates already submitted for purchase by the Land Purchase Board and refused?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, If the hon. member will specify the estates to which he refers, inquiry will be made.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Second Day.

Debate resumed from Thursday, 31st July, 1919.

Hon. J. W. KIRWAN (South): I am certain that all members of this Chamber are pleased to see Dr. Saw amongst us again after the services he has rendered to Australia and the Empire at the Front. I also think we were all very interested in his informative speech when moving the Address-in-reply. There was one part of that speech which struck me as particularly apt, inasmuch as it was a comment upon the actions of a political party that appears strangely inconsistent. He stated that this party had as the foremost plank of its political platform the policy of a white Australia, and that almost the next plank was the abolition of compulsory service for Home defence. I am a strong believer in the policy of a white Australia. I rather dread the prospect of the Australia of the future being a piebald Australia. We have two examples in the world of the dangers that may arise to Australia if we abandon our policy of a white Australia. We have the case of South America where the two races are inter-mixed, and there is now a race there that does not tend to the advancement of the country. It is an altogether inferior race in South America, and the prospects of that great country are not nearly so bright as they would be were it in the hands of and controlled by an entirely white people. The other example which may be quoted is that of the United States. In South America the two races intermarry. In the case of the United States, the two races keep apart, and the negroes are increasing in greater proportion than the whites. We constantly have reports of racial riots there. Only a few days ago in the newspapers we read cables showing particulars of disturbances between the blacks and the whites. The fact that the negroes are increasing in such rapid proportions as compared with the whites, and that the inferior races are reproducing their species much more rapidly than the superior race, is one great cloud hanging over what would otherwise be the bright future of the United States. For those and other reasons I believe it is the duty of the people of Australia to-day to as long as possible keep Australia white. Australia is the last of the world's spaces to be filled, and it is the duty of those who are here to-day to keep it as a place where the white races of the future may expand. It may be argued that it would be better for the people in Australia to-day that coloured