

Treasury of Western Australia will have to contribute a considerable sum of money towards the settlement of these men, it is only fitting that every opportunity should be given to them to make a success of their rehabilitation. I dare to make this statement that if the Administration at the time of the inauguration of the group settlement years ago had paid attention to the advice of many members of Parliament in this House and in another place, many of the men whose hearts were broken and who left their farms, probably would have seen the job through, and many of the mistakes of the Administration would have been avoided. However, that is all past; I hope we will not be placed in a similar position again. There are several other matters I wish to discuss, but the ballots earlier in the afternoon took longer than I expected and I shall not delay members further at this juncture.

On motion by Hon. A. L. Loton, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 8th August, 1945.

	PAGE
Questions—Timber, as to production and requirements	123
North-West—(a) as to road transport facilities,	
(b) as to relief from income taxation, (c) as to	
Whim Creek conference	123
Claim by Mrs. J. P. Jorgensen, as to loss of oats	124
Group Settlement farms, as to re-conditioning,	
etc.	124
Country Water supplies—(a) as to Great Southern	
Scheme, (b) as to Northern Districts	124
Bren gun carriers, as to use for farm tractive pur-	
poses	125
Trolleybus service, as to extension to Cottesloe	125
Potash, as to production, costs, etc.	125
Tram service, Inglewood, as to inadequacy	126
Address-in-reply, sixth day	126
Sessional Committees, Council's message	152

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

QUESTIONS.

TIMBER.

As to Production and Requirements.

Mr. McLARTY asked the Minister for Forests:

1, Will there be sufficient timber produced in Western Australia to supply local requirements for (a) all home building from

now on and in the post war period; (b) railway sleepers, having regard to proposed change of gauge; (c) general construction purposes?

2, Will there be any surplus timber for export, having in mind the fact that there will be a keen demand for our timber overseas?

3, How many seasoning kilns are in operation in this State, and what is their annual output?

The MINISTER replied:

1 (a), (b) and (c), So far as it is possible to assume future requirements it is anticipated that Western Australia will be able to produce sufficient timber to meet all local requirements for hardwoods.

2, It is expected that sufficient timber will be produced to provide a limited quantity for export.

3, There are eight installations varying in size from two to six compartments with yard layout and handling facilities for necessary preliminary air drying. Annual capacity in lin. material is 11,300 loads.

NORTH-WEST.

(a) As to Road Transport Facilities.

Mr. RODOREDA asked the Premier:

1, In view of the statements of the Minister for the North-West that it is impossible to procure another ship for North-West trade, will the Government inaugurate a road service from rail head to ports at least as far as Roebourne?

2, If not, what does the Government propose to do to remedy the position now existing?

The PREMIER replied:

1 and 2, Efforts have been made to procure ships suitable to the North-West coastal trade, but these are very difficult to obtain, mainly because of placement of derricks on ships not used to service in waters where there is a high range of tide. We are endeavouring to arrange for the Kybra to return to us and in addition we are fully investigating the prospect of inaugurating some relief road service as an emergency.

(b) As to Relief from Income Taxation.

Mr. W. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Premier:

Will the Premier take advantage of the Prime Minister's visit to Perth to urge upon him the necessity further to relieve residents,

including pastoralists, of the northern and North-West portions of the State from the present burden of income tax?

The PREMIER replied:

The Government has for some time taken up the question of inequalities in taxation as affecting the northern portion of the State. It is my intention tomorrow to take up with the Prime Minister, amongst other things connected with the welfare of the State, the incidence of taxation, particularly the spread of taxation in the northern and pastoral areas.

(c) *As to Whim Creek Conference.*

Mr. W. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Premier:

1, Is it a fact that a political party opposed to the Government arranged for a representative to travel to and be present at the recent conference held at Whim Creek to take shorthand notes of all proceedings with a view to embarrassing the Government?

2, Does the Premier know of any subsequent action taken or contemplated consequent upon the report from the authorised representative to his political sponsors?

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Do not be silly!

The PREMIER replied:

1, I have heard, and to the best of my belief it is true, that arrangements were made for a representative to be present at the conference and report to a political party anything that might happen that would be an embarrassment to the Government.

2, I have not heard of any subsequent action; and, from the copy of the minutes I have received from an accredited source, the secretary of the conference, I would say that there is very little likelihood of any embarrassment to the Government arising therefrom.

Mr. McDONALD: On a matter of privilege, I would like to state that the Premier has been entirely misinformed.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question.

CLAIM BY MRS. J. P. JORGENSEN.

As to Loss of Oats.

Mr. WATTS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

Will he lay on the table of the House all papers regarding a claim by Mrs. J. P. Jorgensen of Kendenup relative to the loss of 35 (or 37) bags of oats and inquiries made regarding same?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied:

As the Crown Law Department advise that this matter may be the subject of legal action, it is not considered advisable to lay the papers on the Table of the House at the present time, but there would be no objection to this being done when the matter is finalised.

GROUP SETTLEMENT FARMS.

As to Re-conditioning, etc.

Mr. HOAR asked the Minister for Lands:

1, How many vacant farms, previously occupied under the Group Settlement Scheme, are there in the Bridgetown, Manjimup, Pemberton and Northcliffe areas?

2, Under investigation now proceeding in preparation for future settlement, what percentage of these farms are meeting the Government's requirements?

3, What is the nature of the work now being done on these selected farms?

4, Is any attention being given to the farm houses; and, if so, is it his intention to repair these to maintain their previous standard, or has any consideration been given to more modern requirements?

5, Will these vacant farms be selected under the new settlement conditions regardless of existing debt; if not, what part will previous capitalisation play in determining a fair price?

The MINISTER replied:

1, Bridgetown, nil; Manjimup, 40; Pemberton, 65; Northcliffe, 112; total, 227.

2, Investigations are still proceeding and, until the work is completed, it would be impossible to answer the question, but it is considered that a good percentage of blocks will meet requirements.

3, Reconditioning generally.

4, Yes. Consideration is being given to the provision of modern requirements.

5, Farms will be granted on perpetual lease and capitalised according to productive capacity, allowing for a reasonable standard of living.

COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) *As to Great Southern Scheme.*

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Water Supplies: In view of the fact that many farmers desire to ensure against a

shortage of water in future years can he indicate—

(a) Whether details regarding the comprehensive water scheme to serve the Great Southern and districts east of it will be sufficiently advanced to enable the scheme to be placed before the next Premiers' Conference and the financial responsibility of the Commonwealth and State Governments determined?

(b) If not, when does he consider such action will be possible?

(c) Assuming the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Bill authorising the work be placed before Parliament this session?

(d) If not, can he estimate when it will be ready to submit to Parliament?

The MINISTER replied:

(a) No.

(b) In approximately six weeks' time.

(c) Every effort will be made to do this.

(d) See answer to (c).

(b) *As to Northern Districts.*

Mr. BERRY (without notice) asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Does the water scheme referred to in the previous question include the northern districts, and will he place the needs of that part of the State before the next Premiers' Conference as well as the needs of the Great Southern?

The MINISTER replied:

The northern part of the State referred to is included in the proposed scheme; but, as I indicated, the case in connection with the scheme will not be available for presentation and discussion at the next Premiers' Conference, but will be ready in approximately six weeks' time.

BREN GUN CARRIERS.

As to Use for Farm Tractive Purposes.

Mr. SEWARD asked the Minister for Agriculture:

1, Has he read (a) the statement in the Press that Bren gun carriers have been successfully used to draw ploughs in the Eastern States and (b) that such Bren gun carriers can be sold for a price that is well within the pocket of the small farmer?

2, Will he take immediate action to secure (a) the release of Bren gun carriers to this State or (b) the conversion of those carriers that are in this State, so that they may be early available to farmers who are unable to procure tractors?

The MINISTER replied:

1, (a) and (b) Yes.

2, (a) The Department requires further information in connection with the economic utility of Bren gun carriers before action can be decided upon. (b) No Bren gun carriers are available at present in Western Australia. Such information as is available does not indicate that Bren gun carriers will be economical when used as tractors. However, Bren gun carriers will be available in due course and can be purchased then if thought advisable by farmers.

TROLLEYBUS SERVICE.

As to Extension to Cottesloe.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister for Railways:

Has any work been done towards the erection of substations or extending direct current to enable the trolleybus service to run as far as Jarrad-street, Cottesloe?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Railways) replied:

No.

POTASH.

As to Production, Costs, etc.

Mr. THORN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

1, When is it expected that the production estimate of 130 tons of potash a day, given to the House on the 10th November, 1942 ("Hansard," page 1219), in respect of the works at Lake Campion, is likely to be realised?

2, In view of the fact that the installation of a one unit plant is already stated to have involved a capital expenditure of approximately £224,000, by how much is the estimate of £220,000 for the establishment of the plant in triplicate—which estimate was given on the same day—now likely to be exceeded?

3, Is it likely that the works will ever be able to produce potash at £12 a ton of the same unit value as the imported article; and, if such an expectation is held, on what data is it based?

4, What is the anticipated annual loss on the running of the works based on the present production and selling prices?

The MINISTER replied:

1, This statement was corrected on the 19th November, 1942. The estimate referred to the treatment of 130 tons of alunite per

day and not to the production of 130 tons of potash per day. At the present time 100 tons of alunite are being treated daily and this quantity is being steadily increased.

2, The capital expenditure incurred to date includes purchase of the interests of the private syndicate, £14,000; housing and town services, £23,000; research activities, £12,000, and certain items of plant and equipment for triplication. The approximate amount required to complete the triplication of the plant is £200,000.

3, Yes, based on the actual experience of operating the single unit plant.

4, The estimated loss for August is at the rate of £10,000 per annum. Plant modifications are now being made and production increased. The loss for September is estimated to be at the rate of £5,000 per annum, and for October, nil, after which the plant should be operating on a profitable basis.

TRAM SERVICE, INGLEWOOD.

As to Inadequacy.

Mr. J. HEGNEY (without notice) asked the Minister for Railways:

1, Is he aware that at 7.40 this morning the tram service provided for the residents of Inglewood was hopelessly inadequate and that people are complaining?

2, Is he aware that the same conditions applied on Monday morning?

3, Will he take steps to remedy the position?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Railways) replied:

1 and 2, The matter raised by the hon. member will, I am sure, receive the attention of the Minister for Railways.

3, I will endeavour to advise the hon. member privately.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Sixth Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WATTS (Katanning) [4.40]: I would like, at the outset, to congratulate the new member for Victoria Park on the very good contribution which he made to the Address-in-reply as his first venture in this House. I well remember the sensation which overcame me, some ten years ago, when I faced a similar state of affairs. I think the hon. member is to be congratulated on the very creditable way in which he dealt with the matters he discussed here yesterday.

Since the last Address-in-reply debate there has been a very great change in the war situation. In Europe the victory of the Allies has been, I suppose, as complete as any victory in history. In the Pacific it appears that we are rapidly approaching a similar state of affairs, but it seems to me that, with all that victory in war, our problems are only just beginning. In fact, such is the condition of the world and so tremendous—in my view—will be the results of the scientific achievements in war, that it is almost impossible to contemplate what will be the effect of those achievements in the days of peace. I am convinced that unless we, as the so-called civilised people of this world, exercise our minds very considerably in the control of the scientific achievements which have come out of this war, we shall find that civilisation, as we know it today—and also as we hope to improve it in the future—will cease to exist.

The reports of the last day or two show that these scientific achievements, although they are undoubtedly inflicting terrible damage on the enemy, who brought it upon himself, do not afford any of us great comfort as to the future. If we are going to allow any war to take place hereafter, on any excuse or on any justification, and if it is to reach any great proportions or involve many people, I have no doubt whatever that the civilised community, in which we live and in which we have lived—and in which we hope our successors will live—will no longer exist. While such conferences as that at San Francisco were of tremendous importance in the scheme of the world's affairs when they took place, in my opinion, as day follows day, they are becoming of more and more importance, and the results which they set out to achieve at that conference must be achieved, and wars must be ended, or the prospects that we are offering our children and our children's children are such that the majority of us will tremble to think of them.

It therefore behoves us all, to the best of our ability and insofar as we may—with differences of opinion which of course must exist—to do all we can to ensure that there is an outlook on world affairs which will make for better relationships between nations and the impossibility, ultimately, of any further outbreak of hostility between the nations that call themselves civilised. That involves also preventing others, whom we may not regard as quite so civilised, from

indulging in that particular method of settling their disputes, because once the spark is laid to a train of disputes there is no knowing what the end of it all will be. That seems to me to be the position internationally. It is one which will require careful thought and consideration by everyone. Doubtless the share which we, on both sides of this House, can take in it will be comparatively small, but I suppose that from time to time we can make some contribution and, whatever contribution we can make, I venture to suggest it is our bounden duty to make it, entirely separated—in this particular regard—from all questions of difference in our political views, because it does not matter in major questions, such as I have been discussing, what one's particular view of how the improvement should be achieved may be. We have to be certain, if we want mankind to remain and carry on on the earth, that people are given the opportunity to do so in peace and quietness, whatever may be the particular method by which it is hoped to achieve that end.

While we have disposed of dictators in other parts of the world and are disposing of another dictator in the Pacific area, we have to be certain that dictatorship of another sort does not raise its head in our own country. There are those among us who boast, from time to time, of their desire to follow and carry out the wishes of the people, but there are some among them who, when they hear those wishes, and when they are told in a clear and definite manner what those wishes are, proceed to do the very opposite. They are the type of people from whom dictators are made. It is only the desire to have an authority not vested in them by the people by any peaceful or democratic means that produces the dictators whom we have destroyed and are destroying. We have either to accept the decision of the people when it is given or take no notice of it. If you do the former you are not a dictator, but if you do the latter you are well on the way to a system of dictatorship, and that is one of the major complaints that I have against the Commonwealth Government at the present time.

The Commonwealth Government put to the people of Australia, in August of last year, a series of questions which were all wrapped up in one question. No one prevented the Commonwealth Government from putting forward its case in the clearest pos-

sible manner or giving as much publicity to its views as it wished, or expending as much of the taxpayers' money on propaganda as it desired to do, on the understanding that it would accept the verdict of the people when it had been given. That verdict was given in no uncertain terms. It was given in the most clear and determined manner by four of the States of this Commonwealth, and by the vast majority of the electors of Australia as a whole, but there has been a process ever since—and it is being carried on now—of endeavouring to achieve by indirect means what the people of Australia refused to grant the right to achieve by constitutional means.

I need go no further than the question of air transport. There was a clear and unequivocal settlement of the question by the electors of Australia. As they had done in 1937, so they again did in 1943. They turned down any amendment to the Australian Constitution which involved control by the Commonwealth of air transport, which involved the right, therefore, of the Commonwealth to use air transport in peacetime—turned it down as flat as a pancake. But that does not matter to our would-be dictators. They carry on and proceed to introduce legislation, and they contend, so it appears to me, that they are superior to the people. Well, when they have once reached that stage, they are becoming, as I expressed the view earlier, dictators, and the people of Australia must look after themselves. The people have expressed their opinion, and those who govern in the name of the people must either accept the verdict of the people or take the consequences in some other way, as I am sure they will ultimately do when the people find them out, as they assuredly will do.

My views on the referendum question are fairly well known. I say quite frankly that had the people of Australia decided against the views I hold, I should have accepted their verdict, because that is the only proper attitude to take in a matter of this sort. But our would-be democrats or alleged democrats, who continually advance the view, particularly in the Parliament at Canberra, that the voice of the people is virtually the voice of God, are the very first people who proceed to deny the verdict of the people, not only in the matter I have mentioned but also in a number of other matters that were associated with the same referendum. What the people of Australia did say was that

they desired the Federal spirit to remain. The Federal spirit involved the retention of the State Parliaments with a considerable amount of authority, as contemplated by the Constitution of Australia. The people unequivocally, not only on this occasion but also on many previous occasions, have expressed the opinion that they desire this state of affairs. They expressed it in 1943 even more strongly than before in view of the very broad questions involved in the Referendum. Therefore it behoves us as members of a State Parliament to accept willingly our share of the responsibility and carry out to the utmost of our ability and strength the duties that the people of Australia desire us to accept and continue to carry on, and not to make futile excuses, as I have heard made in this House in the last few days. One member said—

Because of the unfortunate defeat of the referendum proposals last year, there is accordingly imposed upon the State Parliaments a greater burden of responsibility, under far greater hazards and difficulties, than would have been the case had the people of the Commonwealth granted those powers to the Commonwealth authorities.

There is no greater burden of responsibility imposed upon this Parliament than the people of Australia intended it to have, and those who give lip service to the wishes of the people would be well advised to get to work and give real service in accordance with those wishes. They should remember that, if greater responsibilities are imposed upon them, it is the wish of the people that they should accept those responsibilities, and it is their business to accept them from this day forward without the slightest hesitation. The hon. gentleman to whom I refer went on to say—

On account of the limitations of the Commonwealth Constitution, it will become necessary, at the cessation of hostilities, for the majority of the munition factories and other establishments set up by the Commonwealth Government to be sold or practically given away—that has been the experience in the past—to private traders, because the Commonwealth Government is unable to proceed with that form of activity outside of war requirements or unless it is directly for defence purposes. Therefore, in regard to that matter, it becomes the duty of the State Government to become active immediately for the purpose of taking over many of the munition establishments set up by the Commonwealth Government.

What is wrong with that? Why should it not be the duty of this State to accept such responsibility and take over those particular institutions if they can be put to service in the interests of the State? For what does this Parliament exist if it is not to do service for Western Australia and carry out, to the best of its ability, the verdict of the people, all of which is involved in the one thing. Consequently I commend strongly the proposal, and offer my assistance to the best of my poor ability to this Government and Parliament.

The Minister for Lands: Not so "poor."

Mr. WATTS: I hope they will get to work as quickly as they can and take advantage of the very strong position into which the people of Australia have put them by the referendum and say, "We are going to be the people substantially responsible for the development of Western Australia." I know perfectly well that the question of finance is involved. I know that the tinkering with the Australian Constitution and the peculiar rulings and methods indulged in over the last 30 years have made the financial position of the State a little more difficult.

Mr. Smith: What peculiar rulings are they?

Mr. WATTS: Quite a number of instances generally, not so much rulings. The Loan Council agreement was unfortunately inserted in the Constitution on the vote of the people of Australia and I have to submit to that, but we have uniform taxation, and we have had rulings by the High Court on State property when it was decided that customs duty on property imported for the use of State Governments was not a tax but was a duty on the act of importation, thereby infringing the intention of the Commonwealth Constitution, which provided that the property of the State should not be taxed by the Commonwealth. That has involved this State alone in a cost of millions of pounds in the last four decades. There have been worse means adopted which have chivied—I use that word advisedly—the State out of the means of raising revenue or retaining revenue when raised that should not have been adopted. It is practicable and no doubt quite possible for a restoration to be brought about of the general principles which should have governed and were intended to govern the Fed-

eration. I do not think I am asking too much, in view of the verdict of the people last August, that we should take steps to bring about that state of affairs if we can.

In the course of further remarks on the Address-in-reply the member for East Perth pointed out the need for providing amenities for workers. In that point of view, I am entirely in agreement with him. There is considerable need for recreation, canteen, dressing-room and other facilities of that nature to be provided in factories and places where large numbers of personnel are employed.

Mr. Cross: What about getting a six-day instead of seven-day week for fire brigade employees?

Mr. WATTS: But may I suggest that there has been ample time since 1924 for these improvements to be brought into effect? Whose fault is it if these amenities do not exist in Government establishments at the present time? It certainly is not mine. Twenty-one years have elapsed since 1924. Of those 21 years, the gentlemen to whom the hon. member would pay political deference have been in office for 18 years, and 18 years out of 21 years represent about 86 per cent. of the time. Therefore I submit that the hon. member's political colleagues must take 86 per cent. of the responsibility—if there is any responsibility to be taken—for the absence of the amenities of which he spoke. I said that I agree with the hon. member, and I did not begin agreeing with him last week, either. In case he feels that that is not so, I will quote him what I said in the Katanning Town Hall on the 4th November, 1943. These were my words—

Attention should be given to the provision of better working conditions for industrial workers employed by the Government. In some instances, private concerns have done a great deal and far outdistanced Government concerns. The Government should ensure that the conditions under which its employees work are at least comparable. Among these, canteen and recreation facilities take a prominent place.

So there is no doubt in my mind, nor has there been before, that the desires of the hon. member are well worthy of consideration and also of being brought to fruition. Once again let me remind him that he and those associated with him must take the major part of the responsibility for the non-existence of such amenities, because

obviously it is the duty of any Government to set an example to the people in a matter of that kind.

I wish to say a word or two on the pastoral industry. I had not, of course, intended to make any reference to this point when I started, but I feel impelled to do so in view of a question without notice which was asked this afternoon by the member for Pilbara. I do not know what other political organisations sent a representative to Whim Creek on the 29th July.

Mr. Thorn: No-one should have gone to Whim Creek without referring it to the member for Pilbara!

Mr. WATTS: I do know, however, that the organisation of which I form part did send such a representative and that it made no bones about saying it was going to do so, because I broadcast the fact over the radio six days before. When it comes to a question of the member for Pilbara inquiring whether this gentleman was sent there in order to embarrass the Government—

Mr. Thorn: What a shame!

Mr. WATTS: —that can only be ascertained, I take it, by the result, if any, of the report or investigation that he conducted. At this stage I will say that I have not yet read any report made by that gentleman and therefore I do not know what its substance is. I do not know whether it has been given any publicity, nor do I know whether it will be given any publicity. I will say this, however, that if the hon. member, or any other hon. member, thinks that by asking questions of that kind he can restrict my right, or the right of any organisation to which I belong, to send a representative to such a gathering or to go there myself in order to find out the conditions in any part of this State, whether to embarrass the Government or no, then I am certainly not going to accept his right to do so.

I have a perfect right, if I wish, to visit any part of the State in order to find out what is or is not happening there. If it does not happen to be convenient for me to go myself and the organisation to which I belong feels disposed to send someone else to discover the circumstances, or to appraise the position so that we may be better informed how to act or not to act in regard to public matters, rather than do so in the absence of such information, then so far as I am concerned we shall go

where we like and when we like in order to find out these things, not to embarrass the Government but to find out for ourselves what the conditions are in this State and to obtain first-hand knowledge, so far as we can, of any situation existing in any part of Western Australia, without asking permission from the member for Pilbara or from anyone else. So long as the right of a free man exists to move about in this State, that right will be exercised by me in order to discover what is right or wrong in any part of the State. Do I complain when the member for Canning wanders into my electorate? Certainly not! I have never discovered the member for Canning taking any action that I regard as improper in those areas.

Mr. Thorn: The member for Pilbara wandered into mine.

The Minister for Lands: And lost himself!

Mr. WATTS: I reserve the right to take exactly similar action, or to send someone else to do so for me, should circumstances in any part of the State warrant it.

Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. WATTS: I would do so not with the idea of embarrassing anybody, but with the object of ascertaining, as I have said, the information we desire or what the particular difficulty is that it is sought to overcome, for I believe it is the duty of every member of Parliament—quite apart from the ridiculous question asked by the member for Pilbara—to find out all he can about this great country in which we live, this State of Western Australia, which is well worthy of all the attention we can give it. We should do so freed and discharged from all question of political propaganda and solely for the purpose of doing our best for the land in which we live. We know there are occasions when there is a split or a cleavage, as it were, in politics that cannot be avoided; but the Premier put it very nicely the other day when he referred to co-operation, as far as possible, between us. I think he has achieved that, but he will not achieve it better if the member for Pilbara asks such questions or if he is encouraged to do so. Let me now turn to something much more interesting and profitable.

The Minister for Lands: I am sure the hon. member accepts your apology.

Mr. WATTS: There is no apology intended or given. I can assure the Minister for Lands on that point. I am not going to hide behind the door about sending a representative of my organisation anywhere. I bring the matter out into the open straight away. That is the only place to bring it. I want no hole-and-corner questions from the member for Pilbara.

The Minister for Lands: I wonder why the member for Subiaco looks so guilty!

Mr. WATTS: Turning to the question of housing—I may get back to the pastoral industry later on—it seems to me that we have had a great deal of debate on the question of the cost of housing. To my mind the question of cost is not of as great importance as the need for homes. I entirely agree that we must keep the costs down; but so long as they are reasonably comparable with similar houses erected in other States of the Commonwealth, then one can hardly attack or criticise any Government here on the ground of cost. Western Australia appears to be at present about midway between the costs being incurred in some of the Eastern States and others of the Eastern States, and therefore I shall not this afternoon deal any further with the question of costs. I do wish to point out, however, that the quickest way of solving the housing problem in this State is to provide facilities not only for homes to be built under Government schemes, but also for those people who desire to build their own homes.

There are numbers of people who have the money and the desire to build themselves homes in which to live. They do not want Government assistance; they do not want regimentation or control; all they want is materials and labour for the purpose. Therefore, the reply of the Premier to a question which I asked him the other day with respect to reducing costs was a very apt one. I think his reply was, roughly, that the main essential was the acquisition of labour and materials. There is no question that that is so. If sufficient materials and labour to supply the demand for the Government's schemes are available, and simultaneously the demand for materials and labour for private building can be satisfied, then in a very short time the major difficulties in regard to home building in this State will have been solved. I have

here a very interesting report, or estimate, as the author calls it, of post-war resources and employment opportunities in Western Australia. It is prepared by a gentleman who is, or was, assistant secretary to the Western Australian Industries Expansion Commission. It is dated at Perth, June, 1944. The author gives a number of very interesting estimates. Referring to building, he says—

There were 3,273 permits in 1939, of which 1,590 were for new dwellings and houses. The provisional estimate for post-war building is 3,500 houses per annum, which is more than double the pre-war figure. On that basis an increase of 70 to 75 per cent. is postulated for building labour.

If we cannot build more than 3,500 houses per annum in the post-war period we shall have a great lag for many years, because I would suggest that 20,000 houses is nearer the mark for immediate requirements; and at 3,500 houses per annum it would take six years to build them, without any question of new demands arising in the meantime. I will take his figure of 3,500 houses per annum, for which he says there must be an increase of 70 to 75 per cent. in building labour. Later on in this valuable little booklet he gives us the estimated requirements for labour in 1947. He said that in 1939 there were 5,843 persons engaged in the building industry and that in 1947 he thinks we shall require 10,100. That is an increase of about 4,500, and the calculation is made on the basis of building 3,500 houses per annum. That number, as I have already suggested, will not clean up the position in less than six years, allowing for no greater demand in the meantime. So that to achieve that very slow solution of the building problem we shall require about 4,500 more persons to be engaged in the building trade than were employed in it in 1939.

The Minister for Lands: Does he take into consideration hospitals and schools?

Mr. WATTS: That I cannot say. I do not know whether the figures are related to hospitals and schools or not, but he certainly says we shall require 10,100 persons in the building trade. Whether it includes other types of buildings or not does not matter, because there will be a big lag.

The Premier: Was his pre-war base the year 1938?

Mr. WATTS: No, 1939. To speed up the business we shall require a much greater number of men than he estimated. It may be readily assumed that we shall require 7,000, 8,000 or 9,000 persons for the building trade, many of whom will have to be skilled men. Where are they coming from? For the life of me I cannot see. They do not appear to be available either inside the Forces or out. We cannot import them from the other States because the demand there is equally as great, in proportion to population, as it is here. We must rely on the people who were formerly engaged in the building trade, plus those who have taken it on since—they are very few in number, if any—and those who are willing to take it on in the future. It seems to me that we must take steps as early as we can to ensure that those people are available by giving them the necessary technical knowledge to do the work properly.

As I understand the position, measures must be taken to ensure that these people are available and trained in the very near future, or the housing lag will become so bad apart from other buildings—such as hospitals, schools, etc.—that we shall be in the position that it will be for an interminable period because we simply have not got the skilled labour. The Premier, in replying to my question, also mentioned the fact that costs were increasing because of the unskilled type of labour in certain cases. I would not dispute that for one second, but it must be stopped. After all, the artisan or tradesman is a man that everyone wants to see in as large numbers as are possible. The difficulty is that in the past we have been encouraged in the belief that we cannot find sufficient work for these men, but for many years to come that will not be the position in the building trade.

The other day I asked the Minister for Education a question in regard to schools. I asked him what he was going to do if housing was to take priority over school buildings, and if housing will be in the position that this estimate postulates. Under those conditions he cannot commence building schools for a long time to come. In consequence, his beautiful plans for the consolidation of schools—on which he has been working with a measure of success—are not going to be properly achieved. Already the Minister for Education, to my knowledge, has approved of the consolidation of a cer-

tain school where there are at present 72 children. Another 62 children will be brought into it. There is no room for another 62 children in the existing buildings; they will barely hold the 72 at present attending. The department is contemplating the erection of a building to house the 134 children. The bus services for the consolidation are approved. When vehicles are available, which should not be very long, they will start. In the meantime the extra children will be housed in a hall. If there is an overflow they will probably be accommodated in some other place. No one objects to that in the immediate circumstances because it cannot be avoided, but unless we are going to have manpower, and skilled manpower, in sufficient quantities to overtake the existing lag in building, and to cope with the future demand, we are not going to make much progress in these desirable propositions such as the Minister for Education has already approved, and doubtless will continue to approve in the future.

I regard the building trade as one of the matters to which this Parliament ought to give special attention in the near future. It should evolve ways and means to ensure that skilled tradesmen are made available as rapidly as possible. A tradesman cannot be made in a day, a week or a month; it takes a long time. The whole thing calls for the closest consideration so that the prospect of unnecessary delay can be obviated and the people who require homes of their own—not only those on the Government plan—will be given an opportunity of having them. At one time I did not pay much attention to the so-called "Gallup polls." I did not take any notice of them at all until the last Referendum. But as they were right on that occasion to within about .2 of 1 per cent. as to the result in four of the States, I began to have a little faith in them.

Mr. J. Hegney: Were you ever consulted by them?

Mr. WATTS: No, but some of my colleagues tell me they have been. What has interested me is a Gallup poll which was reported at the end of last year, or early this year, showing that a number of people desire to own their homes. The figures were: own their homes 45 per cent; rent homes 45 per cent. and the remainder were sundries out of the total of 100 per cent. The proportion of those who wanted to own

their homes was higher in Western Australia than in any other State. In Western Australia 56 per cent of those interviewed, compared with only 50 per cent. in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland, said they wanted to own their homes. Of those who said they were now renting, boarding or living with their parents, 32 per cent. said that they wanted to build when asked if they planned to build or buy a home.

The Minister for Lands: Do you not think it is a natural desire for a person to own his home?

Mr. WATTS: Of course, and we must find means of complying with that desire within a reasonable time. Therefore, we must find the people and the material to do the work. We will need many hundreds more people able to do that work than in the pre-war period. I am not criticising. I do not view this as a simple matter. I know that the Minister for Housing has not an easy proposition and because of those things I will be glad to be informed what steps, if any, are taken to help in this direction, and I will be glad to assist if the opportunity is available.

Now I want to talk on the question of taxation. It has been said in this House, on more than one occasion lately, that the effect of high taxation on the working man is that he ultimately does not want to work overtime. I am not going to express an opinion on that point. It would be extraordinary if that was not the effect of it, knowing human nature as I do, because the effect of taxation, such as we have now, is that if one earns an extra 10s., one probably pays 8s. in taxes, leaving only 2s. for the extra effort so that it is hardly worth the trouble. I have come across some interesting figures dealing with taxation in Australia. It might be worth while repeating them. They show how the tax burden has grown from the beginning of the last war, and are as follows:—

Year.	Total taxes collected. £	Average per head of population.
1914	23,000,000	£4 14s. 4d.
1920	55,000,000	£10 9s. 3d.
1929	89,000,000	£13 19s. 11d.
1939	124,000,000	£17 19s. 6d.
1940	144,000,000	£20 12s. 10d.
1941	181,000,000	£25 14s. 1d.
1942	236,000,000	£33 3s. 3d.
1943	283,000,000	£39 7s. 6d.
1944	325,000,000	£44 9s. 7d.

The 1944 figures reached what I believe is called an all-time high.

Hon. J. C. Willcock: Do those figures refer simply to Commonwealth and State taxation and not municipal?

Mr. WATTS: That is so.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Is that all taxation?

Mr. WATTS: Yes, direct and indirect, collected by the Commonwealth and State Governments. It means that a man, his wife and two children contribute directly and indirectly £178 in taxation per annum. If a man earns at the rate of 6s. an hour his tax is 1s. 9½d. on it. If he earns at the rate of 9s. per hour the tax is 3s. 1d., so that instead of getting 3s. an hour extra he gets 11d. That is one example which could be proportioned out for many others. That is the reason why it is alleged that the desire to work overtime and earn greater money is somewhat strangled. While I have no proof of that, it would be contrary to human nature if it were not the position. No one is encouraged to be industrious if taxation of this kind is to continue. Now, high taxation has been borne reasonably cheerfully because it was part and parcel of the war effort, but I question whether it will be borne so cheerfully, even by my friend the member for Mt. Magnet, when the war is over. We shall have to think twice before continuing to tax the people at the present rate.

If we undertake all the schemes that have been imposed, and have no self-insurance in the future but pay for it all out of Consolidated Revenue, a very heavy burden will be placed on those who are not earning overmuch. At the moment, of the taxes to which I have referred, 49 per cent. or £160,000,000, is being extracted from persons who earn no more than £400 a year. We must bear that in mind if we continue to say that we shall not have self-insurance schemes in the future but have everything paid from Consolidated Revenue, and if we continue, as indeed we must, with what has been done in regard to those who were receiving benefits conferred in the past. We must do that, whatever else we do, seeing the lag of 45 years since Federation. I do not think it is fair that that should be the state of affairs because those people who earn less than £400 a year have to meet other charges in addition to taxation, so that in my view they are entitled to a little more out of their earnings than they are receiving now; not that

they should refuse to do their share in carrying on the business of the country. I do not suggest that. But I shall be very sorry to think that the position will be that their share will have to be as big as it has been in the last three or four years.

We must look around and decide how much we can fairly put upon these people and how much we can put upon Consolidated Revenue, and arrange our schemes accordingly. We must be prepared to establish precedent and make changes. It is of no use saying that what was good enough for grandfather is good enough for us. But we must adopt the best methods of effecting these improvements. Because someone has the idea today that such-and-such a way is the best does not necessarily mean that it is. We have, therefore, to be careful in our planning and at the same time recognise that there is a need, and substantial room, for change in our outlook on many matters.

In the Press recently there have been references to an increase in the petrol allowance. No doubt members will have read the details included in the schedule published in "The West Australian" a day or two ago. From that schedule it would appear that a number of license holders are to be provided with a small increase in the ration because of the extremely bad quality of the petrol supplied at present. Some primary producers will apparently have the right to obtain a little extra petrol, although I do not know what section of the producers they comprise, nor yet who they are. It would appear that some will have the right to expend more money in buying petrol in slightly increased quantities in order to make up for the mileage that cannot be obtained from their present supply, and for this purpose they will be required to pay 3s. a gallon extra. I suggest that the Government should make the strongest approach possible to the Commonwealth Government with regard to this matter.

It is no satisfaction whatever to the consumer of petrol to be told that he can buy five gallons instead of four gallons, for which he will have to pay 15s. instead of 12s., in order that he may get the same mileage. It is little consolation to him to know that some allowance is being made to him to make up the mileage that is lost because of poor petrol and to be expected to pay the extra 3s. for that purpose. That is no way either to encourage any industry

or individual or the bringing about of contentment among the people. What is wrong is the petrol, and steps should be taken, in my opinion, at least to make some attempt to remedy it. It was only recently that we commenced to be supplied with the present type of petrol. Whether it has been imposed upon us by the American distributors or their representatives, or whether it is that there is some ingredient not available in Australia that should be put into the mixture, I do not know, but immediate steps should be taken to remedy the present position. Every member of this Chamber will agree with me when I say that I can have no cause for satisfaction in getting an increased allowance for which I have to pay additional money in order to get the same service that should have been obtained with the use of a lesser quantity of petrol. While the Commonwealth Ministers are in Western Australia, I think the State Government should find out just what is the position and put up the strongest case possible to secure a remedy.

The next item I shall deal with is one that will clearly demonstrate the immense expedition that is displayed by the Department of the Army, the Minister for the Army and some officials on the financial side of the Army establishment. In August, 1944, just one year ago, a constituent of mine was advised that her husband had been killed in action. She was also advised that he had made a will in which he had appointed his brother to be his executor and sole beneficiary. It was proposed that she would take steps under the Testators' Family Maintenance Act to have that state of affairs remedied as there was no reason why such a will should have been made. The estate was not very large, and consisted mainly of some personal effects and deferred pay in the control of the Army. The lady made some inquiries at the District Finance Office and on the 28th August she was informed that—

... it is the intention of this Department to distribute the War Service estate in accordance with the terms of the will held in this office and the War Service Estates Act, 1942-43, and regulations issued thereunder.

Of course, the War Service Estates Act was examined, and it was found that the Minister could prevent the distribution of the estate being made under that measure if he desired to do so and to cause the

amount to be paid to the Public Trustee so that a decision could be arrived at by the court as to who should have it. A request was made through the District Finance Office that the Minister should take action accordingly. In the meantime the brother, in whose favour the will had been made, advised the department that he did not intend to apply for probate. On the 25th September I wrote to the Finance Department on behalf of the lady and said that to avoid the necessity for legal proceedings, I would be glad if he referred the matter to the Minister as suggested. There the matter stood all through the year—as hon. members can see a considerable file has been compiled on this question—until in July I received a letter. It was undated but I received it on the 20th July. The letter read—

With further reference to your communication of 5th June, 1945, and this office reply of 12th June, 1945, advice has been received from Army Headquarters, Melbourne, that no decision has yet been given by the Minister in this matter. As soon as a decision has been received a further communication will be forwarded to you.

A few more weeks passed and on the 7th August we received the following letter, which I regard as magnificent after a lapse of 12 months:—

With reference to this office communication of 27th July, 1945, it is advised that notification has now been received from Army Headquarters, Melbourne, that the matter referred to has now been submitted to the Department of the Treasury, Defence Division, and it may be some time before a decision is reached.

If that is a fair example—it is certainly not unfair, because all these facts are on record—of the methods adopted by the Army authorities in dealing with little matters of men and women, all I can say is that it is high time the whole of the persons responsible were thrown out neck and crop and others put in their places who would be prepared to deal with such questions in a fair and reasonable manner. Are we to expect a poor woman like this one to be hanging about for goodness knows how many months—12 months have already elapsed—before a decision is reached as to whether the Department of the Army will persist in paying out this money under the Commonwealth enactment to the person entitled to it under the will or to pay it to someone else, and thus avoid

legal proceedings in a matter that does not involve, I believe, more than £117 in all? It is a preposterous state of affairs that officials such as these should be allowed to continue in the high offices they hold.

Mr. J. Hegney: Have you any idea what is holding it up?

Mr. WATTS: The hon. member can see the file; if he peruses it, he will see it is one stick-up after another.

In recent weeks we have enjoyed the visit of a number of members of Parliament from South Australia. They represented various political parties and together formed the Parliamentary Public Works Committee of that State. I have no hesitation in saying that such a committee would be of immense value to Western Australia, particularly at a time such as the present.

Mr. Seward: Hear, hear!

Mr. WATTS: In recent years before the war, proposals for the expenditure on public works of any magnitude have not been great or many. There have been only a few that would compare at all in regard to cost with the scheme for the erection of a power station at Fremantle or with the one under consideration for the South-West. Certainly not for many years have there been water schemes contemplated at a cost such as we frequently discussed in this House and which will be the subject of legislation in the interests of the South-West and other parts of the State. I do not think enough information is available to members of Parliament as such in respect of such major proposals.

There is a growing inclination for Governments—I do not say this in respect of any one Government, and that should be made clear to the Premier—to take unto themselves full responsibility for such undertakings and not to provide information to members unless asked for it. Even when such information is sought it is often supplied very sketchily. It seems to me that there ought to be some liaison between the Government and Parliament when large expenditure on big public works is involved or where there is any question of the desirability or otherwise of proceeding with public works under consideration.

The gentlemen from South Australia came to inquire regarding a matter of very great importance in that State, namely, the development of certain coal seams there. I believe they have taken back from Western Australia information that will be of great

advantage to the authorities in South Australia. Having talked to one of the members of the Public Works Committee regarding the matter, I took the opportunity to write to the Premier of South Australia asking him why the Public Works Committee had been instituted in that State and how it worked. On the 16th July I received the following reply:—

The Committee is constituted by Acts of Parliament, copies of which are enclosed. The actual constitution of the Committee is set out in Section 5 of the Act of 1927, from which it will be seen that the Committee consists of seven members of Parliament appointed by the Governor; two from the Legislative Council and five from the House of Assembly. Other details of the constitution and powers of the Committee are to be found in Sections 6 to 24 of the Act.

The basis of the authority of the Committee is to be found in Section 25 of the Act which prohibits the introduction of Bills for the construction or financing of public works estimated to cost more than £30,000, unless the Committee has conducted an inquiry. Section 25 of the Act is fortified in its operation by Standing Orders 288 and 289 of the House of Assembly Standing Orders, 1940, copies of which are enclosed.

The Act has worked very well, and, with one or two exceptions, all works required to be submitted to the Public Works Committee under the Act since its inception have been submitted and inquired into. Where exceptions were made, special statutory provisions were enacted to enable Bills authorising works to be introduced either in anticipation of or without an inquiry by the Committee. As far as my memory goes there have only been two cases in which a public work has been exempted from the Act.

And here, I think, is the most notable part of the letter—

The only regulation made under the Act was for prescribing a form of summons to witnesses.

It seems to me that we would do very well if we had a similarly constituted committee in Western Australia. I do not suggest that in any carping spirit, but the fact is that we, as members of Parliament, know very little of what is being done with regard to the larger public works. An announcement is made in the Press that £1,000,000 is to be spent on, say, the erection of a power station at Fremantle. It may be an excellent idea; on the contrary, it may have various disadvantages. We, as members of Parliament, should at least be in a position to determine whether it is or it is not, on more than what we read in the Press, which is not at times very informative. At any

rate, we have only that much information—and the general public has that information as well. We, as members of Parliament, know no more of the matter than does each of the 467,000 people who read, if they can read, the particulars in the newspapers. So I think we are entitled to something more than that, and it seems to me that this is the way we should try to get it. It was suggested years ago in this Parliament that it should be done but it has not been brought about. Why, I do not know. But I suggest to the Government that it should give the matter favourable consideration now, especially in view of the great deal of post-war work that the Government will have to carry out.

I turn now to education. I have not many complaints. This is not a time for complaining. So far as education is concerned, this is a time for planning, and I think the Minister is doing his best in that direction. But while he is engaged in this planning, I would like him to develop education in Western Australia so that it becomes, as nearly as is humanly possible, uniform throughout Western Australia. In the past, it has never been anything like that. Wherever there were centres of large population, there were the best opportunities, and there unquestionably was the political pull and the biggest attempt made at rapid educational improvements. If we take a proper post-war view of this business and try to make any approach whatever to what we have heard called the new order, it can amount, so far as I can see it, only to a matter of giving equality of opportunity to all the people as far as is humanly possible. In a big area like Western Australia, with a scattered population, there are limitations which I can see quite well; but it seems to me that a more determined effort must be made than has been made in past years to bring about equality.

I asked the Minister the other day whether he would make a statement, before the Estimates were submitted, in regard to the building question and how far it would be affected by the stated priority of housing over all other types of building. He said he would. I want him to make that statement before the Estimates are submitted because the Education Estimates are usually reached well on in the session, and in those circumstances it would probably be three

or four months before we knew his point of view on that question. What is he going to do to prevent the building of educational establishments which are required being postponed until he will have chaotic conditions existing in his department? I hope he will be good enough to tell us in the course of a few days; because I want to know, not in order to pick holes in his arguments, but because the public are entitled to be told; and there is no one to tell them except the hon. gentleman himself.

That is why I put the proposition to him. I want to ask him whether, while he is engaged on this planning along the lines I have suggested, he is going to plan to take over kindergarten work in Western Australia, or to absorb a greater portion of the responsibility for it than has been the case in the past. The Minister has been over a good many parts of Western Australia over the last few months; so have I. I do not know whether he has found the same feeling as I have found, but I expect he has—the feeling that more and more kindergarten tuition is required, and that more and more is being asked for by people in various parts of the State.

Under the present system, I understand the Government is prepared to assist to the extent of £2 per annum per child up to a maximum of 50 children per centre. That does not go very far towards the training and payment of decent teachers. It throws a very big burden of responsibility upon the public. I do not think that is right. We have had five surpluses in Western Australia and we have thereby prevented ourselves—as my friend the Treasurer told me the other day—from asking the Commonwealth Government or the Grants Commission, whichever it is, for a further proportion of the uniform taxation quota. Because we had a surplus, it is contended that we do not need the money.

I could suggest a great many avenues where the surplus could have been absorbed and turned to a deficit, which would have enabled the Treasurer to make the necessary application. I find that his colleague in South Australia has a deficit of £504,000 and appears to be taking action on those lines. The acting Premier of Queensland also, says that, for the first time in five years, Queensland has a deficit, and I am given to understand that he is taking the action I have mentioned.

His deficit runs into hundreds of thousands of pounds; and the only way to get money these days, so far as I can understand—and indeed it is quite obvious from the uniform taxation arrangements under the Act—is to overspend the money in hand. Apparently it is becoming commendable to have a deficit. If that is the attitude the Commonwealth authorities take up, and it becomes necessary for us to have some more money to carry out essential projects—or projects that ought to be essential—let us by all means have this deficit; then let us make this application within the law instead of being unable to make it, as the hon. gentleman told me the other day he was unable to do.

Turning now to the pastoral industry, I would point out that it has reached a pretty bad state, according to the answers given by the Premier the other day when replying to questions by the member for Mt. Magnet. He was asked about a firm which is taking action to eject, or close the accounts of—whichever phrase members like best—certain pastoralists of the North-West. The Premier said the position was fully appreciated and that the Government was taking some action in this connection. He continued—

Being very closely connected with pastoral activities in many sections of its administration, a member of the Government called on the Superintendent for Australia and the State Manager of the firm concerned and pleaded for utmost consideration and the cancellation of the intention to foreclose. The only reply received was that consideration would be given, and the only subsequent information available to us suggests that a review is being made of the prospects of carrying on the accounts.

The Minister and I have had some discussion on this question in the past, and we have never been able to see quite eye to eye in regard to it. On one or two occasions, I have submitted to this House proposals that there should be legislation to deal with this particular state of affairs. With the assistance of the member for North-East Fremantle, I managed to pass a motion through this House. The member for North-East Fremantle amended the motion, but I will read it as I moved it. It was as follows—

That in view of the fact that the secured liabilities of many farmers and pastoralists are so great that they are unable to pay their way, and in the interests of the State it is essential that those engaged in these industries be placed in a solvent position as soon as possible, it is the opinion of this House that the Government

should take immediate action to legislate for the adjustment of such secured debts, and their ultimate reduction to not exceeding the fair value of the security.

I was of the opinion at that time that legislation was necessary; and had it been passed, I venture to suggest that it would not have been necessary for the Government to plead with the superintendent, but it would have been possible to express in fairly clear terms just what the Government thought of the matter and what action it was prepared to take. But, of course, at the time—and I will be as fair as my feelings will allow me to be in this matter—the Minister, in the course of his speech, which was partly on the subject and partly quite off it, explained that the main difficulty in the way of adopting the recommendations of Mr. Fyfe—the Royal Commissioner who inquired into the pastoral industry—was that of money.

The recommendation contained in Paragraph 887 of the Commissioner's report was that the Commonwealth Government be requested to provide funds for the introduction and operation of the pastoral debts' adjustment scheme recommended in the report. Because there was no money forthcoming on request from the Commonwealth Government, it was impossible, the Minister contended, for any proceedings to be taken or for any legislation to be passed presumably; because although the motion to which I have referred was carried, nothing has ever come of it. It was four years ago that that happened, the motion having been carried in October, 1941. I was reminded of the position, not by any reference in the Press or by any report I had received from this famous representative to whom reference has been made; because, as I have said, I have not read any such report. I was reminded of the position by the Premier's answer to my question yesterday week about Federal and State financial relationships. I asked him—

Has this State made any representations to the Grants Commission for an increase in the proportion of uniform taxation paid to Western Australia? If so, with what result? If not, why not?

The Premier answered—

No. The States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act of 1942 provides that if the Treasurer of any State to which payments may be made under the Act is of the opinion that the payments are insufficient to meet the revenue requirements of the State he may submit to the Commonwealth Treasurer a claim for an in-

creased payment. As this State has enjoyed a revenue surplus in each year since the States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act has been in operation it could not have been claimed that the payments were insufficient to meet the requirements of the State.

It is a great pity to my mind, when those two things are taken in conjunction, that the money was not expended or that at least an effort was not made to expend it in accordance with the recommendations made by Mr. Fyfe, and then an application made to try to get it back after all other means had failed, as I believe they have. If the situation in the North-Western areas is as serious as it is reported in the Press to be—and as it has been indicated to be by the replies by the Premier to questions to which I have referred; and as, indeed, I and my colleagues the member for Beverley and also the members for Murray-Wellington and Mt. Magnet have reason to believe it is in other aspects from certain inquiries made in the course of our official duties as members of this House—if, as I say, the position is so serious, it is time, and more than time, that some action should be taken along the lines recommended by Mr. Fyfe, or along the lines recommended by the motion to which I referred, or both. It is time that stringent means were taken—as they apparently can be taken in other States—to overdraw the State's accounts and provide the necessary funds, rather than leave the position as indicated in the answer to the questions to which I have referred.

The last matter to which I propose to refer is that of drought relief. As is well known, the Commonwealth Government has provided certain funds for compensation to growers of cereal crops whose crops were below a certain bushel average. That money has been made available and is being distributed by State authorities. Some time ago, I addressed a communication to the then Minister for Lands and Agriculture—now the Premier—in regard to the desirability of having this payment extended to those who had been put to very great expense on account of water carting during the drought period or who had suffered stock losses in regard to it. Some of them, as cereal growers, had not got off too badly. I know the crops of many of them did not come within the figures which entitled them to compensation on that score, and the Premier was not unfavour-

ably impressed, I think, with the idea. I have no doubt he will be attending the Premiers' Conference in the course of a few days, and that is why I have brought this matter up. I have a communication, sent from Senator Collett to Mr. Chifley, the Acting Prime Minister—as he was then. I do not propose to read the letter in full, but there is one paragraph which was written to Senator Collett by the secretary of a local authority. That paragraph reads—

I have been greatly concerned over the statement that drought relief money now being issued was only to be issued for crop losses. I think I could claim to be in a position to be a judge of the enormous financial strain that this shortage of water has placed on the shoulders of almost every settler within the district. Surely no sane Government could be so indifferent as to say that because a farmer had more than a 6-bushel average he is not qualified for financial assistance, despite the fact that he has been carting water since December last. It will be difficult to judge the full loss to the farmer; not only has he had the cartage of water, there is also the loss of stock, loss of condition, loss in the coming wool clip, etc.

The amount of water carted in this area is enormous. There are other expenses, such as carting water from the siding. I have mentioned one case to you before where it cost the settler approximately £22 per week—not an isolated case, either.

Following that paragraph, the letter from Senator Collett to Mr. Chifley continues—

On this matter of the cartage of water, one of my correspondents has collected statistics which reveal that in November last, when the position pointed to trouble, there were in various Government tanks in the affected areas 1,064,950 gallons of water.

All this water has been carted away by motor truck for the relief of stock. In addition, the railways have carried water to Pingrup, up to 30th April, 192,636 gallons, and in May a further 141,600 gallons. In respect of the first named, freight charges totalled £587.

Army trucks have carried, in addition, 108,600 gallons of water—mostly from Katanning—covering approximately 12,000 miles, using 29 drums of petrol and 28 gallons of oil, at a total cost for fuel only of £186. Additional petrol tickets for 3,500 gallons were issued by the local committee purely for water carting for February and March. April and May accounted for 4,000 gallons of fuel and, in addition, much of the farmers' ordinary monthly allowances were used by approximately 60 trucks.

It is said that petrol tickets to the amount of 22,000 gallons were issued in the Lake Grace area over the whole water-carting period.

For this outlay of effort, material and cash, some relief has been secured from the State Government which agreed to pay a water-carting subsidy in respect of distances over 15

miles of 4d. a ton mile. Also, there seems to be no doubt that portion of the cost of water freight on the railways will be borne by the State Treasury.

Those are the relevant extracts from a letter from Senator Collett to the Acting Prime Minister. Under date the 13th July, the Prime Minister, through Mr. Dedman, replied—

Your representations of 6th June in regard to relief for sheep farmers in Western Australia have been considered.

It is regretted that the drought relief grant applies only to cereal growers, and as it was agreed upon as the result of discussion at the Premiers' Conference in October, the scope of the agreement cannot be extended.

Relief of this nature is primarily a matter for the State concerned, and it is suggested therefore that it should be taken up with the State Government.

I had in mind moving an amendment to the Address-in-reply on this subject, in order that the Premier might tell us, if he would, what attitude he will take up at the Premiers' Conference, but I do not want to do that if I can receive an assurance from him—following an earlier conversation—that he will take this matter up at the Premiers' Conference. That assurance would satisfy me and would save a lot of the Premier's time, and mine also, as well as the time of the House.

The Premier: The hon. member may have that assurance.

MR. WATTS: That is all I have to say, except to express my pleasure—in so far as one can express pleasure in a matter of this kind—at two appointments which have been made. One is the appointment of the member for Murchison, who I trust will be restored to us in due course, though he is not allowed to be part and parcel of us today. The other appointment is that of the member for Roebourne, as Chairman of Committees. I do not think the member for Roebourne will, in any circumstances, be able to achieve the speed of his predecessor, but that will be a relief to most of us.

MR. TRIAT (Mt. Magnet) [6.5]: I wish first to express my regret at the present ex-Premier having had to leave his seat of office on account of ill-health. During the long period over which he has been Premier of Western Australia he has given wonderful service to the country and has certainly had the confidence of those who sit on this side of the House. From remarks made since

this session opened I feel sure he has had the confidence of many members on the other side of the House also. I hope he will soon be fully restored and able again to enjoy good health.

To the new Premier I offer my congratulations. I am sure that every member in this House feels that the hon. gentleman will do his utmost to ensure progress in the State of Western Australia, thus following in the footsteps of those who have gone before him. I have heard it said, as a joke, that this will be a "Wise" Government; I think it will be a wise Government. At all events, the Premier has my best wishes for his term of office, and I hope his term of office will be a long one. I have known the new Minister for Mines and Railways for many years and I am confident that this House will realise his ability. His attitude in this Chamber has always disclosed that he has his own opinions. I am sure that the departments he is to administer will realise that the hon. member, when he takes his place, will be able to make pronouncements which nobody else has put into his mind. As the result of that, we will achieve something in the departments that he is to handle. One of those departments requires a lot of overhauling—I refer to the Railway Department—but the other has nothing to be alarmed about because its work has been good.

The member for Roebourne has everyone's sympathy, in following a man like the member for Murchison, as Chairman of Committees, but I am sure he will do his best. I wish also to make a remark about one of the attendants of this Chamber who in the R.A.A.F. has served with distinction, and who has returned. I refer to Mr. Jocelyn Bartlett, Assistant Clerk of Records, who received the D.F.M. for service overseas. I think everybody here appreciates the fact that Mr. Bartlett has returned to his post in this Chamber after giving of his best to his country.

I think the most important question confronting this House today is that of housing. It is, in my opinion, one of the most important questions in the life of the ordinary man—to have somewhere to go for shelter, somewhere to go out of the wet and cold. Ever since the world began people have always had an idea of possessing some place for shelter, and have called that place a home. In the early ages, the

home was a cave or a hole in a tree, but it was still a home. In many cases today it is still a cave or a hole in a tree that is called "home." You have not to go very far on the Goldfields before you find men living in 400-gallon tanks or in old boilers. Those places are their homes, and that is all they have to live in, in the wonderful days of 1945. I grant that they are old men, without much money. In this House we talk of building houses for £1,250, but where are we going to get the timber, the bricks and the labour? Where, also, are we going to get the money? I do not think any man who is working for wages today can afford to pay £1,250 for a home. It is a lot of rubbish to talk about £1,250 homes. No man with a wife and family, working for wages, can afford to pay much more than £500 for a house. In this country, which is teeming with timber and other raw materials, we should be able to build good homes for not much more than £500, when science has reached the highest pinnacle than it has ever reached.

To put up four walls to surround a room used to cost about £100, but today it costs about £170 to do that job. Everybody is asking what is the cause of this excessive cost. Some people say that the cause is wages, but wages have no part in it at all. Everyone must realise that wages in West Australia today do not exceed by a great amount the wages paid in 1939, because they were pegged for a very long period. Wages are not the factor that increases the cost of homes in West Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth. I hope that there will be no profit made from the building of homes under the Commonwealth scheme. In 1939, the people who built homes under the contract system had to make a profit, and I understand that the average figure of profit of a reasonable-sized house was about £200. If the Government builds houses without making a profit on them, I sincerely trust that those houses will not cost the enormous sum of £1,200 odd.

On reading about the building of homes in other countries, we find that many new ideas have been evolved. Instead of putting down foundations—as we do in West Australia—in the block or of the stone or brick type, in other countries the foundations are run in rapidly, in one mass. In many

places nowadays, instead of building homes of brick, they are building homes of concrete and the walls are built horizontally, instead of upright, and are pulled into position when they are finished. All those ideas can be exploited, if they are possible and profitable, as I believe them to be. The adoption of such ideas would probably mean that, instead of there being a burden round a man's neck for the rest of his life, he could have a decent home, with modern conveniences, at reasonable cost. I would say, as a practical man, that such a home should not cost much over £750. I hope that many of the homes to be built will be built in the country, in the farming, timber and mining districts. Surely they are not going to build all of the 20,000 homes they are speaking about in the metropolitan area.

After the war is over, many people will have to leave the metropolitan area and return to the country, as there will not be sufficient work in the metropolitan area for everybody that came to the city during wartime. The outback parts of West Australia will have to be populated again and, whether the young men and women who are enjoying the fruits of living in the city like it or not, they will have to return and take their places in the different parts of the State where the real wealth is produced, because it is not produced in the city.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TRIAT: When the time arrives that people have to leave the city and go into the country for employment, it will be essential that they be housed in suitable homes. At present we find a lot of people living under very bad conditions. Men working on the railway lines, permanent-way men employed in various centres, are living in houses with walls of sleepers placed on end and gable roofs. To live in such a place is not pleasant, especially when the temperature reaches 100 degrees and over, which is frequent on the Goldfields during the summer months. Heavy expenditure for building homes for such people is not warranted; neither do they desire high expenditure. Suitable homes of asbestos and iron, lined, and provided with fly-proof doors and windows would not cost much, and a home of that type could be built rapidly because the walls can be

erected so easily. Canite could be obtained from the Eastern States and here we have plaster boards and masonite, which would be suitable for homes in those areas. True, the temperature in the day time would be high, but it would recede rapidly after the sun had gone down.

When the problem of housing is being considered, recognition should be given to the claims of the Goldfields people. They do not require homes costing £1,250. A home on the fields could be supplied at a cost of £400 or £450. The most important point about such a home would be the interior appliances for the comfort and convenience of the womenfolk. Fly-proof doors and windows are essential. I also consider that the provision of kelinators is essential. Unfortunately, a kelinator is considered to be one of the luxury appliances in use today. If one wishes to buy a kelinator, one has to pay the luxury sales tax of 25 per cent. on it which, by the time the merchant gets his 2½ per cent. rake-off, brings it to 27½ per cent. Consequently the cost of a kelinator for many people is prohibitive. I know a party who bought a kelinator of ordinary size recently and paid £110 for it, and I am satisfied that the machine itself is not worth more than £30. It was not an electric one; it was run by lamp-heating, and the factory cost of the machine would be about £30. Yet the purchaser paid £110 for it. I believe the Commonwealth Government is considering the advisableness of establishing works to produce heat-operated refrigerators, and if the idea is carried out, these machines should be put on the market at a reasonable price. The day for considering a refrigerator in the home as a luxury has gone; it is a necessity in anybody's home.

I hope that when the projected building programme is put into operation—and it will be very shortly—due consideration will be given to building a good type of house at a reasonable price. In the metropolitan area, unless a man required an expensive home, the cost should not exceed £750; on the Goldfields the maximum cost should be £450. Provision along these lines could be made for people requiring homes. We have the timber; there is no shortage of it. We have clay for making bricks; there is no shortage of that. We have all the materials required for building houses. We have been

told that skilled labour is essential. I am aware of that, but I am also satisfied that much skilled labour could be obtained for house building. I have seen a number of houses built by a lot of boys. They were magnificent structures of stone and brick and were built under skilled supervision by the boys of Boy Town. Nobody can tell me that many of our men, given a little training, could not turn their hands to an occupation that boys have shown they can carry on. We have the men and the material; let us have the will and then we shall get the homes. There is a shortage of labour at present, but the requisite labour must be liberated. The war in the Pacific, apparently, will not last much longer. When it is over hundreds of men will be returning to the State and they could be employed in the building of homes. Many of them would take up this occupation if it offered them sufficient money to provide a decent living.

Openings for the employment of labour will be an important matter after the war. Doubtless many of the men returning to civilian life will be desirous of settling in the city, but quite a lot will desire to go back to the Goldfields, where they made reasonably good money before the war and where the conditions were reasonably good in the large towns though bad in the small ones. Many prospectors, anxious to make money by their own efforts in winning gold, will want to return to prospecting. It is strange that there is no metal or mineral in the world that has increased in price in a short period so much as has gold. Gold has been sold at as high a price as £25 an ounce in India, where there is a big market for it. In Europe, —particularly Holland—sovereigns have been bringing £4 each, and the demand is greater than the supply. Yet, throughout the wonderful gold areas of Western Australia, extending from Kimberley in the north to Ravensthorpe in the south, there are not 50 prospectors. There is less activity in the search for gold today than there has been at any time since gold was first discovered here.

I am of opinion that the goldmining industry will provide work for many men, not only as employees on wages but also as prospectors, and that the goldmining industry of Western Australia will again prove to

be the greatest producer of wealth in the State. We are all aware that, for a time, wheat will be in great demand, and wool will be in reasonably good demand, but when other countries can produce enough wheat to meet their requirements and when other materials are used in lieu of wool, the demand for our wheat and wool will not be so great as it has been in the past. Unless we can improve the texture of wool to give it the silky appearance of materials such as rayon, we are hardly likely to have the same demand for our wool. When that happens we shall have to look to goldmining to bring prosperity to the State, and this will come when we can get £12,000,000 for our gold each year or one-fourth of the value of the State's production. I trust that this matter will be given serious attention.

Gold can, I believe, be produced in this State from ore of a much lower grade than is being worked at present. In the past we have had prospectors taking their ore to State batteries for crushing, and they have had the experience of losing the equivalent of 30s. in the sands before they received any return. In many instances, this represented the difference between profit and loss. I feel confident that the Mines Department will realise that the production of gold from State batteries should receive closer attention and that improved treatment plants should be installed. Not only should the State batteries treat oxidised ore; they should also treat refractory ore when required. I believe the time will come when gold will be the predominant factor in Western Australia's production. Much has been said and written by people who cannot see why gold should be regarded as such a wonderful metal, but I am of opinion that in our time its price will not recede.

At a meeting today with the Prime Minister, which was also attended by members of the Government, efforts were made to secure early priorities in the way of manpower and machinery for the goldmining industry. These deficiencies have been the cause of great trouble, though not so much manpower as the machinery taken from the mines. When a mine ceased operating on account of the shortage of manpower, the Commonwealth authorities took the large and important engines from the mines and sent them to various parts of the Commonwealth

where they were needed. These were expensive engines and are hard to obtain, and I am of opinion that probably for two or three years after the cessation of hostilities, we shall not be able to obtain replacements of that machinery. In the meantime, it is of course possible that the goldmining industry might be revived by other means, namely, by prospectors and others who will be able to make a living out of their work.

I am of opinion that other minerals in Western Australia are not of much value to the State, with one exception, and that is blue asbestos. I am afraid that foreign countries, such as China and Spain, which produce these base metals, can do so much more cheaply than we can on account of the low cost of labour and treatment. They have ample electricity supplies to work their plants. But so far as blue asbestos is concerned, I think we can compete. Our blue asbestos is of great value as a fibre and we have enormous quantities which can be treated in a large way. If other minerals are capable of development, the State Government will no doubt be ready to afford ample assistance for their treatment. Copper, scheelite and other metals used during the war period will, I think, go by the board.

But we have another mineral which I intended to mention, but forgot to do so. That is coal. In my opinion, the Collie coal industry is going to prove a wonderful one. In years to come its value to the State will be realised. Some two or three years ago I had very little knowledge of coal. I knew it was black and burnt in a fire, but I was given to understand that our Collie coal was the poorest type of coal in Australia. I have since gained both experience and knowledge, and I am of the opinion that our coalfields will prove to be of enormous wealth to the State. Recently the Minister for Railways was asked whether attempts were being made to utilise oil on the railway engines of our system. He replied 'yes, it is being used because there was insufficient coal available. That is astounding. Must we import oil from thousands of miles away—we did import it from Borneo and Sumatra, although we cannot do so today—to use as fuel in our railway engines for the purpose of raising steam when, within 150 miles of the metropolitan area, we have one of the greatest

coalfields in the known world? In 1914 a commission investigated the Collie coalfields and it reported that at least 300,000,000,000 tons of coal were available. There is really more, but that was stated as a minimum. With so much coal available, surely it should be possible to get sufficient supplies for use by the Railway Department.

Mr. Withers: And the field is in a 15 square mile area.

Mr. TRIAT: That is only a very little portion of the South-West district. Yet we find that not sufficient coal is produced to supply the needs of the Government and of private enterprise. Indeed, private enterprise has no chance of securing it. I am positive that if the men working in the industry were approached and given the opportunity they would very quickly produce enough coal by their methods to meet all the requirements of the State.

Mr. Doney: What sort of opportunity?

Mr. TRIAT: Give them a say in working the mines. The only way to do it is to get the co-operation of the men. Results will speedily follow. Our coalminers are highly skilled and yet are working under antiquated conditions and with bad ventilation.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Why?

Mr. TRIAT: Because the management is anxious to make money.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: What is the Government doing?

Mr. TRIAT: I would like to know. I believe the workers could play a big part in this industry if given the opportunity. Coal is not only available at Collie, but at Eradu. True, the coal at Eradu is not as high in quality as the Collie coal. There is an area in the Kimberleys which is marked on the geological map. It is as large as the South-West and is marked "Possibly coal-bearing".

Mr. Doney: Instead of going North, you might go south to Irwin.

Mr. TRIAT: A well was sunk south of Derby to a depth of 55ft. and it passed through 12ft. of coal. It was sunk some 30 or 40 years ago; but, apart from producing water, it has produced nothing else. Nothing has been done to recover the coal. Coal is not confined to any one portion of the State, but is to be found from the Kimberleys to the South-West. If coal in the Kimberley district is equal to the Collie coal, it is obvious that, if worked,

it would prove of enormous value to the State. But when we find local experts damning our own product, it is time to realise the danger, because nobody would buy a product which the seller said was bad. Yet that is what we have been doing in Western Australia for years. I have talked with people about Collie coal and have been told that it is the worst coal; that, in fact it is not coal at all. That is what I have heard in this State. We hear a different story, however, from experts who have come from the Eastern States to examine our coal. When they speak we realise that our coal is better than we thought it was.

I do not intend to weary the House on this subject, but it is an important one and I would like to give members the information I have acquired dealing with the production of coal. Members all know Mr F. C. Fox, who came to Western Australia some time ago, and was considered to be a bit of a crank so far as concerns coal. He made a definite claim that he could produce valuable heating gases from Collie coal; he even said he could produce domestic gas. Members are aware that his ideas were pooh-poohed; he was told it was impossible to do so, that even if gas were produced from Collie coal it would not burn. Mr. Fox went to an enormous amount of trouble until he met the Minister for Industrial Development, when he found someone who would listen to him. After conferences with the Minister he was able to go ahead with some of his projects in order to prove to the people of Western Australia whether his contention was right or wrong. I attended eight or nine demonstrations and at each I was dumbfounded at the terrific heat that could be generated from Collie coal. The coal used in the retort for producing gas was of small size. I would consider it rubbish; it did not measure half an inch across and was more like pebbles than coal. Yet gas was generated in that furnace after only 35 minutes, as was stated by the engineer on the job. From a cold start it took only 35 minutes to produce gas, which proves that the quantity of gas in Collie coal must be exceptional. If the coal were poor, the gas could not be generated so quickly.

According to a statement made by the engineer in charge of the works, a forging furnace burning oil costing 1s. per gallon was started, and in 3½ hours it reached a temperature of 1280 degrees C., but gas was

produced in 35 minutes and reached a temperature of 1280 degrees C. from Collie coal. If it were good coal, God knows what would occur. That is a positive fact. In view of that, I suggest that we have not sufficient recognition of the value of Collie coal. I would like to see Mr. Fox given a better opportunity to prove that his gas plant is more capable than he claims it to be. He claims that it can produce 100,000 cubic feet of industrial gas from one ton of dry Collie coal with a B.T.U. of 140. The evidence from the Midland Workshops test shows that he was very conservative, and that he could get 140,000 cubic feet, and probably more, which would raise a temperature in the forging furnace of 1,410 degrees centigrade. There is no joke about that; it is an enormous temperature. He also claimed that he could get 33,000 cubic feet of domestic gas from one ton of dry Collie coal with a B.T.U. of 320. It was agreed that he could get more than 33,000 cubic feet of domestic gas from one ton of Collie coal, but it was not certain whether the B.T.U. would be 310 or 340.

On tests made, however, it was demonstrated that the Collie coal was just as good and of as high a quality so far as heating is concerned as the Perth town gas. I would like to read to the House a letter written by Metters, the people who conducted the test in connection with domestic gas. When the gas was produced at Midland Junction, Metters sent stoves and an expert to instal the stoves, and watch the burning of the gas and take the temperatures. Several members of this Chamber were there on the first occasion that a test was made, but that is not the test of which I am now speaking. In the second test, six stoves were placed in a line out in the open with very little covering—only a tarpaulin—and they reached enormous temperatures in a rapid space of time. The letter from Metters is as follows:—

We have for acknowledgment your letter of the 4th of July in respect to certain tests carried out by Mr. F. C. Fox on gas stoves of our manufacture which were supplied by gas generated from a pilot plant installed at the W.A.G.R. Workshops, Midland, under the direction of Mr. F. C. Fox.

We would like to point out firstly, that we are not gas manufacturers. We do not possess a calorimeter and therefore are not in a position to give the calorific value of the gas generated.

As far as we are concerned, the trials as conducted by our fitter, Mr. McCallum, on the five stoves, were found to be quite satisfactory, but

of course we were not concerned with, and are not satisfied that the gas itself received a conclusive trial. We do not however, set ourselves out to be experts on the generation of gas and therefore would not commit ourselves further in this regard.

The six stoves in question were placed in line in the open air with a rough wall at the back of them. They were protected at the ends only to the limit of allowing a free passage of air along the face of the stoves, and further were protected at the top from rain by the temporary covering. There was a strong south-west wind blowing at the time, and as the location of the test was at the corner of two buildings, a considerable amount of air eddies was set up. These of course would have a material effect on the efficiency of the hot plate burners on top of the stove. It must also be borne in mind that six stoves in line is a condition that is never met with under ordinary circumstances, and the effect on the gas efficiency by such a lot of bends and junctions in the connection of the stoves can well be left to the imagination.

It is also desired to point out that there was a definite limited supply of gas in the holder, which means that the time during which these stoves were tested was of such short duration that an actual efficiency test was almost impossible. We feel sure you will realise that immediately taps were turned on the gas would be gradually reducing in both volume and pressure. Even so, our gas fitter was quite satisfied and convinced with the result of the test as far as the efficiency of the stoves, in conjunction with the gas under review, was concerned.

It is our considered opinion that further purification of the gas is most desirable, but as Mr. Fox states in his report, there was no trouble in keeping gas jets alight while the pressure of gas lasted, which was from some 20 to 25 minutes.

We were rather surprised to find that our thermometer tests in the oven were comparatively satisfactory, and this of necessity will improve in relation to the amount the gas is purified. In actual tests we found that a kettle of water took no longer to boil on gas produced by Mr. Fox than it does on town gas, and considering the conditions under which the stoves were tested, this more than justifies the claim made for this gas by Mr. Fox. We understand that further purification of the gas to remove all traces of tar, etc., is being further gone into by Mr. Fox, in which case stoves as supplied by us should be much more efficient.

We would like to stress that although we are of the opinion that the test which was held at Midland Junction proved quite satisfactory as far as our stoves are concerned, we would need to have these stoves tested on the gas referred to under ideal scientific conditions before we would be satisfied to the point where we could give you an authoritative comment on their efficiency.

Any further particulars on this subject will be very readily given should such be required by your Department.

That is proof obtained by practical people, without having any knowledge of the calorific values of the gas, that gas produced from this so-called poor, low-grade coal from Collie, which has been regarded as of no consequence, can boil water under bad conditions as fast as can gas produced by the Perth City Council from coal brought 2,000 miles from Newcastle. That is what astounds me. We are looking for wealth in this country—or we think we are—and yet at our very door we have 300,000,000,000 tons of coal that can produce gas as good as that produced from coal brought from the Eastern States. Yet not one effort has been made by any outside body, apart from the present Labour Government, to endeavour to get Mr. Fox to prove his contentions. I believe that Bunbury has made some effort in this direction, having suggested that a plant could be put in that town if money could be raised for the purpose. But we are short of gas in Perth and the Perth City Council—which should be sufficiently patriotic or local-minded or parochial, or whatever members like to call it, to prefer to use Western Australian products rather than import supplies from outside—has not even asked its engineer to contact Mr. Fox, and has no intention of doing so.

Mr. Mann: Does the engineer want to meet him?

Mr. TRIAT: I do not know. Probably the City Council does not want to meet him. Why should we allow coal to be brought 2,000 miles from the Eastern States, when transport is difficult to obtain and when we can produce an article that will give us gas just as good? Sooner or later we shall have to wake up and insist that if people who are in responsible positions—either governmental or otherwise—fail to take advantage of the resources of this State, the quicker they are removed the better it will be for Western Australia. I would like to see 5,000 men employed in the Collie coalfields producing the valuable coal we have there, because it is not the low-grade stuff people have been talking about. Let us create a township there at Collie worth calling a township. Let us produce the valuable by-products, such as tars and various liquids that can be obtained from the coal.

Mr. Mann: South Australia would like to have that coalfield.

Mr. TRIAT: Yes. We have it here. Let us use it. I remember that when Mr. Fox came here, he said, "I could make coke from Collie coal if I were given an opportunity." But the opportunity was never given him by the Government, and he did not have the money to proceed. There are two sorts of coke. Commercial coke is obtained from the powerhouse in Perth. It is a very soft, porous coke with not much intense heat. The other coke, metallurgical coke, is a hard, metallic substance which gives a terrific heat. The one is suitable for ordinary firing and the other for breaking down iron ore. Mr. Fox claimed he could produce the metallurgical coke but everybody sniggered and thought it was not possible. But the Midland workshops tests showed that coke could be produced from the Collie coal that was as good as the best Newcastle coke. It is visible and can be seen; it is procurable; but nothing has been done to make sure that sufficient quantities from Collie coal are obtained to carry on the manufacture of steel, iron and various other commodities of that kind in the production of which we must sooner or later engage.

If members have read the morning paper, they will have seen the reference to Yampi Sound, and to the fact that £1,000,000 is being spent at Cockatoo Island by the Broken Hill Pty. Co. to manufacture iron from the best iron-ore in Australia; but it is not to be manufactured in Western Australia. The ore is to be carted several thousand of miles away. Valuable material is going out of the State. The company is going to spend £1,000,000 on that project; and if that company can spend money to cart our iron-ore away, we can afford to spend it on testing a plant to treat the ore in Western Australia. It is long overdue. A resolution was carried in this House last session asking that an investigation should be made as to whether heavy industries could be started here. Of course they can be! Mr. Fox told local engineers at a meeting recently that for £7,000 he could produce 10,000 tons of pig-iron a year. He said, "My costs will not exceed the costs of the iron and pig-iron produced in Newcastle, New South Wales." I believe that Mr. Fox is right after what he has done. He said, "For a further £12,000 I will put up rolling-mills to roll small bars up to one inch. I will supply all the drawn wire that Mallochs will require to meet their oversea

orders, and I will not draw on the Yampi iron-ore to do it. I will use only Western Australian material and labour." We should try to find someone with sufficient money to put up £7,500 to back this man, or £12,000 to test his rolling-mill scheme. It must be done.

We are not going to allow millions of tons of iron-ore to be taken from this State to New South Wales to be converted into iron. It is all very fine to say that Collie coal is bad, but the real facts to the contrary are now proved. I have not been able to get the actual reports, but I am going to ask the Government to table the report of the tests. All I have are a few figures given me by a man who should not have submitted them; it was not Mr. Fox. An engineer gave me some figures the other day and said I could use them, but not his name. He said, "You have my assurance that these figures are correct." A test of industrial gas was made over a period of 9¾ hours at the Midland Junction Workshops. The oil was tested against the gas to find out the true value, and these are the figures of the test:—

Gas.

	£	s.	d.
3,685 lbs. of coal at 20s. per ton	1	12	11
Freight and handling charges at 19s. 6d. per ton	1	12	4
Wages at 18s. 8d. per day ..	1	1	10
Fan	0	4	1
do.	0	3	3
do.	0	4	11
8½ per cent. over-riding charges ..	0	18	7
	£5	17	11

Oil.

	£	s.	d.
250.7 gallons at 1s.	12	10	8
Freight and handling charges ..	0	11	9
Air	0	8	2
	£13	10	7

Just fancy the over-riding charge in the case of the coal gas because it was the usual practice at the workshops! That was raised even though this was a Western Australian product. I wish to draw attention to the fact that not one penny piece of the £5 17s. 11d. for gas would leave Western Australia. Members can see the result of that test. It is not credible that such a thing can occur and we hear nothing about it. Of the £13 10s. 7d. in the case of the oil the amounts for freight and handling

charges and for air are the only ones that would have been spent in the State. The rest of the money would have gone overseas. That sort of thing cannot continue.

We must take notice of the valuable product we have in Collie, and whether it is Mr. Fox or someone else who can give us the necessary information we should seek it eagerly. We should try to get concerns such as the Perth Power House, which utilises gas, to use this gas to boost the gas they already have. This gas gives as much heat per cubic foot as does the town gas of Perth, although the calorific value is not so high. Why not use this gas? Why not attempt to get the Power House to use it? I do not think I am divulging any secret when I tell members that in 1933, according to the report of the Perth City Council, it used 400,000 gallons of Shell oil to boost its gas, even though it imported from the Eastern States the highest grade coal in the Commonwealth. This man Fox did not put a pennyworth of anything else but Collie coal into his product. I have very little to do with gas; I have no interest in it, but if Mr. Fox's process were to be installed I would invest everything I could in it. I hope that recognition of Collie coal will be given by the people of this State.

Let us hope that in the future instead of an enormous quantity of iron-ore being carted away from our State, and enormous quantities of foreign coal brought into it, we will utilise our own resources and give work to the people of this State. Ten years after this war is over many people will be looking for work—perhaps before. We shall be glad to have a place at Collie, or anywhere else, to employ 500 or 600 men. The depression days will come again when the men have spent their money and the farms have reached saturation point. This product is a wonderful thing and we should utilise it. At Collie we have 300,000,000,000 tons of coal in an area 15 miles wide. The possibilities of Western Australia have not been probed. We have lived on the easy things in this State. We have, generally speaking, taken up the best land, chopped down the best trees and used the most easily-produced minerals. Where a thing has not been easy to get we have said, "Well let us buy it." But we must become self-reliant. This State will not exist for very long with only 400,000 people in it.

We must populate the country, and nothing will aid that population quicker than iron or steel works. Such industries require many people. We have the best iron in the world. We have all the flux that is required and we have coal in Western Australia that is second to none in Australia excepting that at Newcastle in the Eastern States. If utilised properly our coal will give us as good results as it is possible to obtain with the highest grade Newcastle coal. I commend that point to the House and hope that within the next 12 months or so the Government will take cognisance of what I have said and make a sincere investigation. I believe that Mr. Fox has made application to have the pilot plant at Midland Junction moved to Welshpool where it can be tested under all conditions.

The Minister for Works: You might tell the House that the Government is responsible for keeping Mr. Fox in the State.

Mr. TRIAT: I give the Government every credit. If it were not for the Minister for Works Mr. Fox would not even be in Western Australia. If anything happens to put Collie coal on the map it will be due to the Minister who gave this man the opportunity to do what he has done.

The Minister for Works: The Government did it.

Mr. TRIAT: The Minister for Works, on behalf of the Government, took the matter up. Mr. Fox desires that his plant be further tested. The people at Midland Junction are not concerned with domestic gas, but at Welshpool it can be made use of, and if the plant were transferred there we could find out how much of the by-product of Collie coal can be obtained in addition to the gas. I thank members for the hearing they have given me, and I hope some recognition will be given of what I have said. We have, in Collie coal, a product as valuable as gold if we will only use it.

MR. BERRY (Irwin-Moore) [8.8]: I, too, as a man without a party, would like to express the same congratulations which have been so freely, genuinely and sincerely given in the House to those who have participated in the changes of ministerial positions. I would also like to welcome the new member for Victoria Park. I think we will all agree, after last night, that the contributions he will make to the debates

here will be of extreme value. A lot of water has gone under the bridge since the last Address-in-reply.

Mr. McLarty: There is no doubt about that.

The Premier: The Pinjarra Bridge?

Mr. BERRY: I believe that in passing under the Pinjarra Bridge the water is taking half the country with it, and that would be as necessary to deal with as the coal position, of which we have heard from the hon. member who has just resumed his seat. On V.E. day the people of Europe celebrated, amidst the greatest excitement possible, to show their gratitude, but I am sorry to have to say that my experience on V.E. day, in Western Australia, was the saddest and most sombre experience possible. By the time the day was over I had the feeling that I had spent the whole of the period in mourning the loss of a brother. I trust that, when final victory in the Pacific is achieved, people will be allowed to do exactly as they wish on that day, even assuming that they wish to get drunk. It will be an occasion when even I might get drunk, and I do not think anybody in this Chamber has ever seen me in that state. It will be a ghastly business if we take no notice of that day, as was the case on V.E. day.

On the occasion of the Address-in-reply it is a difficult matter for any member to speak without repeating what other members have already said. I am sorry that I must be guilty of some repetition. On the housing question I am in agreement with everything that has so far been said. I was in agreement with the member for Mt. Magnet when he said that it was necessary, on the Goldfields, to supply cheap refrigerators for the houses which it is proposed to build. That applies equally to the farms and country districts, and to Western Australia generally. After a great deal of experience, knocking about the world, I am sure that I have never seen people who put up a braver fight against the more difficult odds than do the women in the country districts of Western Australia. There should be no housing scheme fostered by any Government in Australia which does not take that into the fullest consideration. Every country house should be a decent place to live in and should have electric light and refrigeration. I

think there should be some school for the training of people for domestic help in the houses of the country.

Another point that has been raised is the question of taxation. Taxation has become unbridled and has gone mad. It is the serpent in our economic garden of Eden. It is a serpent which started as a small snake, but has been pampered and fostered until, today, it is an economic boa-constrictor which is breaking the bones of the skeleton of our entire economy. While I know that it was necessary for us to indulge in these fantastic financial measures during the period of war, there is no justification whatever—now that the war is practically over—for not tackling this very severe and dangerous problem. The other day I was reading a book, and I made some notes which I will now consult to show the incidence of taxation in Australia. We are called upon to pay income tax, land tax, estate duty tax, gift duty tax, entertainment tax, pay-roll tax, sales tax, vermin tax, goldmining tax, totalisator tax, probate duty tax and petrol tax. We are rated for roads, bridges, and drains. We are taxed on our cars and carts, on our drays, our bicycles and on dogs. We are taxed on our wireless sets. Single fruit trees in our gardens are taxed. Our guns, rifles and revolvers are taxed.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Why not tax our bachelors?

Mr. BERRY: Everything is taxed but our cats. It is an insult to their species, but now that I have drawn attention to this omission I feel it will not be long before cats are included. That sort of thing cannot continue, unless it is the intention of the Government completely to wipe out private enterprise and competition. If that is the intention of the Government there is no better method than taxation by which to do it. We are manpowered and restricted. We are required to have petrol licenses, driving licenses, food coupons and clothing coupons, and in addition we have to fill in thousands of forms every time we want something.

Mr. W. Hegney: The people in Europe would not mind it.

Mr. BERRY: The people in Europe will not do it, once the war is over.

Mr. W. Hegney: Neither will we!

Mr. BERRY: I am sure that the people in Europe would not be happy about having to do it any longer than necessary. If it is the intention to socialise this country, that is the cleverest means by which to do it, because that will cripple business and industry until such time as there will be no business and no industry. If a person possessed a farm today and drew a salary of £600 per annum from some other source—such as when we work in this Assembly—he would find that after producing £1,000 of profit from his farm his taxation would leave him with practically nothing—£618 in all.

Mr. Fox: He would not go short of a feed.

Mr. BERRY: Has the member who interjected ever gone short of a feed?

Mr. Fox: That is not the point!

Mr. BERRY: I have been nearer going short of a feed while working on farms in Australia than I have in any other sphere where I have worked elsewhere during my life. I cannot remember that the people in the cities suffered any greater hardship—if they suffered as much—than did the people in the country. If a person decides to increase his performance or expand his industry in order to make more money, and dares to produce £5,000 profit on a farm today—which he could do quite easily if he had 1,000 baconers to be sold during 12 months, plus his other business—he finds that of that £5,000, £3,530 is immediately taken for taxation. As I remarked earlier, of the £600 per annum from an outside source, no less a sum than £560 would be taken. That is why the remark was made, by the member for York, that today people are saying, "We are not going to produce if we find, at the end of it, that we have to pay so much over in the form of taxation." I have heard the same story throughout the city. It may have been unfortunate that the hon. member picked on the wharf lumpers, but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I have been told the same thing from every working source, also. The story is to be heard on every hand.

Mr. Perkins: I referred to other people as well as lumpers.

Mr. BERRY: Well, I am mentioning the farmer particularly, though I know full well that this invidious burden is imposed on every form of business. If a farm is encumbered, the mortgagee will take the whole

of the money and pay the farmer's taxation, and the farmer has to repay the amount plus interest. These are things that are going to damage production and industry, and yet the member for Mt. Magnet wants us to encourage local resources and industrial opportunities. It will be difficult under existing economies. The man on the land is going to find that the incidence of taxation is so high, that before he has had an opportunity of ridding himself of his debt, which has been crippling him for years, we shall have reached another period of depression the like of which we experienced some years ago.

Some people promise us a golden age; they say that there will be no depression after this war. These are the people who have given lip service in public places to the great reconstruction schemes to be undertaken in the post-war years when there shall be no turmoil and no strikes. But what have we done in preparation for those times? Already men are returning from the war and we are not prepared to put them into employment as desired. We have a land settlement scheme, which seems to be in so nebulous a form that few of us understand exactly what it is all about. Probably the Premier understands it, and after the forthcoming Premiers' Conference I hope he will be able to give us full information. However, I stress the fact that if these men returning from the war are to be put on the land burdened with the present colossal taxation and debt, there will be no hope for them.

In my opinion taxation today is the biggest evil in our midst. It is an evil that we must throttle. It must be throttled; otherwise we ourselves will die of strangulation. I agree with the member for Pilbara in his desire to secure relief from income taxation at once for the people in the North-West. I was amazed to read in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech a claim that the North-West had returned to normal. Judging by various statements made in this House, it would appear that conditions there are a long way from normal. I trust everything will be done to ensure that the transport facilities, which the members for the North-West are fighting so hard to secure, will be placed at the disposal of those settlers without delay.

Another item in the Speech stressed the necessity for the production of more wheat. It said—

Stocks of wheat in the Commonwealth are at a dangerously low level, and an increase in production is vital in Western Australia.

In the light of what I have said about taxation, I regard this statement as merely a pious hope. People will not exert the effort to produce more if they find that it does not pay to produce it. Some of us in the country have made that discovery already. We have found that it is folly to drag the whole family out, in the absence of adequate labour, to build up an income only to be blistered to such an extent that the family cannot be properly rewarded for their work. Of course we can produce more wheat; the mechanical age has made that possible. There is much talk at present about the division of the atom, something hitherto considered to be impracticable. Yet we have now reached the stage when it is possible. Fortunately we reached the goal ahead of our enemies.

With mechanical aid, we are capable of increasing production, but if we put into the hands of human beings machinery that will permit of the situation being exploited, we shall find many of our people, as we did in 1930, starving amidst plenty. I suggest that in order to step up the production of the State as quickly as possible, the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture should lose no time in endeavouring to obtain as many tractors as possible, in good order, from the Army authorities. I saw one tractor which lay idle at Rockingham for months and only the other day it was moved away. That tractor, instead of lying idle for so long, might have been doing good work on a farm. The position regarding machinery in the hands of the Army is much the same as the manpower position we have discussed so often. The labour we need is still in the Army and is being kept there. We know that some of the men are unfit for the Army, but they are still being retained. If the manpower and machinery problems are settled satisfactorily, there will be no difficulty in increasing the productivity of our wheat lands. Again, however, I strike a note of warning by saying that we should be very careful not to use wildly the mechanical power which has been placed in our hands and which if abused, will lead

us into the realm of intense difficulty through over-production. It is imperative too, to stabilise prices.

Another important point is to ensure that galvanised iron, fencing wire and wire-netting are made available to farmers as soon as possible. We feel that black wire and netting are being deliberately foisted on us when galvanised material could be made available. Some time ago I asked questions in the House on that point, but we still feel that we are not getting a fair deal. We believe it is possible to supply us with the galvanised material. I know that the Minister for Agriculture will take this matter up and do his best for us. We are not satisfied with the black material; in fact, many of us do not want to use it.

I must make reference to the quality of the superphosphate being supplied. Two years ago I said it was high time that we reverted to the type of superphosphate previously obtained from Ocean Island, and I may say it is higher time now. That superphosphate was formerly used in this State with great success. The state of the imported material is such that we practically have no secondhand bags. It is exceedingly difficult to take the superphosphate out of the bag before the superphosphate takes itself out. The time has arrived when we must have the very best for our production in this State, and I refer as much to pastures as to wheat. If we improve our pastures we shall solve practically our whole problem of soil erosion, at all events in those portions of the State where pastures will grow. It is even said that the second-class superphosphate we are receiving is responsible for our lambing trouble this season. That trouble is a very serious one indeed. Personally, I am inclined to think that the teaching of the ancient Chinese will give us a better answer than the one I have just suggested, and that is that a balanced pasture must not comprise more than 16 per cent. of clover.

Unquestionably, our pastures today are one mass of clover; I am speaking more particularly now of the part of the State from which I come. I have a feeling that it will be found that if this difficulty is overcome our lambing trouble will cease. A neighbour of mine from 234 sheep got, I think, 13 lambs this year, and he is depen-

dent on fat-lamb raising. He is so upset that he has stated publicly it is his intention not to breed lambs any longer. If lamb production in this State ceases, can you, Sir, or any member of the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Education tell me where our sheep are to come from in three years' time? The question is a vital one. It may be that the answer can be found at Clare in South Australia, and probably other districts, where I understand the problem has been solved by planting perennial rye, phalaris, and Wimmera ryegrass as a balance in clover pastures. Their lambing conditions are now more or less normal.

At the moment we are giving the question of education much lip-service. I hope it will not end there. With the Leader of the Opposition, I hope that our new Minister for Education will not let the matter rest there, but he, too, has his limitations, as he is unable to obtain the necessary finance. The time has come when we must pay heed to the demands from country as well as urban districts for better education for our children. Most members have, I think, seen the area school pictures which were shown in Shell House by the Shell Oil Co. some little time ago and in which was depicted the amazing scheme which has been inaugurated in Tasmania. There is every reason to believe that the standard of education in this State two years ago was perhaps amongst the lowest in the world. Notwithstanding that we acclaim our standard of education in Australia to be the highest, I have seen some rotten things in the country, but a great change has come over the people there. Education committees comprising both men and women have been formed for various zones with the determination to secure the best possible education for the children. That has to be, and if the State cannot provide the finance then the Commonwealth Government must do so. While on this subject, let me draw the attention of members to the question of the sub-normal child. I intend to quote a figure, but whether it is correct or not I cannot say. I understand the percentage of sub-normal children in this State is 15. The problem is one which so far we have neglected and thought very little about.

Mr. Needham: Is that percentage for the State or for the Commonwealth?

Mr. BERRY: The State! If the percentage is correct, then the position is a most serious one, not so much for the sub-normal children as for those responsible.

Mr. Withers: Perhaps we make up the 15 per cent. here!

Mr. BERRY: The problem is one which I commend earnestly to the consideration of Cabinet as well as to every member of this House. I am informed from a reliable source—a State school-teacher who is particularly interested in this subject—that it is quite possible to lift the sub-normal child up to a point where he is not sub-normal any longer. If that be so, we have no justification for rendering only lip-service to such a need; we should be ashamed, and so should the Government, when we consider that such a state of affairs not only exists but is permitted to continue. I hope when the Estimates come down that the Minister will tell us that at long last we are alive to the heinous neglect of this dangerous question. If we can give these unfortunate children only a 50 per cent. uplift chance in the economic battle ahead of us we shall have at least achieved something.

I cannot on this Address-in-reply speech omit to mention the fishing industry. That industry is in course of being reviewed, I have no doubt, but nothing of a practical nature has yet been put forward. We are still destroying spawning fish where they spawn, and we are still going to wonder where our fish are to come from later, even as we are wondering now. I saw schnapper marked up in a shop the other day at 3s. a pound.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: It was probably shark.

Mr. BERRY: It is not so very long ago when schnapper sold at 6d. and 1s. each. It is within our own knowledge that we shipped tons of dried schnapper to the Far East at £10 per ton. All of this goes to prove that we had the fish; it also goes to prove that we slaughtered them by the ton. Today we are still killing them while they are full of roe. During the past few years you, Sir, have come to me and asked, "How are the fish at Safety Bay?" and I have been forced to reply, "No fish down there." There is heinous and dangerous neglect of this industry. We are sweeping our beaches with nets and catching fish heavy in spawn. We are destroying fish heavy in spawn and wondering why the

fish do not return. It is a simple subtraction sum; if you take away the whole nothing is left.

We are told people are now sweeping along our coasts in aeroplanes and locating shoals of fish. If fish are migrating to spawn and are heavy with spawn, they should be allowed to go. If they are not heavy with spawn, they should be captured. I maintain that every fish that comes into an estuary on this coast to spawn should be allowed to do so unmolested and should be allowed to go back to sea unmolested; and I maintain that it is the duty of the Government to know exactly where these fish go and where they can be caught when not in spawn. In that way only can we establish a permanent fishing industry in this State for returned soldiers. I am given to understand that returned soldiers and sailors' organisations have already made an advance in this direction; they wish to start this fishing industry. It is a very hard industry; it is not very lucrative—even with prices what they are today—because of the number of days on which the barometer says, "You may not go out."

It is necessary that our young men coming back from the war should be allowed and encouraged to engage in this industry, if there is an industry; but it is the duty of the State Government and of the Commonwealth Government to make absolutely certain that there is such an industry on our coast. I am inclined to think there is. I picked up an old Government report some time ago which spoke of an area alongside Carnarvon—I do not quite know how far away from Carnarvon—said to be 40 miles square, and described as the playground of flat fish. The report spoke of a flathead there going to 9 lbs. in weight. I have never seen one that size; but if they knew that 50 or 60 years ago, why do we not do something about it today? Why is Western Australia for ever marking time and letting things slide? Why cannot fishermen have nets?

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: They cannot obtain permits.

Mr. BERRY: Never mind about permits; they cannot get the nets! Yet a journal in Sydney—"Power and Motor," I think it is called—actually advertises nets for sale. Why is that? There is probably a very good answer. It may be that these

people advertise but have not got the goods; but that seems a funny way of spending money. I think the House is probably tired of listening to me, and I am tired of talking to the House.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: You have not mentioned ships.

Mr. BERRY: In that respect I wish to congratulate the Government on the effort that has been put forward and on what has been achieved. I think 10 out of 14 vessels have already been built and have gone away. Most pleasing to me is the fact that I have met several people who have told me that these little ships made at Fremantle have done most excellent work in the Solomon Islands. That is the finest tribute that could be paid to the Premier and his Cabinet. These people are quite convinced that the ships are worth-while. We, in our carping criticism—to use the phrase of the Leader of the Opposition—say they cost too much. They probably did; but I suggest that everything costs too much in Australia, and when it comes to a question of competition with other countries for the trade of which I have so often spoken here with countries not so very far away from us, we will have to look to that point.

I suggest that the bombing and devastation taking place in the Far East has probably denuded the whole of that part of the world of junks and small wooden ships. What is wrong with our coming in on that trade? We are producing little ships at the Causeway—as the member for Victoria Park said just now—and I recently saw the amazing sight of a wooden vessel being towed through the streets on a trailer. I should imagine that vessel was 15 or 20 tons. I know there is a sale for that type of boat in the Far East, and there will be a greater need for these vessels there because of the devastation which has taken place. I understand that already India has made inquiries about our wooden boats fitted with power engines. That industry can be developed and go northward from here. I trust that with regard to the next two ships that are being built we shall tell the Army we are sorry but that we want them for the North-West; though I should imagine that two vessels for that portion of the State would be a mere flea-bite.

On motion by Mr. Styants, debate adjourned.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

Council's Message.

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 8.47 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, 9th August, 1945.

	PAGE
Question: Collie coal, as to gasification	152
Address-in-reply, seventh day	153

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

QUESTION.

COLLIE COAL.

As to Gasification.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS (for Hon. H. Seddon) asked the Chief Secretary:

1, What did the analyses of the gases obtained in the gasification of Collie Coal disclose as to the percentage of the various components—(a) for the rich gas; (b) for the low gas?

2, By whom were the analyses made?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

	%
1, (a) Carbon dioxide	3.9
Oxygen	0.9
Unsaturated compounds	0.1
Carbon monoxide	22.9
Methane	4.0
Hydrogen	11.2
Nitrogen (by difference)	57.0
(b) Carbon dioxide	2.0
Oxygen	1.1
Unsaturated compounds	not determined
Carbon monoxide	41.5
Methane	4.2
Hydrogen	35.8
Nitrogen (by difference)	15.5

2, Government Mineralogist, Analyst and Chemist.