

## Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 3rd August, 1910.

lowing year. In countries inclined to be arid and where the rainfall is not great the natural fodders, as a result, die out. The stock themselves always choose the natural fodders. In all parts of Australia the salt bush is one of the standard stock fodders and this is now being eaten out. I am told that if one wants salt bush seed now it is necessary to send to America for it, although the seed originally was sent from Australia to the United States. It is the duty of the Government to deal with this question of the preservation of natural fodders. There is no other part of the country so good as that to which I have referred for the purposes of subdivision into small pastoral areas, and unless something is done to preserve the indigenous fodders the position will soon be that the subdivided country will be held, as it is to-day, by the large holders. While this question is being dealt with the Government might take into consideration that of providing large endowments there for our university and educational system. I do not intend to claim the attention of the House any longer and I hope that what I have said is worthy of the note of the Government, particularly with regard to my advice as to the railway south of the Swan River.

On motion by the Premier debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.*

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

### PAPER PRESENTED.

By the Colonial Secretary: By-laws of the Cottesloe Beach Roads Board.

### BILLS (2)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Electoral Act, 1907, Amendment.
- 2, Public Hospitals Endowment and Management.

### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES, ELECTION.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly): It is necessary this afternoon for the House to elect a Chairman of Committees. As hon. members are aware Mr. Kingsmill, who has occupied the Chair for the last four years, had to submit himself for re-election this year and, consequently, the position of Chairman of Committees became vacant with his seat as a member of the House. I have very much pleasure in proposing that Mr. Kingsmill be appointed to fill the position of Chairman of Committees of the House. Mr. Kingsmill has occupied the position, as I have previously stated, for the past four years with every credit to himself and with entire satisfaction to members of the House. It was thought at one time that we would not have the opportunity of electing Mr. Kingsmill to this position again, and it was considered that he might be occupying a seat in the national Parliament. His failure to secure a seat, however, was, in my opinion, a loss to that Parliament, but his re-election to this Chamber was a distinct gain to the State Parliament, and we are now once more

afforded the privilege of nominating him for the position of Chairman of Committees, which he has so ably filled during the past four years.

Hon. J. W. LANGSFORD (Metropolitan-Suburban): I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Kingsmill, and wish to confirm all that has been said by the Colonial Secretary.

Question put and passed; Mr. Kingsmill thus elected.

Hon. W. KINGSMILL, having taken the Chair in Committee of Supply, said: I have to thank hon. members for the honour they have done me and the confidence they have reposed in me by electing me to this very responsible and, I think, important position. I would like to say that the compliment is all the greater because it is the second occasion on which the honour has been conferred on me. I would like to thank the Colonial Secretary and the seconder of the motion for the complimentary remarks they made concerning the way in which I have carried out the duties of Chairman in the past, and which I shall have to live up to in the future. Let me say that the Chairman of Committees, or any person who is placed in authority over a deliberative assembly is, to a great extent, what the members of that assembly make him. If there is a wish to preserve order and decorum, then the task of the person who is presiding is simplified. That has been my experience in the past, and I can only hope it will be my experience in the future. I thank hon. members very sincerely for the honour they have done me in electing me to this position.

#### BILL—SUPPLY, £1,053,875.

##### *Standing Orders Suspension.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) moved—

*That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as may be necessary to pass the Bill through its remaining stages.*

Question put and passed; the Standing Orders suspended accordingly.

#### *Second Reading.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. J. D. Connolly) in moving the second reading, said: This is the usual Supply Bill that it is necessary to bring down each session before the introduction of the Budget. This particular measure provides for the sum of £1,053,875, three months' supply, the month just passed, the current month and the next month, and the money will be provided out of revenue and also out of loan. Before this Supply is exhausted the Budget will be introduced, but it may be necessary to introduce a further Supply Bill in order to enable the Government to keep going. This is the usual procedure so that the Government may have legal authority for the payment of salaries, etcetera. I beg to move—

*That the Bill be now read a second time.*

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *In Committee, etc.*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment; the report adopted.

Read a third time, and *passed*.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

##### *Third Day.*

Resumed from the previous day.

Hon. W. PATRICK (Central): With other members I agree entirely with the expressions of condolence at the death of our late King, and also join in the congratulations to our new Sovereign, King George V. I feel in mentioning these two important events that after all kings are in the same position as others, and when the time comes we have to speed the parting and welcome the coming guest. I have also to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your return to this Chamber, and especially on your unanimous appointment to the high and honourable position of President of this Council. I have sat in this House during the time you have occupied that position with dignity, and I am sure that your appointment has met not only with the unanimous approval of this Chamber but

with the approval of the people of the country at large. I am also very pleased to know that all the old members who went before their constituents, in addition to yourself, were returned with substantial majorities. It is a very extraordinary fact that the whole of the members who went before their constituents were returned again, showing, I think, that the country has still confidence in them. I think we may also congratulate, as other speakers have done, the head of the Government on his splendid success. I may say, his meteoric career in the old country, and upon the great honour which His Majesty saw fit to confer on the leading citizen of the State. I am sure the result will be to the lasting benefit of Western Australia. I do not intend to dwell on the different items in the Governor's Speech, because we shall all have an opportunity of dealing with the various questions as they come before this House in the form of Bills. But there are one or two matters on which I would like to make one or two comments. Some members have spoken in favour of the attitude taken up by the Government in regard to the Transcontinental railway, and they think that if the railway is not taken in hand at a very early date by the Federal Government then the State Government ought to construct it themselves in conjunction with South Australia, while other members have criticised that portion of the Governor's Speech adversely. I entirely approve of the attitude of the Government on this question. I do not see why there is any need for us to take up a humble attitude in relation to the Federal Government in this matter. We had a distinct promise when we entered the Federation that this railway was to be constructed, but practically nothing has been done to the present moment, and there is no great appearance that anything is going to be done at a very early date. I do not see from a financial point of view that the burden of Western Australia will be much greater in the one case than in the other. The cost of the portion of the railway in Western Australia will be under one and three-quarter million pounds.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Under a million and a half.

Hon. W. PATRICK: I thank Mr. Cullen for correcting me. In saying a million and three-quarter pounds I was referring to about half the estimated cost of the railway to Port Augusta, but the length of line in this State will be considerably shorter than the length in South Australia, so I daresay Mr. Cullen's estimate is nearer the mark.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: Do you think there is any chance of South Australia agreeing?

Hon. W. PATRICK: I do not know whether there is any chance of South Australia agreeing or not. As an old South Australian I have had communications with South Australians and conversations with leading citizens of South Australia, and they are all averse to the construction of the line at all. They are all of the opinion that it would injure their State, drawing away the passenger trade to other Eastern States. But, after all, that difficulty has to be confronted: the consent of South Australia, either through the Federal Government or with the Government in this State, must be brought about before the railway can be constructed at all; but if the Federal Government construct the railway then we are faced with the cost of building a 4ft. 8½in. line from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie, whereas in the event of our constructing the railway ourselves there will be no immediate or absolute necessity to rebuild the line between Fremantle and Kalgoorlie until our finances enable us to do so. So I am quite at one with the attitude of the State Government on this question of the construction of the Transcontinental railway. I notice that the Government have decided to build grain sheds at Fremantle, with what they call the latest appliances for dealing with the handling of wheat for export. I understand the system to be introduced at Fremantle is similar to that in Sydney at the present time. I think it would have been much better if the Government had introduced the bulk handling. I do not think there is any doubt that this is the system which must be adopted in the future in Western Australia.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What would it cost to introduce it here?

Hon. W. PATRICK: I have not the figures beside me but I know that it costs a great deal less to handle wheat in bulk, loading or unloading, than to handle it in bags, apart altogether from the value of the bags. I have seen the system at work 30 years ago in America and in the old country, and I know it has made tremendous progress since then. Looking forward to the fact that this State not many years hence is bound to produce not only more wheat than any single State in the East, but probably more than all the Eastern States put together—which is not a very extravagant estimate—there is no doubt we must have the system of handling the wheat in bulk.

The Colonial Secretary: What is the advantage; would there be any cheaper freights?

Hon. W. PATRICK: By the bulk system they can land wheat from the lakes in America, practically 3,000 to 4,000 miles from the seaboard, and can take it to Liverpool at a cost of about 4½ cents to the bushel.

The Colonial Secretary: That is America, but would you get cheaper freights from Australia?

Hon. W. PATRICK: Undoubtedly, if the facilities were provided here—they are already provided in the old country—shipping companies would be bound, as they have done in the Atlantic, to follow it up and meet our requirements. I trust that when facilities are provided at Geraldton, as they will be required to be provided at an early date, the latest system of handling wheat will be provided. My attitude, so far as the question of supplying freezing works at the different ports is concerned, is that as in the future there is no doubt whatever the State will have an enormous surplus of stock, cattle, and sheep—I believe we have a surplus of cattle already—freezing work will need to be established along the coast at the different ports. I believe at present the most central place that drains the largest extent of country, so far as sheep are concerned, is Geraldton, but I think in any case the Government should go on at an early date with the proposed works

at Wyndham, and I have no doubt that other works will follow. I think they ought to be provided at the port of Geraldton. We know that we are not producing so much gold as we did at one time, but we are raising more stone, more tons of ore, and employing as many men.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: More men according to the Mines Report, a thousand more than last year.

Hon. W. PATRICK: That is very satisfactory. At any rate with the great advance in metallurgy and improved mechanical appliances, such as suction filter presses, the cost of dealing with the ore has been reduced to such an extent that ore of a much lower grade can now be treated at a profit, and, as Mr. Kirwan has pointed out, we are employing more men although we are producing less gold. Undoubtedly the future of the gold mines in Western Australia must necessarily depend upon these factors, on the discovery of new fields and exploration at a greater depth. So far as my district is concerned I am very glad to report that the latest information from the bottom of the Great Fingal, the greatest mine on the Murchison Goldfield, is very satisfactory, that there is payable gold at a depth of over 2,300 feet. According to a statement made recently by the manager the mine is likely to see greater results in the future than it has done in the past. Now, if that mine had failed, practically every mine on the Murchison would have gone to the wall as soon as they reached a barren zone. The fact of discovering this gold at a great depth means the permanence of the Murchison goldfield, and although the Murchison goldfield is not so important as the Eastern Goldfields, it is the next important gold belt in the State, and its possibilities, probably, are greater than those of the Eastern Goldfields, because we are in the beginning, whereas, on the Eastern Goldfields, they have reached the highest point. I congratulate the Government on the satisfactory condition of the finances. Twelve months ago we were about £312,000 behind—that was the deficit—while on the 30th June last it was reduced by over £200,000. This is a most satisfactory condition of things. It shows that this State has at last turned

the corner financially, notwithstanding the tremendous shrinkage of the Federal revenue. It is quite evident that Western Australia is able to go on prospering and will prosper and bear its own burdens with perfect safety. There are one or two measures of a very controversial nature in the programme. There are the Redistribution of Seats Bill and Council franchise, but I do not intend to say a word on either of these subjects until the Bills come before this Chamber. These are very important measures; one is an old friend which has been before us for many years, and, possibly, may be before us for a great many years to come. I am pleased indeed to see the proposal in the Governor's Speech to found a University in this State. I consider that the Government have done a very wise thing at last in making up their minds to found a University in Western Australia. The population of some of the Eastern States was much smaller when a University was established there.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: All of them, save one.

Hon. W. PATRICK: I believe all the Eastern States had smaller populations, save one, when Universities were established, and certainly we are in a much better position than some of the other States were when Universities were founded on the other side. I would just like, in reference to this matter, to say that I would have been very glad if the Government had also coupled with the establishment of a University a proposal to establish secondary schools of a national character, so that the girls and boys could have moved from the primary schools into the secondary schools, and then on to the University.

The Colonial Secretary: They are established now in Perth.

Hon. W. PATRICK: I am perfectly aware we have a great many things in Perth, but we want them elsewhere: we want one at Geraldton.

The Colonial Secretary: And one at Northampton.

Hon. W. PATRICK: No; we can do without one at Northampton, but we want a technical school at Geraldton. A technical school or secondary school in Perth

is absolutely useless to people residing 300 or 350 miles to the North.

Hon. R. D. McKenzie: Too much concentration.

Hon. W. PATRICK: I do not want to say one word against Kalgoorlie. We know Kalgoorlie and Perth have got everything, but we want to get a little share. I just throw out this hint to the Government that they ought not to confine everything to Perth but to give a share to other parts of the State, especially to Geraldton. I notice the Government propose to again introduce a measure amending the liquor law. There is no use discussing this great question on the Address-in-Reply. I may say I am as much seized with the importance of this great question as most people. I am not a young man, and I have seen many of the evils arising from drink in different parts of the world, but I would just like to throw out a hint to the extremists on both sides. I say this, that if the temperance people wish a measure of liquor law reform, then they must not expect everything in one measure; they must be content with something reasonable, and they should also try and, if possible, avoid the extreme way of talking about all crime and misery arising from drink. As a matter of fact, I have seen lots of crime and misery in other parts of the world that did not arise from drink, but no doubt an immense improvement can be made in the liquor law of this State, and I shall give any reasonable measure my strongest support in bringing it into law. There is one matter which is not mentioned in the Governor's Speech, but it was mooted yesterday by the Hon. Mr. Dodd. That was the question of arbitration, and he contended that the law required amending in several particulars. I have no doubt whatever that Mr. Dodd is perfectly correct, and it seems to me that the law in reference to arbitration up to the present moment has not been so nearly successful as we expected. I may say that we have an example before us at the present time of the entire dislocation of the transport facilities of Perth, and it brings to my mind that the

Arbitration Act has broken down. The first necessity after a law is passed is that that law shall be obeyed. It is impossible that any decision in a law court, whether it is an arbitration court or an ordinary court of law, it is absolutely impossible that both parties always shall be satisfied; but in order that the law may be respected and may be effective that law must be obeyed, and while the law is being obeyed that is the time to propose amendments to it. There is one matter that on going through the Governor's Speech I did not notice, but I see a new Electoral Bill is to be introduced. The Bill is not before us yet, but I would like to say, as I said when the Electoral Bill was before us in 1907, that the most important factor in an election is having correct rolls, and in order to have correct rolls the State must spend a little more money. I say without hesitation, notwithstanding that we have a splendid electoral officer at the present time—no doubt a great improvement has been effected on what we had many years ago—the rolls at the present time are not in a satisfactory condition. I am quite convinced that as the rolls mean the Parliament we must spend more money in purifying and purging the rolls. The Bill is not before us and I do not wish to say anything further on the matter. There is one very important question which was referred to by the Hon. Mr. Dodd yesterday, and after saying a word or two on that subject I shall sit down. I refer to the question of immigration. I have always held very strong views on immigration. I consider, and I think most people consider, that we cannot possibly hold this continent unless we fill it with white people. In face of the fact that there are countless myriads of coloured people within a few hundred miles of our shores, and in face of the fact that some of these peoples, like Japan, which has wakened up, and China, which is awakening up, it is absolutely necessary that this continent should be filled with white men, white women, and white children. The Government in this State have been doing splendid work, the

Premier did splendid work in the old country, and I say the Government have been doing splendid work, and deserve all credit for the work which they have done to bring people into this State. And we must not be too critical if here and there one or two individuals happen to drop on to the gold-fields and compete with those who are there at the present time. It seems to me that instead of having people coming here in dribblets of a few hundreds a month they ought to be coming here in thousands, and that will occur, without doubt, within a very short time. It is impossible to go into any portion of the State, such as Moora, without appreciating the tremendous advantages which population gives to a place. Moora was a few years ago a wretched place, while to-day it is a prosperous town with palatial hotels and all the adjuncts of civilisation, and all this has occurred because a hundred or two people have settled there on the land. I have much pleasure in supporting the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. J. M. DREW (Central): Permit me to add my voice to the chorus of congratulations of members of the House on your re-election to the honourable position of President of the Legislative Council. Suffice to say I cordially endorse all the kindly sentiments expressed towards you in this connection. Coming to the Governor's Speech I see there is a reference to the delay in the construction of the Trans-Australian railway, and the paragraph tells us that as the delay is "a menace to the safety of the Commonwealth as a whole, my Advisers are of opinion that, rather than incur a further indefinite postponement, the project should be undertaken by the two States through whose territory the line will pass." This is a confirmation, and a very regrettable confirmation in my opinion, of the attitude taken up by Mr. Frank Wilson the acting Premier, on the occasion when he publicly announced that he was prepared to bear the cost of the construction of the Trans-Australian railway through Western Australian territory. That announcement, it seems to me, was ill-advised, indiscreet, and presumptuous. It was ill-advised, in my

opinion, in that it was a direct invitation to the Federal authorities to shelve their very big responsibility; it was presumptuous because Mr. Wilson assumed, and took it for granted, that the Parliament of Western Australia would sanction such a proposal.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: And as they knew that South Australia would not consent it looked like bluff.

Hon. J. M. DREW: I could scarcely take up that attitude and view. The conclusion I came to was that it was ill-advised. It is very much to be deplored that Cabinet, after having had ample time for mature deliberation, should stamp this proposal with the seal of their approval. It seems to me that the Trans-Australian Railway is purely and distinctly a Commonwealth necessity, and the very Speech which we have before us indicates that it is so, for the Speech states that the delay is a menace to the safety of the Commonwealth. Now, without this line the protection of the Commonwealth from an invader is an absolute impossibility. The construction of this line is just as essential to the defence of the Commonwealth as, for instance, the construction of forts, the laying of submarine engines of warfare and the building of Dreadnoughts. From beginning to end it is purely a Commonwealth undertaking and, consequently, it should be constructed out of Commonwealth funds, and controlled by the Commonwealth authorities. If this State were to undertake the construction of the West Australian section it would mean, according to Mr. Frank Wilson, an expenditure of £1,150,000, and, needless to say, the expenditure of that amount would be a very severe drain on our financial resources, while, in my opinion, if we can command £1,150,000, we can more profitably expend it in the development of our mining and agricultural resources. If the proposal be submitted to Parliament I shall offer my strongest opposition to it. It is proposed to erect freezing works at Wyndham, Fremantle, and Albany, but I see no reference whatever to the port of Geraldton.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: It will be only cold storage at Albany.

Hon. J. M. DREW: Yes, I understand that and I am offering no objection to it; but when we come to consider that the whole South-West division of the State contains only 1,868,501 sheep, and the Victoria district, with the Murchison and Gascoyne combined—and I contend that the Gascoyne sheep would come to Geraldton for treatment—holds 1,617,660 sheep, or 81 per cent. of the whole, I am at a loss to understand why Geraldton should be omitted.

The Colonial Secretary: The paragraph reads "Wyndham and elsewhere."

Hon. J. M. DREW: Well, I understood Geraldton was not contemplated. As regards Albany, the port will be served by Pingelly, Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Tambellup, Tenterden, and Denmark. In these districts there are only 523,418 sheep as against the 1,617,660 held in the districts behind Geraldton. These are the figures up to December 31st, 1908. I could not get later figures but, whatever they are, they cannot have changed materially. This means that 81 per cent. of the sheep in the South-West division of the State are in the Victoria, Murchison, and the Gascoyne districts.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Gascoyne is not in the South-West.

Hon. J. M. DREW: No, neither is the Murchison, but the sheep in those districts would come to the freezer at Geraldton. Then again, in the matter of wool export, Geraldton is highest on the list of all the ports in Western Australia. Up to the 30th June, 1909, we exported through Geraldton 4,731,238 lbs. of wool, while through Fremantle there went 4,436,073 lbs. In other words, more wool to the extent of 295,165 lbs. was sent from Geraldton than from Fremantle. Surely these facts alone should induce the Government to take steps to have freezers erected at Geraldton. There was an agitation in the district some time ago, and the Minister for Agriculture was approached, but he would not agree to consent to the erection of the freezer until he had a guarantee of 10,000 lambs a year. If he waits until such a guarantee

is forthcoming he will wait a long time indeed, for it is not likely that the pastoralists of the district will breed a class of lambs suitable for export until they have an assurance that export facilities will be provided. We do not want these freezing works now, but we wish provision to be made for their erection in, say, three years' time, so that the pastoralists and farmers will have ample time in which to start the breeding of lambs suitable for export. I am glad to see that the Government intend to again introduce a measure for the liberalisation of the franchise for the Legislative Council. However, I shall defer my remarks on that question until the time when the Bill comes before the House. I am also glad to notice the great progress in land settlement. I find that 1,650,000 acres have been selected, while 2,600,000 acres have been surveyed. I conclude that this is a record of which any Government should feel proud, but I am sorry to notice that there is not a similar activity displayed in the Mines Department. What is the Mines Department doing for the mining industry? Have any new steps been taken of recent years for the thorough development of the industry, and the encouragement of the prospector? Certainly not to any serious extent. Every assistance is given to the farmers, and wisely so, by the Agricultural Department. The Department has all manner of experts, and a director of agriculture to advise the farmer as to what to grow, and how and when to grow it. Then there are poultry experts, and inspectors of stock, and other inspectors, to say nothing of the gentleman who is travelling through various foreign countries endeavouring to discover parasites for fruit pests. This is all very well, and has my support, but I certainly think that definite and systematic steps should be taken to encourage the mining industry, and I would suggest the establishment of local mining boards in the various centres with the warden of the goldfields as chairman. These men would know who to recommend for assistance, and, in consequence, less money would be wasted and more would be advantageously used than is the case at the

present time. These are not my views alone; they are the views of the people of the Murchison goldfields whom I represent, and who have given the subject a great deal of consideration. There is another matter which I regard as very unfair to those who are engaged in the mining industry, namely the fee chargeable on application for exemption. I must confess that until about three weeks ago I was quite unaware that any such fee was required. It appears there is a minimum fee of three guineas. But, supposing I take up agricultural land and find I am unable to comply with the conditions within the specified time; I apply for exemption, and if exemption is found to be justified, I get it; but I have not a solitary penny to pay in the shape of fees. Why then should any distinction be made between the man on the mine and the man on the land? It seems to me that if exemption is justified it should be granted without a fee having to be paid, while if it be not justified it should not be granted at all. I do hope that at an early date there will be an amendment of the Mining Act in the direction of liberalising the conditions of miners' homestead leases. At present if a miner wishes to take up a homestead lease within two miles of a township he must pay an annual rental of 2s. per acre per year. On the coast the selector has only to pay 6d. per acre per year, and at the end of 20 years he gets his freehold, whereas the miner never obtains the freehold. If the miner wishes to take up a 500-acre lease on the goldfields he pays 6d. per acre per year, and he must also improve it. And the conditions of improvement, I may say, are almost as stringent as those in connection with agricultural land; yet the pastoralist gets the use of this country for three-twentyfifths of a penny per acre, or 10s. a thousand acres; and while the miner has to improve his land, all that the pastoralist has to do is to stock it to the extent of ten sheep to every thousand acres. I would suggest to the Government the reduction of rent of 20 acre blocks to 3d. per acre, and that of 500 acre blocks to 1d. per acre. If that is done, and the area allowed to be taken up be increased something on



the lines suggested by Mr. Gordon in an interview with the *West Australian*—if something is done in that direction there will be a great deal of closer pastoral settlement on the goldfields. The water is close to the surface. Indeed from Yalgoo to Magnet, and half way on to Sandstone, it is possible to get good water within 15 or 16 feet of the surface.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Those rentals do not go on permanently.

Hon. J. M. DREW: After 20 years they are reduced one half, or from 2s. an acre to 1s.; it is 2s. an acre rent for the first 20 years. I notice the Government intend to introduce an amendment of the Electoral Act of 1907, and it certainly calls for amendment. I trust that it will contain provision for the making of preferential voting compulsory. The present system is neither flesh, fish nor good red herring. There is another matter, with reference to the system of preferential voting, which requires attention. In my opinion fraud and corruption are now easily possible under the Act in connection with elections. We all know that all men are not honest; and all presiding officers are not honest. It has sometimes occurred that a presiding officer is appointed because of his violent partisanship.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: That is a serious charge.

Hon. J. M. DREW: There is very grave suspicion that it has been so; I am not referring to recent years, and I wish to say that there is no ground for suspicion at the present time.

The Colonial Secretary: Who are the officers appointed because of their violent partisanship?

Hon. J. M. DREW: I know it has occurred.

The Colonial Secretary: When?

Hon. J. M. DREW: Not in late years, but some years ago. My remarks are not directed against the present Administration.

The Colonial Secretary: The previous one?

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Be definite.

Hon. J. M. DREW: Fraud is possible in connection with the administration of the present Electoral Act.

The Colonial Secretary: Was it perpetrated under the previous Administration?

Hon. J. M. DREW: I do not wish to make charges against anyone.

The Colonial Secretary: You say that men are appointed because they are partisans.

Hon. J. M. DREW: I know that very violent partisans were appointed through the instrumentality of certain candidates. That occurred some years ago, not last year, nor in the last two years. I cannot say that I know of a case having occurred under the present Government. Fraud and corruption are possible especially in connection with preferential voting. The presiding officer has to make a count at the close of the poll, but of the first preference votes only, and he is required to announce the result. As a rule in connection with the poll there are a number of plumpers. These papers are in the custody of the presiding officer and he is not required to seal them. It is left to his own discretion whether he shall seal them or not. He could take the papers to his office and especially in the case of plumpers he could vote "2," "3," or "4," just as he pleased, if he were dishonest enough to do so.

Hon. W. Kingsmill: He could do more than that.

Hon. J. M. DREW: He cannot alter the first preference votes for he has announced the result, and he has to wire that result immediately to the returning officer. He can, however, manipulate the second, third and fourth preferences if he is dishonest enough to do so. Certainly there are scrutineers there, but they do not know how the second and third preference votes are cast. I would suggest that there should be a count of the second and third preference votes as well as the first votes by the presiding officer, and that he should publicly announce the result and then wire it to the returning officer. He should also be obliged to seal the papers in the presence of those in attendance, and then send the papers on to the returning officer. I do not know of any instance where there has been a shadow of suspicion of anything unfair or corrupt having occurred in connection

with such votes, but after giving the Act close study I can see where it would be possible for a biased presiding officer to manipulate the papers successfully without any chance of being detected. There are several other matters I intended to refer to, but I will take the opportunity later on, when the Bills come before this House, to deal with them.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE (North-East): In common with all other members I would like to offer my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on once more being returned as a member, and also upon your reappointment to the high and honourable position you hold. Members are under a debt of gratitude to the electors of the West Province for re-electing you. We can congratulate those electors for doing so, as it has given us the opportunity of once more placing you in the Chair to preside over our deliberations. I would like to welcome the new members of this House. I would mention more particularly the member who has been returned for a goldfields constituency. I refer to the hon. member for the South Province. As a very old resident of the Eastern goldfields I know the reputation Mr. Dodd holds on those fields. I know, and most people living on the goldfields know, that it is owing to the moderate course he has adopted on most questions there that we have had peace in the industries of the fields. Had it not been for the fact that we had a gentleman there who had those moderate views there would have been strife very long ago. Therefore we are to be congratulated on getting a member of the calibre of Mr. Dodd, who now represents a certain section of the community which has had but very few representatives in this Chamber in the past. We have a gentleman who will be able to put the views of that section of the people before us with all fairness, and through his agency we will be well aware what the opinions of that section are. Allow me to offer my congratulations to the Premier of this State on the high honour which has been conferred on him. One member maintained yesterday that in all probability when the Premier reached London he

found that things were very much better in the London Agency than he expected. Let me differ from that member. It is not long since I was in London, and I was not at all satisfied with the way things were conducted in the London agency. It was an admirable move on the part of the Government to get the Premier to go to London, and I hope that now he has been there, and has become conversant with the way things are conducted, there will be a distinct improvement manifested in the working of the agency. The great personality of the Premier has, I feel sure, done a great deal of good for Western Australia. There is no doubt it was his personality and ability that forced him into the limelight immediately after his arrival in London, and he remained in that limelight until he left the old country to return here. I hope that now the Premier is back he will throw that energy into the affairs of the State he exhibited before he went away, and that matters will go on prospering as much now as they have done since he has been Premier. Coming to the Speech of His Excellency, after one has read it one can only come to the conclusion that it is a very comprehensive and ambitious programme to be placed before us. One member has said there is very little to be found fault with, while another has said that the Speech covers the whole of the industries of the State of Western Australia, and I am inclined to agree with both members. There is no doubt that the record, as described in the Speech, of the work done during the past twelve months and of projected works for the coming 12 months is a very comprehensive one. The Government and the people generally are to be sincerely congratulated on the fact that this State has evidently turned the corner. For some years we were under a cloud of depression, but that cloud seems to have become dispersed and we are on the high road to prosperity. Everyone seems optimistic and, I think, justifiably so. There is no doubt that land settlement here has done, and is going to do, great things for us. Let me say here, as an old resident of the goldfields, one who has

spent 15 or 16 years of the best years of his life there, that nothing pleases me more, nor pleases the right-thinking and sensible people on the fields more, than to know that the agricultural districts of the State are in a prosperous condition. There is no jealousy on the part of the goldfields people because of the prosperity of the people on the coast, and we want the people on the coast to feel the same towards the great goldmining industry we are carrying on. In addition to its being very pleasing to learn that the agricultural districts are so flourishing, it is equally pleasing to know that many other industries in the coastal districts are also flourishing. The Speech mentions that the horticultural industry is in a very prosperous condition. We are told that during the past season Western Australian fruits topped the market in London on every shipment. We have shown the people of London, of the Continent, and the rest of the world that we can grow fruit and ship it to them and command the highest prices. This is a very great thing for Western Australia and it will encourage the fruit-growing industry. I believe we have a very large tract of country in the South-West capable of growing fruit suitable to ship to the London market. In the great programme the Government are placing before us there are many very important items. I notice it is the intention of the Government to carry on the policy of agricultural railways. These railways have always had the support of the goldfields members, and I am sure that the Bills to be brought down later on in the session will receive the support of the goldfields members—that is those Bills having for their object the opening up of more agricultural districts by means of railways. We are also told that the Government will spend a large amount of money in building grain stores and in adopting modern methods of shipping grain at Fremantle. This scheme will also have the support of goldfields members because we realise that in connection with this great grain-growing industry we have there must be the most modern and effective methods of shipping if we are to compete successfully with the

outside world. It was interesting to listen to Mr. Patrick when he described to us the methods of shipping wheat in bulk. Two or three years ago I travelled through the great wheat-growing States of America and Canada and noticed that there was no handling of wheat in bags there, but that it was all dealt with in bulk. I think there are difficulties in the way of introducing the bulk system here and the Government are wise to give every consideration before going to the expense of instituting that method. It would, perhaps, be wise of them to appoint a Royal Commission to go into the matter before deviating from the present method. While I am prepared to congratulate the coastal people on the great measure of prosperity which appears to have come to them. I am sorry to say that, as an observant man a man who visits the Capital very frequently, and who has an opportunity of meeting a great many of the commercial and leading citizens of Perth, I find that among all this prosperity there appears one little rift in the lute. I will describe this later on and will ask for the sympathy of the coastal people towards the first great primary industry of this State; I refer to the gold-mining industry. It has been significant that in almost every speech made in this House during the present session there has been very little reference until to-day to the great mining industry. Is it that hon. members have forgotten that the gold mining industry is the primary industry of Western Australia? Have they forgotten what that industry has done for Western Australia, or is it that they consider that the mining industry is well able to stand on its own bottom and does not require assistance from members in this Chamber?

Hon. F. Connor: Water schemes, etcetera.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: The water scheme, and other things, have done more for Western Australia indirectly, probably, than anything that can be mentioned. I ask, whether hon. members have forgotten this great mining industry. I hope that such is not the case, because they must realise that the

industry was one that lifted Western Australia from a state of little importance indeed, into what it is to-day with its population of 280,000 people. It was owing to the discovery of gold that people flocked to this State, and it has been owing to the large consuming population on the goldfields that the impetus was given to the agricultural and pastoral industries of the State. The goldfields have for many years afforded a splendid market to the producers of grain, mutton, fruit, and vegetables, and for fish. I just want to give a few figures in connection with the mining industry. My desire is to show that it is not the decaying industry we are given to believe it is by men holding prominent positions in this fair State of ours—

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Can you give their names?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: Yes; it is not a difficult matter to give their names. I want to point out that during the last 20 years the gold mining industry has produced 95 millions sterling, and that this industry which is being decried now, employed in 1909 18,336 men. It is a well known fact, and statistics will prove it, that by multiplying the number of men employed on the mines by four you will get the number of people who are supported by the mining industry, and thus we have a population of 73,000 people existing on the mining industry. These 73,000 people who are living on the goldfields of Western Australia are all large consumers, and it is owing to the splendid market they have given to the agricultural producers that the agricultural industry has progressed and prospered as it has done.

Hon. T. F. O. Brimage: The figures you have given are exclusive of Government officials.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: Oh, yes. In addition to the mining industry there are many allied industries which employ a great number of men. For instance, there is the wood industry on the goldfields which is a very important one and employs very many men, and then we

have foundries and various other factories in Kalgoorlie and other centres, as well as in Perth and Fremantle, which are supported by the mining industry. It is true that the output of gold has fallen away during the last six years. The output for last year was worth £6,800,000; six years ago it was worth £8,800,000, a shrinkage of two millions. But then, as members have pointed out, the number of men employed on the goldfields is more than it was six years ago, and the tonnage of ore treated is a great deal more than it was six years ago, while the State is getting more benefit from the smaller output of gold to-day than it was six years ago. The dividends paid last year totalled £1,360,000. I am just going to give a few of these figures because they are big figures, and want to be brought before the attention of members who are not connected with the mining industry to make them realise what that mining industry means to Western Australia, and to try and get their sympathy towards helping that industry along.

The Colonial Secretary: The Government are not unsympathetic towards the mining industry.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: As an observant man who has mixed with leading commercial and professional people of Perth and Fremantle, I say there are a large number of people down here who are not sympathetic towards the goldfields. It is a notorious fact that there are many men who have made fortunes on the goldfields, and who have gone away from them and have done nothing to assist those goldfields, and that when they have got away they have commenced to decry them. A short time ago a gentleman who was aspiring to political honours in the Federal arena, stated publicly in this State that it would not be long before all those people who had sufficient money to get away from the goldfields would be tumbling over each other to make their exit from the goldfields, and that there would be many who would not have sufficient means to get away. I say that is a deliberate and misleading statement.

Hon. J. W. Langsford: It was not Mr. Kingsmill.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: No.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Is that the only case you have?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: There are other cases. Not so long ago a gentleman holding a high municipal position in Perth, speaking at a dinner, made a remark that the goldfields—I do not remember the exact words—but the inference was that the goldfields were on the down grade. At the same time he expressed the desirability of building Perth up as much as possible. He evidently did not realise that it was the prosperity of the goldfields and the agricultural districts, and the various industries of the State that would enable Perth to be built up, and that if the various industries did not progress Perth could not be made to advance. We also read in the daily papers quite recently of another aspirant to political honours in a country district, who told the people we had come to a parting of the ways and we would have to give all our attention to the agricultural industry, which was the backbone of the State, because the gold industry was on the decline. I could give many other instances. I have conversed with men holding good positions in the State who have decried the gold-mining industry and who are prone to throw the mining industry aside just as they would a sucked orange, having got all the good possible out of it, and having no further use for it.

The Colonial Secretary: That is not the attitude of the present Government.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: I will refer to what the Government have done, but I want to give my ideas as to what ought to be done to encourage the gold-mining industry in the near future. I would like to say that the present Government have done a good deal to assist the mining industry, and I hope they will go on doing the good work which they have commenced, but there has been a want of energy even on the part of the present Government. The Mines Department, as far as I can see, have not got the same amount of energy that they had a few years ago. I think, to a very great ex-

tent, this is caused by the fact that the whole of the Mines officials have been stationed in the city. The environment of Perth is really too much for them. The Perth people are not interested in mining, and the consequence is that the officials of the department, mixing with the Perth people, do not get that incentive from them to try and improve the industry that they would get if they mixed with the people who are actually working or who are engaged in the management or control of the mines of the State. I do not say that it is possible to move the Mines Department bodily from Perth and put it in a different environment, but I say the Mines Department can be shaken up to a great extent. Not so many weeks ago, in speaking to an officer in the Mines Department who had been stationed on the goldfields for a long time, this officer admitted that now that he had been in Perth for two or three years he had not the same interest in the industry that he had when he was stationed on the goldfields. I think that applies to most of them. We have the Under Secretary in Perth who rarely visits the goldfields. If we were running a big commercial concern we would not have the manager 400 or 500 miles away and keep him there doing his business by correspondence. There is also the State Mining Engineer who sits in his office in Perth, and who ought to be on the goldfields or spending seven-eighths of his time on the goldfields. Then there is the manager of the State battery system who spends a great deal of his time in Perth, while there are many other officers who are always to be found in Perth and whose business should be principally on the goldfields. I think if the officers of the Mines Department were given to understand that they must keep themselves in touch with the industry and make frequent visits to the goldfields and meet the people who are developing the industry, it would be much better for that industry. The Government of Western Australia have done a great deal with the system of State batteries. I have travelled a good deal through the goldfields, and I have inspected most of the State batteries on the Eastern Goldfields during the past few

months. I find that the Government have spent £280,000 on these batteries, and that they have been the means of producing three millions sterling in gold since they were first established. The batteries have done a great work and I believe they will go on doing a great work, but at the same time I say that those responsible for the management of them should get about a little more to see what is being done, and to see that the prospectors and the men who are using them get a fair deal every time. I think if that were done there would be a good deal more satisfaction among prospectors. A more liberal policy should be adopted by the Mines Department in connection with providing outfits for prospecting parties. The prospectors of Western Australia have not all left the State; there are still a few of them about, and they want help. They are a peculiar class of the community; they do not come to you and ask to be helped; they are men who have to be hunted up and offers made to them to provide them with outfits. The Government own a number of camels and horses on the goldfields, and most of the time these camels and horses are idle in paddocks. Greater use might be made of them, and prospectors ought to be provided with them.

The Colonial Secretary: We provide camels if they are wanted.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: Probably if we fitted out more prospecting parties we would have more new finds. Then again I think there should be a system of lending moneys to prospectors to equip their leases. It is perhaps more difficult to lend money to a prospector than to an agriculturist; in the one case we have the land and improvements, but in the other case it is perhaps more a speculation than an investment. But surely with an industry such as the gold mining industry we can afford to be speculative, and to take some risks. On the goldfields the business people have to take risks, and I think the Government would be justified in taking a certain amount of risk in helping this industry along. There are many other ways in which the gold mining industry might be helped; one could spend a lot of time in talking about

the way the industry could be helped along; but there is one method I would like to mention, and that is in connection with the Geological Department. Not long since a deputation from the Chamber of Mines at Kalgoorlie waited on the Minister for Mines and outlined a scheme to improve the Geological Department, which would very likely help to open up new auriferous country. It would be worth members' while to get the report of that deputation and read it, because it was a practical proposition by practical men, who showed how it would be possible, by having a proper Geological Department in Western Australia, for prospectors to know when they got into a certain part of the country whether it was any use prospecting for gold there or not. The Geological Department is now very much undermanned, and those in charge of it have been spending most of their time in the North-West, and not in the known auriferous belts of the Eastern Goldfields and the Murchison. Another way to help the gold mining industry would be to have a system of putting down bore holes. These could be put down, and pegs put in where there was a bore, and maps could be prepared showing the information derived from the borings taken out, and these records could be kept in the Mines Office, so that when a prospector wished to sink on any ground where there was a bore put down, all he would have to do would be to take the number of the peg, go to the office and get all the information possible. It would probably save him a great deal of time, and he would not have to sink a shaft without having some idea of what he was going to get when he sunk. I think the industry might be assisted also by the lowering of the railway freights. I believe the time has arrived when the railway freights might be revised. They are particularly heavy on the goldfields in many instances, and I know it is a very serious matter to small leaseholders very often to have to pay the heavy railway freights on machinery, so that I think it would be wise on the part of the Government if they had the whole of the railway freights put under revision, and if in

many cases they were reduced. There are just one or two other matters I would like to mention. One is in connection with the pastoral industry on the goldfields. A few months ago the Minister for Lands made a trip on the Eastern Goldfields. It was the first trip he had made to the north of Kalgoorlie, and I accompanied him. The Minister was very much struck with the possibilities of the country to the north of Kalgoorlie from a pastoral point of view, and I believe it is his intention to visit the goldfields again and inquire into its possibilities more closely than he did on his last visit. It was just about the time he visited the goldfields that I noticed that the Imperial Government expressed the intention of establishing horse-breeding ranches in various parts of the Empire. Australia was mentioned, and South Africa, and Canada, and one or two other places; and it struck me that if they were going to establish a ranch in Australia the Eastern Goldfields between Kalgoorlie and Murchison would be very favourable for the purpose. A lot of horse-breeding goes on there now, and I am told it is a splendid climate for horse-breeding. It would be well for the Government to keep this in view should the Imperial Government decide to carry out their intention of establishing a horse ranch in this part of the world. Another point on which I wish to dwell is in connection with the railway policy of the Government. It is well known that I am connected with what is known as the Esperance Railway League. I have been a supporter of the Esperance railway for the last 16 or 17 years, and I believe that the people from Esperance right through Norseman to the Eastern Goldfields have not been well and fairly treated in regard to that railway. I believe that many years ago that railway was practically promised to them by the then Premier.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Who was that, Sir John Forrest?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: Yes.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Never, never!

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: We were given to understand that when Sir John Forrest made his memorable visit to Esperance he promised it.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: No, not a syllable; I know it too well.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: At all events a great deal of money was spent in Esperance at that time in the way of erecting jetties and warehouses and so on, which led the people to understand that the Government had some idea of building a railway from Esperance into the interior. It is a question which is agitating the minds of the people of the goldfields to a large extent to-day. I have supported, as I have said, this railway for the last 16 or 17 years, and I see no reason to withhold my support from the railway to-day. My principal reason some years ago for wishing the railway to be built was that Esperance would provide a suitable health resort for the large population on our goldfields. From this point of view it is more important to-day that the railway should be built, because in addition to the large male adult population on the goldfields, we have now a large number of women, and a lot of children growing up, and surely the health of the women and children of the goldfields is worth a little consideration on the part of the Government of Western Australia. The climate of Perth and the surrounding seaside resorts is not suitable for the women and children of the goldfields to come to. We have that on the authority of the medical men on the goldfields.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What is wrong about it?

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: It is the same latitude.

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: It is too much of the same sort of climate as we have on the goldfields. Albany, which is looked upon as being an ideal climate, is too far by rail, and it is too expensive for most people to make the journey. We can reach the coast of the Southern Ocean, where there is almost the same climate as they have in Albany, by a journey of 220 or 230 miles to Esperance. Surely for this one reason alone it would be worth while building the railway. Years ago when we supported it there was no railway from Coolgardie to Norseman, but to-day half the distance has been

bridged by a railway, and there is now only 120 miles to be completed to the coast. The railway would not do any harm to the interests of Perth and Fremantle, while being very convenient to the people of the goldfields. At all events, as a goldfields man, I appeal to the people on the coast to build this railway. Even if it did not pay when built, I would still urge that the line be built from the health point of view alone. Although I have not travelled through the district, during the last few months I have met a number of men who have spent weeks, and some of them months, in prospecting for agricultural areas in that district. I am sure if many members of the House could only hear the earnest manner in which these people talk of the agricultural possibilities of the land there, they could not fail to be convinced of the quality of the land. As for the advisory board, which the Minister hurried through the district, doing 120 miles in two or three days, their report can only be looked upon as a farce. The members of the board will admit they had no opportunity to examine the land, and had very little better knowledge of it than they had before they started from Norseman. The Government should take steps to see the extent of the agricultural land between Norseman and Esperance, and if they find there is land suitable for agriculture they should build the line at once. I would go further and say that, even if the land is not so good as it is described to be, the line should be built, because Esperance is the natural port of the goldfields, and it would be the means of conserving the health of the vast population of women and children on the goldfields. That is all I have to say in connection with the mining industry. The Esperance railway is a matter that will be brought before the Premier in a few days, when no doubt it will receive every attention from him. We anticipate getting a favourable reply from him, and we anticipate that the line will be built in a very short time. I would like to say something now in connection with some remarks made yesterday by a member in regard to the Western Australian Fire

Brigades Board. I have the honour of being a member of the board, and I take this opportunity of making a few remarks on the work the board have done since the Act came into operation. The remarks made by one hon. member yesterday go to show that a considerable amount of discontent exists among the smaller municipalities in the metropolitan area, and among some roads boards, owing to the operations of the Act. It is true that the Act was only assented to in the latter portion of last year, and that the necessary *Gazette* notices were only made in February, and that the Act only came into operation on the 1st of March. The burden of the complaint of the municipalities, according to the hon. member who spoke yesterday, is that they have to provide the amount to meet the levy made on them by the board for fire purposes, and they say that in many instances the amount the board ask for exceeds the amount of the rates collected for the year by the particular roads board or small municipality. If that is correct I can only say these local governing bodies levying that small rate are making it somewhat light for the ratepayers, because the amounts levied by the fire brigades board are in very many instances quite a small sum in comparison with the protection the board are giving. The hon. member mentioned that in some cases the amount the board levied exceeded by three times the amount the local governing body had been in the habit of spending on fire protection. I have no reason to doubt that; but if it is the case, the local governing bodies have not been doing their duty by the ratepayers, because if they had fire protection for the paltry amounts mentioned, in some cases £20, the fire protection could not have been of a very adequate nature, unless the amount were supplemented by other means. Fire brigades in many municipalities and roads boards, in addition to getting small amounts from the municipalities and roads boards, have been in the habit of going round for contributions from the ratepayers and getting up entertainments to help the funds of the brigades, and they have also been going cap in hand to



the Government and getting assistance. When the Fire Brigades Board was created it was intended to do away with that, so that there would be no longer any need for the brigades to go to the Government, or to the residents of the districts, cap in hand, for contributions, and no reason for them to get up entertainments to swell their funds.

*(Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.)*

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: When we adjourned for tea I was speaking about the Fire Brigades Act. Quite recently in another place a question was asked the Government, whether they intended to repeal this measure or amend it. The reply given was that the Government intended to do neither. This Act was only brought into force in March of this year and it has not had time to have a proper trial given to it. I should say before trying to amend the Act we should give it a fair trial. A great deal of time was given to this measure by a select committee and a large number of witnesses were examined. It is not quite correct to say that none of the mayors or town clerks of the various metropolitan municipalities had an opportunity of giving evidence before that committee, because, if I remember rightly, the town clerk and mayor of North Fremantle were called in addition to the mayors of Fremantle and Perth, and a number of other residents was examined and a good deal of time was given to the consideration of the measure, and it was thought that it left this Chamber as perfect as we could possibly make it at that time. I am prepared to believe that it will be necessary in the course of time to make amendments, but that time has not yet arrived. It is only fair to give an Act a trial before anything serious is done in the shape of amending it. It am prepared to admit hardships are inflicted on some of the roads board districts, and in some of the smaller municipalities within the metropolitan area. These hardships I hope we shall be able to rectify and probably make some adjustment this year, and the next year these small roads boards and municipalities will be able to approach

the Governor-in-Council and appeal to get their area restricted, or get it taken out of the jurisdiction of the board altogether.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Why not adjust it at once?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: I say we may be able to give them some redress during the present year, because all the members of the board realise that some hardship has been inflicted on some of the roads boards and smaller municipalities. Taking them as a whole I think they are getting a good service for the amount of money they are being asked to pay. I look on the measure as one quite justified, and one which will do a great deal of good to the State. It is compelling the insurance companies to contribute a fair proportion towards the upkeep of the brigades, for these companies have been getting the services of the brigade up to the present time without any cost. In reply to the member who brought the matter forward yesterday, I say we ought to give the Act a fair trial before doing anything in the shape of amending it.

Hon. D. G. Gawler: Will the board assist in getting some of the roads boards who are hardly treated exempted?

Hon. R. D. McKENZIE: Some of the goldfields boards have waited on the Minister who controls this Act, and he has asked that two members of the board should consult with him and see if some redress cannot be given. I have much pleasure in supporting the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE (North-East): Like other members I wish to express regret at the loss of our late King, and also to congratulate the present Monarch on ascending the throne. We have in him one who thoroughly understands the British Empire because he has travelled so much. I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your re-election. I do claim that in yourself we have a gentleman fitted for the position, and who uses intelligence in carrying out his duties. With regard to the Governor's Speech, I think it is the longest one I have heard during the 10 years I

have been in Parliament. I do not think that the Government have missed much. With due regard to what we have printed before us in the Speech, I regret exceedingly that some little notice has not been taken of the mining industry. It seems to me that the industry which I represent has fallen in note by the coastal people and also by, perhaps, many of the agriculturists, and I am afraid that it would have been forgotten altogether by the Government were it not for the fact that they are glad of the revenue derivable from the industry for the upkeep of the State. I think we have to regret that some little notice has not been taken of an industry of such value, especially to a young country. As a goldfields representative I agree with the agriculturists in the wonderful development of agriculture here, and I congratulate Mr. Mitchell for the interest which he has taken in that industry, and the way in which he has conducted his department. At the same time I cannot help thinking that the Government are granting favours in too small a portion of this great State. The whole of the interests of the Government are centred around Perth and south towards Albany—or, rather, just around Katanning.

Hon. J. F. Cullen: Good country.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: The agricultural centres are too confined. We have ports all around this State, why could we not open them up? Why not open up Esperance and Ravensthorpe and Geraldton? When Lord Kitchener was here he advised us not to build railways spasmodically, but rather to build them into the hinterland of the State. The Government would do well to follow such advice and drive our railways from the various ports into the hinterland. There is no doubt in my mind the agricultural lands of Australia right around extend fully 100 miles inland from the coast. From what I know and have read there is a good agricultural country extending inland for 100 miles. Some years ago when I was down to the south of Kurnalpi I noticed that there were good agricultural areas there, and I know that all these areas are good wheat-pro-

ducing country. I certainly think if we are going in for the problem of agriculture and wheat producing the Government should push lines from Esperance into these various centres, and do the same thing from other ports around the coast. I am thoroughly in accord with a policy of decentralisation. It is useful from a defence standpoint and also from a developing standpoint. We should not confine our methods of development to too small an area. Certainly the agriculture of this State is an industry we can be proud of, and I am as pleased as anybody it has gone ahead so fast. In regard to the mining industry, as I said before, I am sorry the Speech contains so little in regard to it. To my mind it seems to have been strangled. The idea of the present Government seems to be to divest the whole of the mining areas, and to centralise the population of the State near the coast. The great fault in the Mines Department is the fact that there are altogether too many subsidiary departments, if I may so call them, so many small departments in one large department. The Minister for Mines at the present time controls the inspectors of mines, the machinery department, the public batteries, the mines water supply, the Government Analyst, the inspectors of spirituous liquors, and the School of Mines. As to the first three, there is no doubt, as far as I can see, and I claim to have a good deal of knowledge of mining in this country, both from experience and what I have seen, these three departments could be amalgamated. There is no necessity for an inspection department, also a machinery department. In Victoria they have only one department for these two matters, and the Public Service Commissioner here recommended in 1908 that the same thing should apply to this State. I cannot see why Mr. Gregory should not follow that advice. If we have a Public Service Commissioner and he recommends that two departments should be amalgamated, why should we not carry out his recommendation? The Public Service Commissioner is over our service and we rely on him to guide the public service: why is his advice not taken? A tre-

mendous saving could be effected, and the savings I should like to see spent in prospecting work. But here we have these two expensive departments still carried on. The difference in cost compared with Victoria is appalling. I find that in Victoria these two departments cost £3,600 while in Western Australia the cost is £7,000. Well, now, £3,500 a year spent in developing mines, or supplying prospectors with outfits, would go a good way towards opening up new fields. Then another separate department is that of public batteries. There is no doubt in my mind that that also could be put under the State Mining Engineer, and to that end I would certainly enlarge the scope of the inspector of mines on these fields. The inspector could also control the public batteries and the Machinery Department just as, to-day, he is controlling the inspection of mines alone. Travelling up and down the mines as I do, there is scarcely a day on which I do not see Mr. Dunstan, or Mr. Matthews, or some other gentleman connected with these small departments, travelling about to look after these distant centres. Mr. McKenzie, in his speech to-night, mentioned the same thing, namely, that it could all be controlled by one head. It is just the same as a mining manager looking after the batteries and also the boilers and machinery. I would advocate the inspector of mines in each district being appointed head of the Mines Department in his particular district, and would put the machinery and battery men under him. He could see that the work was properly carried out, and we would find that the cost would be 25 per cent. of what it is to-day. Again, the Mines Water Supply Department is separate altogether from that of the Gold-fields Water Supply and the Water Conservation Departments. What is the reason for all these small departments? I think that there should be an amalgamation among them, and that the saving therefrom should be spent on further development. We also have the Government Analyst's Department here. That is very necessary but, in addition, we have an inspector of liquors. There is

no reason in the world why these two departments should not be amalgamated.

The Colonial Secretary: He is not in the Mines Department at all.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Anyhow, there is such a department. There is an inspector of spirituous liquors. He goes around the country and samples brands of liquors from various houses, after which he sends them to the Government Analyst, who examines and reports on them. Surely Mr. Mann could control that department and carry on the work. Instead of that we have two separate departments. Another department under Mr. Gregory is that of the School of Mines. There is little doubt that could be economically and well managed if it were put under the Education Department. I would like to see more attention paid to opening up new fields. It is of no use talking, session after session, with regard to the present mines of the State, because they are all well known; their monthly output is just as sure as the rising of the sun. They are mines that have years of development work ahead of them, and we know exactly how long they are likely to last, inasmuch as they are mines of proved stability. But the matter that is of importance to this State is the opening up of new mines, and I regret exceedingly that Mr. Gregory, when approached by a noted geologist, Dr. McLaren, did not take that gentleman's offer to work in with our department here in order to get a thoroughly up-to-date geological survey of the whole of the mineral belts of the State. In all the civilised countries of the world a geological survey is looked upon as most important. Certainly, it is invaluable to the prospector. The geologist points out for prospectors the areas in which gold is likely to be found; and in a country like this, with some 15 years of development, rocks and schists and substances which guide the geologist can be found throughout the State, and a geological plan would be of the very greatest value to the prospectors. I had a conversation with our own Government Geologist only a few days ago, and he admitted that it was a very necessary

thing, but explained that the Government would not grant the money to carry out this important work. I think this is a foolish policy. We are all looking on the mining industry as somewhat dull at the present time, and this is one of the things that would help to resuscitate it. There is no doubt that in the minds of mining men and the residents of the goldfields, the mineral belt of Western Australia is the greatest known in the world. We find gold from Norseman in the South to Wyndham in the North, Kurnalpi in the East, and, perhaps, to the Darling Ranges in the West. We want a geological survey of the whole of these areas. These geological surveys are generally made in the vicinity of existing mining camps. Then the prospector can go from one camp to another and probably find gold-bearing areas hitherto unsuspected by any but the geologist. The Chamber of Mines have recommended the Government to go in for this geological survey. They see the necessity for opening up fresh mines and mineral areas, and they went very exhaustively into this matter with Dr. McLaren, and recommended to the Government that this question of a geological survey should be dealt with as soon as possible. I think the Government could go farther and fare much worse than by following the advice of men connected with the Chamber of Mines. Other countries see the value of this geological survey. In the United States there is issued a prospectors' guide, and as soon as the prospector gets it he knows where to go. But here they are left to exploit rocks as little likely to bear gold, or other precious metal, as is the sand on Fremantle beach. The total cost of that survey is estimated at £2,500, which is not a very large expenditure to ask the Government to put into a work of that kind. I think it should be done, and done forthwith. A good deal has been said by my colleague with regard to the old established mines in this country, but I want to touch a little upon the charges that are exacted by the Government from the smaller man. The person who is working a small mine is always living in hopes of so developing his mine that it will prove worthy of being floated into a

large company. The Government battery charges at Menzies and Leonora are 10s. for crushing and 10s. for cyaniding. If a man brings along 100 tons of 10dwt. stuff the charges are £100 in treatment costs. The Government give the result of that crushing over the plates. That is to say, the owner gets what he can from over the plates and out of the boxes; but, subsequently, it is treated by cyanide, and the Government only give him 75 per cent. of the result. One would think that the Government battery would return the whole of the gold.

The Colonial Secretary: The charges at Menzies are only 8s. 2d.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Well, that is too high. Then, again, instead of being paid for the 100 tons, he is only paid for 80 tons. Therefore, the man loses £20 on that 100 tons of sands; and, deducting £20 from the 75 per cent paid him on the result of the gold won, the costs amount to £140. The total value of the 100 tons is £200, therefore the result to the prospector is only £60 profit, out of which he has to pay for carting, and all other expenses. I am hopeful that Mr. Gregory will go in for more up-to-date appliances. With the plants he has at the present time it would cost very little to instal gas instead of steam engines. The firewood bill at these out-back centres is altogether too high. I can quite realise that the Government batteries cannot operate as cheaply as can some other batteries, on account of these charges. The stone should be treated for 13s. or 14s. and still the work be made to pay. But it cannot be done if these departments are all managed in Perth. Let the Minister instruct the Inspector of Mines to take over the control of the batteries and the Machinery Department. For a man who has a grievance to be compelled to come down here to head office and consult one of the small departments is altogether more than should be expected of him. It is asking the prospectors to do too much. I can quote another case where the Government have been very hard towards the small man. I am not dealing much with the big men, for the large mines are established and it is no use talking about

them. They are satisfied. The Mining Act we have was framed for the control of the big mines, but it is no good for the small mine. Two or three years ago I asked the Government to introduce a Prospectors Bill, so as to get away from the laws provided in the Mining Act for the control of the big mines. The smaller mines do not have great stopes to be examined by mines inspectors, and the small mines can be more easily managed by the Government than the larger ones. A Prospectors' Bill is badly needed in the State. I would refer to the case of the North Star mine at Malcolm. It is a little venture which was floated one night when Mr. Gregory was paying a visit to that centre. The residents of the town contributed £1,500 and the Minister offered to lend them a similar sum to open up the old mine. The company put up a battery and cyanide plant with a portion of the money, while the balance was expended in opening up the property. The company were not able to pay dividends but out of the profits they put up more machinery, among which was a compressor, which at the time it was installed was worth about £800. They want to sink another 100 feet in order to further test the property, and they asked the Minister to release the compressor from the mortgage, as by that means they would be able to raise enough money to sink the shaft another 100 feet. The Minister, however, would not allow that as it was taking away part of the assets of the mine, over which he had a lien for £1,500. It was very hard that the company could not get the release.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: The sum of £1,500 was lent before the compressor was obtained.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: That is so; the compressor was not in the original mortgage. It was paid for out of the profits of the mine, and to sink an extra 100 feet the company wanted to raise £400. This they could have done if the compressor had been released from the mortgage. It is provided in the mortgage, however, that everything on the lease belongs to the Crown until the money is paid off, therefore the Minister would

not permit the release. This little property has been a regular gold mine to the Government, for it has paid something like £350 in railway carriage and about £250 for fresh water. Therefore, so far as the Government are concerned, the asset is a really good one. The trains have to run to that district whether the North Star is working or not, so that all the company contribute is so much profit to the Government. We cannot get away from the fact that the community subscribed £1,500 to the mining proposition. The Government advanced another £1,500, and by this means a community is kept going, that portion of the State is kept populated and a considerable good is being achieved. The department should release the piece of machinery I have referred to so that more development work can be done on the property.

The Colonial Secretary: Was not that £1,500 due two years ago?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Yes.

The Colonial Secretary: And the Government extended the time.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: Yes, but they still have the same asset. As a matter of fact, there is more on the mine now than at the time the Government lent the £1,500. When the company first formed the North Star was worth nothing. The Government lent the money on the machinery for they knew that, if sold, it would bring nearly the price that was lent. The people of the district came along with the other £1,500 and made a mine out of the property. The investment is a sound one. We complain in the back districts that we have too few visits from men like Mr. Montgomery. How different are things in the agricultural centres, for there men like Professor Lowrie and Mr. Paterson are always paying visits and giving advice.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: When they go to the Norseman country, however, they are objected to.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: I do not think they are. Take the great agricultural centres; we find these gentlemen helping the farmers, advising them and, if necessary, commencing work for them. There is not the same thing for the miner

and prospector who have to pay high rates, high fees and, if there is an exemption, are compelled to pay £3 for it. Evidently the question, from the point of view of the Government, is how much they can compel the poor miner and prospector to pay; they are robbed of every penny they can make.

Hon. F. Connor: There never was so much done for the mining industry in any part of the world as there has been here.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: And no country has had so much done for it by the mining industry of this State. However, I do not like to see comparisons of that kind. I have been a long time in this State, in fact I may say I am married to this State, my children are all "sand-groppers," and I am just as jealous of the State as Mr. Connor is. I know how vital the mining industry is to an agricultural community. There is not a product grown which is not consumed by the miner. Take wheat, chaff, oats, or anything else produced; all are required by the mining community. I trust the agricultural members will assist the miner to get more done for him. Let the laws be easier so that he can manipulate his mine and not be charged such high rent for it when he is making no profits. The North Star Company have had to pay £100 rent for the mine and they have not had one single dividend for themselves. Every penny that mine has earned has gone back into the mine, in order to make the money lent by the Government more secure. The property is now worth £5,000 or £6,000 and all that is owing is £1,500. The company are struggling to get down another 100 feet in order to make a still greater mine of it.

Hon. F. Connor: Let us subscribe the money here among ourselves.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: I am very glad to hear that suggestion. If the people on the goldfields want to bring any matter before the department they have great trouble in doing so, for they are dragged down all the way, say from Laverton or Malcolm, to the City and are kept waiting down here a fortnight before they get an answer to their request.

We would prefer that the Government should give the inspectors of mines greater powers than they now possess. There has been talk of separation, but we are not seeking to separate from Perth, by no means, there is no question of that kind, although an "evening contemporary" has thrown out the weapon of separation. All we ask for is that a responsible officer of the department should dwell among us. He should be the inspector of mines and we could approach him with our requirements. We cannot do so now for we have to get up an inspector from Perth or apply to the head office. There are altogether too many departments controlling the mining industry and much trouble and expense is caused in consequence. This could all be obviated if the local inspector were given more power, and then the industry would go ahead by leaps and bounds.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: Do you only want one inspector?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: One for each district.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: That would be expensive.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: There is no doubt about the great value the mining industry is to the State. No better market could be found than the goldfields. On the London market, wheat one day is 4s., and 3s. the next, but the prices on the goldfields do not fluctuate, remaining always about the same figure. I hope that more will be done for the mining industry in the future. Now to turn to a question that is of interest to Mr. Connor, that is the freezing of bullocks in the North-West. Here is a case where the Government are going in for building huge freezing works, although nearly all the men connected with the business are worth £100,000 or more, and are in a position to build their own freezing works. They go to the Government, however, and ask them to build the works; naturally they do so if they think the Government will bear the cost. I can scarcely understand the Government entering into the project, considering that the gentlemen connected with the industry are so wealthy, and have made so

much out of it. Far better would it be for the Government to put a little more money into the mining industry, and prospect the country for the benefit of the people of the State, rather than do everything for those living abroad. Mr. Throssell mentioned the question of the purchase for £55,000 of the large estate belonging to Mr. Butcher. Last year when the Agricultural Lands Purchase Bill was before the House I objected to the Government being allowed to buy large estates without first bringing the matter before Parliament. For a sum like £55,000 to be paid by the Government, without consulting Parliament, for the purchase of a private estate is altogether a mistake.

The Colonial Secretary: It is done on the advice of the board.

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: The Government should take Parliament into their confidence when buying up private estates like that. It is out of all reason that they should be allowed to spend so huge a sum in buying any private estate, especially considering the fact that we have hundreds of thousands of acres of Government land ready to be settled. One of the questions of great moment to the country is the way in which our timber areas are being depleted. I understand that the Government reserve is under 100,000 acres, and that with the great number of railways that we have to build, according to this lengthy epistle, the Governor's Speech, which we have heard read, we will soon have to be importing sleepers. We have the transcontinental railway to allow for and, I hope, the Esperance railway, besides many other railways in the State, and the timber acreage at the present time is really very small indeed. I think that the Government should look into that question almost immediately, because if they are going to import sleepers for the building of these various railways it will be a very serious item for this young country. In the same way the Government are spending some £25,000 on the Busselton jetty to give greater facilities for the export of timber from that port. I also understand that the timber combine are guaranteeing to put

so much over that jetty so as to pay the Government for the expenditure which is being incurred. I would wish that the Government would listen to similar propositions with regard to other works, and if they wanted it we could find a guarantee for a good deal of traffic to pass over the line between Norseman and Esperance. Personally, I think that the combine should have been left to construct their own jetty because they will have almost an exclusive right to the use of that jetty. I have a note with regard to harbour trusts. I see that Albany now is trying to get a harbour trust.

Hon. J. W. HACKETT: Do you want a harbour trust at Kalgoorlie?

Hon. T. F. O. BRIMAGE: No, but we may want one at Esperance Bay. I think harbour boards are becoming rather numerous, and the best thing the Government can do is to look into the question and establish a marine board instead of independent bodies around the coast. A harbour trust is all very well in its way, but so many of them are being appointed, that every little bay and inlet will be wanting one for itself. The marine board as it is established in South Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales is a really good idea and controls the coast and various public works in connection therewith very well indeed. I have much pleasure in supporting the Address-in-Reply.

Hon. V. HAMERSLEY (East): I beg to move—

*That the debate be adjourned.*

Motion negatived.

The PRESIDENT: If no one desires to speak I will put the question.

The Colonial Secretary: I would just like to explain—

Hon. F. CONNOR: If the Colonial Secretary replies will that close the debate? I think we ought to adjourn.

The PRESIDENT: The motion for adjournment cannot now be put for another fifteen minutes. The question is, that the Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The Hon. Mr. Pennefather, and another member not present to-night, desire to speak

on the Address-in-Reply, and they asked me to secure the adjournment of the debate over this evening so that they might be able to address the House.

A pause ensued.

The PRESIDENT: Does any hon. member desire to speak now?

Hon. F. CONNOR (North): I think it is hardly a fair proposition that members should be expected to make their speeches under such circumstances. Personally, I am not prepared to speak because I wanted to give to the House some figures in connection with the pastoral industry which are in the course of preparation, and I would also have liked to reply to Mr. Brimage and to have had more time to consider his remarks. I will be honest and say I want this debate to be prolonged, and I rose simply for the purpose of protesting against the proposal to carry this motion without sufficient debate. If I may be allowed now I will try to talk out time.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to point out to the hon. member that he will not have another opportunity of speaking.

Hon. F. CONNOR: I will go on then with this stereotyped business. I think it is the usual thing, and whether it is the usual thing or not, it is my great pleasure indeed to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your return to the position which you have adorned for such a considerable time, and which I hope sincerely that you will continue to adorn for a great number of years. It is in the air that this assembly, which you, Mr. President, first, and I think I may say Dr. Hackett next, and the Colonial Secretary afterwards, adorn so well, not only with credit and honour to yourselves but with profit to the country, is going to be attacked by a section of the community which exists in Parliament, and by the people of the State generally, and I believe it is even suggested that this House is not necessary and should not exist. During the last session of Parliament a Bill was brought before this House for the purpose of reducing the franchise for the election of members to this Chamber. I voted against that Bill being carried,

and I did so because I thought at the time it was not opportune that we should agree that any alteration, and a material alteration too, should occur in the Constitution of this House. I take this opportunity of saying that although I voted then that way I thought I was doing right. My opinion then, even though I voted that way, was that the voice of the people should be heard, and I will proclaim that when the Bill comes again before the House, and, according to the Governor's Speech, the Bill is to be reintroduced, unless it is very drastic in its amendment I shall be prepared to support it. My friend, Mr. Brimage, in his able address to the House said he was not in favour of the establishment of freezing works in the North of Australia. I do not know whether he is or not; I do not care; I do not care whether the members of the House are favourable to it or not; but I want to put some reasons before the country why it is necessary that some provision should be made whereby the great industry, the cattle industry of the far North of the State, should be fostered and assisted. I have some figures, but I am not very well prepared. I did not intend to speak this evening, but my friend, Mr. Kirwan, not coming up to the scratch left me in the unfortunate position I am in. I believe the best policy of the Government of the State is being carried out by trying to develop in the best possible way the output of the North by creating a market for the production that can be carried out in the North, that is the cattle production. It has been suggested by them that they should build freezing works at Kimberley—at Wyndham or Derby, I do not care which—works which would utilise the production of the noble estate we have in the North of Australia in the Kimberleys, and works which would be able to cope with and handle the production of the great pastoral districts, enabling what cannot be consumed here in the South to be sent to other parts of the world that may take them, works which would, at any rate, assist the people who went to the North of Australia, and who are still prepared to go to the North and develop the industry, by providing



for them a market for their product. It will probably surprise members to know that there are in the State 800,000 head of cattle, 300,000 in East Kimberley, and 300,000 in West Kimberley, and 200,000 in the other parts of the State; while in the Northern Territory there are at present at least 500,000 head of cattle, making altogether 1,300,000 head of cattle available.

Hon. J. W. Hackett: What is the annual increase?

Hon. F. CONNOR: About one-third. It means that if we take 10 per cent. there will be available 130,000 head annually for handling. The population of the State is, roughly, 300,000 people, and if they consume up to 60,000 fats per year, it leaves available about 60,000 or 70,000 head of cattle ready for treatment by freezers, boiling down, extracting, or canning. However, I say that in trying to develop this industry by the erection of meat works—I will not say freezing works—the Government are doing something which will be of benefit to the State generally. There is a great market available in the Philippine Islands, Singapore, and Batavia, and all those places. They want not only frozen meat but live stock, which we can provide for them and are prepared to supply them with if we get the facilities. At present the supply of frozen meat to Manila, it may surprise members to know, is nearly one and a half times the supply of frozen meat from Australia to England, and the market is at our door if we can get freezing works at Wyndham. I may say the Manila trade is all beef, not mutton. One and a half times the supply of beef that goes to England is consumed by the Philippines at present, practically by Manila, and the trade is at our door ready for us if we will undertake to supply the market. I have not my figures with me, but I am safe in saying what I have said, and it behoves the country that this industry should be fostered and taken care of. I have to thank the Government in connection with the development of this industry for having started to bore for water at Wyndham. They undertook the

work and started on it in a noble way, but they did not finish it. There is an unlimited supply of artesian water at Broome; but at Wyndham, where it is more important that water should be supplied—I am now going to tell the Government something they have not done—a bore was started some two years ago but not finished. Before the bore was started Mr. Jack, the geologist, informed the Government that, in his opinion, there was artesian water there, and that it would be necessary to bore down to 3,000 feet to reach that water. The work was started at Wyndham—to the credit of the Government—but continued down to 1,400 feet only. I think it cost something more than it should have cost, but that is the Government's fault. I suppose if they put on incompetent people, or people on whom they could not depend, and if the work was not properly done, it was their lookout. At any rate, they only sank to 1,400 feet, after Mr. Jack told them it would be necessary to go to 3,000 feet before they would get an artesian supply. I believe it cost £3,000, but why did they start on the work if they were not prepared to go down to the depth Mr. Jack said it was necessary to go, and why did they stop before they had proved the position? I believe that if a contract had been let they could have got a bore down to 3,000 feet at £1 per foot, and I am quite willing to guarantee that it would be done for 25s. per foot for a depth of 3,000 feet. The water is necessary, because here the Government say they are going to erect freezing works, and there is no water supply. Also I say it is necessary that some market should be found for the great supplies of cattle that can be produced in the North. If to-morrow a market were secured we could make certain that all the country known as the Broekman country, which Mr. Fred. Broekman surveyed, and wherein unlimited feed and water exist, and where there are millions of acres going to waste, would be taken up, and taken up by small people with, say, 1,000 head of breeders to start with. Where you get in the pastoral industry, in cattle, not so much in sheep, small

holdings with people with, say, 1,000 head of breeders to start with, we can be sure that if the cattle are attended to, in four years they will double themselves; whereas with big herds we cannot make sure that they will increase materially at all. I do not know why it is but it is a law in the cattle business, a law of nature, that one cannot have big herds and get much increase. This is, I suppose, special pleading, but I do not care twopence whether the Government go on with this work or not. I am tired of listening to innuendoes against the people who made this industry and made the country by keeping that land. I am tired of it. I am placing before the Government the necessity for encouraging the small men, giving them the opportunity to go out and take up the country where we will get an increased output and where we can secure the market of the Philippine Islands that is going begging at our door. It does not matter to me, but it matters to the country. We should have this trade. I commend the Government for what they have done in connection with it, but I hope they will continue and that they will not be bluffed by those goldfields members that the Esperance railway should be built before these works are carried out.

Hon. R. D. McKenzie: We do not ask that.

Hon. F. CONNOR: The Government are going in the right direction. They should keep it up and they will increase the settlement and the output of the North of Australia and give the people there a chance of developing the country, that great country, for it is a great country, with 20 feet of magnificent soil, with magnificent pasture, and a heavy rainfall. It will produce anything if the Government will only help it and give it an opportunity. I think I have said enough in this matter. I think on the whole the Governor's Speech is one we can agree to. I think there is nothing left unsaid except the Esperance railway. As far as that railway is concerned, let me tell members now that I am in favour of the Esperance railway—

Hon. R. D. McKenzie: Hear, hear!

Hon. F. CONNOR: When the time comes.

Hon. J. W. Kirwan: The time is now.

Hon. F. CONNOR: It may be now, it may be to-morrow, and it may be the next day, but the very minute it is in keeping and in touch with the necessities of the other developments of the country I shall vote with you, and for the railway every time, but I cannot bind myself to say that the time is now. I believe it will be in the near future, but when the time comes, when it is necessary to build the railway I am with you. And if to-morrow you can prove that the time is ripe I am with you. I do hope that no individual will be able—I do not care who it is—to create discord between any sections of the community in the State. We are in a unique position, all our industries are developing, our finances are improving, the character of our representatives is very good; all that is in our favour. We are on the up-grade, let us keep on the up-grade; let us not disseminate discord; let no individual for individual purposes, whatever they may be, introduce discord. I will particularise if you like—between the goldfields and the coast. I was the first mining representative in the House; there was old Mr. Baker who preceded me by a few months. But 17 or 18 years ago I was the only mining representative, and I fought for the mining industry then. I was for years the only mining representative in the House. Did I not ask with the best of my ability, and I will do so now, that all the help necessary should be given to the mining industry, particularly to the prospector? It has been my ambition that the prospector should be helped to the best ability of the Government in power. I am not afraid of spending money on him. I think he is of more benefit, for the time being anyhow, than the agriculturist. The man who will go out and risk his life, and spend his best days in prospecting, that is the man who deserves all the consideration that can be given to him by any Government in power, be it labour, conservative, or any other Government. I was the only direct representative of mining in another place for many years, and I always

wanted to assist the prospector, and I want to assist him now just as much. I would give him all the assistance in reason, but you get people asking for unreasonable things. The agricultural industry and the mining industry should go hand in hand; there is plenty of scope for both industries.

On motion by the Colonial Secretary, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 8.50 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly,

*Wednesday, 3rd August, 1910.*

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

### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. J. B. Holman (Murchison) took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty King George V.

### LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

Mr. S. ADDAN (Ivanhoe): With the permission of the House I desire to announce that, by resolution of the party sitting on this side of the House, I have now the honour of occupying the posi-

tion of leader of the Opposition. I trust that I will recognise the responsibilities of the position due not only to members on this side of the House but also to those sitting opposite, and that I will conduct myself in a manner to my credit and to the credit of the party who have done me the high honour of appointing me to the position.

The PREMIER (Sir Newton J. Moore): May I be permitted to offer my sincere congratulations to the member for Ivanhoe on the distinguished position to which he has been elected. I feel sure that he will continue to observe those high traditions of the office which by the member for Brown Hill have been carried out in a manner that commands respect from both sides of the House. The announcement of the resignation of the member for Brown Hill, while to be regretted, was not altogether unexpected, and I feel sure that I am voicing the opinion of every member of the House when I say that I trust the respite from the active duties and worries entailed on the leader of a party will result in his being completely restored to the best of health. During the time the member for Brown Hill has been leader of the Opposition I think I may say that although we have striven mightily in the House, we have always been able to meet as friends after the House has adjourned; and I am particularly gratified that, after five years of sitting opposite to each other, the same good feeling prevails between us as obtained when first he congratulated me on my being made a Minister. I offer every congratulation to the member for Ivanhoe, and I feel sure that in every way he will uphold the dignity of the position to which he has been elected by the members of his party.

### PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier:—1, Report of the Government Labour Bureau to 30th June, 1910. 2, Goldfields Water Supply Administration—Report of specialists on the corrosion of the steel main. 3, Goldfields Water Supply Administration