

be news to the Leader of the Opposition. It is a tribute to Messrs. Cattamull and Beamai, the two young Queenslanders to whom I have referred. I have been connected with the pineapple industry as long as I can remember. With my father I had the honour of placing the first fresh pineapples on the London market. I was very sceptical about the success that would attend the efforts of these young men. I thought that the atmospheric dryness would be against them in their attempts to grow the fruit, but I am pleased to say they have met with a success of which they must be justly proud. Anything we can do to induce our people to eat that fruit in preference to the Queensland or Javanese commodity we should do. I hope we shall never catch either members of the Opposition or members on this side eating imported pineapples or bananas. There is another matter to which I desire to draw the attention of the Government. Although it may be regarded as a minor matter, it is worthy of consideration. I refer to the necessity for the abolition of the royalty on kangaroo skins. To some members this may be of less importance than peanuts, but to the men who get their livelihood by shooting kangaroos, it is a serious matter. The anomaly of the position is that kangaroos are declared to be vermin, but the Government collect 2d. royalty on each one. It is rather a startling position. In the past skins have been selling at a low price, but the royalty of 2d. means a good deal to the man who buys his ammunition, and it may cost him 3d. a head to shoot the kangaroos. I hope this anomaly will be removed. America has captured the trade in kangaroo leather against the wonderful tanners in Northamptonshire, England. I am pleased that the Premier is so interested that he is getting into touch with the Northampton people, to see whether we cannot keep within the Empire and away from America the many thousands of pounds involved. I am very gratified on behalf of those of my constituents who are engaged in the sandalwood industry over the consideration I have already had at the hands of the Government. As a final shot I wish to say I am proud to think that every case I have so far put up to the Government has been so good that everything I have applied for directly I have received. I may be considered lucky, and I may be an exception, but

my cases certainly have all received the utmost consideration.

The Minister for Lands: You put up a good case.

Mr. WISE: In every instance I have received a most sympathetic hearing.

Mr. Stubbs: I hope you will win regarding the kangaroo skins.

Mr. WISE: I shall certainly continue to be a trier. Certain claims for my district have received more consideration in the past three months than has been accorded to them altogether in the past four years. I am proud to say that. I thank members for their kindness to me in not putting me out of my stride. When any particular case for the North-West presents itself to the House, I trust members that no consideration will be given to what the North may have owed in actual money, but that consideration will only be given to what we as individuals and what the Treasury in particular owes to the people living north of the 26th parallel.

On motion by Mr. Withers, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—(Boulder) [8.27]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. to-morrow.

Question—put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 20th July, 1933.

	PAGE
Federal Senate vacancy...	37
Sitting days and hours...	37
Government business, precedence...	37
Bill: Supply (No. 1), all stages...	37
Chairman of Committees, appointment...	37
Address-in-Reply, third day...	43

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

FEDERAL SENATE VACANCY.*Lieut.-Governor's Message.*

Message received from the Lieut.-Governor transmitting a copy of a despatch received by him from the President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia, notifying that a vacancy had occurred in the representation of the State of Western Australia in the Senate, Senator Sir Hal Colebatch having resigned his membership on the 20th March, 1933.

On motion by the Premier, ordered: That Mr. Speaker be requested to confer with the President of the Legislative Council in order to fix a day and place whereon and whereat the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, sitting and voting together, shall choose a person to hold the place of the Senator whose place has become vacant.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS.

On motion by the Premier, ordered: That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4.30 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, PRECEDENCE.

On motion by the Premier, ordered: That on Tuesdays and Thursdays Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £1,500,000.*Message.*

Message from the Lieut.-Governor received recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Standing Orders Suspension.

THE PREMIER AND TREASURER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.45]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a

Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

Appointment of Chairman of Committees.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.46]: As it becomes necessary at this stage to appoint a Chairman of Committees, I move—

That the member for Fremantle, Mr. Sleeman, be appointed Chairman of Committees.

Question put and passed.

In Committee of Supply.

The House having resolved into a Committee of Supply, Mr. Sleeman in the Chair,

THE CHAIRMAN: I sincerely thank hon. members for having conferred on me the great honour of the Chairmanship of Committees of the House. I realise the importance of the position to which I have been elected; and I assure hon. members that I shall do my utmost to carry out the duties of the office as they should be carried out, and so that hon. members will have no cause to regret having elected me to the position.

THE PREMIER (Hon. P. Collier—Boulder) [4.48]: I move—

That there be granted to His Majesty on account of the service of the year ending on the 30th June, 1934, a sum not exceeding £1,500,000.

This is the usual Supply granted at the opening of a session, and covers a period of two months only. Last year Parliament was late in meeting, and at the opening of the session Supply was obtained for a period of three months. My hope is to have the Estimates down at an early date, and therefore I am not asking for more than two months' Supply. The amount asked for is based upon the expenditure for the past financial year; that is, one-sixth of last year's total expenditure. It is the custom to ask for Supply upon that basis. On this occasion I am asking that £900,000 be granted out of Consolidated Revenue, £300,000 from General Loan Fund, and £300,000 from the Treasurer's Advance Account, making a total of £1,500,000, pending the passing of the Annual Estimates.

MR. LATHAM (York) [4.45]: I do not propose to offer any objection to the Bill, and I am pleased to have the Premier's assurance that the Estimates will be submitted to the House at an early date. Members will be interested to know how Loan funds are to be expended, because during the next year or two it will be necessary to see that the money is spent as wisely as possible. As this is the ordinary type of Supply Bill introduced at this stage of a session, I have no objection to offer to its passage.

HON. W. D. JOHNSON (Guildford-Midland) [4.46]: I take no exception to the passage of the Bill. It is essential that Supply be granted but we must appreciate the fact that if we grant Supply, we really start the financial obligations of the new Parliament. In making that start we should get an assurance from the Government that no new undertakings will be entered upon pending a discussion by Parliament. A Supply Bill introduced during the currency of a Parliament is not in the same category as one introduced at the opening of a new Parliament. During the three-year period a Government may be in office, members have a good idea, from the work of the previous session, what public undertakings are in hand. With that knowledge, they can be guided regarding the introduction of a Supply Bill at the beginning of the succeeding session. With the opening of a new Parliament, the position is different. We have nothing to guide us and it is essential that Parliament be consulted before new activities are undertaken. I voice this opinion because it is necessary for all members to take a keen interest in the economic position of the State and to assist the Administration in embarking upon such undertakings as will provide for permanent employment of labour or assure the earning of interest and sinking fund charges. Parliament should be careful in that regard and we should have an assurance that even in respect of works that come within that category, where there is a difference of opinion as to their value in helping towards economic re-establishment, the Government will not undertake any such new works until the Estimates are introduced, and members have an opportunity to discuss the proposal. For instance, I ask the Government not to perse-

vere with the reclamation work at the Causeway. That represents an activity about which Parliament, so far as I am aware, has not been consulted. I know there is a difference of opinion regarding the necessity for the operations, and the view has been taken that it will not provide work of a permanent character. Certainly the activities there will employ labour, but there are different types of employment. Mere casual help is of no great assistance, and we should utilise the money that is available in a more satisfactory way for the permanent absorption of those who are out of work today. I hope the Government will not use the Supply granted as an opportunity to expend money on undertakings that will so far involve the State financially that no alteration will be possible when the Estimates are dealt with. I have had previous experience in this regard. The members of the Government know as I do that very often when the Estimates are presented to Parliament, there may be a strong conflict of opinion about certain public works. It is impossible to effect any alteration because action in that direction would possibly involve the State in substantial loss. In these days we do not want that to happen, and we should be particularly careful in dealing with this phase. Members' functions at present are practically limited to the careful husbanding of the possibilities of expenditure. We must exercise the keenest judgment respecting expenditure because we have little control over revenue. The sad part of it is that outside influences dominate the revenue phase, leaving the State in control of expenditure alone. Parliament should be called upon to express judgment on new works before they are undertaken. I do not desire to be misunderstood with regard to my attitude; I shall devote all my energies and what little ability I have to the task of guiding the State respecting expenditure. I desire that expenditure be such as will provide permanent relief to those who are unemployed at present, or provide interest and sinking fund charges. Holding those views, I appeal to the Government not to embark upon new works without consulting Parliament.

HON. N. KEENAN (Nedlands) [4.53]: I presume most members are in agreement with the principles enunciated by the mem-

ber for Guildford-Midland (Hon. W. D. Johnson), but I assume the Bill presented to the House is merely the usual one introduced at the beginning of each session. It is necessary to pass the Bill because we have already entered upon the new financial year. Without the necessary authority, the Lieut.-Governor could not authorise the expenditure of any money for governmental purposes. I do not suppose for one moment that the Government intend to make use of Supply granted in any manner different from that adopted by their predecessors in office. It may be that some work has been or will be started that Parliament may disapprove of. It may be that works are partly completed, of which members may subsequently express disapproval. That would be to the discredit of the Government. I do not suppose the Government seek such discredit. It is a reasonable presumption that the money voted will be used, as such money is always used in similar circumstances, to meet the ordinary expenditure until the Treasurer has an opportunity to present his Estimates. I do not propose to offer any objection whatever to the motion.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Committee of Ways and Means.

The House having resolved into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Sleeman in the Chair,

The PREMIER: I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the services of the year ending 30th June, 1934, a sum not exceeding £900,000 be granted out of Consolidated Revenue, £300,000 from the General Loan Fund, and £300,000 from the Public Accounts for the purpose of temporary advances to be made by the Treasurer.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

Bill Introduced.

In accordance with the foregoing resolution, Bill introduced, and read a first time.

Second Reading.

On motion by the Premier, Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Mr. Sleeman in the Chair; the Premier in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1—Issue and application of £1,500,000:

Mr. LATHAM: I have been informed that work at the Causeway has already been commenced, and that the pipes have been connected up with that object in view. Members should have an opportunity to express an opinion regarding that work. According to the information at my disposal, 20 per cent. only of the money expended will be used in the payment of wages, the remaining 80 per cent. being for material.

Mr. Raphael: What about the subsidy from the City Council?

Mr. LATHAM: That was a very small amount.

Mr. Raphael: It was £20 a week.

Mr. LATHAM: I understand 20 men only are employed there, and they are highly paid workers. I am concerned about the sufficiency of the money available for people who are out of work. I hope the Minister will inform us what is being done. The work contemplated may be necessary, but, in my opinion, the City Council should undertake it and not the Government. I admit that Parliament authorised the work five or six years ago, but the financial position has changed since then. I do not desire to handicap the Government, but I wish to see the money available spread as evenly as possible among the workers.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It has been said that Parliament has not authorised this work. Actually, this is one of the few public works in this State to authorise which a specific Bill was passed by Parliament. When previously in office, I introduced that Bill and it passed both Houses. So Parliament has definitely decided the work should be done.

Mr. Latham: We do not always do that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Of course not. The hon. member's Government started many works which have not yet been authorised by Parliament, and he knows that he completed some works which this House has never authorised.

Mr. Latham: Every Government does that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No fault can be found with this work on that score. The City Council is to contribute to-

wards the work, and did so all the time it was previously in hand.

Mr. Latham: How much is the City Council to contribute?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The council will contribute £1,000 a year as long as the work goes on. The council will derive considerable advantage, because the work will improve the value of property in that area and will allow a big stretch of land previously condemned by the council for building purposes to be made available. That land will be reclaimed, as well as a lot of marshy land on this side of the river.

Mr. Seward: Will it be their property?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Not the reclaimed land; that will be the property of the Crown. I was referring to the land which the City Council condemned on the Victoria Park side. That will be available for building.

Mr. Latham: It will be Loan Funds that you will use for the purchase of the land?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The land will be purchased at its unimproved value prior to the work being started. So the cost will be infinitesimal.

Mr. Latham: I think Land and Homes put a fairly decent value on some of that land.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No, the land I have in mind is swampy country on this side of the river, extending right up to the foot of the high country at the back of the late R. T. Robinson's property.

Mr. Latham: It is the land on the other side of the river I was thinking of.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: That is not owned by Land and Homes.

Mr. Latham: What about the Hurlingham estate?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: We shall not get that far for a long, long time. The hon. member said that only 20 per cent. of the money employed was spent in wages. I do not know where he got that information, for actually only 17.5 per cent. of the expenditure went for other than wages.

Mr. Latham: How many men were employed?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Sixty, and there will be 60 employed now.

Mr. Latham: How much a week will it cost?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It will average out the same as other public works while the scheme lasts. The average wage paid by the Public Works Department, tak-

ing tradesmen and wages men, is approximately £4 5s. per week. Under the present scheme one cannot strike an average that would apply to-day as against the average when the men were working full time, but I have here figures for the period during which the dredge operated, from the 4th December, 1929, to the 15th July, 1930. The proportion for materials was only 17.5 per cent., which left 82.5 per cent. for wages.

Mr. Latham: Did that include fuel?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It included all. So 82.5 per cent. of the expenditure was for wages. There is no other public work in the State at the moment showing that percentage for wages. The figures I have given were for the big dredge, but operating with the big dredge are two grab dredges.

Mr. Latham: How many of a full-time staff have you to run that dredge?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The captain is the only full-time man.

Mr. Latham: Are there no others?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Not that I know of.

Mr. Latham: But they were working three shifts.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: No, they could not work three shifts on the money available. With the two grab dredges it is estimated there will be £9,675 in wages, £1,065 for local material, and £1,260 for imported material, making up the £12,000 for the year. Most of the material is Collie coal, used on the grab dredges, and that is estimated to run into fully 25 per cent. When the Leader of the Opposition said last night that his Government had to shut down the work because of its cost, he spoke without his book. Here is the file containing letters showing that they shut down the work because they had not the money to carry it on; and letters written to various organisations stated that the moment the money was available it was proposed to resume the work.

Mr. Latham: You know what was meant by that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member cannot say it was on account of the cost.

Mr. Latham: I said it was on account of wanting the money for wages.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: You had no other work comparable with this in point of wages. I find the cost of the operations during the time the dredge was pre-

viciously at work ran out at 3.20d. per cubic yard.

Mr. Latham: I never questioned that.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member said they found the work so costly that they had to close it down.

Mr. Latham: I was referring to the amount of money we had available for wages.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member said it was the cost. This dredge is doing the work more cheaply than similar work has been done in any part of Australia. The next cheapest was the dredge at Bunbury, which cost a shade over 6d. per cubic yard. When it comes to the percentage of labour to the total expenditure, we know of no job to compare with this one, and Parliament definitely authorised the work. The City Council are contributing.

Mr. Latham: How much?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Not a great sum. Probably it should have been greater, but that was the agreement made with the City Council at the time the Bill went through the House. That information was given to Parliament at the time and Parliament, with that full knowledge, agreed that the work should proceed.

Hon. N. Keenan: What will it cost?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: It depends on how far the work is carried. The City Council agreed to find £1,000 per annum while the work went on. Our expenditure at present is at the rate of £12,000 a year. From every aspect this work is warranted. While it may be argued that it is not producing new wealth, it is a very useful work. The health inspectors report that the area is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which are becoming a very real menace to the public health of the city.

The Minister for Health: Can you not stop the growth of algae by the dredging?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: I am not sure. All the facts I have given here were given to Parliament previously, and in the light of the information it had, Parliament said the work was to proceed. The previous Government closed it down because they said they could not find the money. We can find the money, and it will be a very useful work for this community. No one is in a position to lodge substantial objection to it. We have to find interest and sinking fund on the dredge whether it is working or not. Standing idle and rusting, the dredge will cost almost as much as

if she were working. And only 17.5 per cent. of the expenditure will go in other than wages. If I cared to do so, I could recite a list of works the previous Government put in hand, and compare them with this, which is costing only a little over 3d. per yard, an achievement that has never previously been attained in Australia.

Mr. Latham: The work could be done at the same price when more money is available for the purpose.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Why should the hon. member complain when the Government can find the money?

Mr. Latham: Because you could find more important work to do.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The hon. member's Government were hard put to it to find jobs on which to expend money. Work after work that was submitted to the previous Government was regarded as undesirable.

Mr. Latham: Unless it would earn interest on the money expended.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Long lists of works were submitted and it was considered that they could not be justified.

Member: The then Government showed no initiative.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: They did not proceed with the reclamation work at the Causeway because they considered that no expenditure whatever should be undertaken in the city.

Mr. Raphael: That is the point.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: The Government wanted every penny to expend elsewhere; they did not want to undertake any work in the metropolis. This reclamation work is desirable. The entrance to the city from the eastern end is not creditable, and I think that members who represent country districts will agree that mail boat passengers and other visitors are apt to base their impressions of the State on what they see in the city. The conditions existing at the Causeway are objectionable, and the health authorities have urged the necessity for the work to overcome the mosquito pest. When the reclamation has been completed, the eastern entrance to the city will be at least equal to the Mount's Bay-road entrance where the Perth City Council have spent a large sum of money. I hope to see this reclamation work completed in my time. I hope that the island that will form part of the completed scheme will be a thing of beauty, and that we shall be able to estab-

lish there a botanic garden and a playground for the people. Instead of having the dredge lying idle, it should be put to work, especially when the reclamation cost is so low and when the proportion of the money expended on labour is relatively so high.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I commend the Government on doing something for the metropolitan area so soon after having taken office, whereas the late Government were careful to see that no work at all was done in the city. The Perth City Council resolved to contribute to the cost of the reclamation scheme not so much to secure benefit from the higher values that would result as to protect the health of the community. I have had the pleasure of riding home with the Minister on several occasions and I assure members that his lamentations regarding the odour arising from the algae nuisance were loud. We have been informed that there is only one way of ridding the river of that filth and that is by dredging it to secure flowing water. The Leader of the Opposition, who was formerly Minister for Health, might have been expected to have the health of the community at heart, and his objection to the Minister for Works proceeding with the reclamation is lamentable.

Mr. Latham: The Commissioner of Health says that the algae is not inimical to the health of the people.

Mr. RAPHAEL: It offends their nostrils. The hon. member was one of the loudest in protesting against the smell.

Mr. Latham: Yes, because I knew you were a member of the City Council.

Mr. RAPHAEL: We should also consider what an eyesore the Causeway and its environments have been. If the late administration had carried on the scheme we would have been three years nearer to securing a decent approach to the city. The reason why the reclamation work was stopped by the ex-Minister for Works was because it had been started by the member for South Fremantle.

Mr. Mann: That is a childish statement.

Mr. Sampson: It is easy to talk about a man who is not present.

Mr. RAPHAEL: It is a pleasure to know he is not present.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is nothing about the ex-Minister for Works in this Bill.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The City Council are contributing money to assist the Government to reclaim the foreshore and have expended thousands of pounds in removing hoardings, etc., from the Victoria Park side of the Causeway. I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition, when Minister for Health, investigated the conditions under which some people were living in the lower part of Victoria Park. I tried to get the City Council to resume properties on the foreshore in order that better homes might be secured for the occupants. When the reclamation scheme is partially completed, I hope those dwellings will be resumed and that the people will have better homes elsewhere. Owing to the rising water level, it is not possible for those people to sell their homes, and only by carrying out this reclamation scheme is there any hope of their securing decent living conditions. I hope that when the scheme is extended to the South Perth and Guildford areas the Minister will approach the local authorities with a view to getting them to contribute to the scheme. I do not think any member should object to this small measure of work being undertaken in the metropolitan area, and I hope the Minister will not stop it. As the previous Government expended their money in the country, I hope the present Government will spend their money in the city.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: The Act to which the Minister referred does not authorise any expenditure on this work. Had we voted money for the scheme, the work could not have been proceeded with unless legislation had been passed authorising certain changes to be made in the channels as well as interference with the land adjoining. I differ from the Minister on the wisdom of undertaking this class of work at present. I appreciate that it is desirable to make the city as presentable as possible, but we have to consider bigger factors. We cannot continue to expend money on such works if they are not going to be of permanent advantage to the unemployed or of some advantage to the revenues of the State. I was under the impression that the Minister had expanded operations quite recently. The statement of the Director of Works conveyed to me that additional expenditure would be incurred and that additional men were to be employed. The Minister, however, now conveys to me that the number of men employed

to-day is the same as was employed previously.

Mr. Latham: The work has been stopped for eighteen months.

Hon. W. D. JOHNSON: I understood that additional men had been employed since the Minister took control, and that being so, I raised the question in the initial stages of the discussion. I do not think it fair for the Minister to start new works in anticipation of the Estimates being passed. There are quite enough works to which attention can be devoted until Parliament has had an opportunity to consider whether additional works should be undertaken. I believe there are works on which the money could be more advantageously expended, and I believe that the men employed could be utilised in a more profitable way. Therefore I suggest that we do not become involved in this work by the mere fact of agreeing to the Supply Bill. If we do not voice our opinions, we may later be charged with having failed to protest when the Supply Bill was under consideration. My object was to direct attention to the fact that this work had been undertaken since the Minister assumed office. During the election campaign I expressed opposition to works of this description. I pronounce definitely against them. I want to see permanent reconstructions, not temporary works, that will help men only for a few months and leave them out of employment again. I was pledged to support works of a permanent nature, and promised to do so. I have singled out the reclamation works as an illustration of my argument. Operations of that kind were all right when the State was affluent. They were all right when we passed the Bill in 1925. The economic situation, however, has changed so much that we now have to put up with the kind of city we have, and with the eyesores we have. I contend there are other works more important than this, and that the limited amount of money we have at our disposal can be better used to the advantage of our economic position. I do not want to debate this question further, but appeal to the Minister not to involve us any deeper in this work, but to give us an opportunity at the right time and in the right place to debate the matter. I admit it is not the right time on the Supply Bill to bring the matter up, but, unless we voice our opinions now, we may be misunderstood in the future when we come to approach the question again. I trust in the meantime that expenditure will

be limited to the minimum. I should prefer to see it stopped altogether, until Parliament has had an opportunity to give a decision regarding it. It is questionable whether we should carry on works of this kind in view of the need for a more stable public works policy, and more permanent undertakings that will be of assistance to the State along the lines I have indicated.

Mr. CROSS: The resumption of the reclamation works at the Causeway has met with the general approval of the people in the metropolitan area. Only this morning an influential deputation waited upon the Minister for Works, and showered congratulations upon him for his prompt action in carrying on the work of reclamation. That deputation went even further, and asked that the operations should be extended to another portion of the river, about which they claimed greater urgency than in the case under review. I hope the work will be pushed on, in order that the level of portion of the area on the east side of the Causeway, where a few days ago the water from the river came up to the back doors of the houses, may be raised.

Clause put and passed

Clause 2, Preamble, Title—agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Third Day.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. WITHERS (Bunbury) [5.35]: I have for many years been looking forward to the fulfilment of Government promises regarding my electorate, but as they have not altogether been carried out, I must refer to some of them again on this occasion. Before doing so, I wish to join with other members in congratulating you, Sir, upon your elevation to the Speakership. Following upon my personal acquaintance with you over a long time I feel sure you will fully

justify the confidence the House has placed in you. I may perhaps be excused for going back a little before I deal with some of the subjects I desire to bring under the notice of the Government. My first reference will be to one or two things that happened during the recent electioneering campaign. It cannot be said that the Leader of the Opposition was responsible for what occurred. There have been references to certain promises made on the hustings by the party to which I belong, and doubts were expressed as to whether they would ever be fulfilled. I do not think any of the party's promises were so extravagant that they cannot be fulfilled during the life of this Parliament. They were made when it was genuinely believed that they could be fulfilled and were made in all sincerity. I hope the action of the previous Government, when they adopted certain measures to win the election, will not be repeated by the present Government when their time comes to go upon the hustings. My complaint is in regard to enrolments. Quite a lot of work was put in hand in my electorate just prior to the election, and I must admit that they were genuinely put in hand by the Mitchell Government in order to do justice to the South-West. Unfortunately, however, their actions seemed to savour of electioneering propaganda.

Mr. Latham: You are never satisfied.

Mr. WITHERS: I would be more satisfied if the people who were placed in that district were allowed to do the right thing for themselves and to exercise their franchise. When the works were started in my district and quite a number of people were being engaged, it was discovered that their presence would perhaps increase the number of votes accorded to me. When the claim cards were filled in—the names were legitimately entitled to be put on the roll—a typewritten list appeared from somewhere. This was shown to me by the local registrar, and contained the names of a number of persons whose enrolment was objected to. I wanted to know the reason for the objection, and was informed that these people had not been long enough in the district to entitle them to registration. I went out to the works and obtained a statement from the men referred to. I found they had all been there in time to arrange for a

children's Christmas tree on Christmas Eve, which showed that they were fully entitled to be put on the roll. Indeed, some of them had been in my electorate for fully ten months, on the Bunbury side of the Collier River, although perhaps they had neglected to enrol. I hope such tactics will not be repeated. They did not altogether embarrass me, but it was not playing the game fairly that those in authority should be able to issue instructions of this kind. It is not necessary for me to give my views upon the appointment of the present Lieut.-Governor, but they do coincide to a considerable extent with those given in the "Daily News" to-day. We went on the hustings with a policy which entitled us to believe that we would be successful in the elections. Our candidate defeated the then Premier in the Northam seat. I should have thought that would have been sufficient to indicate that he was not deemed the right person to govern the State. I have no personal objection to the occupant of the position. It would be impossible to hold objections on that ground.

Mr. Latham: He was born in your town; that is a good recommendation.

Mr. WITHERS: I know that, and we all like him as an individual. There is, however, a question of policy involved. The part which concerns me is that if the Constitution permits the Imperial authorities to select someone other than Sir James Mitchell for such a position, there is a danger that we may have foisted upon us a person who may not be acceptable to the people, and further, who may not meet with the approval of the State Government. I was not aware that the Imperial Government were all powerful in a matter such as this. We as a party stand for the abolition of State Governors. I am not particularising imported Governors, but it is my idea that the Chief Justice or Administrator provides all that is necessary for the signing of documents. Through the Commonwealth Parliament we have in Australia a representative of the Imperial Government, and there is no necessity also to have State Governors. That is the ground for my opinion in the present instance. The principal matter to which I wish to refer, one that is common to the State as a whole, is unemployment. We know that a system has been established which is very hard to break down. It arose

in difficult circumstances, and perhaps one should be prepared to admit that the previous Government, in view of all these circumstances, could not have done any better. We have, however, been handed down something which is very difficult to get over. The people in my district and I, have been greatly concerned because we thought there was a certain slowness on the part of the present Administration in giving relief. When one realises the position the State has been left in, it does not seem to have been a most difficult matter. I now have an assurance that the whole question has been considered in such a way that we are going to have, not a piecemeal alteration of the existing system, but one that will work beneficially in the future for all the unemployed. I have been promised that a declaration will be made very shortly in this connection. I hope when the new system is brought into operation, it will prove better than that which has existed for the last two years. The way the sustenance system has been working suggests that it can be a permanent menace. It has created out of good citizens and good workers slothful and indifferent persons, who have but little regard for their own future or the future of their offspring. The question of unemployment, as far as the district I represent is concerned, has not received the consideration at the hands of past Governments to which it has been entitled; it has not been dealt with in the same way as unemployment in the metropolitan area. I do not like making comparisons, and it may be unwise to compare what has been done in the Bunbury district with what has taken place in the city area, but the fact remains that the people in my district have suffered to the extent of 14s. a week. Ever since the system has been in force we have had a maximum of 35s. a week as against a payment of £2 9s. in the metropolitan area, and in other places such as Collie and Busselton. This has never been altered. I am not blaming the present Government for not making an alteration, but I should like the payment of sustenance altered so that full-time work might be given where the work is available. A promise was made that there would be full-time work for a certain period, and that would be followed by the payment of sustenance for a certain period. Would it not be better to pay the men a rate in keeping

with the work that they were doing, that is to say the union rate of wage for the time those men were engaged, and leave out altogether the question of sustenance. I hope the time will come when the word "sustenance" will disappear altogether. There are single men in my district who have not had a turn of the wheel since October last, and ever since they were taken off sustenance they have not been able to get back on it. Naturally those unfortunate people have suffered considerably by that. There has been no employment offering. The single men there are a type whose parents reside in the town, and of course they live at home. In many instances also the parents themselves are unable to get work and some are actually on sustenance. The position becomes very difficult; they have not much outlook on life, and I do not know what is going to happen when we get back to the position that it will be possible to offer them work. On the subject of camp allowance, when the men get their week's wages or fortnight's wages, as the case may be, they would like that amount of 5s. 3d. to stand by itself. Personally I do not know whether the present Government would be any better off than the former Government by allowing this question to remain in the hands of the local police, that is, in the larger centres such as Collie and Bunbury. I have advocated previously and I still advocate that an officer should be appointed for the whole of the district and that he should have the power to decide on the spot. Very often I have had occasion to go to the local authority or the police only to find that they were not able to do anything. Then I have come to Perth and put the case before the department and had my requests acceded to without any delay, because the reasonableness of them was realised. There should be somebody travelling in the district possessing the necessary authority to decide questions on the spot. At the same time I hope that, as I have already said, it will not be necessary to continue the payment of sustenance very much longer. In the event of having to continue to pay it, however, I submit my suggestion as being worthy of consideration by the Government. Then there is the question of how we can absorb the unemployed. I notice there is a reference in the Speech to the legislation to be enacted, and in that way it will be possible to find work for many. There is a mention of railway construction. We

know that to-day railways are still required in spite of the fact that there are many lines that are not paying. We are aware also that many farmers are carting wheat a considerable distance from existing lines, and that the Government are subsidising the carting of that wheat to the extent of £17,000 per annum. If we devoted that sum towards the payment of interest on money required for the construction of new lines, it would be spent in the right direction because it would be providing employment. I have many times urged the construction of a railway to Collie from Bunbury via Wellington Mills. There was a conference held in Bunbury recently, and it was representative of the South-Western producers—principally agriculture and dairying. That conference carried a resolution unanimously urging the construction of this particular railway. What is required is a new survey of the route. There is an old survey which gives a ruling grade much better than that along the existing line between Collie and Bunbury, but even that could be improved upon. The carrying out of the survey and then the earthworks afterwards, in themselves would provide employment for a number of men. The people in the district I represent have for a long time past been aware of the justification for the construction of this particular railway, but unfortunately the Government have failed to do so. We may suddenly find a congestion of traffic at Collie and Brunswick and then, being unable to transport produce to the natural port, what would be the position? Bunbury would lose the trade which belonged to it, and vessels would go to Fremantle where the produce would have to be re-consigned. We do not want to wait until such an event occurs. We want to be prepared and so I suggest that the earthworks be put in hand and save considerable time in the event of it being possible in the not-distant future to build the line. I am in hopes also that the Government will bring down a Transport Bill to deal with the problem of road traffic versus the railway traffic. I have my own opinions on this vexed question, but I shall not express them until the Bill comes before us.

Mr. Griffiths: What about road railways?

Mr. WITHERS: They are worthy of consideration, too. The railway I have suggested and the construction of which

was unanimously supported by the South-West conference, is what I wish to see put in hand, because it would prove a reproductive work. Another matter that might be taken into consideration, if the Government intend to continue the payment of sustenance, is assistance that might be rendered to farmers—I mean established farmers, those with improved holdings. They could be assisted to produce more wheat on smaller areas, or bigger crops on the areas they already occupy. I thought perhaps it might be better to advance money to farmers rather than pay 25s. weekly to those engaged in clearing land for new settlements, especially in those districts which have no prospects of getting railway communication for some time to come. If the money were advanced to the farmers—and I also include the established dairy farmers—the holdings could be made to produce more. Would this not be better than clearing land which might never be used? There is another matter which I consider should be taken into consideration if not by this Government then by the Commonwealth Government. The State Government, however, should in my opinion give a lead whereby through a form of insurance we could retire our old men from industry a little earlier than we do to-day.

Mr. Latham: Members of Parliament also?

Mr. WITHERS: I would retire to-morrow if I could obtain as substantial a retiring allowance as some that have been granted. The question of employing the youth of to-day has developed into a serious problem, and if we could formulate a scheme of insurance by which men in industry would be assured of a competence at the age of 65, it would then be possible to absorb the youth of the State though, of course, not all. If the scheme worked equitably there is no reason why in some instances men, on reaching the age of 55, should not be retired. I commend this to the Government for consideration, particularly in view of the existing difficulty in finding work for the youth of the country. The question of education was referred to by the member for North-East Fremantle (Mr. Tonkin) and the Leader of the Opposition last night did not seem to agree that education was for the benefit of all. The youth of to-day,

however, are in such a position that they have to face a set of circumstances which almost makes them become desperate. In my opinion, it is far better to have an educated desperate community than to have an uneducated desperate community. Revolutions so far have always come to pass in countries where the uneducated predominated. Possibly the youth of to-day may force us to retire from our positions, regarding itself as better qualified to remedy the present unhappy state of affairs; and possibly that view might prove well founded.

Mr. Thorn: Speak for yourself.

Mr. WITHERS: I speak for myself and for others. Such a situation as I have described is likely to arise if we keep on heaping up unemployed youth. If the youth of the present day, with such education as it gets, should try its hand at the task of government, it may prove a benefit to the country. The emergency legislation reducing wages and increasing taxes will have to cease operation. I am pleased to learn from this afternoon's "Daily News" that the Federal Prime Minister has expressed himself to the effect that interest rates and taxation must be reduced if Australian industry is to make good. Among the first functions of Governments is to assist industry. If industry can be so fostered as to absorb men out of employment, our chief problem will be solved. However, Government schemes of relief work are apt to deprive industry of its chance of recovery. Realising that there is important legislation with which the Government are anxious to proceed, I have no wish to detain the House. I did not desire to speak so early on the matters I have to bring forward, but I take this opportunity to refer to the mention in the Governor's Speech of the progress of the South-West. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Wise), rightly from his standpoint I suppose, criticised the past Government's action in assisting the southern portion of the State to the tune of millions of pounds. However, for many, many years Governments neglected the South-West. Recent efforts to develop that district have enabled the present Government to mention in the Speech that butter-fat production in this State has increased enormously—to approximately 11,000,000 lbs. this year, or some 880,000 lbs. more than last year.

Mr. Wansbrough: How many pounds of butter were imported into Western Australia?

Mr. WITHERS: That is neither here nor there. We do not re-import from overseas, but only from Eastern Australia. Moreover, the exportation of butter is of great importance, being one of the means of paying our overseas debts. I am indeed pleased to find that the price of butter-fat has risen a little, thus affording south-western farmers a better opportunity of eking out an existence. It is also gratifying to know that wheat and wool prices have advanced. I urge the member for Gascoyne not to despond; the Governor's Speech indicates that his district's turn will come. We of the South-West, once our district is well established, will not grudge North-Western members similar consideration to that which we have been shown during the last few years. As representatives of the State we want the North-West to develop in order to assist the South-West, and vice versa. Reduction of railway freights on timber will play a big part in the future of a most important industry. The policy of easing the burdens on that industry is one which should have been adopted by the Government two or three years ago, before overseas customers began to look for substitutes for karri and jarrah. Our merchants should years ago have been given an opportunity to compete with timber producers elsewhere. Had that course been adopted, Western Australia would not have lost its African and Indian markets to the extent it actually has. If the price of a commodity is forced up unduly, users will look for a substitute; and once they have found a substitute, it is most difficult to re-introduce the original article. Wool is a case in point. The price of wool rose so high that womenfolk took to wearing artificial silk and other substitutes for high-priced wool. I am glad that the Government have reduced railway freights and also royalty on timber, in order that the industry, which in the past has been a wonderful asset to the State, may revive. Four or five years ago I drew a comparison between railway freights on timber and those ruling at that time for wheat in Western Australia. If the Government will only bring railway freights and harbour dues on timber back to what they were three or four years ago, karri and jarrah will be enabled to maintain their position better than is the case at present. The state into which our railway system has fallen is deplorable. It is no use denying the fact. According to the last report of the Com-

missioner of Railways, the system is not in the condition that ought to exist. The lines have been neglected merely for the sake of carrying on. There is a limit to that policy. The expenditure on re-conditioning the lines will be enormous. The cost of re-sleeping and other measures which will not directly bring in money will have to be met out of revenue. The group settlement position does not seem to me to show any improvement. I do not know whether the Government intend to help the group settler to remain on his holding in preference to letting him leave the holding in order to seek sustenance in the towns. The latter process has been prevalent lately. Group settlers forced off their holdings, not by the Government but by circumstances, proceed to the nearest town—Bunbury is particularly a case in point—and go on sustenance.

Member: Most of those settlers should never have gone on the land.

Mr. WITHERS: That cannot be helped now. The feature of ineptitude for the task undertaken is no fault of ours. I hope the Government will continue to assist settlers who are genuine triers. There has been a report on the subject from a Royal Commission, one member of which is in this House now. I know his view of the group settlement situation, and I take it that when the time comes for him to speak he will deal fully with that situation. I may mention that in my electorate there are few group settlers, and that these few appear to be getting on moderately well. Nevertheless, a certain consideration is due to them; and if the Government will show them that consideration and carry into effect certain recommendations of the Commission which are for the benefit of settlers, the groups will be more likely to succeed. I thank hon. members for their patient hearing. From various interjections I realise that I have not spoken controversially, but have spoken in full truth and sincerity.

MR. MOLONEY (Subiaco) [6.11]: At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I desire to express my satisfaction at your elevation to the honourable position which you hold. Having known you, Sir, for many years, I am indeed pleased to see you exercising in the Chair that wise discretion which I have remarked in you in other spheres. The Governor's Speech interests me extremely. The most remarkable characteristic of the

Speech, to my mind, is that while clearly exemplifying the Government's programme it is innocuous in that it does not hamper the Government in regard to legislative proposals. The position confronting Ministers is one which, though it does not positively appal, nevertheless cannot be welcome to anyone. The existing unemployment situation is one that has been accentuated as the result of lack of initiative on the part of the previous Government. It struck me as remarkable, this evening, that works proposed by the present Government were opposed on the ground that the city was getting too many of them. Evidently the desire was not so much that works should be put in hand as that works should be secured for the particular districts in which some members were specially interested. Such a policy is utterly mistaken. It is not a policy which animates the Government returned by the people with a mandate to do something. The Government do not study the interests of particular districts, but seek to put in hand works in localities where the effect will be to give the maximum of employment and circulate money. I commend the Minister for Works for his initiative in starting the reclamation works which have been opposed. An extraordinary feature, bordering on the farcical, is disclosed by the fact that out of a total revenue of some £8,000,000 received for the last financial year, over £4,000,000 went merely to pay interest, exchange and sinking fund. While over half the income of the State is absorbed by such charges, the Leader of the Opposition contends that production costs must be reduced.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MOLONEY: It must be apparent to every member that a reduction in interest charges is long overdue. It is true that we benefited recently by a reduction, according to "The West Australian," which represented £68,000. That was acceptable, but it merely evidenced the fact that while everything else depreciated, interest charges remained at the same level. Such a state of affairs is not equitable. A country possessing such a sparse population as that of Western Australia can ill afford to shoulder the load of interest to the extent I have indicated. It represents a total of £188 11s. 2d. per head of the population. In addition to that, we have the unemployment that is

rampant to-day. I have no hesitation in saying that the Mitchell Government did not even attempt to grapple with that problem. Taxation was piled up to an abnormal extent and yet there was no diminution of unemployment. The present Government have inherited an appalling legacy, and yet they have been chided because an Economic Council has been formed and the Minister is not devoting the whole of his time to the task. In making such an interjection and in giving utterance to the statement he did during the course of his speech, the Leader of the Opposition showed an extremely limited understanding of the fundamentals that characterise the relief of unemployment and a lack of knowledge of the way that problem should be tackled. It is essential that men who possess technical and industrial ability, such as those who have been selected from the various spheres of life in which they are experts, should be called together to advise the Minister. Yet we have been told that the Minister has been shelving his responsibilities. Rather than blame the Minister, the hon. member should have congratulated him for having called to his assistance men capable of handling such a problem. It must be patent to every member that the Minister, even if he were a super man, could not be fully acquainted with the intricacies of all matters that come within his purview. When he can secure the services of not only those who work with their hands, but of those whose brains direct industry, and avail himself of those services in an honorary capacity so that the Government may have the benefit of their assistance in a time of national crisis, the Minister, rather than be condemned, should be applauded. Never before has unemployment been rampant throughout the world to the extent that is apparent to-day. The problem has assumed an international importance and has threatened the existence of civilisation. Australia is not immune, and the task must be handled in the most effective manner. The Government are facing it as well as possible in view of the difficulties bequeathed to them by their predecessors in office. The people are desirous of observing the requirements of constituted authority and to afford all requisite assistance. Yet they are to-day, because of the existing system, still waiting for a more equal distribution of that which they know should be available for them as

their right. The great mass of the unemployed to-day are, in a sense, representative of our untapped wealth. Owing to the mechanisation of industry, as a result of the ingenuity of man, workers are deprived of the opportunities for work that they formerly possessed. In consequence, many are confronted with the spectre of destitution and ignominy. They are told that they are to receive charity and should be thankful for it. That is representative of the opinion of some of those concerned in the distribution of charity, for they think that the workers should ask for that which is, in the latter's opinion, their absolute right. In our opinion, they have an undoubted right to take that assistance from the Governments of Australia, failing the provision of work. I am pleased that the present Government, despite the gibes of those who ask when Ministers intend to put their policy into operation, are functioning effectively and doing all that is possible. As an indication of their activities, we have only to look at Parliament House itself. As a result of the ineptitude of the Mitchell Government, the building was allowed to lapse into a condition of decay, and white ants have been eating through the cover boards of the electric conduits, while dry rot is apparent as well. The Mitchell Government allowed the building to fall into a distressing condition of disrepair and it remained for the present Government to place men at work to restore the building to a more presentable condition. That state of affairs applies throughout the State where the Government buildings are concerned, especially school buildings, which have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair. Now there is a change. We have a comprehensive programme drawn up and schools and public buildings are to be renovated. So it is all along the line. The Government intend to provide work that ultimately will absorb a large number of men, limited only by the amount of money made available for that purpose. It goes without saying that it is the desire of the present Government to do all those things that they promised the electors should be attended to. If I mistake not, that objective will be most certainly carried out to the best of their ability and by the application of initiative, which is a natural corollary, seeing that those who represent the workers know and understand their industrial needs. I

have instanced the lack of renovations with regard to public buildings, and my remarks apply equally to the railway system. We have it on the authority of a prominent departmental official that the cost of restoring the railway system to an efficient condition will represent about £500,000. Wagons have been stowed away with blue marks on them, indicating that they are not to be utilised. They have been placed away at Robb's Jetty where no one is likely to see them, rather than let the public know that the plant has had to be withdrawn from the road. Instead of keeping men in employment effecting repairs to railway wagons and plant, thus performing useful services, they have been handed out the dole. It is to rectify such a position that the Government take their stand, and they will see that the wheels of industry are kept moving to the extent of the money made available. Money has been frittered away while vehicles, necessary for transportation purposes, and public buildings have been allowed to rot. But the Labour Government have inherited that legacy, and they are confronted with the necessity to carry out long-neglected work. In my own constituency, there is need for work to be carried out and I have received a number of requests from Subiaco residents with that end in view. School buildings require renovating and school yards require attention. In some instances, the sand is showing through the gravel in the playgrounds, and other alterations, necessary from a health point of view, require to be carried out. In the past, such work has been allowed to stand over. It is time the people realised the position and I know they are not so gullible as the Leader of the Opposition would have us believe. He suggested that the people were receiving the benefit of all the educational facilities that they ought to have, and yet during the regime of the Mitchell Government, we had the spectacle of the Training College at Claremont being closed, the Psychological Clinic dispensed with and other essentials set aside as well. All the time, the Mitchell Government were putting off the evil day and were making the best of it. To-day we have in power Ministers possessed of vision and they desire to restore many of those facilities that were set aside by their predecessors. These are some of the features of the present day

situation that appeal to me, as a newcomer to parliamentary life. I hope the House will not consider that I am adopting a hectoring attitude but will realise that I am merely putting the position as it appeals to me. It must be evident to everyone that, as a result of the efficiency of labour and the introduction of machinery, the unemployment problem has been accentuated and the Government will be able to provide relief only to the extent of the money made available to them. Until there has been effected a complete alteration of the monetary system as it now exists, no panacea for the ills from which labour suffers to-day, will be forthcoming. I look forward to the time when the workers throughout the State will be placed at work again, not under sustenance conditions but under circumstances that will enable them to procure the necessities of life that they formerly enjoyed. To-day it seems to be accepted by a large number of people that the worker can exist upon the meagre pittance made available in the shape of the dole. This country has no need for the perpetuation of the dole system. I am pleased to know the present Government are considering a programme that will eliminate the dole as far as practicable, and place men at work on the basic wage. That will put into circulation a considerable amount of money that will, in turn, re-employ others. Rather than wait for a rise in the price level overseas we, as a community, should be operating with every facility to assist those in our midst. We are all awaiting an alteration in the international point of view, but according to to-night's paper it does not seem that anything is likely soon to loom on the horizon. There are at Subiaco various matters which, at the earliest opportunity, I will bring before the notice of the Government. First there is the necessity for a foot-bridge across the railway at Daglish, and then there is the widening of the bridge in Axon-street, and the renovation of various public buildings which I have been promised will be carried out at the earliest opportunity. I do not desire that members should think I am introducing parochial matters, but the interests of the Subiaco constituents have for so long been neglected that it is essential they should be brought before the Government. At the Jolimont school the fence is rotting away, and the teacher tells me he has seen no representative of the Govern-

ment there for years past. Nor has anything been done about the lake. People living in the other direction say their needs must be placed before the Government. I am satisfied that the present Ministry will be very ready to meet any legitimate needs consistent with the money they have at their disposal. I am confident that with the assistance and co-operation that have been promised by the Leader of the Opposition, the present Government will be reinforced, and that the legislation they desire to bring forward in the interests of the people will be thus expedited. I thank the House for the patient hearing they have given me, and I will reserve further comment for some future occasion.

MR. CLOTHIER (Maylands) [7.48]: I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to the high office you hold, and to congratulate also the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I sincerely hope the Leader of the Opposition will continue in his post for a very long time. I listened with interest to the remarks of His Excellency's Speech touching upon gold mining and prospecting. We must all commend the Minister for Mines on his prospecting scheme, the real object of which, I think, is to provide a chance for the rising generation, the youths in our midst. Time and again have those youths been refused sustenance, but now they are to be given a chance to get away prospecting under the direction of men with a wide knowledge of the game. I hope the Minister will be duly rewarded for initiating the scheme. We have heard several times that £555,000 spent on education is a fair proposition. Personally I should be very sorry to see that amount reduced. Only this morning, coming past the Maylands school, I counted the members of three classes. In one there were 72 children, in another 63, and in the third 54. That is beyond reason, for I hold that any number from 45 to 50 is quite enough to be in a class under one teacher, and I hope the Government will see their way to establishing this limit. The Leader of the Opposition had a good deal to say about our primary industries. It will not be denied that the Labour Party stand wholly and solely for the success of those industries. They recognise fully that primary production means the welfare of the metropolitan area. This is seen by comparing the achievements of the Collier Ad-

ministration during 5½ years with those of the Mitchell Government during a similar period. The Collier Government provided agricultural water supplies and Agricultural Bank allowances to the value of £2,644,000, as against £1,073,000 provided by the Mitchell Administration. Again, during the regime of the Collier Government 11,285,000 acres of land was taken up, as against 8,000,000 odd acres during 5½ years of the Mitchell Government. From this it will be seen that the people of the agricultural areas must have been satisfied that they were well treated by the Collier Government. The Minister for Lands remarked yesterday that there are any number of inquiries for abandoned farms. Here again, it seems to me we have proof that the agriculturists know they may rely for fair treatment upon the Collier Government. Having been in the industrial movement for a number of years and in touch with various firms of employers working undue hours of labour, I contend the Government should have an ample staff of inspectors in order to catch those people breaking the industrial awards to the prejudice of the genuine worker competing in business. Only the week before last the secretary of an organisation was notified that a certain firm of foreigners was going to work. The secretary of the organisation concerned thought it best to let the inspector know all about it. What was the result? The inspector rang up the firm and when he went to the place there were no men working. It would be to the general advantage for the Government to appoint two inspectors for that work alone, or alternatively give the secretaries of the organisations increased power to catch those breaking awards. I make bold to say that if this were done, the police court would not have sufficient paper on which to write out summonses for all those infringing the awards. Again in reference to inspectors—I understand this has never previously been brought forward here—there is the unfortunate position of domestic servants. I know that some parents of young girls who cannot get work answer advertisements in the Press, and when they apply for the job they are offered 5s. a week and keep. Fancy that in a country like Western Australia! Some employers offer a little more, but the hours of work are from 6 o'clock in the morning to 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock in the evening,

and when there is to be a bridge party it means a much later hour. It is time legislation was brought in to give our domestics a fair chance for recreation, which they do not get to-day. As one who has for long supported the purchase of locally-made goods, I have often heard it said the people require educating up to that ideal. However, I know that the people for the most part do buy local products when they can get them. The trouble is that we require to educate the shopkeepers to stock local products. One can go to shop after shop in Perth and ask for locally-made goods, only to be disappointed. The time has arrived to educate our shopkeepers in this regard. That is all that is required, for our local manufactures are quite capable of competing against those of the Eastern States in point of quality. I sincerely hope the Government will take steps to put the Lotteries Commission on a more satisfactory footing. The appointment of the commissioners gave rise to a great deal of controversy, and I contend the Government should appoint a committee to make an inquiry into the working of that commission. The lottery, I am sure, could be run much cheaper and better than it is at present. When the commission were appointed I wrote a letter to the Press, but it is still in the press box. Being interested in some friends on the group settlements, I have come to the conclusion that if not a Royal Commission, at all events somebody, should be appointed by the Government to go and see the way in which the group settlers are living down near Busselton. I was there for a month last Christmas and I was surprised to see the way in which the settlers worked and lived. If that occurred in the city, we would call them the slums of Western Australia. In some of those homes the people camp on beds made of chaff and superphosphate bags, which, in a country like this, is a crying shame. Some of the settlers were ordered off their holdings and some have left through no fault of their own. The wives of the settlers work as hard as do the men, and though the settlers have boys working for them at 5s. a week, they cannot make a living. The cream cheque, in some instances, is not worth nearly as much as is sustenance, and yet those settlers have to remain on the groups and put up with such conditions. As to my constituency, I consider it

is the most neglected suburb in the State. I regret to have to say that my predecessor, who was a Minister, could have done much better for the district than he did do. It is surprising to me that there has not been an accident near the railway station. The crossing over the line is such as to give one the impression of a switchback railway. If some alteration is not made there, an accident must occur before long. The member for Subiaco (Mr. Moloney) spoke about the reconditioning of the railways. I endorse his remarks. The paint on the Mt. Lawley station can almost turn round and bid one good morning—it sticks out so far. The entrance to the railway is paved with rough stones not fit for a woman to walk on, especially if she is pushing a perambulator. The condition of the school is no better than that of the Subiaco and Jolimont schools mentioned by the member for Subiaco. There are some stumps of trees in the school yard but there are no seats for the children. The seats have disappeared. Perhaps some unfortunate unemployed man has taken them for firewood. I hope the Minister will see that the children attending that school are properly catered for in the near future.

On motion by Mr. Hawke, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.3 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Tuesday, 25th July, 1933.

	PAGE
Questions : Public Service, Goldfields allowances ...	53
Mining, 1, Government prospecting scheme : 2, Reservation of areas ...	53
Motion : Condolence, the late Hon. T. A. L. Davy, K.D., M.L.A. ...	53
Federal Senate vacancy, Lieut.-Governor's Message	55
Bill : Supply (No. 1), 1R. ...	55
Address-in-Reply, second day, conclusion ...	55
Federal Senate Vacancy, Joint Sitting ...	70

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