

Legislative Assembly,

Thursday, 21st August, 1941.

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

QUESTION—EDUCATION, HINES HILL SCHOOL.

Mr. BOYLE asked the Minister for the North-West: 1, Is he aware that the Hines Hill State School building has been offered for sale and removal? 2, Is he cognisant of the fact that motions protesting against such action have been carried by the Hines Hill Country Women's Association, the Hines Hill Wheat and Woolgrowers' Union and the Hines Hill Parents and Citizens' Association? 3, As there are six children of school age within one mile of the closed school, and several other children who will shortly attain school age, would he prevent the sale and removal of this agricultural district school?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied: 1, No; the Hines Hill State School building has not been offered for sale and removal. 2, No. 3, Yes.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Tenth Day—Conclusion.

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. KELLY (Yilgarn-Coolgardie) [4.33]: I should like first to express my deep regret at the reason for my presence in this Chamber; I refer to the lamented death of Mr. George Lambert. It is indeed a matter of sorrow to me that the circumstances bringing me here should have been of that nature. I was not privileged to be

present upon the delivery of His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor's Speech at the opening of the session. Further, I was absent during addresses given by many members. I have, however, been particularly struck by utterances that have been made since I entered the Chamber two days ago. I am indeed pleased to have the opportunity of addressing this honourable House even very briefly. I propose to confine myself to more or less parochial items concerning my own electorate of Yilgarn-Coolgardie. As members are aware, practically two-thirds of that electorate contain what is one of the State's most important possibilities from a goldmining point of view. There is a huge auriferous area stretching from slightly north of Ravensthorpe through to Ora Banda, and even further north. What has always struck me is the wonderful opportunities existing throughout the length and breadth of the Yilgarn-Coolgardie electorate. That vast area is important not only from a goldmining point of view, but also because of the many other mineral opportunities which it offers and which are now awaiting exploitation. It will be my endeavour to convince the Government of the day—not that I would suggest Ministers do not already realise the potentialities of the district—of the dire need for urgent exploitation in many now dormant branches of an industry which at present ranks as second to none in Western Australia. Many thousands of acres in my electorate remain practically untouched from the aspect of prospecting, or should I say thorough prospecting?

I was highly interested in the remarks of the member for Brown Hill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith). The hon. member struck many apposite notes in the course of his speech. There was one point, however, which to my surprise he omitted when referring to the wave of prosperity now obtaining in our goldmining industry. It is one of the chief reasons for the revival of the industry. I refer to the endeavours of our prospectors. It is not difficult to realise that the wonderful prosperity the industry enjoys today, while to a great degree the result of assistance by the present Government and improved working conditions and machinery conditions, is in a far greater degree the result of the efforts of the hard-dying race of prospectors of Western Australia. Today we are on the crest of a

wave of prosperity in the industry, and that crest results from the efforts of those hardy toilers who went out 20 or 30 and even 50 years ago and discovered the mines which are working today. Activities of prospectors at present are far from being encouraged as they should be. Many additional improvements are required, and many further concessions should be enjoyed by those men.

I sometimes wonder what will happen to our goldmining industry in another couple of decades if new shows are not discovered in the near future. When we recall the history of the industry during the last five and even 10 years, it is not hard to realise that very few shows indeed have been found during that period which will keep Western Australia's end up from a production point of view in another 15 or 20 years' time. The shows operating today are fast going out, because their production has overtaken their development; and so we find that this cause, coupled in some cases with high costs of administration and of production, is putting shows out of existence. So I come to the point that our goldmining industry is bound up with the activities of the prospector. Much undoubtedly has been done by the prospector, but much remains still to be done before he can be enticed into the back country to unearth the new shows which will be the salvation of the industry. During the past 12 months I have seen about 100 prospectors leave my district. It may be said that gold was not present in sufficient quantities to keep them there. That is one reason, but a greater reason is that the men were unable to leave the beaten track and do something worth while. If they did find a show some distance away from either a State or privately-owned battery, they were unable to cart low-grade stone and get it crushed with profit to themselves. In many instances their reward was merely an amount sufficient to pay their store bill, leaving nothing over for their hard work.

I draw the Government's attention to several points which I consider would help to alleviate the present distressing position, one that will be profoundly accentuated in days to come unless action is taken. First, the conditions at our State batteries, although they have been relieved to a degree in the past 12 or 18 months, are such as to call for attention. The batteries require overhauling. Conditions could and should be

improved to enable men fortunate enough to be working near a State battery to get their stone crushed at a reasonable cost. If this were done, many low-grade shows could carry out exploratory work which eventually would prove of great benefit to the State. Apart from the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the State batteries, there is a decided shortage of such batteries. Many shows, too far from the beaten track at present, are capable of development and could be worked profitably if crushing facilities were available within a reasonable distance. We have at present 26 or 28 State batteries which, with few exceptions, are working to full capacity. If the State battery system could be extended, I am convinced that the additional facilities would be greatly appreciated by the prospectors, while the State Treasury would benefit to a substantial degree. Many prospectors not fortunate enough to be working near a State battery are close to a privately-owned battery. To be fair, I must say that conditions for prospectors at the State batteries are much better than are the conditions at the privately-owned batteries. The Government ought to institute some form of subsidy for the privately-owned batteries, so that the prospectors using them might at least enjoy the conditions under which prospectors using State batteries are working. That would be a step in the right direction, would relieve the present stress, and result in greater gold production.

Prospectors are also at a distinct disadvantage because of the high cost of water. The prospector himself does not use a large quantity of water, but he is affected by the high charges to the battery which crushes his ore. Those water charges are much higher than they should be. Several deputations from my electorate have waited upon the Government in an endeavour to get the charges reduced, but have met with little success. The deputations were told that any reduction in the charges would involve huge alterations which would be so far-reaching that the Government did not feel disposed to treat our district differently from others. The Government did say that it was prepared to examine each case on its merits, but we have received only small relief. Many shows have closed down in my district during the past 18 months which, but for the excessive cost of water from our goldfields scheme, would still be at work. I know this

from actual contact with the shows in question. It would be unwise for me or for anybody else to assert that the cost of water was the determining factor in closing those mines; nevertheless, it definitely was a contributing factor.

There are other ways in which the prospector could be assisted without embarrassing the Treasury to any great extent. One is the installation of a system of dams. In many centres in my electorate and in the outback sections of those centres are dams which have fallen into disrepair and become useless. No effort has been made to put them into a state of repair. I have visited a number of the dams during the past few weeks. It is a crying shame to see the roofs fallen in, the iron blown about and wasted, the timbers white-ant eaten, and cracks in the cement from side to side which have not been patched. It would not be a great drain on the Treasury to put those dams in order and place them in commission. They would be of material assistance to men struggling for an existence in the outback areas of the Yilgarn-Coolgardie district.

Another hardship imposed during the last few months upon those in the mining industry—one which has been mentioned by several speakers on the Address-in-reply—is petrol rationing. I do not want to dwell on the difficulties that have been occasioned by petrol rationing, but stress the point that although this is a Federal matter the State Government should take steps to control the destiny of our outback districts. I understand that a car with a given horsepower rating is allowed a certain amount of petrol, and that quantity is not varied, irrespective of whether the car is employed in Cottesloe or Subiaco or in the extreme ends of my territory. If that is the case, it is placing a distinct hardship on a section of the community that should receive every encouragement. I believe it was stated in this House yesterday that Western Australia's petrol quota was 880,000 gallons. I am convinced that if the distribution of that quantity were administered properly by a totally Western Australian board, capable of making the necessary decisions, the amount would be adequate, or very nearly adequate, for the requirements of essential services. If the Government has not already taken steps to effect local control of Western Australia's petrol quota, I hope it will do so in the near future.

A necessity in the goldmining industry is the establishment of a sliding scale rate whereby the handling of low-grade ore could be undertaken at a lower cost. Theoretically, a man crushing 5 dwts. gets 3 dwts. over the plates and the other two in the sands. Actually, all the man is entitled to, or gets, is the amount he receives over the plates, because the sands are valueless to him under our present method of extraction. If the sliding scale could be adopted and a man were given the benefit of the low-grade ore he had mined, a far greater amount of gold would reach the market, to the ultimate benefit of the State. After all, even if the Government ran the State batteries at a distinct loss, it would be to the credit of the State not only now but in years to come.

I have already referred to petrol rationing, about which much has been heard from many quarters. It appears that the State will soon have to depend for additional petrol upon the extraction of this fuel from wheat. Another possible source of fuel is the shale oil deposit outside Coolgardie. For some months I have been making exhaustive inquiries with a view to having these deposits opened up. The obstacle to prospecting that area seems to be that portion of the ground is held as a mining lease or mining leases, with the result that it is impossible to persuade private enterprise to do anything in the matter. Money would not be forthcoming for developing the deposits unless that area were thrown open. I understand that 30 years ago a section of the shale oil deposit was worked and a trial parcel was sent to Scotland. The analysis showed that 30 gallons to the ton of shale oil was possible. At that time the method of handling the oil and the amount consumed in Western Australia were such that to work the deposits in the manner in which they would have had to be worked at that time would not have been profitable, but today circumstances have entirely changed; conditions generally have altered. The operations necessary in the working of shale oil stone have changed to such a degree that it is now possible to work the deposits satisfactorily and to convert them into an asset to Western Australia. I would urge that the fullest inquiry be made with a view to opening up the deposits and putting shale oil from Western Australia on the market.

The iron deposits of Koolyanobbing, 30 miles from Southern Cross, in my territory are also worthy of consideration. Unfortunately I have not figures to submit regarding the findings of experts who were sent there to examine the deposits, but I understand the conditions are such as to be distinctly encouraging. Further investigations might well be made. I hope they will be and that future activities will result in the establishment of a profitable industry.

A subject calling for reference is the decline apparent throughout the agricultural areas. A few years ago in my electorate there were many hundreds of farmers, but because of various causes, including bad seasons, drought conditions, low prices and other contributory factors, a decline set in, resulting in the present serious position of the industry. The farmers who remain are undoubtedly labouring under parlous conditions. I trust that a full measure of rehabilitation will be provided for them so that they may not only be kept on their holdings but that others may be encouraged to engage in agriculture there in the coming years. I understand a policy of linking-up holdings is to be adopted. Although the scheme is in its early stages and possibly has been the subject of much thought by the powers that be, so far as we can gather at present the proposals do not go far enough. While linking-up may enhance the agricultural possibilities of the district, many people are of the opinion that the policy so far indicated does not meet all requirements. For instance, the linking-up of several blocks in the interests of a farmer who is already in straitened circumstances, will not do very much for him because he is not able appreciably to strengthen his position owing to lack of capital. Unless provision is made to enable him to sink dams, erect adequate fencing, purchase sufficient stock for the extended area and provide better housing conditions—at present the housing conditions are far from satisfactory—the farmer's position will not be much improved. In addition to the requirements I have already mentioned, a reduction in rentals charged, which must be brought down to an absolute minimum, must be provided for, otherwise the scheme will not prosper. Certainly the Government will have to go much further if success is to be achieved, particularly in the marginal areas.

Reference was made in another place recently to two roads, the construction of which was said to be under consideration. One was the Ora Banda road and the other the Evanston road. I hope matters in that regard will be speeded up to such a degree that the work will be proceeded with in both instances in the near future. I do not know of any road worse than that to Ora Banda. In fact, it can be said to take second place only to the road that originally connected Coolgardie to Kalgoorlie. The Ora Banda road is in a wretched condition, and it passes my comprehension why any road board, having the advantage of rates and road license fees, should not have put the road into a better state of repair without waiting for the Government to do the work that is now necessary to make it reasonably satisfactory to travellers. The Evanston road is in a different category. At present it has many features that commend it, but nevertheless it is inadequate to cope with the volume of traffic that passes over it. The Evanston Goldfield will possibly become one of the best producers the State has known for many years. If prompt consideration is given to the reconstruction of the road there the improvement will be greatly appreciated by those engaged in developing an asset that will be of great importance to the State.

I am afraid my remarks have been more or less parochial. I am newly elected to this Chamber and do not desire to weary members at the outset. I was rather surprised yesterday to hear the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) address remarks to me and possibly I was expected to accept them from him in his advisory capacity. To me his remarks were not altogether reasonable. For instance, he suggested that members of this House were wooing my presence. I think that remark was most uncalled for, and made me feel my position to be somewhat unhappy. Simply because members of this House had been kind to me and decent enough to pass the time of day or say a few words to me, I do not think it quite proper that I should be likened, so to speak, to a shag on a rock—a phrase I have heard the hon. member use before. The member for East Perth rather took the bull by the horns and appeared to me to be somewhat unfair in his remarks.

Mr. Wilson: Hear, hear!

Mr. KELLY: Perhaps the remarks were more jocular than anything else, and I shall accept them in that light. I assure the House that while my remarks this afternoon may have been parochial, my outlook is not bound by the limits of the Yilgarn-Coolgardie electorate but is State-wide.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [5.8]: At the outset I desire to extend my sympathy to the relatives of the late George Lambert. His old familiar figure will be missed by all of us in this Chamber, and so too will be his knowledge of mining, metallurgy and chemistry. Those interested in such industries will sadly miss him. I congratulate the new member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Kelly), and compliment him upon a remarkably fine maiden effort on the floor of the House. I have been a new member and have felt the difficulty of addressing the House. From that standpoint, I am able to sympathise with him. If the speech he has just delivered is an example of his capacity to address you, Mr. Speaker, I feel certain he will prove an acquisition to the debating strength of this Chamber.

Possibly I would not have contributed to the Address-in-reply debate but, in view of the new ruling that one cannot discuss such matters as one may desire in Committee of Supply, I shall avail myself of this opportunity to say a few words. I shall preface my remarks by sounding a note of warning regarding a subject that has been discussed frequently of late—the new world order. Probably I could make utterances that would be equally popular, but the crisis that confronts this nation is of such a character that it demands the truth to be courageously spoken. Some of us have very short memories. We are prone to take the line of least resistance and even to lead the people along a road that must ultimately end in disaster. The institutions of the British Empire are the most glorious known to the world. No one will deny that. The sacrifices being made to maintain those institutions are not too great. Still, I am very sceptical whether, even after all our efforts and sacrifices and after a military victory, we shall experience a new world order of very much value to the multitude

of the people. It might be obtained because the will of the people is supreme and all-powerful, but unless they realise their own sovereignty and take action, I am afraid the new world order will be a repetition of past experience.

The member for Brownhill-Ivanhoe (Mr. F. C. L. Smith) gave an interesting exposition of the origin of Parliament. In my opinion he explained the facts clearly. He presented sound argument to show that party politics was the natural corollary of the parliamentary system. I agree that party politics has served to an extent and could result in greater success. To achieve this, courage is required. I look back over a period of years and find the United Australia Party supported chiefly by business people to whom we refer as the middle class. All that the U.A.P. has done for them is to load them with taxation to such an extent that many have long since become insolvent, and the only hope held out to them is for a still heavier burden of taxation. I look at the Country Party to which the primary producer pins his faith. After years he finds his home and property more heavily encumbered with debt than ever, while the possibilities and probabilities of being able to market his produce—provided he can continue to produce—were never more doubtful or less secure. Then there is the industrialist, whose confidence is reposed in the party of which I have the honour to be a member. Looking back I find that the effective purchasing power of his wage has not increased one iota. His right even to earn that wage is less secure than ever before owing to the mechanisation of farms, factories and mines. That is the position as I see it. The fundamental basis of these anomalies lies in the fact that, no matter which party is in office, it is not permitted to give effect to its policy.

Hon. N. Keenan: What is the good of it?

Mr. MARSHALL: The best that can be done is to give effect to so much of the policy as finance will permit. Beyond that no party can go. We have often been told that government is finance and finance is government. In any trade, calling or profession, we would ridicule an individual who endeavoured to carry on without the necessary facilities to do so. Yet we enter Parliament believing that we shall be able to accomplish something when the very essen-

tial, the very lifeblood of the nation, all that we require to give effect to the wishes of the people is something that we do not control. The hopelessness of the position is obvious.

On previous occasions I have endeavoured to explain my viewpoint to the House. We have a team of men constituting the Government. Every member of it has had industrial experience. I doubt whether there is one of them who has not passed through the school of bitter experience. Each in his turn has suffered. I suggest that, after their experience in an administrative capacity over a period of years, they are able administrators. Yet members rise in the House and castigate the Government for having done this or not having done that, speaking as though the Government sat in the forefront of a colossal institution chock-full of money, as though the Government adopted the attitude that no matter how hard was the lot of the people it would in no circumstances release money to relieve the position. That is not so. This Government can do no more than it is doing, having regard for the fact that under our Constitution this State has no control of money. It is in a hopeless position except that it might fight the proposition, and endeavour to win back to the Federal arena a correct interpretation of Section 51a of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, and force those who have the power under that part of the Constitution to use such power, and deny outside bodies the right to dictate to the representatives of the people in Parliament. Until that is done, nothing will avail. I defy any individuals to assume Ministerial office in this State tomorrow and do as well as the present team has done. All I have to complain about is that as a progressive Party, whose platform advocates the very reform I am suggesting, there is about it a lack of courage to tackle the proposition. That is all! Until the proposition is tackled, there can be little hope of any material redress, and the standards of all sections of the community, commercial, productive, and industrial, must gradually decline.

I may be accused of advocating a policy that would be detrimental to a vigorous war policy. Conscientiously speaking, I am of opinion that we can never proceed to a vigorous war policy while such policy is limited by the amount of money that is made available by private institutions. The more orthodox is the method of financing

Governments, the less can they expand the national credit because of the interest burdens that must eventually crush them. Bankers know that and go steadily so that the interest bill will rise gradually. They feel their way with the people to see how much more taxation can be extracted from them. Until that position is ascertained the banks will expand no more, and make no more money available. We have no better example of the dictates of finance over Governments than was afforded in the years 1930 to 1933. There was a clear demonstration of the universal oligarchy of finance sending its representatives who were supported, unfortunately, by professors of economics, to dictate to Governments what they should or should not do, and telling them distinctly that they would get no more money until they did as they were told. We have a professor who sponsored that plan. The basic principle of the plan was—the less you eat the fatter you get, the less you wear, the warmer you will be; the more primitively you exist, the better the home you will have. In other words, the policy was, the less money there is in the country, the greater will be the prosperity. That plan was supported by our professor of economics. It was merely a plan to give effect to the dictates of financial oligarchies emanating from Wall-street in America and from Threadneedle-street in London. Unless people waken to the position there will be a repetition of that in store for them.

I do not want members to think I am criticising any particular statesman because he does not happen to serve under the same political banner that I do. I cannot help saying, however, what I feel about the present Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. If I did not hold this view of him, I would have to insult his intelligence by saying he was incompetent and had no right to hold his position. He knows well he is leading this country into a state of degradation. My contention in that respect is borne out by his own utterances. A new world order! We had all that during the last international conflict, which cost this sunny land 60,000 of its best men and a debt amounting to £806,000,000. That debt has been increasing over the years, and may now be at a higher figure. It is the minimum amount. Many promises were made to us—that we would be permitted to hang the Kaiser; or pinch or torture the Kaiser to death when victory

came our way; that the world would be made safe for Democracy; that it would be made fit for heroes to live in; that Germany would have to pay the war debts; and above all, that we were engaged in a war to end war. I ask members whether that is not correct. Most of them were on this planet, as I was, during the last war. Those were the promises that were made, if my memory serves me right. How many of them have been fulfilled? We were promised a new world order, a world that would be fit for heroes to live in. Unfortunately, men who fought in defence of this country walked all over it in search of a job. The member for Victoria Park (Mr. Raphael) told us of the case of an unfortunate man—or was he a fortunate one—who had returned from the present war, had gone away in defence of Democracy, and who is now on the dole.

Mr. Sampson: The Minister for Works offered him a job right away.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am prepared to accept the statement of the member for Victoria Park. Even if it is not true, it will be the order of the day unless people make use of their own sovereignty and their own power, and make their servants, members of Parliament, responsible for giving effect to their wishes.

Mr. Wilson: Federal members?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes. We talk of democracy. Much is mouthed about democracy at the moment, about freedom, liberty—all glorious things in their way, but what sins are committed in the name of liberty and democracy! I would define democracy as the belief inherent in society that men would in association get what they wanted. I put it to the House, do the peoples of the world want this present international conflict? Did they ask for the poverty and unemployment recently experienced? Did they ask for the burden of taxation which today is reducing their living standards? No! They elect men to Parliament, and those men give them what they do not ask for, and deny to them that which they would have. As I pointed out earlier, that is inevitably so. It cannot be avoided because we have no control of the essential factor needed to give effect to the demands of the peoples. One thing upon which I can congratulate the present Prime Minister of the Commonwealth is that he is at least frank and outspoken enough to tell the Australian people what they have to expect at the con-

clusion of the present war. All those utterances are not in conformity with the ideas of those who preach the new order under a disguise for the purpose of misleading the people. But the Prime Minister evidently is most truthful. I concur in his utterances. Unless there is some change, what he prophesies must inevitably come true. Still, he is in a position to change the course of events. But he will not. Mr. Menzies in returning from England said in New Zealand certain things which he repeated over the air only six or seven weeks ago. Indeed, a very recent statement of his supports those earlier utterances—

The Government was obliged to employ female labour because male labour was too expensive.

Now I quote his utterances in New Zealand—

I encountered no thinking human being in Great Britain who did not realise that if the price of victory is poverty—and I think it is, and what is wrong with poverty providing it is the poverty of freedom?—then the business of statesmanship after the war is to see that that poverty is honourably shared.

There is the new world order—poverty!

Mr. Sampson: There is no poverty of words!

Mr. MARSHALL: The hon. member interjecting will not suffer from any other poverty than mental poverty. It is good for those in the right position to continue to emulate and endorse destruction provided they themselves survive. The present system has been good to the hon. member interjecting, but it has been abominably hard on others, namely the majority of the people. So there is the new world order!

I wish to sound a note of warning. In my humble judgment this conflict is being fought for two different objects; firstly, a return to the gold standard; secondly, the creation of an oligarchic union somewhere in Europe! Those are the features that occasion most concern today. Some people are advocating, not a return to the gold standard, but oligarchic union as a solution of international difficulties. Strange to relate, not one of the advocates of oligarchic union advocates a union on the lines of the British Empire! They call for sacrifice. Each nation must hand over its powers, its army and navy and air force, and its economics to that union. That union is to have world-wide authority. Those who control the Parliaments of the world today will be able to handle very conveniently a few

men situated somewhere in Europe, and their dictates will be given effect to, because the people of every nation will be helpless. No nation will be able to offer any resistance. No nation dare do so. A nation attempting resistance would be annihilated. There would be no freedom such as we enjoy in the British Empire today. No, no! "Give up your powers to this authority in which America, controlled by Wall street, will have the predominant voice!" I warn people who advocate this union, and I respectfully foretell that if such a union ever comes into existence it will be a case of "God help us!" Hence the desire to abolish democracies. Democracy is a danger to all such types, and democracies it is that they really wish to remove.

On a recent tour—I revisited the Eastern States after an absence of 20 years—I had the pleasure of the company of yourself, Mr. Speaker; and the trip was indeed enjoyable. We saw much and talked little, but both of us thought a lot. While discussing some of these questions with eastern Australians of promise, I happened to pick up the "Daily Telegraph" of Thursday, the 19th June, 1941, and in it was a statement by Sir Victor Sassoon, who, according to the headings, was on the way to stop Hitler. Sir Victor was reported as follows:—

A world federation of democracies with Britain, Australia and Canada becoming part of the United States was essential (said the chairman of the E. D. Sassoon Banking Company, Sir Victor Sassoon, who is on his way to Shanghai).

I hope he got there!

There is no other way to stop Hitler. It is now so obvious to the world's businessmen that a federal alliance is necessary, that it hardly bears discussion. England must come into the democracy of the United States with a full right of statehood. It is also obvious that England must give up her traditions and institutions of government.

That is what is wanted. That is what these people are after. A return to the gold basis would mean absolute degradation and poverty for the whole British Empire.

Mr. Stubbs: They have not any hope of getting it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I hope the member for Wagin is correct.

Mr. McDonald: Do you think we should abolish gold?

Mr. MARSHALL: I do not think the Anglo-Saxon race's love of freedom would tolerate it, but it is hard to say what might

happen, because all these things were done in the 1914-18 war to induce the people to believe that international conflicts would end by giving effect to them. I have much literature upon the subject. One most remarkable point which no one will deny in this enlightened age is that Parliaments do not control, but are controlled by, financial institutions. That I think is established. No one will deny it. We have had experience of it in our own small sphere.

Mr. McDonald: I absolutely deny it as far as I am concerned.

Mr. MARSHALL: All right. Probably the most outstanding statement on the point was made by the late Sir Joseph Lyons.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Sir?

Mr. MARSHALL: Before I quote what he said, let me read a statement, which was made on the 8th June, 1939, by Philip A. Benson, president of the American Bankers' Association in a speech at Milwaukee—

There is no more direct way to capture control of a nation than through its credit (money) system.

Mr. McDonald: That has nothing to do with me. I have never even heard of the gentleman.

Mr. MARSHALL: Of course. The member for West Perth has not taken any interest in the subject.

Mr. McDonald: I have.

Mr. MARSHALL: Let me quote a statement by the late Vincent C. Vickers, a former Director of the Bank of England—

As we stand today, money and the issue of credit is not controlled by the State, but by interested parties creating no real wealth, working to make money out of money—most of which is not theirs at all. Increasing numbers of people are asking, "Is it necessary or right that we should be governed by money power?" The future welfare of the money industry, as it is at present constituted, depends entirely upon its own power to crush out the human impulse to go forward and upon its ability to override the will of the people and so govern the world.

Probably this statement will convince the member for West Perth.

Mr. McDonald: Was that statement made by Bruce Brown?

Mr. MARSHALL: He is a greater authority on money than the one I have quoted. I shall read another quotation, which can be found in the library. It is by a gentleman named Reginald McKenna. Will the member for West Perth doubt his right to speak upon banking? The quotation reads—

The Bank of England, and no other power

in heaven above or earth beneath, is the ultimate arbiter of what our money supply shall be.

God! Do we want any greater proof than this man gives us? Professor Soddy, R. G. Hawtrey, H. D. McLeod and other economists and bankers all agree with it. Nobody would dare deny it, except the member for West Perth, who glibly said that he denied it.

Mr. McDonald: Read the whole book. You will find a very different proposition.

Mr. MARSHALL: Why does the member for West Perth glibly invite me to read literature that I have been studying for years? He puts me in mind of a law court case that I read of. A witty lawyer, not too well liked by the presiding judge, had outlined his case, when the judge said to him, "Well, if that is the law, I had better burn my books." "No," replied the lawyer, "you had better read them." That is my viewpoint. I could be like other members, rush in on a wave of popularity and say, "It does not matter, do not mention it, hush it up, hide it." When all is over, however, we shall have in a more aggravated form the conditions that prevailed after the 1914-18 war. God forbid! Our soldiers should not be asked to suffer like that. Were it not necessary, I would not be pleading the case I am putting forward. This country can produce an abundance of wealth. It is doubtful what limits could be put to that wealth if every man, woman and child, plus our machinery, were permitted to apply themselves to the production of real wealth. We could produce 100,000,000 bushels of wheat annually. All that is required by the complex demands of society can be produced in abundance in this glorious land. Yet we are told by Mr. Menzies that it is a poor country. No doubt it is, when it must pay interest to nine financial institutions of which Mr. Menzies is a director.

Mr. McDonald: Of what companies is he a director?

Mr. MARSHALL: I will have something to say on that later. I shall not enter into an argument now. I have all the information, names, value and everything else. The hon. member will get it all in good time; it shall not escape my attention; even though he may desire me to pass it over.

Mr. McDonald: You are referring to "Who rules Australia?"

Mr. MARSHALL: I will give the hon. member the names of the companies, the capital subscribed and all other details, all in good time, when I propose to move a motion on this subject. I am pleased that I have the member for West Perth riled because I am sure I must be right.

Mr. McDonald: I am all for you.

Mr. MARSHALL: I must be right, because the hon. member is attacking me. He is like the "West Australian" newspaper; if that attacks me I must be right.

Mr. Withers: Definitely!

Mr. MARSHALL: If it does not attack me I am definitely wrong. I wish to refer to the Mining Act. While in the Eastern States I made some inquiries, hoping against hope that I would get first-hand information upon up-to-date processes for the sanitation and ventilation of gold mines. I regret I was unsuccessful. The ventilation of our gold mines, I am pleased to say, is as modern as is that of the mines in any of the other States, although I am still unconvinced that we are doing all we might in that direction. In passing, I might say that I consider Western Australia's laws and their administration are equal to those in the Eastern States and in many respects are superior. In regard to the ventilation of metalliferous mines the information I gleaned while in the Eastern States gave me the impression that the prevalent idea is that it is not considered proper to instal modern methods such as air-conditioned processes, until the temperatures in the mines have risen so high that labour could not give efficient service. I have had experience in mines ever since I was a child, notwithstanding the utterances of the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) who blazed the track for me from the Golden Mile. May I take this opportunity of thanking him and the other stalwarts who did so.

Mr. Hughes: Do not let us forget it.

Mr. MARSHALL: I shall do my best not to, and so long as the hon. member does not charge me 6s. 8d. for the advice, I shall be more serious in my endeavour not to do so. I thank him for blazing the track. In all my travels I have found no better country than Western Australia and no better spot within Western Australia than

the goldfields. Consequently, his pioneering is much appreciated by me. The pioneers discovered a very nice plot of country and there is a very nice climate there. I am sorry I had to come down here at this time of the year.

To return to the point I was making: If we are going to allow our mines, as they are worked to greater depths, to continue with their present form of ventilation until the temperatures get too high for efficient service to be rendered, we shall poison thousands of men. There are not many members in this Chamber who know the toll that has been paid in the way of human life in the mines of Western Australia, but I respectfully suggest that to ask men to continue working with the present ventilation system is asking too much. We have more metalliferous mines than has any other State. The Eastern States are more concerned with coal mining, with the exception of Broken Hill, Mt. Isa and Captain Flat. So we ought to be in the vanguard.

Mr. Wilson: We are not!

Mr. MARSHALL: No, but we should be. I do not want to throw cold water on the Government's proposition, but I suggest that immediate action should be taken by the Mines Department, in regard to our mines—and especially the deep mines where dust and silica are present—to instal machines where temperatures are above normal, machines that will condition the air and send it below so that men's lives will be preserved. To take up any other attitude is to be inhuman. I remind the Deputy Premier that a quarter of a million of money has been paid into the Treasury by the mining industry. Much of that may be required for the building of offices. To that I have no objection, but I consider that some of the money should be earmarked for the assistance of companies that cannot afford to instal proper systems of ventilation. Some companies are not in a position to do so, though there are many that can. These ventilation systems have been installed in mines in Africa and Canada. I do not suggest that the poor old native should not work under the best conditions, but it is galling to me that black men should get preference of consideration over white men in the matter of the proper ventilation of mines.

The Minister for Works: Why not ask the Commonwealth to forego some of its money?

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, that could be done. The Deputy Premier and the Government can solve the problem in whatever way they like. It is the Government's job and I do not mind how the Government goes about it. I am not interested in that, but I am interested in the welfare of these men. My family made a big enough sacrifice. My father and three or four uncles are in the Kalgoorlie cemetery and all of them died young as a result of their mining experience. I do not want a repetition of that. It is of little use expert advisers telling me that everything is all right, so long as temperatures are normal; it is not all right. The deeper the mines are sunk, the greater the difficulty in removing silicotic air. I do not want the Government to wait until the men are poisoned with silica, dust and gas. The Government should be in the vanguard in preserving the lives of young men, who were brought into the industry a few years ago in a healthy condition. I hope further consideration will be given to protecting their health. It is not sufficient to say to a man, "You have done 20 years of mining, old chap, and now you are silicotic. We will give you compensation and let you go." That is not enough; I want to protect these men and save them, and I believe that by adopting the measures I suggest a good deal of compensation money would be saved.

I hope that share-hawking and the sale of wild-cat propositions will be curbed in future. I subscribe to everything the member for East Perth (Mr. Hughes) had to say last night. It is a rotten state of affairs when investors so far removed from Western Australia can be taken down, without an opportunity to inquire into the investments they have made. I do not know whether or not our amended Act will cover the position. I realise the difficulty of the Mines Department in refusing to sanction a prospectus, but definitely something should be done and it devolves upon the Government to solve the problem and prevent further exploitation. With all due respect to the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Kelly), I point out that the mining industry is scarcely experiencing a period of prosperity. As a result of a shortage of

skilled men and the crushing burden of taxation, duplicated in many instances, the industry has met with a good deal of adversity, in my electorate at any rate. I did not grip the actual substance of the hon. member's remarks in regard to a sliding scale at the State batteries. If he wished to imply that a charge should be made on the basis of the whole value of the ore crushed, he definitely has not my support. I know of crushings that went ounces but it was only a half-ton of ore obtained over two years. I have known a low-grade proposition that should give 3 dwts., but the owners have made fortunes out of it. I suggest that the hon. member tread very carefully. He is on dangerous ground when he begins to advocate a sliding scale. Societies of prospectors and leaseholders had that idea some years ago until I explained what would happen, and then they realised what they were doing.

I thank members for the attentive hearing they have given me. All the utterances I have made regarding mismanagement of the country's affairs, or about any individual member of the Federal Government or the State Government, have been made in the hope that there will be an awakening to our responsibility to protect humanity when the war has ended.

MR. DONEY (Williams-Narrogin) [6.0]: The member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall), who has just concluded his remarks, referred sympathetically to men suffering from silicosis and other dust complaints contracted when working in mines. At any time that hon. member or anyone else submits legislation to us to improve the condition of such men, he will most certainly have my support. I do not agree by a long way with everything the member for Murchison says. In fact, I believe he is the only man who believes 100 per cent. of everything he says. I did so entirely when he spoke in complimentary fashion of the new member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie (Mr. Kelly). I, too, congratulate the hon. member upon obtaining a seat in this House. The speech he delivered to us this afternoon was one of the best maiden efforts I have heard during the many years I have sat in Parliament. It was well balanced, well delivered and full of commonsense.

Mr. Withers: The member for East Perth is listening!

Mr. Hughes: All I have to say to that is: *Cave Danaos et dona ferentes!*

Mr. DONEY: The mining and agricultural interests in the Yilgarn-Coolgardie electorate will be well represented through the hon. member, for he has certainly made a good start.

Mr. Cross: You must be wooing him!

Mr. DONEY: I share the great regret expressed at the passing of George Lambert. Most members have lauded him because of his knowledge of mineralogy, metallurgy and chemistry as applied to mining. I am more likely, however, to remember him for his love of his children, and for his kindness to children generally.

Perhaps the most profitable subject for discussion at this juncture is that of post-war planning. Many speakers have dealt with that subject and I hope many more will do so in the future so that we shall impress ourselves and others with the vital need to take action regarding these pressing important matters. Throughout the debate a variety of views has been expressed by members. The member for Toodyay (Mr. Thorn), for instance, appeared to hold the rather strange idea that we should not pursue the matter of a new order at all. The member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) was pessimistic. He seemed to have an idea that humanity could not rise to the occasion. The Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) was reported recently as believing that the new order is right at this very moment being built up in the minds of the people. I have not sensed that. There is not in my mind any such thing at all as some unconscious development, a sort of haphazard growth of a new order that may be regarded as worth while. Thus I make bold on that point to disagree even with the Prime Minister.

I dealt with this question a year ago during the Address-in-reply debate. I regarded it as one of urgency then; today there is not the slightest doubt that it is doubly urgent. I regard the year that has passed as a year lost. Surely we should plan for peace no less than for war, and I say we should plan elaborately and exhaustively. It must have been noticed by all of us that when Hitler occupies a new country, on every occasion he straightway sets himself to plan for the economic and social future of that country. It is no mere makeshift plan. He plans for what he regards as something on a permanent basis, although

naturally we do not regard the occupancy of any such country as by any means permanent. It is as though this man sees through the haze of the conflict and is determined that post-war Germany and its vassal States, as he sees them in prospect, shall collaborate as one unit and jump straightway into pre-planned and ordered activity.

The Minister for Works: He has a way of persuading people to adopt his plans.

Mr. DONEY: I do not know that I would be prepared to agree to what Hitler regards as "persuasion." Still, I am referring only to the man's ideas and the guiding force that puts those ideas into effect. Most of us will admit that he is at least wise in patches, and his very direct and purposeful methods certainly appeal to me. I do not suppose we follow this man in any other particular, but let us be sensible enough to follow him in this matter. His is the copybook maxim, "Do it now."

The Minister for Labour: Can you tell us how he finances?

Mr. DONEY: Had the Minister put that question to the member for Murchison a few minutes ago, he would have got an answer which the hon. member himself would have regarded as intelligent, though whether the Minister would have viewed it in the same light, I cannot say. Reverting to Hitler, his postwar plans are part of his war plans. War and peace, so far as he is concerned, are parts of the same whole. They are not so with us, but they certainly should be. After all, what is the chief purpose of war in the mind of the aggressor nation? It is not so much to punish the other parties to the fight as it is a means of improving geographically and economically the position of that nation. Unless we take intelligent notice of Hitler's method, he will get away with it regardless of whether he wins or loses the war.

The opinion held by the Minister for Lands last year was that post-war reconstruction had better be left for consideration in the post-war period. He was definite on that point. His view was that we could not foresee the post-war position or forecast the terms of peace. True, we cannot forecast the terms of peace, but there are many conditions that must inevitably arise from the war and can be foreseen and provided for. We agree that the new order will impose upon us a trade policy entirely different from the one we work to now.

We agree, also, that it is feasible—although I think quite unlikely—that there will be changes in the constitution of the Empire, that is to say, some variation in the number and possibly in the identity of the member nations of the Empire. The Minister for Lands expressed the opinion last year that oversea trade is almost entirely dependent upon trade preferences within the Empire, and we know that those trade preferences may disappear. They may, of course, be easily intensified, and, if they are, the arrangement will work in nicely with the views being expressed on behalf of certain big businesses in Sydney and Melbourne. After the war we may develop into one hundred per cent. protectionism. I hope that does not occur; I think free trade is more likely. If free trade came it would facilitate the profitable marketing of our primary products. That sentiment will not appeal to the Minister for Industrial Development because such a policy would have a stultifying effect on secondary industries.

We agree with the Minister for Lands that all those perplexities do exist, but of this at least we have no doubt that the world will still have urgent need of butter, fruit, eggs, skins, hides, wheat, wool and such-like commodities. Another point is that our fighting men—most of them, we hope—will return and will require to be absorbed into congenial occupations. We stand for that, and to plan for it now is not too early. Neither is it too early to pursue the idea which was dropped when the war broke out of obtaining that rather wonderful understanding, possible, though hard to reach, between the wheat-producing nations of the world. As a matter of fact, the body concerned is putting forth a demand to meet again, the object being to arrange a planned restriction and a stabilised price for wheat. Then we must ask for and insist upon lower interest rates in respect of works and investments of national value. This aim is not likely to be very easily achieved, but some little encouragement may be drawn from the fact that this is not now the generally contentious subject it was three or four years ago.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. DONEY: At the tea adjournment I was endeavouring to impress the Premier's

mind with the importance of planning for the hoped-for period. The end of the war will without doubt find us in a muddle of inequalities. There will be a great deal too much of what we do not want, and of course far too little of what we do want. Beyond doubt many thousands of men will be out of work, and also many thousands of men at the wrong work. Surely it must be admitted that we ought right now to draw up corrective plans to deal with all those inequalities. If we do not begin now, we pretty certainly will not begin at all. Sacrifices will be called for: we are all of us agreed on that. Today we are in the proper emotional condition for sacrifices; that is to say, now whilst we are under the stress of the shocks and sorrows and horrors of war. Everyone knows, or should know, of the 1919-20 period, and how things were during that period when safety and normality returned to the world. Then will all these fine sentiments (which all of us have been enumerating)—brotherly love and so forth—vanish, as it were, and once more it will be "Business as usual," and from that point onward the prospect of a brave new world will have passed us by, not to come again in our generation, at all events.

So I say that unless we decide on now, and legislate for now, the necessary principles and foundations, the farmers and others similarly placed will continue to face their future with feelings of utter despair. For that matter, the great underpaid and overworked and underfed will realise that there is to be no splendid new world for them, anyhow. We cannot afford that. I therefore hope that no other Minister will be found to agree with the Minister for Lands that this highly important work should not be undertaken until the post-war period is actually with us. It may be that the end of the war is not far off. I know the common expectation is that the war will end in not less than one year, possibly, and in not more than two years; of course it may be sooner. We realise, at any rate, that from the moment the tide of battle runs with us against Hitler, he will never again be the man he was in 1939 and 1940. Whatever happens to him—and the best cannot happen now for it is too late—he will stagger back through the mud and the bogs and the charred ruins of Russia, pretty well sagging at the knees, and fed up to the teeth too, I should say, with fighting. Then,

in my view, the end will come. But the point is, when that time does arrive (bearing in mind the turmoil and bewilderment that will surround the great struggle for repatriation) what hope will there then be of initiating and effectuating those great tearing-down and building-up plans which will be necessary? None whatever!

Here I claim the attention of the Premier. That hon. gentleman, and for that matter members generally, should right now start getting together the brainiest of our men to cope with the tasks confronting us. We should gather together our best Treasury men, our wisest churchmen, our ablest engineers, our best-balanced social reformers, and our truly representative labour leaders—these would be absolutely indispensable—and also our soundest researchers, our foremost agriculturalists and so forth—men of vision who would be prepared to give equal treatment to every section of the community and every part of the State. Presumably there would be two or three of each class. I suggest to the Premier that he prepare himself to give this suggestion earnest consideration. I do not wish to intimate to him that if he does not do so a motion will be submitted to the House for giving effect to that idea; but I certainly do suggest to the hon. gentleman that he should straightaway become active in this matter.

I turn now to a question of more or less local concern. I wish to draw the attention of the House, and particularly the attention of the Treasurer and the Minister for Country Water Supplies, to what I regard as the prime weakness in the general economy of Western Australia, I refer to the absence of a reliable water supply in the inhabited parts of the State east of and north-east of the Darling Range. Doubtless it is possible substantially to mitigate the troubles I refer to, although unfortunately not without exacting heavy tribute from the Treasury. This water problem must be regarded as our basic problem—I do not say in the metropolitan area but certainly in other parts of the State. It is our basic problem because so many other difficult problems grow from it. Nothing is so subversive of progress in a State like Western Australia as is the absence of reliable water supplies. There are few parts of the State free from that want. During the last few years, unhappily for me and my colleagues along the Great Southern Railway, that

portion of Western Australia has been the chief sufferer, in particular the Central Great Southern and especially the towns of Pingelly, Katanning and Narrogin. My concern is more immediately for the water position in my own town of Narrogin. Last year the rationing there was so strict that, without exaggeration, I am able to say we had little more than just a cupful or two for a week. That, naturally, was during the driest period of that year. In the present year the position is a little better. Instead of the 28,000,000 gallons we finished up with last year, we now have that same quantity in this current month of August. We do not know what rains we are to be blessed with between now and, say, the end of September; but there is, I regret to say, at least a possibility, or perhaps a probability, of another year of severe rationing.

I do not want members to think that this is leading up to a condemnation of the Government in respect of water supply matters. Far from it. On the contrary, I think I can claim that the Narrogin Municipal Council, the Minister and his engineers and I are wise enough to act co-operatively in the Great Southern district so far as concerns this exceedingly important matter. Water shortages, such as we have experienced, have a very irritating and disturbing effect upon consumers, who of course lose their gardens and have to forgo baths; one might truthfully say that on occasions they go thirsty and dirty. At the end of these bitter annoyances—this is the bad part of it—they are asked to pay for water which they did not receive. People get rather savage in such circumstances. I ask the Premier what he would say had he to pay for water which he did not get. Would he pay up and look pleasant? I do not expect for a moment that he will reply to this question, but as long as the point sinks in I will be satisfied. I realise that the Government's action is legal, that is to say, the Government can demand payment and it does so; but I ask the Premier to meditate upon the psychological effect on people who receive a demand for payment of goods they have not received. I point out that this sort of thing does not happen in Perth; for that matter, it does not, I suppose, happen anywhere on the western side of the Darling Range.

The Premier: It happened in Bridgetown.

Mr. DONEY: Yes.

The Minister for Works: It used to happen in Perth.

Mr. DONEY: Were Perth residents called upon to pay for water not supplied to them?

The Minister for Works: There was very severe rationing.

Mr. DONEY: Yes, I know.

The Minister for Works: And the water was of very poor quality.

Mr. DONEY: I do not know whether I would concede that; compared with what we got in the country it was very good.

The Minister for Works: It was sometimes dirty.

Hon. C. G. Latham: Iron in the water is really good.

Mr. DONEY: If there were iron in our water we would not mind. I have no complaint in that respect; but the member for Pingelly (Mr. Seward) would be inclined to say that the colour of the water in his district arises from plain mud.

The Premier: Your wire to me at Canberra inspired me greatly.

Mr. DONEY: I am especially glad that the Premier should have made that remark. I forbore to mention my telegram hoping that the Premier might spontaneously refer to it. However, if I might continue this plea of mine, I would point out to the Premier that water troubles in the metropolitan area are now over, perhaps for 20 years or so. Therefore, he is not likely to be worried with any substantial Treasury expenditures or with requests for any major water extensions in the metropolitan area during that period. I now suggest to him that he might transfer his attention to the water troubles of the Great Southern district. We have a succession of towns in that district whose continued prosperity is essential to the solvency of the Treasury and to the general welfare of the State. It will be plain to all that no great forward movement can be made in this State—that is, provided we move forward upon an even front—unless those towns are prosperous.

I would like to occupy a few minutes with the immediate past history of the water supply position in the Great Southern district. Some members may know that about four or five years ago, as the result of an agitation initiated and carried through by Great Southern members—of course, in association with the municipal councils and road boards involved—a large-scale survey of

the water needs of the Great Southern district and of the country east of the Great Southern and the North Central portion of the State, was ultimately undertaken and reported upon in due course. The estimated cost of the proposed work was about £4,000,000. I do not need to make more than one guess, nor do other members, as to the Government's reaction to that report. It could be summed up in the words, "Costly, far too costly!" Still, members can gather from that what was the Government's estimate of the Great Southern water needs, that is to say, the Great Southern's share of that £4,000,000. Obviously, it was assessed at an exceedingly high figure. My next step was to move for 50 acres of bitumen. That was ultimately granted and today my town has the distinction of being the first town in the Commonwealth—for all I know, I might just as correctly say in the whole world, although I am not sure—to have its water conserved through that agency. The following year that reservoir, the capacity of which is 77,000,000 gallons, overflowed. The next year (last year) the supply was down to 28,000,000 gallons; that was the year of the extensive rationing to which I have referred.

This year we have, as I said a moment ago, a supply of about 28,000,000 or 29,000,000 gallons. More severe rationing will therefore seemingly be necessary next year. I point out to the Treasurer that those last three points connote the real weakness of our position. They show that in years of plenty when we have a full reservoir, we cannot carry over sufficient water for the following year if that should happen to be a year of low rainfall. That indicates one or two things, or both; either the reservoir is too small or the catchment does not shed sufficient water. Either or both of those drawbacks may occur in the same year; and, with that in mind, I made a request in October, 1939, for an additional 50 acres of bitumen. My request was agreed to in part. At least, the Minister, in company with the Under Secretary for Works, Mr. Andrew, and Mr. Dumas and Mr. Crimp were in the district a few months ago and made an examination of the catchment and the waterworks. I submit this fact to the Premier. I might add that the Council and I were informed by the Minister, following on that visit, that the supply of the extra bitumen had been decided upon.

Our catchment is not a catchment at all. A catchment is usually described as a surface ground, the drainage from which is capable of being directed into a given reservoir. Ours does not actually serve that purpose at all. It is one of those deep, sandy and highly porous catchments that are especially absorbent. I am not blaming the present Government for choosing that catchment. I have not endeavoured to ascertain which Government was in power 30 years ago when the catchment was chosen. What I do know is that it should not have been selected and that ratepayers of the town were not consulted with a view to discovering whether or not they concurred in its choice. I take it from the very favourable interjection of the Premier in regard to this plea of mine that I might now leave the question where it stands. I am glad to see that the Minister for Native Affairs is in his place.

Mr. Withers: As usual!

Mr. DONEY: Yes. He is a very good sitter indeed and I think the same remark might fairly well be made concerning all the members occupying the Government front bench. What I am about to say concerns also the Minister representing the Minister for Education. I desire to call attention to the position prevailing at Culbin, a siding 10 or 12 miles south of Williams. Trouble has arisen there in respect of the attendance of aborigines at the local school. There are two school buildings at Culbin, one very old and the other comparatively new. Until recently there were no coloured children there; indeed there were no coloured people at all at or near that centre. But all of a sudden we found 26 coloured children attending the school. The number of white children in attendance was about ten. In case it is not within the knowledge of all members I would like to explain that the head teacher of any school may admit to his school for education any coloured child who is clean and healthy and who, together with his parents, lives under conditions reasonably approximating the white standard. I received a letter from the white parents setting out that the coloured children did not live in conformity with that standard or anywhere near it. It was pointed out that the white children very early contracted eye diseases from the coloured children and that in addition the coloured children were in a highly malodorous state—to put it mildly. The

parents further feared that there might be present in those children a certain disease of a highly malignant nature. In view of those circumstances they asked either that the coloured children might be removed or that the old school might be shifted to a spot two or three miles away for the use of the coloured children, leaving the new school entirely for the whites. I have no quarrel whatever with the Director of Education or the Chief Inspector or the Secretary for Education or the headmaster of the school at Culbin. I understand they function in accordance with the departmental Act and regulations and within that scope, so far as it permits them, I have always found them to be very obliging and helpful. Outside of the Act, as we all know, they have no discretion whatever.

The department would not, however, agree to either of the proposals made by the white parents, with the result that the latter took their children from the school and applied to the director for a teacher to teach them in a room in a private house. I understand that also was denied them. They wanted to know from me how I viewed their action. I told them I upheld them, and that had I been placed in the same circumstances I too would have taken my children away from the school. I know there are in the department and probably amongst the members of this Chamber those who say—and quite rightly—that black children should be educated with white children. I agree, provided the little black chaps are reasonably clean and healthy and that there are not too many of them. I am sure I cannot be accused of having no sympathy with the blacks, because for the greater portion of my life, although not in this country, I had to depend upon them for company for months at a time and I may say that they have proved to be some of the most loyal friends I have had in my life. I am not likely therefore to be a harsh critic of the blacks. The department said that if the parents would remove the old building to a position only a few chains away, it would agree to the blacks occupying that school and the white children the other. The white parents could not see that was a suitable or acceptable solution of the problem and I entirely agree with them. The whites considered, too—at least I do not know that they considered it, but it was my personal view—that they should not have been called

upon to move that school. They did some years ago move the school from a position 12 miles away to the site it now occupies and I daresay they became a bit tired of work that properly should have been done by the Public Works Department.

The suggestion was submitted to me that the coloured children at mixed schools make a wonderful advancement in their studies and I have no doubt they do. In point of fact, from having visited such schools in the country, I know they do make as much progress as and possibly more progress than white children, but I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister this aspect of the situation: that while training in mixed schools has a beneficial effect on the blacks it has a highly detrimental effect on the white children. I am quite sure that members will readily appreciate that the presence of 26 natives in a school on a hot summer's day would not have a pleasant effect upon 10 white children. If the proportion had been the other way about; if there had been 10 white children and only two or three coloured children—which is about the ordinary proportion of the mixture—there might not have been so much cause for complaint. When I inquired where these black children had come from, I ascertained they had been drawn from other centres. On account of the view of the parents that they should not be in the same schools as white children, the department, possibly taking the line of least resistance, collected them all and dumped them on poor inoffensive Culbin. I admit the kiddies had to go somewhere and I am not blaming the department, but I suggest to the two responsible Ministers that there is something wrong with the regulations that permit this position to arise. The school in that tiny centre, where normally there are no blacks at all, has the highest number of coloured children in any school in the State with the exception of one in the electorate of the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall). It has also been submitted to me that it would be a very fine thing for the black children if the black blood were bred out of them over a series of generations by the infusion of white blood.

The Minister for Railways: Are there sufficient native children there for a school?

Mr. DONEY: Yes, ample to keep it going, and certainly there was no necessity to import 26 native children for that purpose. The suggestion about breeding out the

black blood may be quite all right; but in my view it does not matter, when we have regard to what is actually going on. The breeding-out process is in progress, but that does not affect the issue I am raising. I have indicated the view of a number of people residing at this particular centre, and I would probably view the matter in the same light if I lived there. They do not want their boys and girls to be the means of giving effect to this breeding-out process. I call the Minister's attention to that point. I have found in conversation with those who say there should be this breeding-out and who believe in the mixture of colours in our schools, that they themselves have no children of school age or have none at all, while possibly they live in the metropolitan area where the question of mixed schools does not arise. I am very pleased that the Minister for Native Affairs is here to listen to my complaints regarding this phase, and I hope he will pay sympathetic attention to the problem with a view to rectifying it in a sensible way acceptable to my friends whose contentions I have submitted this evening.

MR. MANN (Beverley) [8.1]: I do not intend to speak at great length, particularly as I understand I am to be the last to participate in the current debate. I have listened with interest to the views expressed by members. To my mind the outstanding feature has been the criticism of Federal politics. Various members set out to criticise the Prime Minister, while others devoted similar attention to the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives. Western Australia, as part of the Federation, has, in the exercise of the franchise, agreed—as it was our duty to do in times of stress such as these—to give loyal support to the Government in power. What do we find? There is an element that is apparently not satisfied with anything at all. During the debate we have heard from members sitting on the Government side of the House all about the virtues of the Labour Party. The member for Perth (Mr. Needham) claimed that the only section contributing to Australia's effort to win the war was the Labour Party.

Mr Doney: That was only a joke!

MR. MANN: I cannot view this matter as one for joking, particularly when the Empire, including Australia, is facing the greatest crisis in history. Surely we, as part

of the British Commonwealth of Nations, must realise we live in the face of danger emanating from the Near East. It is quite time we stopped this stupid bickering in the political arena. The member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) remarked this evening that Parliament could not control the finances. If that is so, the sooner we abolish this House the better, because, in that event we are not honest with ourselves or with the people of Western Australia.

There has been criticism of State Parliaments. The member for Claremont (Mr. North) defended the institution. To me it seems that, in view of the way we are going on, we deserve all the criticism hurled at us. How long this Parliament, or the democratic system of government as we know it in Australia, is to remain is hard to say, particularly when we consider what has been going on in the Federal Parliament. I pay this tribute to the State Parliament: Labour has been in office for many years, and we, as members of the Opposition, have been loyal to the Government for the past nine years. During the twelve years I have been in this House, I sat for three years behind the Government of the day, and for the remainder of the time have sat in Opposition. The three years when I sat on the Government side of the House represented the depression period, and during that time the opposition to the Government was severe.

The Minister for Works: It needed to be severe.

MR. MANN: The Opposition has been very decent to the present Government. It has endeavoured to help the State to make progress. On the other hand, in the Federal political arena there is a class of man that simply panders to the worst features of Parliamentary life. I refer to Beasley, Ward and Lazzarini—men who are definitely Communist in their actions.

Mr. Needham: What about Cameron and McCall? Be fair!

MR. MANN: That is the class of man we find in Federal politics, and they seek to control Australia. They are Communists. The drift in the Australian Parliament is dangerous. In England the people are behind the Government in their desire to serve the interests of the Empire, but in Australia there are those, including even some members of the National Party, who never fail to criticise the Parliamentary leaders.

Mr. Withers: You can read such criticism in the English Press too.

Mr. MANN: Why is that criticism so pronounced? It is because these men cannot secure the spoils of office. That is the disgusting part of it all. Let us be honest with ourselves. Let us agree as to what Australia's position will be if men of that type gain control of the destinies of Australia. The Government knows perfectly well that there are Communists in Western Australia.

Mr. Cross: What do you think Earle Page thinks of Menzies?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: I think we all realise the danger we are in. As for the member for Canning (Mr. Cross) with his cheap-jack, silly—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Cross: You speak—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: I am speaking perfectly truthfully regarding the position in the political life of this country. Government members do not like it, for they realise how serious it is. I hope my words will not go unheeded.

Mr. Fox: I see the Leader of the Opposition smiling.

Mr. MANN: The Leader of the Opposition realises the position, but Ministers on the Treasury bench appear to be in a serious frame of mind tonight. I should think they would be.

Mr. Fox: Do not say too much, or you may get opposition at your next election.

Mr. Needham: Let us go into that later.

The Minister for Works: We think the Communists defeated us in the Yilgarn-Coolgardie election.

Mr. MANN: The Minister cannot blame us for that.

Mr. Cross: We cannot blame the Country Party.

Hon. N. Keenan: Who was the Communist?

The Minister for Works: I referred to Communists.

Mr. MANN: What a lovely spectacle we had recently when two Communists embarked upon a hunger strike, and 40,000 trade unionists of Australia went on strike in sympathy. Those two men were definitely proved to be Communists.

Mr. Cross: That was not in this State.

Mr. MANN: I am not referring to Western Australia, but to men in the Eastern States. Of course you know all about them.

Mr. Cross: Not at all!

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will address the Chair and not mind the member for Canning.

Mr. MANN: Today we find this sort of thing going on, and this at a time when the Empire is more seriously menaced than ever before. We are anxiously watching the position in Russia and admiring the mighty struggle being made by her armies. Australia has never known the horrors of war; only those men who served in the 1914-18 war or are serving in this war can form any idea of what war conditions really are. The day may not be far distant when we shall be brought to a realisation of what war means and we shall probably wake up when it is too late. Whatever criticism we as members of Parliament are receiving, we deserve. Unfortunately there has been too great a tendency to pander to public opinion, and one of the big decisions that will have to be made before long is on the question whether our Parliamentary system is to continue or whether we are going to drift into a dictatorship.

I must mention a few matters affecting my electorate. The member for Williams-Narrogin (Mr. Doney) has spoken of the native question. I hope the Minister will give serious consideration to the suggestion to establish a native settlement. There are some 500 natives whose kiddies are growing up without education and in danger of becoming a menace to other people. Surely everybody in the State is entitled to receive consideration from the Government! This is a State, not a Commonwealth matter. The natives and half-castes are human beings just as we are. We see the girls in the streets and the young fellows wandering about anywhere, and surely something could be done to improve their conditions! I hope the Minister will discuss the matter with his officials with a view to evolving some scheme that will put an end to the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I have a suggestion to offer the Premier on a matter of which I have spoken several times in this House, and I hope he will give effect to it. I suggest that the Government hand over to the Lotteries Commission for the benefit of charities the fines imposed in the police courts for betting offences, instead of paying the money into revenue. In the circumstances this is the least we can expect of the Government. I daresay the sum collected annually

would be £20,000, and the Lotteries Commission would certainly be able to make good use of it. I hope steps will be taken to secure some measure of uniformity in the amounts of the fines imposed in the police courts at Perth, Fremantle and Midland Junction. Why should I, charged with a betting offence in the Perth Police Court, be fined £75, while my friend of Canning may go to Fremantle and be penalised to the extent of only £5? It is noticeable that the same two justices, Messrs. J. M. Farrell and A. E. Pady, regularly occupy the Bench in the Fremantle Court. I knew Mr. Pady when he returned from the war 25 years ago and he must now be a very old man. That there should be such discrepancies in the penalties imposed is entirely wrong.

Mr. F. C. L. Smith: Offenders in Perth should apply for a change of venue.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Are there any other justices in Fremantle?

Mr. MANN: I think there must be.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Then why do the same two men always sit on these cases?

Mr. MANN: That is what I should like to know. I hope the Minister will look into the matter of the varying fines imposed, and that the Premier will agree to hand over the proceeds of the fines to the Lotteries Commission for distribution.

Mr. Rodoreda: I do not think you are in order in reflecting on the justices.

Mr. MANN: I consider that I am quite justified in reflecting on the two justices I have mentioned.

Regarding the medical profession, a large number of our doctors had gone overseas and there is a serious shortage of doctors in country districts. I should like the Government to devise some form of nationalisation of the medical services. A doctor's mission in life is to aid the sick, and many people in the lower income groups are able to receive the best of attention at the public hospitals. Farmers and others who fall sick have often to travel to Perth and consult specialists at enormous expense, and there is a real risk of people who are relatively better off receiving attention less than or inferior to that which is available to the poor or indigent. A man on the basic wage is entitled to enter the Perth Hospital where he receives the best of treatment, but a struggling farmer is not similarly privileged. The time has come to nationalise the

medical profession and arrange for a better distribution of doctors in the country areas.

I hope that everyone now regards the war and its implications very seriously indeed. I sincerely hope that the present struggle will soon be over, though when that will be, God alone knows. When our men return from the front, we should provide every opportunity for their rehabilitation. The member for Forrest (Mr. Holman) has seen fit to enlist for service in the A.I.F. A man who is prepared to don the uniform and go overseas to fight for his country is deserving of all possible consideration during his absence and when he returns to the State. On the return of our soldiers we must not consider that our duty to rehabilitate them can be discharged by putting them out in labouring gangs to work on the roads. I have seen returned men to whom treatment of this sort has been meted out. I trust that when the fighting is over, our men will be accorded much greater consideration than was given to the soldiers after the 1914-18 war. No man should be allowed to suffer disabilities after having served with the forces abroad.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

BILLS (13)—FIRST READING.

- 1, Traffic Act Amendment.
- 2, Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act Amendment.
- 3, Municipal Corporations Act Amendment.
- 4, Road Districts Act Amendment (No. 2).
Introduced by the Minister for Works.
- 5, Reserves (No. 1).
- 6, Abattoirs Act Amendment.
- 7, Government Stock Saleyards.
Introduced by the Minister for Lands.
- 8, Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act Amendment.
- 9, Profiteering Prevention Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for Labour.
- 10, Public Trustee.
- 11, Franchise.
- 12, Mental Treatment (War Service Patients).
Introduced by the Minister for Justice.
- 13, Native Administration Act Amendment.
Introduced by the Minister for the North-West.

House adjourned at 8.27 p.m.