

SECOND READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS (Hon. C. Sommers): I move that the Bill be read a second time. It is the usual Bill that is brought down at this period of the session, to provide a sum of money for carrying on the affairs of the State.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: It is for a very large amount—one-third of the whole year's revenue.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: The amount is absolutely necessary. It will carry us on for only two or three months, at the outside.

Question put and passed,
Bill read a second time.

IN COMMITTEE.

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

THIRD READING.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS moved that the Bill be read a third time.

HON. J. W. HACKETT moved that the debate be adjourned. He wanted to point out that supply was being granted for the whole instead of only for a portion of the year; and as the House must meet to-morrow, the delay would make no difference.

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS: It was usual for the House to pass a Supply Bill as soon as received. The measure was urgent, and had been delayed several days on account of the adjournment of the Assembly; and supply was badly needed for current expenses.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: Rather than put the Government to inconvenience, he would withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Bill read a third time, and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 5-50 o'clock until the next day.

Legislative Assembly,

Tuesday, 9th July, 1901.

Election Petition (Kalgoorlie), Result—Question: Farm Labourers, to supply deficiency—Question: Railway Carriages reserved for Racing Committee—Question: Royal Visit, Expenditure—Question: Canning Jarrah Railway, Purchase—Question: Domestic Servants, Importation and Cost—Question: Boulder Railway, Booking Tickets, etc.—Question: Government Geologist, to appoint Assistant—Question: Onslow Water Supply—Question: Midland Railway, as to Purchase—Question: Cue-Nannine Railway, Progress of Construction—Motion: Railway Employees' Strike, to Debate; point of order, Speaker's Ruling—Supply (temporary); Supply Bill, all stages—Chairman of Committee, Appointment—Address-in-reply, 5th day, debate resumed, adjourned—Adjournment.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at 4-30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

ELECTION PETITION (KALGOORLIE),
RESULT.

THE SPEAKER informed the House that he had received a letter from Mr. Justice Stone, Acting Chief Justice, forwarding the minutes and evidence taken in regard to the petition presented by Mr. C. J. Moran against the return of Mr. W. D. Johnson for Kalgoorlie. The papers were on the table, and any member who desired to read them could do so.

Letter read by the **CLERK**.

QUESTION—FARM LABOURERS, TO
SUPPLY DEFICIENCY.

MR. QUINLAN asked the Premier, What measures the Government proposed to take for the introduction of a supply of farm labourers.

THE PREMIER replied: No scheme has yet been definitely formulated.

QUESTION—RAILWAY CARRIAGES RE-
SERVED FOR RACING COMMITTEE.

MR. T. F. QUINLAN asked the Commissioner of Railways: 1, For what reason are carriages reserved for the W.A. Turf Club Committee and other persons, without the State receiving payment for same. 2, Will he put a stop to this practice forthwith, and insist upon fair-play to the general public.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS replied: Carriages are not reserved for the W.A. Turf Club Committee or other persons without payment.

Invariably, however, two compartments are set apart for the officials of the W.A. Turf Club, on the occasion of each race meeting, for the transaction of business; but each person so travelling is in possession of a proper pass or ticket. This is in accordance with the regulations, as shown on page 96 of the Rate Book.

QUESTION—ROYAL VISIT, EXPENDITURE.

MR. J. L. NANSON asked the Premier: 1, What sum the Government propose to spend in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York. 2, Will the Government take whatever steps may be necessary to prevent the sum allotted being exceeded.

THE PREMIER replied: The expenditure under all heads, in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses, is estimated at £25,000. 2, Yes.

QUESTION—CANNING JARRAH RAILWAY, PURCHASE.

MR. C. H. RASON asked the Commissioner of Railways: In view of the reply given in this House on the 5th October, 1899, by the then Commissioner of Railways, "That inquiries are being made re the question of the purchase by the Government of the Canning Jarrah Timber Company's railway, and the matter is receiving consideration," whether he could state the result of such inquiries.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS replied: This matter was considered by the late Government, but nothing definite was arrived at.

QUESTION—DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IMPORTATION AND COST.

MR. H. DAGLISH asked the Colonial Secretary: 1, What is the cost per head to the State of the imported domestic servants. 2, Are the persons who obtain their services required to recoup the Government that expenditure. 3, Is any supervision exercised over these immigrants to ascertain their mode of life after their arrival in Western Australia. 4, Will the Ministry refrain from introducing any new batch of domestic servants until this House has an oppor-

tunity of expressing an opinion upon the subject.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER replied: 1, In round numbers £22 per head. 2, No. 3, Not after their engagement, on arrival. 4, Not unless the House so directs.

QUESTION—BOULDER RAILWAY, BOOKING TICKETS, Etc.

MR. J. M. HOPKINS asked the Commissioner of Railways: 1, Why through passengers on the Boulder line are not provided with the facilities to book their tickets for Perth and other important stations. 2, Why railway tickets are not manufactured in the State.

THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS replied: 1, The tickets in question are now being printed, and when the work at the various stations on the line is complete, so that the barrier system can be introduced throughout, the practice which obtains on parts of the system of booking passengers through to destination will be brought into operation on the Boulder line. 2, The Department was not aware, until a fortnight ago, that any person or company in the State possessed the means of manufacturing cards for railway tickets. The firm who notified that they were now prepared with machinery and materials for making railway tickets were requested to submit samples of cards and quotations. Hitherto the Government have imported the card tickets, and they have been printed at the Government Printing Office.

QUESTION—GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST, TO APPOINT ASSISTANT.

MR. NANSON asked the Minister for Mines: 1, Whether the Government have taken steps for the appointment of an additional Assistant Government Geologist. 2, If not, when do they propose to take such steps.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES replied: Provision was being made on the Estimates for an Assistant Geologist.

QUESTION—ON SLOW WATER SUPPLY.

MR. BUTCHER asked the Minister for Works: 1, Whether the sum of £3,000 voted by Parliament last session for a

water supply for the town of Onslow is yet available. 2, If any steps have been taken by the Department to supply that town with water by any scheme other than that proposed by the late member for the Ashburton district. 3, What steps, if any.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, Yes. 2 and 3, The engineer having reported that the scheme proposed by the late member for the district would probably not give satisfactory results, arrangements have been made for a survey to ascertain probable cost of a weir some miles higher up the river, with supply pipe thence to Onslow, and tank for distribution there.

QUESTION—MIDLAND RAILWAY, AS TO PURCHASE.

DR. O'CONNOR asked the Premier: 1, Whether negotiations are pending for the purchase of the Midland Railway and lands. 2, Whether he is aware that it is said that the present condition of the railway is in a bad state of repair. 3, Whether it is the intention of the Government to have an inspection of the line made in the interest of the travelling public. 4, Whether he will give directions to the company that they must carry out their agreement of travelling not less than 20 miles an hour.

THE PREMIER replied: 1, Negotiations have been suspended for some time. 2 and 3, An inspection of the line has been made, but the report has not yet been received. 4, The rate of 20 miles an hour is maintained.

QUESTION—CUE-NANNINE RAILWAY, PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION.

MR. MORGANS (for Mr. Moorhead) asked the Minister for Works: 1, When was the construction of Cue-Nannine line commenced. 2, What number of men have been employed to date on the said construction. 3, What amount of money has been expended to date on said construction. 4, What is the balance of money in hand for the construction of said line.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, On 22nd April, 1901. 2, From 40 to 50 men. 3, £5,200. 4, £37,721 2s. 6d.

MOTION—RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' STRIKE, TO DEBATE.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND (Fremantle): I beg to ask for the Suspension of the Standing Orders, to enable me to move the following motion:

That, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable in the best interests of the people of this State that the Railway Department should grant the increased wage of 1s. per diem to the permanent-way men.

THE SPEAKER: It is against the rules of the House to make a motion without notice.

MR. DIAMOND: I moved the suspension of the Standing Orders.

THE SPEAKER: You must move that first.

POINT OF ORDER.

THE PREMIER: I rise to a point of order. Perhaps it might meet the wish of the hon. member if he could move that motion without the Standing Orders being suspended.

THE SPEAKER: I do not think he could do that. We are bound to adhere to the Standing Orders unless they are suspended. Personally I think the House ought to be very careful in suspending the Standing Orders, except on a very important occasion.

MR. F. CONNOR: This is important.

THE SPEAKER: I do not know. Every member who makes a motion considers it very important, no doubt.

THE PREMIER: I have no wish to place any impediment in the way of such a motion being moved; but had the hon. member thought fit to consult me on the matter before bringing it into the House, I might have rendered him some assistance. The motion must be of very great importance, when the hon. member would not mention it to me!

THE SPEAKER: Does anyone second the motion for suspension of the Standing Orders?

MR. F. CONNOR: I second the motion. Question put, and negatived on the voices.

MR. DIAMOND called for a division.

Division taken, with the following result:—

Ayes	35
Noes	9
Majority for				26

AYES.

Mr. Butcher
Mr. Connor
Mr. Daglish
Mr. Diamond
Mr. Doherty
Mr. Ewing
Mr. Gardiner
Mr. George
Mr. Gregory
Mr. Hassell
Mr. Hastie
Mr. Hicks
Mr. Higham
Mr. Holmes
Mr. Hopkins
Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Illingworth
Mr. James
Mr. Kingsmill
Mr. Leake
Mr. Monger
Mr. Morgans
Mr. McDonald
Mr. Nanson
Mr. Oats
Mr. Rason
Mr. Reid
Mr. Reside
Mr. Sayer
Mr. Smith
Mr. Spelght
Mr. Taylor
Mr. Throssell
Mr. Wilson
Mr. Wallace (Teller).

NOES.

Mr. Gordon
Mr. Harper
Mr. Hayward
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Phillips
Mr. Piessé
Mr. Quilan
Mr. Yelverton
Mr. Jacoby (Teller).

MR. MONGER: Is it out of one's power at the present moment?

THE SPEAKER: Yes. We have proceeded with the business on the Notice Paper.

MR. GEORGE: A regular knock-out!

THE PREMIER: If the member for South Fremantle (Mr. Diamond) had thought fit to consult me about this matter, I could have assisted him in bringing this before the House. He has only himself to blame. I do not propose any discussion of the matter.

A MEMBER (Opposition): We do not.

SUPPLY (TEMPORARY).

A Message from the Governor having been previously presented, recommending appropriation out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and from moneys to credit of the General Loan Fund of the sum of £1,250,000 to the service of the year ending 30th June, 1902:

THE COLONIAL TREASURER (Hon. F. Illingworth) said: I desire to move the suspension of the Standing Orders relating to the passing of Bills, for the purpose of putting a Supply Bill through the House this evening. It is quite a formal motion.

HON. F. H. PIESSE (Williams): Before the suspension of the Standing Orders for the purpose of passing this Bill through the House, I would like to ask the Premier whether he is prepared to agree to furnish the information referred to in the motions for returns of which I have already given notice. There are three motions, and I would like the information to be before the House as early as possible. I understood the other day the Premier had no objection to the furnishing of this information; and I would like to have an assurance that the information will be given before the House rises.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: In reply to the hon. member, I wish to say I shall have a full and complete answer to those questions when I introduce the Loan Bill, which I hope to do tomorrow night.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: And I suppose the information will be given?

THE PREMIER: Yes; certainly.

Question put and passed.

Standing Orders suspended accordingly.

SPEAKER'S RULING ON PROCEDURE.

THE SPEAKER: I am of opinion it is not competent for the Legislative Assembly to discuss this motion without a Message from His Excellency the Governor. There is no doubt that according to our Constitution, members cannot do so. I will read the 67th section of the Constitution Act:

It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Assembly to adopt or pass any vote, resolution, or Bill for the appropriation of any part of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, or of any rate, tax, duty, or impost, to any purpose which has not been first recommended to the Assembly by Message of the Governor during the session in which such vote, resolution, or Bill is passed.

MR. F. CONNOR: Would it not be in order to move the suspension of the Standing Orders to discuss the question of the strike?

THE SPEAKER: Not now. You could have moved the adjournment of the House before we proceeded with business.

MR. CONNOR: Then I take it that it is not possible now to discuss the question?

THE SPEAKER: It is not.

MR. F. C. MONGER: I take it from your remarks, sir, that any member can move the adjournment of the House.

THE SPEAKER: But he must do it at the particular time which is mentioned in the Standing Orders.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the Speaker do leave the Chair for the purpose of considering His Excellency's Message in Committee of Supply.

Question put and passed.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake): As no Chairman of Committee has been appointed, I submit to the House the name of Mr. C. Harper, the member for Beverley, as Chairman of Committee of the whole House. The hon. member has occupied that position for several years past to the satisfaction of members, and I am certain with credit to the House, and I shall ask hon. members to re-appoint that gentleman.

HON. F. H. PIESSE (Williams): I have great pleasure in seconding the motion moved by the Premier, that Mr. Harper be re-elected Chairman of Committee. During the time that gentleman has occupied the position, he has filled it very ably.

MR. HARPER (having taken the Chair amidst applause) said: I must thank hon. members for the honour they have done me, and especially the Premier and leader of the Opposition for the kind words they have uttered in proposing and seconding my appointment to the honourable position of Chairman of Committee of this House. I can assure hon. members my desire always is to do the utmost I can in furtherance of business, and to carry that out as impartially as possible. I thank hon. members for the honour they have done me.

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the recommendation of His Excellency be agreed to.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: As the House would meet in August, it was hardly necessary to ask for three months' supply. Two months should be sufficient, as previously only two months had been granted, and in earlier times the practice was to grant one month's supply. If the hon. gentleman could give any good reason why he was asking for increased supply, one would be glad to hear it.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The object of the Government was to get

three months' supply because the House would be in recess for several weeks in consequence of the holidays; and as it was hoped the Budget Speech would be delivered at a much earlier date than had been the custom, the annual Estimates would be on the table much earlier than was generally the case.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: This rather showed that the Government would not require three months' supply.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: It was thought this Supply Bill would carry the Government on until that time; but if the hon. member objected, the Government had no objection to decrease the amount in Committee, if deemed desirable, and the Bill could be amended to any amount the hon. member thought desirable. The object of the Government was to get one Supply Bill, this session; whereas if only two months' supply were granted, he (the Treasurer) was afraid he would have to ask for a second supply Bill, as had been done in former years, and the Government did not intend to do that. The Government wanted one Supply to cover requirements until the Estimates were laid on the table.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The House having resolved itself into Committee of Ways and Means, a resolution was passed granting the necessary supply.

Resolution reported, and the report adopted.

SUPPLY BILL, £1,250,000.

Introduced by the COLONIAL TREASURER, and read a first time.

On farther motion, Bill read a second time without debate.

IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1.—Issue and application of £1,250,000:

HON. F. H. PIESSE: One would like the Colonial Treasurer to give some explanation as to the reason of his asking for three months' supply instead of two, which should be sufficient for all requirements.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: The explanation already adduced could only

be repeated. The object of the Government was to meet the case with one Supply Bill, and the Government considered this would carry them on until the Estimates were laid upon the table. If the hon. member desired, the Government would be willing to reduce the amount to any sum he liked to fix.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The Colonial Treasurer had not altered the Bill, as expected, in accordance with the understanding arrived at a few days ago. It was understood that two months' supply would be asked for, and £850,000 substituted for the amount embodied in the Bill; therefore if it was now necessary for the Bill to be reprinted for the purpose of enabling it to be placed before the House again as amended and then forwarded to the Upper House, of course any inconvenience occasioned must fall on the Government, they not having agreed to what had been already arranged. He moved that the words "Seven hundred and fifty" (thousand) be struck out, and "five hundred" (thousand) inserted in lieu.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: If the House desired it the Government had no objection to alter the amount; but as it would be impossible to place the Estimates on the table and pass them inside of three months from this time, there would arise the necessity of bringing in another Supply Bill during the session. Of course that could be done if the House desired it; but it would be better to vote supply for three months, and thus avoid the formality of bringing in another Supply Bill two months hence. The hon. member had not given any reason why the course proposed by the Government should not be followed.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The reason he objected to the granting of supply for three months was that the Treasurer had stated a few days ago he intended to introduce the Estimates at an earlier date than usual; therefore there would be no reason to ask for three months' supply in view of the early date at which the Estimates would be introduced.

MR. F. CONNOR supported the action of the leader of the Opposition in making a stand against the granting of supply for three months. This action of the new Treasurer would be only following the course of previous Govern-

ments by asking for more money than they required; while he understood that was the main reason why the former Opposition objected to the Government then in power as not being fit to carry on the affairs of the country. If this course was to be the beginning of the new Treasurer's administration, we must be careful in the amount of votes passed by this House; for if the Government were going to cut down everything in the way of expenditure, as members on that side of the House professed, and at the same time were asking for a larger amount of supply than they would be likely to require, that course should not be supported by the Committee.

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS (Hon. W. Kingsmill): The course now proposed was scarcely a continuance of the old practice. In moving the amendment for the amount of supply to be decreased, sufficient reason had not been given by the leader of the Opposition. The object of the Government was to make one Supply Bill serve for the session; and he did not suppose any Government would desire to get a reputation for passing a multiplicity of Supply Bills. There was no objection to the amount being cut down, though very little reason had been shown for reducing it. As to the contention of the member for East Kimberley (Mr. Connor), what the late Government was blamed for was not that they asked for too much, but that having asked for a fair quantity of money, they spent a great deal more than the House had granted. If former Governments had asked for exactly what they required, there would have been no reason for huge Excess Bills being brought in.

MR. DOHERTY: It would be wrong at the outset of this new Parliament to object to the amount asked for by the Treasurer, who should know, and doubtless did know, exactly what was required; and at this juncture the Committee should give to the Government exactly the amount asked for, and if anything wrong occurred afterwards the House could deal with it. The duty of the Committee was to assist the Treasurer, rather than put any obstacle in his way in carrying out his declared intention of putting the finances in a proper condition.

THE PREMIER (Hon. G. Leake) : It was really immaterial to the Government whether the amount of Supply was cut down or not. The money was required only for exigencies of the public service; and it had been customary in the past for the Treasurer to tell the House he required a certain amount of supply, and that supply was never refused by the Opposition. The only object the present Government had in urging members to pass this Bill without amendment was in order that it could be sent to the Legislative Council within a few minutes; whereas if the Bill were to be amended in this House, the forms of legislation required that the Bill must be printed with the amendment in it, and thus the Bill would have to be sent again to the Government Printer, thereby causing delay of some days, perhaps a week, or the Bill might not be ready till August. If a sufficient amount were not passed by the Committee, complaint might arise afterwards that the Government were spending money in excess of the authorisation by Parliament. He expected that before the House rose there would be something said on the proposed expenditure of £30,000 for preventing the incursion of rabbits; and supposing the annual Estimates were not to be passed till the end of September, as was usual, the necessity would then arise for coming to this House with another Supply Bill.

MR. W. J. GEORGE asked the Treasurer to say whether the money was intended solely for works already authorised by the previous Parliament, and for carrying on the ordinary services, or whether any portion was intended to be spent on new works that had not yet been passed by Parliament. If it was not intended to spend any of the money on new works, this Bill might be allowed to pass.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER : The amount of £750,000 from the Consolidated Revenue would simply pay the necessary salaries for carrying on the public services, and the amount of £500,000 from Loan Fund would only cover the indents and absolutely necessary expenditure which we were pledged to in London and elsewhere.

HON. F. H. PIESSE : After the explanation given, the Bill might be allowed to pass without amendment. The reason he

had proposed to reduce the amount was that he understood the Treasurer intended to alter the amount which he had previously indicated he would ask for; and as the Bill, when introduced, showed that the amount had not been reduced, the amendment was submitted for reducing the amount. The Treasurer when sitting on the Opposition side had objected to Bills of this kind and asked for explanation. It was not because the present Opposition were afraid of the Government expending money in ways not in accordance with the wishes of the House; but the amendment was moved for conserving the best interests of the country, and particularly for avoiding a departure from customary usage. Formerly the custom was for the Government to ask for supply for one month; then they began to ask for two months' supply at a time; and now the new Government were asking for three months' supply. However, after the reason stated in regard to the delay which would be caused by amending the Bill, he would withdraw any opposition.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Clause put and passed.

Remaining clause agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

THIRD READING.

Bill read a third time, and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislative Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

FIFTH DAY OF DEBATE.

Debate resumed from the previous Thursday.

DR. J. S. HICKS (Roebourne) : The ungenerous remarks made by hon. members on the other side of the House concerning members on this side bring me to my feet. Before I conclude, I hope to be able to prove to this House that the stand I have taken and the political creed I have espoused have been dictated by no improper motives. When in December last the electors of Roebourne asked me to come forward for the seat in their interests, I told them, *inter alia*, that I saw no reason for an alteration in the Forrest policy, as it was a progressive policy and one that had brought this State up to its present position. Notwithstanding this, and not knowing at

the time who would be the leader of this House, I came South and devoted some time to following, I trust intelligently, the trend of political opinion on both sides. I was present when the Premier delivered his speech in the Queen's Hall; and I may say that while I agreed with it almost *in toto*, there was to me one discordant element in it and that was when he was speaking of this present party, of which the member for Northam was the leader. It was pointed out by the Premier that we were a remnant of the old Administration. The inference which the country had to draw from the remark, to my mind, is that the mining element would be largely represented in the present Government, as compared with the late Government. Then it was with alarm I read one morning a speech made by the Treasurer at a meeting held during his Murchison trip. I could not, after that speech, follow the leadership of a side on which that gentleman is. Further, at a "social" held on the eve of my departure from Roebourne, one gentleman passed this remark: "I hope, doctor, that when you go South you will not throw us over as Mr. Leake did." So, what could I do but sit where I am now? Since I have been here a considerable amount of invective has been cast at this side; and I want to know from whom that invective came, and who manufactured it. That invective constitutes my reason for continuing to sit on this side. We are told by hon. members opposite that they represent the voice of the people. Statistics, we are told, may be made to prove anything; and I quite grant that is so, provided you have sufficient power of sophistry. It was quite refreshing to hear the analysis of the voting statistics made by the member for Murray (Mr. George), who proved that provided we disallowed the inclusion of the Labour candidates, this side (Opposition), number 38 as against 27 on the Ministerial side. I think I am right in the figures. The Ministerialists say that while they are weaker in numbers than we on this side, the strength of a party depends not altogether on its number, but rather on the active elements it holds. I think if we look at the votes cast at the general election, we shall see—and I throw in, since they sit on the Government side, the Labour members—that

the actual percentage of votes recorded for each member is in the case of the Ministry 31.9, in that of the Opposition 44.2. It is not the size of the community, but its quality, that tells. I shall not use opprobrious terms concerning the gentlemen opposite; but we know that there is such a thing as the brain, and that it is not the size of the brain that determines its strength, but the proportion in the brain of nerve cells to fibrous tissue. So I say that in the case of a community, not size but the activity of its elements determines what power the community shall have in the State.

A MEMBER: What do you feed your brain on?

DR. HICKS: It depends on circumstances, my friend. I maintain, putting these votes together, that this (Opposition) side represents the voice of the people.

A MEMBER: Not the bulk, though.

DR. HICKS: I must congratulate the member for Albany on the very able speech he made in moving the Address-in-reply. Whilst he was speaking, I felt that either he or I was on the wrong side; and I asked myself, was I to go over to him or was he to come over to me? The speech had a ring of sincerity that carried conviction right through it. The only point on which I disagreed with the hon. member was the Esperance railway. I cannot favour that line. Until it has been proved that the proposed railway will work better than the present line, I do not see that one can in all conscience allow the construction of another railway to break up the carrying power of the existing line. As regards fruit, when addressing the electors in December last I said I would do my best to see that fruit was admitted into this State. To my mind, we should, on the removal of the prohibition, in some way or other conserve the interests of the orchardists by not allowing the imported fruit to come within those areas of Western Australia where fruit is grown. Another point I lay great stress on is why, when fruit is imported into the whole district north of Geraldton without inspection, it should be subjected to inspection at Fremantle? Surely it is quite unnecessary I do not know when we shall induce Ministries in power to recognise what a big State this is. The laws of this State

always seem designed to conform to the interests of the southern part of it. Those of us who have lived for any length of time in the North have always had a grievance on that score. I think the regulations for inspection should be relaxed, at any rate in regard to fruit going to the North.

A MEMBER: Say Marble Bar.

ANOTHER MEMBER: Hear, hear.

DR. HICKS: I was very pleased that the member for Subiaco mentioned the aborigines of the North-West, although it was with regret I heard him use that invidious term "slavery." I have spent about eight years in the North, and I think I am qualified to speak on this subject. During that time I acted as a medical officer and also as a magistrate, and I have travelled over the entire district. There seems to be some misapprehension amongst members about the kind of contract entered into by natives. There are two, one being the indenture system and the other the yearly contract system. I do not agree with the indenture system, by which children of tender years are bound until they attain their majority, for I think the time should be considerably lessened; but with regard to the yearly contract system, I see nothing we can introduce to better the natives in any way. It has been said the Government have given the squatters cheap land, but that squatters demand something more, namely cheap labour. I think that when this question comes before the House, I shall be able to prove that native labour is not the most economical form of labour. People go in for it simply because the natives must be fed, and employment is given to them to keep them out of mischief. Erroneous opinions have been spread with regard to the natives. People go to the North and are not successful there, and they come away looking through blue spectacles. They come South and make certain statements to the Press of this country, and the Press in turn publishes them. Some may be truthful, but as far as I have read these statements, a certain section of the Press, having an invidious reputation, has published assertions without going into the facts of the case. *Ex parte* statements have been published, and a person does not get fair treatment. With regard to the rabbits, we should at

once push on, and I think we have the assurance of the Premier that this is being done with all speed. We must do so, because we learn that the rabbits are coming into this country at the rate of about 100 miles a year. By this fence we shall certainly be able to retard the progress of the rabbits, but we should with all speed obtain evidence from France of some kind of treatment whereby rabbits may be exterminated. With regard to the redistribution of seats, I am quite in accord with the member for Albany (Mr. J. Gardiner), who says it should not be on a population basis but on an equitable basis. First of all, if we go on a population basis, it leads to centralisation, which is to be much deprecated at all times, and particularly in Australia now. If we go on a population basis, then three or four towns will have the ruling power of this State, and it does not give those sparsely-populated parts of our land a fair voice in the matter. The man who lives on the land is here for ever, and it is only right he should have a fair say regarding the amount of money which is being spent in the country. When I entered Parliament my original intention was not to have spoken at this stage, but I have been urged as it were to vindicate my position by reason of the uncharitable remarks made by members on the other (Government) side of the House. What right have any members of the House to question my actions? I have one tribunal, that being my electors. They, and they alone, have the right to call upon me to justify my position. At the last election they did me the honour to return me unopposed, and I will see I do nothing to cause them to regret the confidence placed in me. If I have said anything that has hurt the *amour propre* of any member, I can only plead the ardour of my convictions. My one desire is that I may improve the interests of this State by being true to myself.

MR. F. McDONALD (Cockburn Sound): When before my constituents, one question they always asked me was, "What leaders will you support in the coming session of Parliament?" To this question I emphatically answered that I considered it was time Western Australia had a change of Government. The views I placed before my constituents were in

accord with the policy enunciated by the Leake Government, and while the Ministry continue in the policy the Premier has enunciated at Queen's Hall and in the Governor's Speech, I shall be prepared to give them loyal support. I am sure my constituents are with me in the step I have taken. The member for Roebourne (Dr. Hicks) has said his constituents are with him in the action he has taken. Some members are in this House who, if going before their constituents, would not be again elected. The leader of the Opposition said the Government had no policy; but I am satisfied the Government have put a policy of administration before the country with which the views of the people coincide. They have given a policy of administration instead of a policy of borrow-and-spend.

MR. DONERTY: How would you have obtained railways if you had not borrowed?

MR. McDONALD: It is time we stopped borrowing and spending so much. I am satisfied, also, the Leake Government will not ear-mark moneys which have been passed by Parliament, and spend them for other purposes. This policy of reappropriation is a bad one, and the State has had too much of it. People throughout this State demanded that the financial question should be thoroughly straightened out and explained in a satisfactory manner. The member for Northam (Mr. G. Throssell), when addressing his constituents, told them the statement of affairs he put forward was an honest one. When the hon. member was speaking to his constituents he was not only addressing them but the electors of the State, and I take it the electors could infer from his assertion that the statements which had been placed before the electors in times past had not been altogether true. I consider the decision of the Government to separate the Railway Department from the Public Works Department a wise one. I am sorry the present Commissioner for Railways (Hon. J. J. Holmes) has had this unfortunate trouble to face when coming into office, but no doubt we shall hear a little more in connection with this matter, and I trust it may be settled very soon. The administration of the Public Works Department has been open to very severe

criticism, and I trust the Minister will thoroughly reorganise his department. The establishment of a Board of Advice must be good for Western Australia, and if this Board of Advice had been in existence, many public buildings and some of the railways would not have been constructed. I refer especially to the Greenhills railway and some other agricultural railways. The leader of the Opposition has said the late Government intended to bring in a Harbour Trust, and I am glad the present Ministry have taken that subject from the programme of their predecessors. I do not think any of the other members advocated that before it was mentioned by the Premier in his address in Queen's Hall. One of the problems this Parliament must take into consideration is the high cost of living in this State, which falls very heavily upon the working man. As one who is intimately acquainted with the high cost of groceries especially, such as butter, cheese, and bacon, I must say that, if it be possible on the part of the Treasury, I shall be glad to see the removal of the duty on those articles which are necessary for the working men. I should like to see the working men able to have a free breakfast table.

MR. A. J. DIAMOND: That is settled by the Commonwealth.

MR. McDONALD: I do not think so, for we have the five-years sliding scale, and I think this House has agreed to keep that sliding scale in force. But if we consider that the working man only receives from 42s. to 50s. a week, we must see that when he pays from 10s. to 15s. a week rent, and pays for the articles necessary for life, he has very little left at the end of the week. I trust the removal of the duties on the articles I have mentioned will be one question which the present House will deal with during this session. It is stated in the Governor's Speech that there shall be no new railways. I am not going to ask for any new railways, but I am glad that surveys are mentioned, and I trust that the Minister for Works, when he is instructing the Surveyor General to proceed with surveys, will get a survey made of the Owen Anchorage railway through Jandakot to Armadale. I think that railway will pay working expenses, and will be reproductive. In my opinion that

railway is wanted more than the Collie railway, advocated by the member for the South-West Mining District (Mr. J. Ewing), who spoke so much about it. This railway which I advocate would relieve the traffic coming through the Perth yards, and bring timber and coal direct to Fremantle. It would also open up this large Jandakot area, and settlement has proceeded there very rapidly indeed. My constituents do not advocate any particular point. They are satisfied to leave that with this Board of Advice, if the board be brought into existence. On the night that he spoke, the leader of the Opposition (Hon. F. H. Piesse) gave a mass of figures in connection with our public debt and the working of our railways. He told the Premier he had painted matters too brightly. I take some interest in financial questions, and I cannot see that when works which have been taken in hand by the late Parliament, and works which must be taken in hand—works for which immense sums have been appropriated—are provided for, our debt can be any less at the end of 1903 or 1904 than about £17,000,000. That is a very heavy debt for a handful of people numbering something like 180,000. I am glad indeed to see that the only question of new works mentioned by the Premier in Queen's Hall and the Governor's Speech was the water supply for Perth, its suburbs, and Fremantle. In connection with that I would like members to look to the Chief Inspector of Explosives and Government Analyst's report, in which he condemns the present supply very severely. In connection with this water supply, I trust that when the Government bring in a Bill they will make the board an elective one, to be chosen by the various municipalities from Fremantle to Midland Junction. The ratepayers of these municipalities and the metropolis are prepared to pay for a good and pure supply; and I trust this board will not be saddled with the incubus of debt which is hanging over the present Perth water supply. I do not think this debt should be saddled on that board, if elected, but the Government should wipe that matter off the slate. I have taken an interest in the agricultural affairs of this State, and I trust the Premier, who represents the Minister for Lands in this House, will see

that the good work done by the late Commissioner of Lands (Mr. G. Throssell) is to be continued, and that the drainage scheme which has been before this House previously shall be carried into effect. I know we have a magnificent stretch of country extending from Pinjarra southward, which, if properly drained, will be of immense value to the State. We have had the civil servants criticised severely in this House, and I think some of them deserve all that has been said; but I consider there is one official, this being Mr. Patterson of the Lands Department, who carries out the work in connection with drainage, the Agricultural Bank, and other things, who is worth the highest praise which can be given to him for the manner in which he has laboured for the department. One question practically settled is that of the importation of fruit, and I am quite in accord with the action of the Government. Lately, whilst in New South Wales I had the honour and privilege of visiting Hawkesbury College, and I consider that the regulations and restrictions which the Government have placed on apple importation will be quite sufficient to prevent the codlin moth and other insect pests from getting into this State. In my opinion the State will be kept free by fumigation and other safeguards. There is one matter which the Premier mentioned, and that is the need for taking into consideration the purchase of a steamer for the pilot service at Rottnest. I consider that the way the pilot service has been neglected in the past is a disgrace. Men have had to go out in a small boat in all kinds of weather, and I trust that in a very short time the Premier will be able to place a steamer at the disposal of those men. I am in accord with the statement that a Factories Act should be brought into existence, and when the measure comes before this House I hope also the present Early Closing Act relating to shops will be so amended that it will give power for enabling a majority of merchants or storekeepers in the metropolitan area to give effect to their wish, if a majority desire to close on Saturday afternoon or to close on Wednesday afternoon. This is a question which I am sure will come before this House very soon. There are two troublesome questions we shall have

to deal with this session. One is the necessity for checking the incursion of rabbits, in regard to which so much has already been said ; and I think that if the two previous Governments had been so anxious to conserve the interests of farmers and agriculturists as they professed to be, they should have taken action as soon as the Rabbit Commission handed in their report, by setting about immediately to erect the fence recommended in that report. I trust this House will act at once, and try to prevent this dreadful scourge from coming into the settled parts of the country. The other troublesome question is the management of the aborigines in this State. When in Melbourne recently, I and some other members of this House were surprised and pained at the appearance of letters in the Press, professing to make exposures in regard to the treatment of natives in Western Australia, some writers saying the natives were treated so cruelly that the practice here was a disgrace to humanity. I do not know anything practically on this matter, but I consider this House should take into serious consideration this question, and place the natives under a proper board of management, so that they may be looked after in such a way as will not give cause for the publication of such scandals as have been set forth in the *Age* and *Argus* newspapers. One question which I hope this House will take into consideration is the amendment of the Municipalities Act, which was amended only last year. This Act, comprising close on 400 sections, was left till the end of the session, with the result that many of its provisions are antagonistic to each other ; and I consider that an effort should be made to get the Act amended so that an opportunity will be afforded to municipalities to control their own affairs. The municipal bodies have had four or five conferences, and have come to a unanimous decision on certain questions which they desire to see settled. I am sure those bodies have given serious consideration to the various matters, and it is for this honourable House now to sanction the alterations in that Act asked for by those bodies. A local question affecting my constituents is that of the removal of the explosives magazine from Owen's Anchorage. The Government Analyst and Inspector of

Explosives reports on this very strongly. He says :—

During the year several risks have been run from the action of persons whose motives, I regret to say, do not appear to have been altogether free from mischief.

I think the Government Analyst refers to bush fires which came very close to the magazine ; indeed, I have seen bush fires raging within 20 or 30 yards of it. I think it is to the interest not only of my constituents, but of the whole State, that the explosives magazine should be removed to Garden Island, or some other place where it would be free from the risk of bush fires, and other dangers of the kind. All explosives come by water from England or the Continent to this State, so that they could be loaded into lighters alongside ships and taken to Garden Island without coming into Fremantle at all.

MR. DOHERTY: Hear, hear. The late Government promised to do that.

MR. McDONALD: We trust the present Government will carry out the promise.

A MEMBER: That is all they did in the days gone by--promised.

MR. McDONALD: I can only say, in conclusion, that so long as the present Ministry proceed on the lines laid down in the Governor's Speech and in the Premier's speech at Queen's Hall, I shall give them my loyal support. I am sure the great majority of the electors of this State are with the Leake Government at the present time.

MR. M. H. JACOBY (Swan): An opportunity should be taken to place before this House and the country a statement of the position taken up by fruit-growers in regard to the new regulations drafted by the Government relating to the importation of fruit, and I propose to deal with this subject a little this evening. Before coming to that, I should like to pass a few criticisms on other portions of the Speech. The question of immigration is one that has been debated to a considerable extent during the last election campaign. I felt that it was impossible for us to enter on anything like a satisfactory immigration scheme. The difficulty that I foresaw, and now foresee, is that when you have imported your men, there is no certainty of keeping them in the State. We in

the country districts are badly in want of agricultural labour, but I do not think any system of immigration is likely to be of material advantage to us unless it is combined with a scheme for settling the immigrants on the land. I hope that before the close of this session the House will discuss a scheme for the importation of agricultural people from Europe. I am afraid it is useless for us to look to England now; but probably in some parts of Europe we shall find the class of men to suit our conditions; and I hope we shall be able to devise a scheme whereby we can secure a supply of good agricultural labourers and be certain of keeping them here when we get them. This essential can be assured only by a scheme for their settlement on the soil. The adoption of any other system of immigration should be left to the Federal Government, which has power under the Commonwealth Act to deal with the matter. Since there can be no certainty of an individual State keeping for any length of time immigrants whom it might go to considerable expense to get, I think it would be far better for the States to leave a general scheme of immigration to the Commonwealth Parliament. Therefore, unless our Government can show in their scheme of immigration some certainty of keeping the immigrants here when we do get them, I shall have to oppose that matter when it is brought up by Bill. One hon. member—I think it was the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish)—in dealing with this question of immigration suggested that the idea was to secure cheap labour. I desire to point out to the hon. member that all aliens, such as Italians, employed on public works in this country receive exactly the same wage as English labourers.

MR. DAGLISH: No; not necessarily.

ANOTHER MEMBER: The agent unfortunately gets it, in many instances: the men don't get it.

MR. JACOBY: I speak of instances which I have had the opportunity of observing. At Mundaring, where a large number of Italians are employed, about eighty, I find they are in some cases receiving the maximum wage of 9s. a day. In this connection I cannot help mentioning an incident which came under my notice at Mundaring. I saw some trucks being loaded with ballast there:

four Italians were employed in loading one truck, and three Englishmen engaged in loading another truck; and I observed that the latter finished their truck in the same time as it took the four Italians to get theirs loaded. I wish to point out to the Government that they might help the agricultural industry in this labour difficulty at the present time by keeping the best positions on public works, so far as wages are concerned, for our own people, and allowing the Italians to be employed by the agriculturists. Several hundreds of Italians are now being employed at very good wages on public works in this country, and they are probably more suited for agricultural work than are English or Irish labourers; and I think it would be of some assistance to agriculturists at the present time, when so short of labourers, if the Government were to refuse to employ Italians on public works. This would give the farmers an opportunity of getting the Italians for labour on land. I noticed the other day that the plea was put forward by the Treasurer on behalf of some Italian immigrants who desired to land here, that they were to be sent to vineyards and orchards in the Darling Range. I have ascertained where a good many of those men went to; and in each case that I looked into I discovered they stayed in the vicinity of a vineyard for a day or two, and then graduated to Mundaring to work at 8s. or 9s. a day. I would point out to the Government that if they would refuse to employ these Italians—men who cannot be compared with our workers—on public works, that class of labour would be available for agriculture. I regret to see that the Government have not taken advantage of the magnificent opportunity given them of bringing this State into line with the Commonwealth as regards the franchise for the Upper House. It appears to me somewhat ridiculous that the Upper House should be paid by the whole of the taxpayers when it is elected by only a section of them; and the time has arrived for widening the franchise for the Upper House. I regret, as I said before, the opportunity was not taken by the Government of providing for this in the Speech. It is admitted on all sides, I think, that we should bring our legislation into line with

that of the Commonwealth in this respect. As the Upper House salaries are paid by the whole of the community, and as the expense of the Upper House falls on the whole community, I repeat that that House should be elected by the whole community.

HON. W. H. JAMES: You will burst up your party, if you adopt those ideas.

MR. JACOBY: I do not think my party are against them. I was glad to hear from the Premier that he intended taking steps to make the Midland Railway Company carry out the terms of their agreement with this State. The unfortunate episode which occurred during the recent Ministerial trip to the Murchison has, I fear, practically forced into the background the matter of the purchase of the Midland Railway by the State. I think it quite possible that if the Treasurer had not adopted such a remarkable course as that of urging the Midland Company to ask for considerably more than it is asking at the present time, the negotiations which have been carried on might have been brought to a successful and satisfactory conclusion from the country's point of view. I see, however, that it is impossible for the Government to handle the matter after the extraordinary statement of the Treasurer; so that it will have to remain in abeyance for the present. There is a small railway line which should be taken over by the Government at the earliest possible date: I refer to the Canning Jarrah line. If the working of this line were inquired into, it would be found there is a reasonable prospect of its paying working expenses, and perhaps something more. Along that line there is a good deal of settlement with a tremendous amount of cultivation going on; and in my opinion the time will soon arrive when, after inquiry, the Government will find they are justified in taking the railway over. I trust they will make inquiries with that object at an early date.

At 6-30 o'clock, the SPEAKER left the Chair.

At 7-30, Chair resumed.

MR. M. H. JACOBY (continuing): I regret the position taken up by the Gov-

ernment with regard to the future development of railways. It would be a great mistake if we adopted the policy of tying up all future railway development in this country for at least five years or more. If it can be demonstrated that a railway in any portion of the State can be made to pay, that is sufficient justification for borrowing the money to construct that railway. It is not so much a question of how much we owe, when we come to consider whether any farther railways should be built; it is mainly a question as to whether the line has a fair chance of paying; and, if so, the country is justified in incurring the expenditure. The hon. member for the South-West Mining District (Mr. Ewing) says there are very good prospects of a line from Collie to the goldfields paying; therefore we are justified in carrying out such a line if it is likely to pay after a short while. Then there is the Armadale and Kelmscott line which will open up a tremendous amount of country particularly adapted for the growth of vegetables, and it is a great pity to my mind that we are so largely dependent at the present time on Chinamen for our vegetables. If we were to open up such places as the Jandakot Area, or the Wanneroo Area, by light lines of railway, we would be justified in doing so if we think they will pay, as these areas would considerably add to our vegetable supply and cheapen it also. In dealing with the apple question, I may say I do not approach it as a grower: I look at it more from an economic standpoint. To me it is a question whether the result of keeping this State free from the codlin moth will justify the sacrifices which people would make. There has been a public grievance which has been justified, because all of us know that apples have been at an extortionate price for years past; but the growers do not reap the benefit. In the majority of instances the outside price received by the growers at the height of the season is from fourpence to fivepence per pound, yet the same fruit is retailed at from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per pound in Perth, and on the goldfields at something like 2s. a pound. The shortage of the supply has given an opportunity to the middleman to corner the crop. No doubt some growers have been more fortunate, and have received for their crop higher prices than those I

have mentioned; but the price received by the majority of growers this season has been 5d. per lb. There has been an enormous outcry on the fields in reference to this question. I was there a few weeks ago myself and saw evidences of it, and it struck me as somewhat ridiculous that such an enormous outcry should be made over the price of apples, which is likely to be maintained only for a short time. You cannot get a glass of whisky on the gold-fields under a shilling, yet nobody says anything about that, nobody asks the Government to come in and cheapen the price of whisky. Then meat is an extraordinary price on the goldfields, and very little is said about it. It seems to be a favourite subject with some speakers to attack the fruit-growers, and call them unprogressive, and that sort of thing. A few figures which I shall quote by and by will show that the fruit-growers have done their part, and have planted very considerably. I think also, taking into consideration the fact that so soon as the imposition of uniform customs duties by the Commonwealth comes into force, this prohibition must cease, and as it is likely to take place within a couple of months, we might very reasonably have waited until then; in the meantime full inquiries could have been made into the position of apple-planting in this country. The inducements to settle and plant orchards in this country are many, and very powerful too. We have had attracted to this State men from all parts of Australasia, men who have practically been starved out of their holdings in other parts by the codlin moth; and they have come here because of the guarantee they practically had that the country was free from this terrible pest. Our geographical position is such that we are likely to command the very cream of the export trade. We have the advantage of several days in transit, and most of us know the price realised in London for apples is regulated by the condition in which the fruit arrives there. As we have this great advantage in time of transit over our neighbours in the other States, it stands to reason that we shall always receive the highest price available in the London market. There is our climate also: a great portion, if not the whole of our southwestern district, is eminently suited

for the growth of apples. Though our soil is patchy, there is an enormous quantity available for apple plantations; and the quality of the apples will not be gainsaid by anyone who has had experience here and knows what apples are on the other side. Their quality leaves absolutely nothing to be desired; and I feel sure that in this respect our apples stand as high as those of any other State in Australia. The latest figures I have been able to obtain show that we now have 2,000 acres of trees planted. When the whole of these are in full bearing, the capital expenditure will be £140,000. The estimated minimum output, when they are in full bearing, should be 400,000 bushels, which, valued at 5s. per case, would give us an income of £100,000 per annum from all the trees now planted. The effect of federation must be to cause many of the small farmers in this State to look round for some more profitable method of cultivation than growing wheat or hay; and if we wish to succeed in keeping all the advantages we at present possess in the matter of fruit-growing, we must have an enormous development shortly after the imposition of uniform customs duties and the advent of free-trade between the States. It is not only the present plantations which we must be careful to guard, but we have to think of future developments; and I may say that unless we had ordered our trees a year ahead of the present season, it would have been quite impossible to get them at all, so extensive have been the areas planted in this State. Not only have local nurseries been completely cleaned out of apple trees, but tremendous orders have been sent to the other side; and I know of several striking cases there, of one in particular, in which the largest nursery in Victoria was unable to fill further orders for Western Australia, because they had already exhausted their stock in supplying previous orders. There is, therefore, an enormous development of the apple industry in this State, a development which proves that in asking that every care be taken not to damage the industry as it stands at present, or in the future, we are only asking something that is justified by the facts. We have recently been told by a good many writers in the papers that the effect of the codlin

moth is not very serious; but it is a fact that the result of the ravages of the moth in Tasmania has been to damage from 30 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the crop in the infected orchards. I have here a report from Mr. Lea, the Government Entomologist in Tasmania, who writes on the 26th March a statement which is published in the journal of the *Bureau of Agriculture*, where he says :

Have just finished season's picking for codlin moth in my experimental orchard. From 244 bearing trees, 3,294 grubby apples were picked.

I quote these words to show that, even where every care has been taken in an experimental orchard, an orchard that has been planted for the purpose of allowing the Government Entomologist and other experts in Tasmania to experiment in every possible direction with a view to keeping down this moth, we find that from 244 trees there were over 3,000 apples of no value. Though the growers in this State have been accused of not adopting proper methods, and informed that by adopting them they could keep down the codlin moth should it get here, the authority I have quoted shows that it is practically impossible, even by the best methods known, to keep down the pest to any appreciable extent. We have been told that spraying would have the desired effect; but I would point out that, though this is quite true, it practically means that if you wished to save your apple crop from the codlin moth, you would have to spray every apple every day, from the formation of the apple until maturity. I have only to mention this to show how impracticable is the suggestion. As far as the regulations themselves are concerned, my idea is that this House should have had an opportunity of considering the report of the experts who deal with these matters. The amount of property involved, and the enormous loss that must ensue to this State if that moth be introduced, might surely have caused the Premier to hesitate, and not to anticipate the Commonwealth Parliament by a couple of months, but to allow the question to come up in the House, where it could have been threshed out and the information made available for everybody. In conclusion regarding the apple matter, I would say that this State has made a

very heavy sacrifice for the last three or four years, and has paid very high prices, with the main object of protecting our orchards. Well, I say it would be a great pity to render the whole of that sacrifice useless, unless we first had the fullest and strictest inquiry. The matter has several times been discussed in the Producers' Conference; and every time it has come up, all the growers have expressed the hope that the Bureau of Agriculture might, after subjecting the apples to some sort of fumigation, allow them to enter our State with a minimum of risk. And if the experts had not told us that it was impossible to admit apples with a minimum of risk, we should have been only too glad to insist on the removal of the prohibition. But each time the subject has come up in the conference, we have been told we cannot, with any degree of safety at all, admit these apples. Now I ask, what report have the Government received from the agricultural experts? If the report be the same as those made to the conference, then we are indeed taking a very large risk; and I much regret that the Government did not wait until they had first instructed themselves on the matter, and instructed the House more fully as well. [MR. THROSELL: Hear, hear.] Members on the Ministerial benches have challenged us to make an issue with them. Well, the Premier has been very astute in preparing the details of the Governor's Speech. I think the Premier must have been acquainted with the opinions of every member of this House; because he has taken particular care to put into that Speech what is practically the policy and what are the opinions of the majority of the members sitting on this (Opposition) and on the other (Government) side. If he wanted to test the strength of parties, then he could easily have put some contentious matter into the Speech.

MR. HOPKINS: Or left something out: apples, for instance.

MR. JACOBY: No doubt the Premier wanted a test on the apple question; but that is not a national question, and I do not think members on this or on the other side who may be interested in apple culture are likely to challenge him on such a point. But, excepting the two items I have pointed out in my speech,

there is practically nothing left on which we can challenge the Government; because they have taken very good care that they shall have in the Governor's Speech only those proposals of which they know we are in favour. If I am asked why I am sitting opposite the hon. members on the Ministerial bench, I reply that *Hansard* gives my reasons for so doing. For years I have read the speeches and watched the proceedings of this House; and the result has led me to come to this side when I took my seat in the Chamber, because I consider I am following a leader who has the confidence of this country. I shall be quite pleased, and will congratulate the Premier, if he be able successfully to carry out the duties he has taken upon himself; and so long as he carries them out to the satisfaction of this House and to the satisfaction and for the welfare of the country, there is no reason why we should attempt to turn him out and to get into the Government seats. So long as he confines himself to carrying out our policy and making laws in pursuance of the opinions held by hon. members on this side of the House, then I see no reason for voting against him or his measures.

MR. WILSON (Perth): As one of the old members of this House who sat in the last Parliament, perhaps I may be permitted to sincerely congratulate you, sir, upon your election to the honourable position which you now enjoy. I have to place on record my appreciation of the courtesy you have always exhibited to members of this House, and more especially to new members, who are not thoroughly acquainted with the rules and regulations. I also wish briefly to state how deeply my sympathies are with the members of the family of the late Mr. Alexander Forrest, and to place on record that he, in my humble opinion, was a man worthy of the esteem of every member of this House, and indeed of the people of Western Australia. He did excellent work for his country; he was a man of large-heartedness and great generosity of spirit; and he was willing to help everyone who went to him in trouble. The Governor's Speech has been criticised pretty freely from the Opposition side of this House; and the principal complaint seems to be that it is

too general in its terms, not specific enough, and does not deal with any new or important works. I for one admit at once that I am not disappointed with the terms of this Speech. I go farther. I should like to know how any Ministry could produce a Speech on different lines from that recently delivered by His Excellency. I should like to ask the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Piesse) what difference he would have made in the matter of the Speech, if it had been prepared by him. For many years we have pointed out how this country, through the lavish administration of the late Forrest party, was drifting into a state of financial tightness—I will not use the term disaster, because it is one which is apt to injure the credit of the country. But certainly our finances have got into a tight condition; and it stands to reason that anyone taking office at the present time, when the out-going Premier declared that the finances of the country required straightening out, when he declared that public works must cease for many years to come, could not do otherwise than preach a course of caution and moderation, and the practical cessation of public works. The future, so far as the borrowing powers of this State are concerned, has been mortgaged for a considerable time. I venture to say our borrowing powers—as has been laid down not only by the members of the late Opposition, but also by the Forrest administration themselves—have been mortgaged for three or four years. We find that there is at least a sum of six millions of money to be raised. That has been admitted by the leader of the Opposition (Hon. F. H. Piesse), and emphasised by members on the Ministerial side.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: I do not admit that at all.

MR. WILSON: I thought you did, and I listened to you very carefully. I should like to see the figures to the contrary, at any rate. The works contained in the legacy of the Forrest public works policy to be finished by the present Administration will commit this country to a farther borrowing of six millions, and if the figures are wrong, it is for the members opposite to prove them so. I listened to the leader of the Opposition. He gave a large quantity of figures which

were intended to prove that the ultimate amount of indebtedness of this country will be something like one million short of what the Premier stated in his Queen's Hall speech.

HON. F. H. PRIESE: Two millions short.

MR. WILSON: I am not very particular whether there is going to be one million short or one million over. I do not think that is going to affect us when the total is all spent, but what does affect us at the present time is how much is necessary for us to carry on works left by the old Administration, and it goes without saying that we must raise the money required to finish the works already in course of construction; we must also, I think, raise money to redeem Treasury bills coming due in London. Although, perhaps, I may be found criticising the present Government when the time for criticism arises, I say at once we cannot now blame the present Administration. The Leake Administration have come into power. Never mind how: they got there; they are there. Having come into power, they took the position that has been left to them. They cannot alter the financial position, and it is beside the question for any member, either on the Opposition side or the Ministerial side of the House, to blame them for the past. What we have to do is to assist them in their attempts to set their house in order, and I take it every member on the cross-benches is prepared to do that so far as lies in his power; at least, I hope so. I was particularly pleased with several items in the Speech, because they are practically what I myself advocated on the hustings and in the manifesto which I published to my electors at the general election. I think that some five out of seven items I advocated are embraced in the Governor's Speech. If we take the Public Works Board, this is a matter which I consider of very serious consequence to Western Australia. Indeed, I say without hesitation that had a Public Works Board been provided by the late Administration some three or four years ago, it would have been better for this State, and we would not to-day be carrying that incubus which weighed on the shoulders of the Forrest Administration for so many years, and which is likely for many years to come to weigh

on the Government — the Coolgardie Water Scheme, undertaken by the Forrest Government of Western Australia. Again, many tens of thousands of pounds would certainly have been saved in expenditure on public buildings. We notice that railways have been constructed which certainly are not reproductive and cannot be for many years to come. All these matters would have been duly inquired into, and I do not care whether the appointment of that board had been from the Ministerial side or the Opposition side of the House, you would have found that men placed in the responsible position of inquiring into the necessity for these public works and advising Parliament and the Government of the day, would have been careful indeed before they sent in a report which would have plunged the country into the present state of indebtedness.

MR. D. J. DOHERTY: Question?

MR. WILSON: My hon. friend says "Question?" I do not know what the question is. With regard to the two great works the country has in hand at the present time—the Water Scheme and the Harbour Works—these must of necessity be finished and finished quickly, as quickly as the financial position will admit and funds can be raised; and I hope both sides of the House will assist the Government in this direction. We have already expended a large sum of money in connection with the Coolgardie Water Scheme, and we are committed to the total expenditure. The machinery has been ordered, arrangements have been made for the pumping stations, and the pipe track is pretty well, as far as the pipes are concerned, laid to Coolgardie; therefore it stands to reason that the only way to save the country from enormous loss on that scheme is to get it to work as quickly as possible, so that water may be pumped up to the goldfields and the scheme thus made to some extent reproductive. With regard to our Harbour, I do not think there will be any dissentient voice in the House when I state that the Harbour Works must be carried to completion. The amount of tonnage coming to Fremantle daily and weekly warrants the Government in taking any measures necessary to complete the Harbour, and not only to complete the Harbour Works, but also to provide proper accommodation

for vessels that have received damage. I refer to the Dry Dock and all necessary equipment. I hope when this big scheme of pumping water to the goldfields is completed, although it is a scheme I dread and have condemned from the inception of the Government scheme, that when the Harbour Works are completed—indeed I may say before they are completed, because I believe the harbour will always be in a state of construction or extension, or I hope so at any rate in the interests of the State—the Government will, if these schemes can be put under independent boards or trusts, see to it at once. Take them out of the arena of party politics and place them under the control of independent commissioners; and thus we shall be doing our best in the interests of the State to see that these gigantic works are made what we hope them to be, that is reproductive and self-supporting. With regard to the harbour, I hope that the Government will not lose sight of the fact that the harbour has to be extended, and must of necessity be extended up the river towards Perth.

A MEMBER: Perth Harbour Works?

MR. WILSON: I hope my friends from Fremantle will not exhibit the narrow-minded parochial spirit which they are all so fond of impressing upon us has passed away for ever. I hope they will let it sink into oblivion, and allow that the river Swan and the city of Perth have some claim and some interest in the harbour at Fremantle, and that they will not object to a trust comprising the Swan River, and will not object to Perth being represented on that trust.

A MEMBER: Make it by private enterprise.

MR. GEORGE: Let it out by contract.

MR. WILSON: I say without hesitation, the day is approaching when the opening of the Swan River must be seen to. It is beyond doubt that the inter-State shipping at any rate must come up to Perth within a few years. I do not say how many—it may be five, or seven, or perhaps ten years—but certainly within the next ten years we shall see the inter-State steamers lying at Perth despite any opposition from my hon. friend on the right here (Mr. Doherty). When that day comes, you will find a greater quantity of tonnage lying at the wharves of Fremantle than there is at the present

time. The interests of Fremantle and the interests of Perth demand that we shall not be parochial in our undertakings, that we shall not state that one port or one city is going to reap all the advantage to the detriment of another; but by letting each portion of the State progress according to its natural advantages, we shall advance ourselves and advance the port of Fremantle.

A MEMBER: Esperance.

MR. WILSON: Yes; Esperance can come in. With regard to all our railways the main question we have to consider at the present time, and one that was referred to in the Speech, is that of rolling-stock, and I am glad to see—I hope it is true—the Government have seized time by the forelock and ordered a sufficient quantity of rolling-stock to equip our present railways.

HON. F. H. PRIESE: The past Government.

MR. WILSON: I am not very particular whether it was the Throssell Administration or the Leake Administration. I am now speaking to my electors generally and the electors of Western Australia in particular. If we do not equip our railways, we cannot possibly make them pay, and the result is not only that the railways do not pay, but the industries of the State and private concerns are starved for want of rolling-stock. Their output is limited, and consequently they also do not pay; and I repeat without hesitation that the industries of Western Australia are absolutely starving for rolling-stock. There cannot be the slightest doubt about that. If you take our large timber industry, you will find that the mill-owners are not at present receiving 50 per cent. of the rolling-stock they require to carry on their important trade. The same language applies to the coal trade. Every day there are complaints of shortage in the quantity of trucks ordered, and I presume the same thing applies to the goldfields. The mines do not get the rolling-stock they require, and of course the firewood supply is to some extent limited, and I presume operations also are limited in consequence. What does this mean? It means that we are employing at the present time something like 25 or 35 per cent. fewer men than could be employed, if our railways were

properly equipped. One of the most important duties of any Administration, so far as this State is concerned, is to see that lines which have been pushed out here, there, and everywhere, are properly equipped, so that the maximum amount of traffic can be carried over them. There is another matter also affecting this question, which I am sorry to see has been revived in this House by a motion the member for Subiaco (Mr. Daglish) has tabled. It is in connection with the removal of the locomotive workshops to Midland Junction. I did hope, when the discussion and the fierce debate took place in the last Parliament and it was ultimately decided, though by a narrow majority it is true, to indorse the previous decision of Parliament and to remove the shops to Midland Junction as quickly as possible, that settled the matter once and for all, and trusted that the Ministry then in power—that Railways and Director of Public Works, Mr. B. C. Wood—would have taken such steps to commence these important works as would put out of the question any idea of having the selection of the site debated again.

MR. DAGLISH: Why?

MR. WILSON: I take it that it is most ill-advised at the present juncture to raise this question.

MR. DAGLISH: Why?

MR. WILSON: I am trying to explain. If the hon. member will contain himself in patience he will hear why, at least so far as my abilities go to express the reasons. This House has threshed the question out, not once, but half-a-dozen times; the matter has been the subject of debate and agitation; it has also been the subject of inquiry by a Royal Commission on which Fremantle gentlemen were represented; and after this thorough discussion and threshing out from every point of view, the decision was come to that the workshops must go to the site at Midland Junction, which was admitted to be the best site inspected by the Royal Commission. Money has already been spent on that site to a very large extent—I believe some sixty or seventy thousand pounds; the people of Midland Junction have been investing their money on the strength of the decision of Parliament to put the workshops there; they have been waiting year after year; and I say it

would be just as gross an injustice to the people of Midland Junction to refrain now from building the workshops on that site as it was when the Government practically refused some years ago to allow Esperance to connect herself with Norseman by railway. Something like seventy or eighty thousand pounds had been spent to make a harbour at Esperance; the people had been induced to settle there to the number of some 1,600 or 2,000 by the hope that they would have some connection with Norseman by rail; and then the Government said emphatically that they would not permit that connection to be made, that they would neither connect Esperance with Norseman by rail themselves nor allow anyone else to do so. What was the result? Esperance went down, and I suppose at the present time it has about 300 people, who are waiting for better times. Midland Junction will go exactly the same road if the promise of the workshops be not kept. People have settled there in expectation of this expenditure of Government money in the construction of large works; and apart from the economic aspect of the case, so far as the working of the railways is concerned, the question ought not to be revived. I hope the Minister will order the works to be put in hand with all possible dispatch. With regard to this much-vexed question which has engaged the attention of several speakers before, and also the attention of the present Ministry, the rabbit invasion, I want to say, so far as I am concerned, that I have hardly a definite opinion as to the advisability of fencing, or, at any rate, as to the best method of fencing. I am afraid that we are almost too late; and I think this is another sin that may fairly be charged against the members of the present Opposition—the delay in carrying out the recommendations of the Royal Commission which sat on this question some years ago, I believe, and advised the Government to take immediate steps to make a fence so as to keep the rabbits out. I am afraid that the procrastination of the Forrest Government has made it too late to spend money effectively in endeavours to keep the rabbits out altogether. Therefore it comes down to this: we must now consider whether it is not more advisable to assist the settlers and the farmers to fence

their holdings, thus keeping the rabbits out of the various agricultural areas, although allowing them to overrun the rest of the country at their sweet will. I am almost inclined to think that this is the best course to pursue—to assist the farmers to fence in their holdings, and not to attempt at this stage (at this late stage, I may say) to keep the rabbits altogether out of the State. I am afraid that any fence erected in the back country could not be adequately protected against damage and destruction. Teamsters travelling backwards and forwards will not stick at breaking down a bit of fencing; they go as they please; and I am quite sure that very few of them coming up against a rabbit-proof fence would take the trouble to follow it along until they reached a proper gateway: they would simply drive right through the fence, with the result that the rabbits would pour in. I am afraid that we cannot effectively stop the inroad of the pest by means of a fence; and therefore I say it is now for the Government to consider, and consider well, whether it would not be more advisable to let the rabbits into the country, but to keep them out of the farmers' holdings. At the same time I do not hesitate to say that the delay and procrastination of the previous Administration, which is proving so disastrous in its effects, is almost criminal. As to the removal of the fruit prohibition, I, as the representative of a metropolitan constituency, am pleased to see that it is proposed; and I trust that the importation of fruit can be safely allowed, so that the people of this country may have a supply at a cheaper rate. The only question that troubles me in connection with the matter is as to whether we shall be ultimately jeopardising the existence of our orchards. I do not think that this need be the case. It seems to me that if the regulations which have already been gazetted are carried out, there will be little or no fear of the dreaded moth getting a hold in Western Australia. The advantage of a cheap fruit supply to the great mass of the people of this country is, I take it, so enormous that we shall have to run some moderate and reasonable risk in enabling them to get the supply; and therefore I, for one, am not prepared to condemn the Government for having removed this prohibition. At the

same time they, as the administrators of the affairs of this State, must take the responsibility on their own shoulders. The future alone, I suppose, can show whether their action is right or wrong. So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to take my share of the responsibility as a private member in supporting them in their course; and I do hope that the fears which have been expressed by those hon. members who more particularly represent the fruit industry of Western Australia, will not prove well founded. I trust we shall find that not only have the people had the advantage, the enormous advantage, of cheap fruit, but also that our orchards still will be able to thrive and remain free from the pest of the codlin moth. I listened to the remarks of the member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby), and I must state I have for the second time been astounded to hear that the producers of apples only realise some 4d. or 5d. per lb. for their fruit. It seems to me to be out of all reason that the fruit-growers should get only 4d. or 5d. per lb. while the consumer is paying 1s. 6d. per lb. I venture to say that the member for the Williams has not been selling his apples at 4d. or 5d. lately.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: I get all I can for them.

MR. WILSON: I have heard something about two guineas a case. I am afraid the member for the Swan is not as good a business man as the leader of the Opposition; and I would advise the former to take a leaf out of the latter's book.

MR. JACOBY: It was the small growers I was speaking of.

MR. WILSON: I have said before that no one can expect that this Speech shall contain a programme of new works. The Ministry have their hands full with the completion of the works which are already in course of construction. We cannot, and must not, blame the present Ministry for not having introduced proposals for new railways and other public works; but the question arises, how are we going to meet the requirements of the country? I think it is beyond dispute—I am not going to argue about it for a month—that we cannot hope to initiate any new works of importance for the next three or four years. The member for Northam, when electioneering, with his lieutenant the then member for

East Coolgardie, Mr. Moran, stated emphatically on two or three different occasions that the public works policy of the country must remain at a standstill. They went so far as to say that if the people required any extension of their railway system they would, for many years to come, have to call in the aid of private enterprise to get such extension; and since then this has been emphasised by the speech of the Premier. He admits that the great duty which his Government have to perform is to straighten out the finances and bring to a successful conclusion the works which have been handed down to them. It amounts to this: we must be content to stand perfectly still in this country for the next three or four years. I for one say that we cannot possibly stand still. A country, like a firm or an individual, must be progressive; otherwise it is retrogressive. If we want to push this country on, if we want to attract population to its shores and thus make it prosperous, we must not stand still and say, "We are helpless; we are mortgaged for the next four or five years, and we are going to wait until we get clear." This brings me at once to a question which has been broached by other members, and on which I have spoken, as you are aware, for many years in this House—the question of private enterprise. I want to say at once —

A MEMBER: You live by it.

MR. WILSON: Yes; and I believe the hon. member also is living by private enterprise. I should like to know what member of this House subsists except by private enterprise. A few professional politicians, I suppose, might form exceptions; but taking us all round, I venture to say we live by private enterprise. I suppose even the gentlemen on the back (Labour) bench obtained their seats through the advantage they derived from private enterprise. Private enterprise is not a thing to be scorned. It has brought the British to their present pitch, their present position amongst the nations of the world; and I venture to say that private enterprise still is going to do a great deal for Western Australia. I am surprised to find how the newspapers have been running down private enterprise, how on this subject they have been girding at mem-

bers, and especially at myself, as men ready to give over this country to what they term syndicaters and boodlers—the latter a most offensive term when taken in its literal meaning. I take it that one who is connected with private enterprise in this country, who has money invested in the industries of this country, ought not to be above standing up and speaking in favour of the enterprise which he represents, and which he believes to be beneficial not only to himself, but also to the country at large. The insane ravings of one paper especially, the *Morning Herald*, are certainly not going to deter me, and I do not think they will deter other members of this House, from speaking out and stating what we believe to be to the advantage of this country. If we look into it we find these newspapers themselves are absolutely supported by that self-same private enterprise.

MR. GEORGE: No; by Government advertisements.

MR. WILSON: I hope Government advertisements will be cut down considerably in the future. The inane newspapers I speak of are themselves supported by private enterprise; they make their profits out of the support which private enterprise gives them. The gentleman controlling the *Morning Herald* in particular is up to his neck in private enterprise: I should think he was one of the greatest "private enterprisers" this country has ever seen. He controls the editor, and the editor writes the articles for the newspaper every time. It is at least suspicious to find the chairman of that newspaper company is chairman also of the Gas Company of Perth, which has spread its tentacles over the city, and is gradually drawing the life-blood from the people. This company objects to competition in any shape or form, and intends to keep its hold on the people, to continue to do so for the next ten years and draw profits from the city of Perth. When we find that the chairman of the *Morning Herald* Company is also chairman of the Gas Company, we can quite understand the cloven hoof, and we can understand why the Gas Company objects to the Tramway Company coming in and forcing the Gas Company to reduce its price. I wish briefly to refer to one or two remarks by the member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James). I am sorry

he is not in his seat at the present time—I was hoping he had reformed, because he always has been in the habit, as far as I am aware, of throwing off his speeches and clearing out. I notice he has stuck to his seat pretty consistently during this session until this evening, and now he is absent. He referred scandalously and severely to two members in the course of his speech, and he had also a great deal to say of those who wished to build private railways and wanted cells. He said:

There were members of the Opposition who wanted very great works, and this matter should be taken carefully into consideration by the country in deciding in which side they should place their confidence. There were those who had great national works to carry out, either a railway from the Collie to the fields, or the provision of cells generally.

The hon. member was attacking the member for Geraldton (Mr. Hutchison) and the member for the South-West Mining District (Mr. J. Ewing); and I state from my position here, and I suppose I can be absolutely impartial in my opinion, being so near the gangway, that it was both unfair and unwise to make those bitter and acrimonious attacks which the member for East Perth made on these gentlemen. This is not calculated to raise the tone of the debates or likely to increase the number of supporters of the Government. I do not think the country ought to be warned to look askance at men who have controlled private undertakings. I warn the member for East Perth that he should think twice before he "throws off" as he did at those two new members, or attempts to stir up feelings of personal animosity which will take time to eradicate, and may do serious injury to his side of the House. I notice the Minister for Mines, when speaking at Greenbushes the other night, stated very emphatically what I took to be an expression of policy. He stated that in the future the Government would carry out all the works to which the country was committed by the late Government: that is a big thing. First, they intended to place the finances in order; but they were determined that no great public works should be given to private enterprise: they would go out of office first. I think it is time the Ministry ceased threatening to go out of office. In that connection I may say I hope the

Minister for Mines was not voicing the opinions of his colleagues, and I think from what I know of them he was not. It amounts to this: You may talk against private enterprise as much as you like, but I am prepared to state from my position here that a private railway built from Collie to the goldfields, which would not interfere with the present traffic over the Government lines, can be run considerably cheaper by a private company than the Government can possibly run it. I think the present rates for timber and coal, which would be the two principal articles carried over the line, could be maintained, although they are rates which it has been stated over and over again in this House, and by the present General Manager of Railways, are losing rates. The Government have said that the timber traffic does not pay them, that the coal traffic is carried at a loss. I am prepared to say that a private company would be glad to get the trade at the present rates and show a substantial profit. On that point I would refer you to the much-despised Midland railway. At the present time we find the Midland Railway Company not only pleased to carry coal at a half-penny per ton per mile, but they are granting a rebate on timber carried over their lines.

A MEMBER: And losing money.

MR. WILSON: They are making money by it. A firm I have the honour to be attorney for, a timber firm, at the present time is dispatching a large quantity of sleepers to Cue, and a rebate of 3s. 8d. per ton on a 12s. 6d. rate is granted on the haulage of sleepers on the Midland railway. The explanation is very easily given. When we turn up the accounts of this concern we find that the working expenses of the line only amount to something like from 45 to 50 per cent. of the earnings, whereas on the Government lines the expenses are 76 or 77 per cent. of the earnings. You have the explanation at once.

MR. DOHERTY: But the line is going to the dogs.

MR. WILSON: Nothing of the sort; there has been an inspection of the line lately, and it has been found to be in very fair order.

A MEMBER: How many fettlers have they?

MR. WILSON: Exactly. I would point out that the Midland Railway with 300 miles of line is kept in going order, and we never hear of any big accident: they have no more accidents than on the Government lines. And if the Midland line is run at a cost of 50 per cent. on the earnings, then our Government lines are very much overmanned at the present time. I have no hesitation in saying that the attention of the Administration ought to be directed to the number of railway employees on the Government lines, to see if they cannot be reduced. The present trouble we are labouring under which has almost taken our attention from everything else, the strike, is largely due to the fact, I believe, that more men are employed on the Government lines than are absolutely necessary. I do not want any complaints to go abroad with regard to my attitude in connection with the private enterprise question. I have stated so often my opinions that they are on record and can be referred to at any time. I have never been so rabid as it has been said I am in this direction. The policy of the Government or any Government should be to endeavour as far as possible to keep the main trunk railway system of the country in the hands of the Government. On no account should any main trunk line, or any of the big lines, be allowed to go into the hands of private individuals. Had the main lines in the first instance been constructed by private enterprise, there could have been nothing said about extensions by private enterprise; but having adopted it as our policy—I am repeating words which I uttered to the House years ago—having adopted State-owned railways as our national policy, we should think often and think long before we let our trunk lines go into the hands of private enterprise. But the same argument does not apply to outside lines that would not come into competition with the Government lines; the argument does not apply to feeders that bring traffic to our main line. I take it that the railway which the member for the South-Western Mining District (Mr. Ewing) has spoken of, and for which he has received such a castigation from the member for East Perth, can be safely intrusted to private enterprise to carry out if private enterprise

will come in and do it. The line would be built for a specific purpose; it would not be intended to compete with the existing railway system of the State; nor would it—members may think and people may think that it would—take traffic away from the existing railway, the South-Western line: nothing of the sort. The line would not compete with the Government system, and in addition to that it would be opening up a new trade which has never been opened up before for want of these facilities. The line would supply coal to the goldfields, a trade impossible now to undertake owing to the cost of the carriage of fuel over such a large distance and the heavy grades round about Greenmount. Coal could then be landed on the fields at 3s. 6d. or 4s. per ton cheaper than at the present time. A new trade is springing up which we should expand, and the coal industry instead of employing a thousand men at the Collie I am sure would soon be employing 5,000 men, earning good wages there. Another railway is the Port Hedland line running inland. I have no personal experience of that portion of our vast estate, but from what I have heard from the member for Coolgardie (Mr. Morgans) and the Minister for Works (Mr. Kingsmill), who represents that district, this Parliament and the country would be warranted in allowing private enterprise to construct that railway back from Port Hedland 100 or 150 miles inland. It is not a line that would interfere with our present railway system. It would be about a thousand miles to the north, and why should there be this dog-in-the-manger policy of sitting down and saying, "We will not allow you to develop your portion of this great State of Western Australia until it suits us, and it is convenient for us to do it at the public expense. I venture to say 10, 15, or 20 years will elapse before the finances of this country will warrant such works as the Port Hedland railway, the Esperance to Norseman railway, Collie to goldfields railway being carried out at the expense of the public credit. Therefore I say we should be justified in following the example of other countries. We shall be justified in taking a leaf out of the book of that democratic State of the Commonwealth, Queensland, a country which

would not allow private enterprise of any description a few years ago, and yet what do we find? Last year no fewer than four private railway Bills were passed through the Queensland Parliament.

MR. DOHERTY: The Treasurer brought in a deficit.

MR. WILSON: There is a deficit in Western Australia at the present moment.

MR. DOHERTY: A small one.

MR. WILSON: Anyone who will go to extremes, for or against private enterprise, is doing an injury to the country, and not only that, but an injury to the individual industries of the country. I do not care whether it be a newspaper editor, a member of Parliament, or an individual who has his money invested in the country: if you go to extremes, and if the whole country is to be run by private enterprise, or on the other hand if you will not allow any but the State to control these works, you are going to retard the progress of the country, or you are going to adopt that offensive remark "boodling" the country. I venture to state emphatically that we shall have a period of prosperity in Western Australia; we shall develop the enormous resources within our community such as we have never been able to do before, if we adopt such a policy as I have mentioned. I have only one or two other matters to touch on very shortly. I trust the resolution which was passed in this House on my motion some eight or nine months ago, during last session, will be borne in mind by the present Administration. I earnestly hope local tenders will be called for all Government supplies; and in this connection I specially refer to rolling-stock. The Forrest Administration would not listen to any suggestion that our rolling-stock should be constructed within our own borders; and I have pointed out over and over again that it is only necessary to give facilities, and to start the ball rolling by the calling of tenders within our own borders, as well as in London. We do not want anything unfair; let us buy in the cheapest market: but by calling tenders within our own borders we shall gradually educate our merchants and manufacturers to the fact that they can possibly secure a portion of the orders for Government supplies. Then they will expand their works accordingly, and we shall find that

not only will imported goods, such as ironmongery, stores of every description, cement, and that sort of thing, be tendered for by our local merchants, but that our manufacturers will greatly expand their ideas, and we shall have tenders put in for rolling-stock also. And what does this mean? It means that we shall extend the market for our producers, which ought to be the main object of all politicians; it means that we shall open new avenues of employment for our workmen, and then we must of necessity be doing the best we possibly can in the interests of the country. I do not for one moment begrudge, and I hope no member in this House will begrudge, any employer a fair return for the capital he has invested in the country. We want to see prosperous concerns, and not bankrupt undertakings. In the interests of the workers themselves, we want to see prosperous and paying enterprises, so that labour may be well paid and be continuous. And in this respect I would appeal to the members behind me (the Labour party), and state as my opinion, and venture to state it as theirs also, that to make a country successful, capital and labour must go hand in hand. It is no use for one moment thinking that any one class can dominate the others; for they must work in unison for their own protection, their own interests, and their own profit; and when this unfortunate trouble is over, which we are at present experiencing—a trouble which, I am sorry to think, has in its severe form only begun—when it is all over and done with, I hope we shall enter upon a new era of prosperity in this country, undisturbed by these labour troubles, so that we may do our best in the interests of a young country, that we may, by our moderation and by the successful combination of capital and labour, advance the interests of the country; in all cases submitting disputes, when we have them, if we cannot decide them mutually, to conciliation and arbitration. And in this connection I repeat that the railway servants who have gone out in such large numbers have been unwise in their action. I take it that when arbitration is offered, and arbitration on fair lines such as I understand the Government have agreed and did at first agree to give, the course to pursue

is not to hold a pistol at the head of the employer for the time being and threaten to take his life if he do not surrender. I say the proper course for the men is not to adopt such a threatening attitude, but to consider the well-being of the community which is served by their labour, and to consent to continue their work until the Arbitration Court can settle the dispute. I hope this will be the course pursued. In my opinion the question has now narrowed itself down to one as to whether the State railways shall be controlled and run by the responsible Minister representing the people of the State, or be controlled and dominated by the union, represented by the secretary of that union. Now that the question has narrowed itself down to that—[MR. DIAMOND: No; it has not]—I trust that when this motion of which my friend who has just interjected has given notice comes on, as I presume it will to-morrow, this House will stand to a man with the Premier and his colleagues in seeing this dispute through to the end. I say nothing farther, and I hope I do not express that opinion in any threatening tone. I should be sorry indeed to threaten any body of workers. I do not think it is at any time the policy of employers to threaten, for to do so would probably mean serious loss; but I say unhesitatingly, as I should were I the employer, that it is for the Government to see that those who have control of the public funds and of public works shall control the terms of employment of their employees, and not be dictated to as the union at the present time wish to dictate to the Ministry.

MR. G. THROSSELL (Northam): Passing from the consideration of the strike, it has been remarked that there is nothing new in the policy enunciated by my friend the Premier. If that be so, it must be very hard for me to criticise it, seeing that it has already been also stated that his policy is my own. However that may be, I am pleased to recognise the conciliatory spirit which has moved the Premier since his accession to office. It was what I should expect of him. He seemed at once to have dropped the lawyer, and taken on himself the garb of the statesman. This is as it should be. However, whilst I and others with me recognise the conciliatory spirit which

has moved the Premier, I desire, in justice to myself and to those with whom I have been associated, to refer to some remarks which have fallen from himself and others with regard to the past actions of the old Government and my own. I think all hon. members round this House will see it is due to myself, it is due to the past Premier (Sir John Forrest) who gave 10 years of his life to the service of this State, it is due to every member of this House, and it is due to the country also, to say that if there be in the actions of the old Forrest Government, or if there be in the actions of the recent Government, anything approaching dishonour or dishonesty, it is due to myself and others and to the country that we should have the details and the particulars of the dishonour or dishonesty without delay. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] I can only say for myself that I challenge the criticism of the Premier on this matter; and while, as I said just now, I recognise and very keenly appreciate the conciliatory spirit he has displayed, still it is due to myself, to the old party, to everyone associated with the old Government, and especially to Sir John Forrest, who is not here now to take his own part in the matter, that we should know if there be any discoveries approaching dishonour or dishonesty in the transactions of the past. The most tactful sentence in the Governor's Speech is this:

Obligations incurred by my late advisers will be faithfully carried out by my present Ministry.

I suppose I may accept that literally, that these obligations will be honourably carried out. It is very pleasing to me, and it should be pleasing to every member in this House, and also to the whole country, to know that these obligations of the old Government will be honourably carried out by the new. I may say at the outset that the policy as announced in the Governor's Speech seems to me one that may be supported almost in its entirety by every member of this House. Proper caution is to be displayed; proper economy is to be exercised: that is all we desire. It has been said that no new railways are provided for; and it is hardly to be expected that a new Government could come down to the House prepared with proposals for

new railways. One speaker said I had stated at Northam that public works must come to a standstill. I should have been very sorry to make such an utterance; and it will be found later on that if this promise of the new Ministers to carry out the obligations of the old be sincere, they will have a very vigorous public works policy to pursue, and there will be no possible chance of the public works of the State coming to a standstill. Then I go on to the greatest work, the Coolgardie Goldfields Water Scheme: it must be plain to everyone that this is one of the works which must be carried out at the earliest possible moment, and with the greatest attainable speed. However, there cannot be one penny returned of the one and a-half millions of money already raised for that work until the water-pipes are tapped, either on the road up or on the arrival of the water at its destination; and I dare say the Treasurer is in a position to tell us, what is not generally known, that since 1st January the country has been paying at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum—3 per cent. sinking fund and 3 per cent. interest—for the money raised and expended on this Coolgardie Goldfields Water Scheme. In other words, in round numbers the Treasurer will have to charge himself, during the current year, with the sum of £75,000 without at present getting a penny of return from the country. We can thus recognise that this should be one of the first works to be carried to completion; and I desire to say, while wishing to avoid repetition of my remarks, that I hope the Government, whether it be this or any other Government, will recognise that in carrying out this grand national scheme, introduced by the late Government, it will be a grave reflection on their management if they do not seek out as many customers as possible for the water. It will be recognised that what I mean is that when those pipes reach that blessed place called Northam—not Bunbury—if a supply be wanted there, that supply should be available for the people there. I have always looked on this water scheme as something greater than a goldfields water scheme: I have always regarded it as an important factor in land settlement. We know there is a considerable amount of land settlement at Northam, Kellerberrin, and other places along the line; and it

goes without saying that, wherever a township has been formed, wherever there is settlement, water should be available for the settlers. I do not say for one moment that fresh expenditure must be entered into by the Government in order to provide that water—I have no such intention; but that settlers along the pipe-line may be provided with water so as to reticulate it into their paddocks, and provide water so that townships may reticulate their streets. Hon. members may smile at this; but it is clear that it would indeed be a grave reflection on the Engineer-in-Chief, were he not in a position to provide water for those who seek it; and I have already given the best of reasons why, at the earliest possible date, we should enable every possible customer to purchase this water. It is clear that if the Engineer-in-Chief will have to supply 5,000,000 gallons a day to the goldfields—and those goldfields will want that quantity—the settlers along the line also want water, and it will be a grave reflection upon the management if their demands also cannot be satisfied. But I have a better opinion of the Engineer-in-Chief than that; I say openly I have already discussed this matter with him; and as far as he is concerned, if the policy of the Government of the day will permit of it, he will be prepared to supply water as I have indicated. That is as it should be. With regard to new railways, I am at one with the Government in saying there should be every possible caution exercised. Still, there are lines which the Ministry must construct, if they keep their promise to fulfil the obligations of their predecessors; notably a line from Collie to the Williams district, and a project I had in my mind, and which it was my intention to carry out—the examination of the country lying between Bridgetown and Albany. There, I am told on good authority, we have not only rich karri forests, but also rich swamps, only awaiting the advent of the iron-horse to draw a large population and settle the land. I commend this line particularly to the Government, who will find good reason for carrying it out as a line necessary to be made. Another line possibly of less consequence, but a notable line referred to this evening, is the Jandakot railway; and having some knowledge of that

country and the advantage to the settlers, I am prepared to say that, if funds can be provided in the near future, a light line of railway would be much cheaper in that direction than a macadamised road, for which funds have been voted at different times. Another local work for this Government to carry out—my friend on the left (Mr. George) says “Marradong,” and I say Marradong is another farmers’ railway too. Good land exists there also. But another notable work I was going to mention is one left behind by the recent Government to complete, and that is the Railway Workshops at Midland Junction. I was glad to learn from my friend the member for Perth (Mr. F. Wilson) that he is altogether adverse to the notice of motion given in this House by one of our Labour members, asking for another inquiry before going on to complete those workshops. I say the time has gone by for bringing this question again before the House. It has been settled after inquiry and plenty of consideration—settled I believe absolutely and wisely in the interests of the country. But apart from that, I was going to remark that one other great work for this Government or any other is to put the coping-stone upon the efforts of the old Government, by not only building railway workshops at Midland Junction for repairs to our engines, but by establishing great national workshops for the building of our locomotives and general rolling-stock. Although the cost would be £400,000, we have evidence before the country which shows it is a high and noble aim to endeavour to establish this great national workshop, in I believe the best position that can be selected for this purpose. Public works in this country ought not to stand still. Apart from the Harbour Works at Fremantle and additional to them, facilities for storing cargo at Fremantle are required. The sum needed for that will be very small, and this Government or any other Government will be most blameworthy if it does not make provision for this. Not long ago we had complaints from shipowners that they had to boat water from Perth to supply the ships, and I find in the programme placed before us omission has altogether been made with regard to the Fremantle and Metropolitan Water Supply. We

have gone to a vast expense there in the creation of a noble harbour; but without a water supply and proper coaling facilities, all that money will have been comparatively thrown away; therefore I urge upon the Government that one of the most important works to be taken up will be the provision of coaling facilities and for discharging cargo, also providing proper storage for the use of merchants. I dare say the Premier knows as well as I do that this is absolutely necessary. It has become such a burning question that the Agent-General in London called attention to the complaints of steamship companies regarding lack of facilities for Fremantle, and to the delays entailed on steamships in relation to coaling and discharging. A threat is also held over our heads that, if this is not soon mended, these steamships will take in coal at Adelaide or some other port. I am sure I have said enough on this subject to show how necessary it is to pay attention to this work. I regret also to notice another important omission from the Governor’s Speech. No reference has been made to Education. We know the old Government paid special attention to education. Just now technical schools have been established in a small way, and I trust—I hope I am voicing the views of members here and the public generally—that this system of education will be carried out in a marked degree and with greater success by the present Government. We must make greater provision for technical schools than the paltry £2,000 or £3,000 a year already set down: seeing also that we have a gold yield of £6,000,000 and that we have rich auriferous rock, we should not scruple to establish a School of Mines worthy of the name. Again with regard to agricultural education, after all these years we have spent but a very few pounds in the promotion of that object; and the day has come when we must have Agricultural Schools, so that our lads and the people coming to us may have technical education by means of Schools of Mines and Schools of Agriculture, to be crowned later on I hope—and it was the hope of the old Government—by the establishment of a University, so that people in this State may not have to send their boys to Melbourne or Adelaide for such educational training. Another thing omitted from

the Speech—and all members will recognise what I mean—is that ring of hopefulness which used to characterise the speeches made from the Government side of the House in the old time. The men now in office, who show they are apprentices at the trade, speak of a “deficit,” while they fail to tell us that the revenue for the year has exceeded the estimate by £100,000. Probably they will tell us presently that if the estimate of revenue for the past year has been exceeded by £100,000, the estimated expenditure has been exceeded to the extent of £150,000.

THE COLONIAL TREASURER: More than that.

MR. THROSSELL: About £150,000.

MR. DOHERTY: You (the Government) paid for 13 months, though.

MR. THROSSELL: That is the difference of method between the new Government and the old. It is quite clear there is an absence of the ring of hopefulness that used to be heard from the Government side of the House. What, after all, is the deficit we talk about?

We were told by the Premier the other evening that in ten years the revenue has increased from £400,000 to £3,000,000 odd, and we find that the trade of the country has increased to nearly £13,000,000 sterling. Surely there is a ring of hope about that, which ought to be conveyed to the whole world; and if, when the cable report was read in London next morning after the Governor's Speech was delivered here, there had been in it the fact that our trade has increased to thirteen millions, it would have created greater confidence in this State. Then with regard to our great national deposit of coal, I find that nothing is said about it in the Speech. That great deposit of coal has not received sufficient attention at the hands of the Leake Government. We have a grand national asset in that, as must be recognised when it is known that £180,000 a year is expended in wages alone, where three years ago there were only the opossum and kangaroo; and that the Government in this State last year paid £80,000 for this coal on the railways instead of paying that amount away. Seeing the condition of our agriculture, our timber, our gold, our coal, and our tin, there is no real reason to fear for this State. If we are only moved by the highest desire, if we have that grasp

of the powers of the State which will lead to wise action, we need not fear one bit. It is this I deplore in the present Speech, that there is nothing in it to buoy us up with that hopefulness and cheerfulness which we knew in the past, and which I desire to create now. I know the present Government are moved with the highest intention to do their best, and I can only say, without party feeling, that in all measures they introduce which commend themselves to my judgment, the Government shall have my earnest and best support. The outlook for ourselves could not be brighter. All our resources are flourishing, those I have mentioned; and in regard to agriculture, the season at present promises to be one of the best on record. We have in the past laid the foundation of a grand future for this country, and the records of the old Government will stand for all time. I feel very deeply that there is a reproach cast on the honour of that old Government, and those members who make the charge shall not be allowed to believe that I have been living in a fool's paradise, and have been following a dishonourable and dishonest man. I for one am not disposed to sit silent under such a charge as that; and I hope—though I say it in no captious spirit and with no unkindness, but in justice to the man whom I honour and have considered it an honour to follow—that if there is anything dishonourable in the pigeon-holes, it will be made public once and for ever, and then be buried in oblivion. I cannot conclude without referring to the question of fruit. The action taken by the present Government is very popular; but I had understood the present Government were prepared to carry out the obligations of the old Government, and one of the obligations cast on the old Government was, I consider, that of keeping faith with those men who had been induced to go on the land. Some of those men have spent large sums of money in planting orchards and clearing the land, and they were promised that their orchards should be protected from those diseases which have run riot in the other States; but I am sorry to find, at the outset, that those terms have been broken by the present Government. The object of the late Government was to put “a bold peasantry” on the land; consequently every inducement has been given

to people to embark their money in it, and hon. members all know what success has attended those efforts. We have now reached such a stage in our history that if faith had been kept with those men we should in a very few years not only have caught up to the local requirements, but have become exporters; and one of the arguments of protectionists is that protection leads to lower prices because it leads to over-production. What has been the action of the present Government? Many men have been induced to go on the land because they were to be protected, and they have been protected. One hundred and forty thousand pounds, I am credibly informed, have been expended in the planting of orchards and vineyards. Who induced them to spend this money and engage in this industry? The policy of Parliament and the land regulations induced them; and although my sympathy is with the consumer when I find apples costing fifteen-pence a lb., I argue that the great aim of the old Government was not only to build a harbour sufficient for ships of all nations, but not to let them go away empty, or taking only our wool and our gold. I want to see them going away laden with our fruits, our oils, our wines, and other products of the land. It is quite clear this will be the result in regard to some products; and if we only waited a few years we should see the same result in regard to apples. No one knows better than myself—and I have been all through the country—that there are certain parts of it designed by providence to rival that far-famed apple country, Tasmania; and therefore I say there is the greatest necessity for care with respect to the introduction of the codlin moth and other insect pests. It may be said by some that those who took great risks in regard to the tick in cattle, having in view the interests of the consumers of meat, might also afford to take risks in regard to the codlin moth and other insect pests, for the sake of the consumers of fruit. I maintain the cases are not on all-fours, for we took the risk in regard to the tick in cattle so that we might have cheap meat for the consumer, and so that we might open up a trade for one of our provinces. That was the idea. With all respect, it seems to me in regard to this apple business that by the removal

of the prohibition on imported apples, instead of opening new channels for our men, we are killing those men, the men who are building up the State, who are paying their land rents and their general taxes into our Treasury. Those men are to be set aside and ruined in this State, in order to build up other States. While I sympathise with the consumer, I must say the action of the Government in this matter has been too hasty. They might have paid to members who are associated with the land the compliment of consulting them. The Government might well have delayed their action, and placed the whole matter in the hands of a select committee of Parliament; and I think the country would have accepted the verdict of that committee. With regard to the general policy of the Government, I can only say it is such as in the main I would have adopted myself. It is quite clear that in the present state of the finances economy is necessary; not, as I said before, that there is any fear, but this is a time when, so to speak, we should gather up the threads of the noble policy of the old Government, when the country should have a breathing-time. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, instead of bringing the public works to a standstill, the present Government will find plenty of work cut out for them if they only faithfully fulfil their promise that the obligations of the old Government shall be carried out. Before sitting down, I am compelled in self-defence to refer to something that took place in this House last Thursday evening. In the course of the debate on the strike, I regret to see a charge was made against me by the member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead). I am by no means a fighting man, but I know how to fight. I am a plain speaker, and I am the right man to be abused when necessity comes along, because I can be abused for the time being with safety. What pains me above all is that I have been told—it has been suggested to me—that this uncalled-for charge was prompted by my friend the Premier. I hope that is not the case. [The PREMIER shook his head.] I hoped such was not the case, and I am glad the Premier shakes his head. I hope that every other member of the Ministry—and I am sorry the Commissioner of Railways is not here—can also give that shake of

the head. I am pleased indeed that my old friend the Premier denies it. Had I known that he gave the information, I would have gone to him and charged him with it; but sure enough some Minister, some member of the Cabinet, must have given some information to the member for North Murchison. When that debate was on, every member who spoke exhibited a desire to support the Government, whatever his feelings were as to the rights and wrongs of the case; and every member expressed a desire to recognise the difficulty in which the Government were placed, and to support them in every possible way. Is that so? You (the Ministers) know it is. The Premier nods "yes." We on this side never had any idea of importing politics into the question. Not a member on this side of the House struck a discordant note, until the member for North Murchison commenced it. Why was it? I ask, why was the charge made? After looking round for reasons, I can say I only recognise one. In the course of the late election I had occasion to draw attention to the fact that among the members sitting with the old Government, the member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead) was the only man who traduced that Government; or, in other words, after sitting with and supporting the late Government for 18 months, he had become convinced of the rottenness and corruption—or words to that effect—of the old Government, and was anxious for a change. I did right in calling attention to that; and I can now find no reason for the hon. member's attack but for my having done so. I regret he is not here to-night. That same member sat for 18 months on the side of the Forrest Government, and accepted favours from that Government. Then, when Sir John Forrest's back was turned, the hon. member said he was convinced of the corruption of that Government. That was the action of the member for North Murchison. I say I had a right to draw attention to that. Then, farther, when the late member for Geraldton, Mr. Robson, made a charge of rottenness and corruption against Sir John Forrest and his Government, and was challenged on it in this House, the first man to stand up here and call attention to the matter, and to speak in defence of Sir John Forrest

and his Government, was the member for North Murchison; yet on the hustings he said that Government was corrupt. He it was who took the chair in the select committee which inquired into the Robson charges, and afterwards did his best to defend Sir John Forrest's Government. Yet in the general election he goes away and says the Forrest Government were corrupt. I have thought over it, and that is the only reason I can assign for this attack on me by the hon. member. I have now to deal with the charge he made against me in this House. If I have been moved, if I have introduced into this debate matter that I should not otherwise have introduced, I want hon. members all round this House, I want you, Mr. Speaker, and I want the Premier and the members of the Ministry, to note that the charge came from one of the supporters of the present Government, and did not come from this side of the House. It is my desire that the Government should have fair-play; and I feel I am only discharging my duty in speaking thus warmly this evening. This question of the strike, on which the charge was made, should have been far and away above all party politics. But what does the hon. member say? He says I was guilty of a political dodge. I find it reported in *Hanward* that he said that on the 17th of May I left a minute with the Under-Secretary saying:—"I consider the men have made out a case. What will it cost? What will it entail on the department for an increase of wages?" That is what he says I said, and he challenges me to show that any other record was left on the books. He also says it was a political dodge. I desire to draw the particular attention of the Premier to what I am going to say. A political job, was it? Then, I must be a bungler at political jobs, if that was a political job. Hon. members will do me the justice to remember that all through the late election I stood aloof. I did not take a lead in the contest as one desirous of office; I did not throw myself heart and soul into the contest; I desired to separate myself from party politics for the time being, and I desired to abide by the verdict of the State. When it was asserted that the result of the elections showed that the country desired a change, I accepted that verdict of the polls, and I

hope I acted constitutionally by handing in my resignation. Had I desired to perpetrate a political dodge, how easy it would have been for me to have suggested to my colleague Mr. Barry Wood (then Commissioner of Railways) that he should announce on the hustings that the railway repairers who were demanding 8s. a day should have it? Where would the present Premier have been had I taken that course? It would then have been for him to say I was guilty of a political dodge. I say most emphatically this charge of a political dodge is not true. That is enough. I do not want to use strong language. Had I adopted the course imputed to me, had I shown a desire to remain leader of this House, had I shown a desire for party politics, then—if I am to believe the utterances of the people all round the State, the utterances even of the men on the goldfields—had I done what I suggested just now, and instructed Mr. Wood to make this promise, then I honestly believe that I should be to-night addressing this House from that (Government) side of the Speaker, and not from this (Opposition). The member for North Murchison challenged me to say whether I left some record on the question. He says I left a short minute to the Under Secretary. You will find it on record. I wrote to the Minister for Railways on Saturday asking that a copy of the minute should be sent to me. I received no reply to that communication; but from the Premier's office I received a reply enclosing the minute. The hon. member for North Murchison said that my minute was dated 17th May: here is a copy of the minute from the Premier's office, written by his own secretary, dated 18th May, one day later, and I now have the honour of reading it to the House:—

From the Honourable the Premier to the Hon. Commissioner of Railways.

The secretary of the W.A.G. Railway Employees' Association (Mr. Guilfoyle) waited upon me this morning with reference to a reply to his letter requesting an increase of wages for the gangers and men employed upon the permanent way. I have informed Mr. Guilfoyle that I considered it would be wrong of me, whatever my opinion on the matter might be, to give him a reply now, in the middle of the present political jumble. I desire, however, to place it on record that this request for increased wages should be regulated entirely by the law of supply and demand,

and from my present knowledge of the labour market, I think these labourers are entitled to the advance asked for in the petition. Of course, while expressing this opinion, it will have to be considered by the General Manager, and be subject to the approval of the Cabinet. I am merely giving expression to the views I hold upon the matter.—(Signed) GEO. THROSELL, Premier.—18th May, 1901.

That is an answer to the charge of political jobbery. (General applause.) The minute is dated one day later than the date the hon. member stated. If the Ministry of the day had not seen that minute, that is no fault of mine. I received this copy of the minute from the Premier's own office, through his own secretary, and it is for the Premier to explain whether he had seen the minute or not. In regard to the strike generally, I desire to be silent. I will say no more, nor should I have introduced the subject at all had it not been that I was charged the other evening, and unfairly charged, with political dodgery. I say it with deep earnestness and feelingly that it pains me to speak in this way of one whom I held in the highest esteem and respect as being a man of spotless honour. Why he should have made the charge is best known to himself. I hope it has not emanated from my old friend the Premier. I hope it has not emanated from Mr. Holmes, and that the Commissioner for Railways will be able to say he did not give this information to his supporter, the hon. member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead). If he does, I am satisfied. Certain it is that the hon. member has secured the information from some source which is not ordinarily open to members of Parliament. I hope I have made my position clear. Although I feel very indignant on this matter, I shall let it drop. If I have satisfied members of this House, and those who are listening to me—if my explanation is satisfactory—the man who has made the charge, if he be the honourable man I take him to be, will do the best he can to act the part of an honourable man and acknowledge that he was too hasty, and will make that reparation which is due from one honourable man to another.

MR. F. REID (Mount Burges): I must say that I approve generally of His Excellency's Speech. At the same time, with other members from the goldfields I am disappointed somewhat with it for

the reason that there is no provision made for goldfields requirements. Referring to the Goldfields Act, which the Government have not touched upon in the Speech, I think it is absolutely necessary that very large improvements should be made in that Act, and not only that the Act should be amended, but in my opinion it will be absolutely necessary to see that it is administered properly. In the past, I am sorry to admit, this Act has not been administered on the goldfields fairly, and the inspectors in many instances have been very lax in their inspection of many of the mines to such a large extent that the lives and well-being of many of the miners have been sacrificed. There is a portion of the Act in regard to exemptions. That has been the means of withholding prosperity from many districts. In applying for exemption, it has been the practice hitherto that should the warden to whom the application is made for exemption refuse the application, the individual, if powerful enough and if he possess influence enough, can approach the Minister, and if the application to the Minister be abortive, the individual applying, if he still have sufficient influence, can go behind the Minister and approach the Governor, and if the Governor is with the applicant the Governor, in spite of the Warden and the Minister, can grant the exemption to the person applying for it. This provision should be eliminated from the Act. It should be absolutely impossible for a person to go behind the back of the Warden and the Minister and approach the Governor. It must be admitted that during the past year or two a very large number of fatal accidents have occurred on the fields, and I attribute this to the laxity with which the inspection of the mines has been carried out. I think inspectors should be more attentive to their duties than they have been in the past. Many of the fatal accidents that have occurred could have been avoided by better inspection. There is one mine in my district, I will not mention the name, where numbers of men within the last few weeks have absolutely refused to work although wanting it and having wives and families depending on them. Work is hard to obtain in the Coolgardie district, yet these men have refused work in the

mine referred to because it is unsafe. Not that the mine is naturally unsafe, but it is worked in such a way as to become dangerous. Very radical changes should be brought about as to the working of the mines, and I think the inspectors, instead of being allowed to remain in one district for years, should be transferred to a new district every two years. If that were done, the inspectors would not become "chums" of the mining managers in a mining district, and would not then make the cursory inspection of mines which they do at the present time. Another matter in connection with the mines I claim the right to refer to. I am a miner and have toiled in mines for a great number of years, therefore I know something about what I am speaking of, and perhaps what I wish to refer to is the most insidious foe the miners have to deal with, although it is almost entirely neglected on the fields at the present time, and generally in connection with the mines of the State. I refer to the ventilation of the mines, and I repeat it is the most insidious foe of the miners. A great number of miners have been compelled to knock off work, so that they may stand a little time in the fresh air to recuperate themselves and go back to their work.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES: The Act is all right.

MR. F. REID: I complain of the inspection of the mines, and if the inspectors attended to their duties more rigorously and enforced their decisions, perhaps the ventilation would be better than it is now. I trust the inspectors will be given strict orders that in the future they must attend very closely to the ventilation of the various mines. Another matter I should like to draw the attention of the Minister to is this: I think in His Excellency's Speech provision might have been made for prospecting various districts on the goldfields. I can speak of one district, Siberia, where the people themselves—and it is only a small community—have spent £2,000 in prospecting for a deep lead, but up to the present time they have not been successful in finding it. I think the Government should lend these people some assistance to encourage them to go on, for they believe that ultimately a deep lead will

be found in the district. I also think a more liberal system should be adopted in providing public batteries for the various districts on the goldfields. The Minister for Mines has promised us one in the Coolgardie district, but there is not only one district which requires a battery, but many, and I only hope the Minister will look into this matter, because if batteries were erected in populous centres there would spring up prosperous communities, and the Government would benefit and the Mines Department also. There is one other matter I would like to refer to, and it has been largely touched upon by some members, the manufacture of rolling-stock. It has been said that encouragement should be given to the people here to manufacture rolling-stock for the State. I am of opinion that the Government should take up this question and manufacture the rolling-stock and locomotives for the railways. I am given to understand that we have the best of timber in the world for manufacturing trucks and railway carriages, and if the Government start this national undertaking, it will be the means of settling a large population in the country. The apple question has been referred to to-night, and, so far as I understand, the apple has been a fruitful source of discord from time immemorial to the present, and I suppose it will be so in the future. In connection with the matter, I hardly approve of the action of the Government with regard to the apple question. I believe that very many people in this State have done their best to cope with the increasing demand for apples; and I certainly think the supply of apples should to a large extent be left in their hands, because I believe that in the near future they will be in a position to meet the local demand, and it is hardly fair that people who have planted large areas of country should have the market taken from them and opened to others. Of course, the Government seem at the present time in connection with the apple matter to be representing the people of the goldfields; but the reply is, if the Government had determined, in place of taking the duty off apples, to construct a railway line between the goldfields and Esperance, that would have been much better for the goldfields—[A MEMBER: We want a few apples]—because, at the

present time, the people on the fields are paying something like £50,000 more per annum for the goods and machinery they receive than they would pay if the same goods were brought *via* Esperance. It is estimated that a line between Coolgardie and Esperance would cost something like half a million of money; and in 10 years £50,000 per annum would just amount to half a million. I certainly think the Government should have adopted this policy, notwithstanding the fact that I believe they are, as one member put it to-night, in a tight place for money. They might have found sufficient to construct this line, which has been so badly wanted; because there is no doubt that Esperance is the natural port of the goldfields, and that the line must ultimately be constructed.

HON. F. H. PIESSE: The machinery landed at that port would not come from Adelaide.

MR. DIAMOND: The machinery comes mostly from England and America now, not from Adelaide.

MR. F. REID: There is another matter which concerns not only the workers in my district but the welfare of some of the large mines: I refer to the Kurrawang Firewood Company. I am pleased to see one member present in this House to-night who, I understand, has an interest in that company; therefore, I expect that anything I say to-night will not be taken personally by him, but will be taken in a general way. I am sorry to have to admit that the firewood company in question have to a large extent been taking timber which undoubtedly should be the property of the mines in my district. They have gone to within three miles of the Bonnievale district, and within a very short distance of the Kuranalling district. This has undoubtedly been done in the interests of the firewood company and of the mines at Kalgoorlie. Kalgoorlie certainly deserves every encouragement. It has good mines, plenty of gold, and everything requisite for success; but I think it hardly fair that the Kalgoorlie people should go out of their way to despoil of timber other districts where we have low-grade mines, mines which are pushing on at the present moment fairly well, and which should be encouraged. Yet, from the evidence which has been

collected and placed before the Government, I think it is the duty of the Government to stop at once the operations of the Kurrawang Firewood Company in that district. With respect to the various opinions delivered by hon. members since the debate on the Address commenced, it has been stated by members on both sides of the House that the Government are worthy of support. Well, I certainly think, judging by the policy they have submitted, that they are undoubtedly worthy of support, and that those gentlemen in Opposition who stated that they are worthy of support should see that it is their duty, while holding that opinion, to take their seats on this (Government) side of the House. Another matter I shall refer to is that the member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby), dealing to-night with the question of the influx of aliens and the desire of agriculturists in this State to obtain a plentiful supply of cheap labour, gave it as his opinion that these aliens were of an inferior race, and he thought they ought to be encouraged to come here so that settlers in the agricultural districts might be able to obtain a supply of cheap labour. I am of a different opinion from the hon. member. I have had some experience of these people; and while objecting to their coming here, while believing that they should not be allowed to land here unless under strict supervision, I am of opinion that, after they have arrived here, after they have become accustomed to the ways of English-speaking people, they should be treated just as we are. I believe they are as good as we are, once they get to know what are our ideals and aspirations. But, with the hon. member, I do not think they should be taken advantage of for the purpose of working for selectors in the coastal districts; because we know very well that even if they were brought here in numbers, they would remain in the coastal districts for a short time only, and would ultimately gravitate towards the goldfields; therefore I am opposed to the landing of Italians or other European aliens in this country, unless under strict supervision and according to law. The member for Cockburn Sound (Mr. F. McDonald) referred to removing the duties off butter, bacon, and cheese. Well, while the agitation was proceeding over the question of federation or no federation

being submitted to the people in a referendum, it was tacitly promised by the goldfields people that a sliding scale should be permitted to exist for five years, and that these duties should, at the end of that period, be wholly removed. I certainly believe we should adhere to that compact. I do not believe in taking the duties off until the times at which they should be removed expire. Were we to do so, we should certainly be breaking our word with the people of the coast, and should render ourselves objects of contempt and detestation; and therefore I think we should adhere to the compact and still retain the duties in question. I have no more to say to-night. I have been speaking somewhat at a disadvantage, because we heard a very eloquent address just before I started; so that I will now resume my seat. I hope the Government will pay at all events some attention to those matters to which I have to-night referred, namely the inspection of mines and the necessity, in any future mining legislation, of seeing that mines are properly ventilated. (General applause.)

MR. A. J. DIAMOND (South Fremantle): It would be a charitable action if it could be arranged that new members of the House should have their say at the start; because, after the experienced members have spoken, with their flow of eloquence and the training they have received in many years of experience, we must appear to great disadvantage. I hardly like to refer to what is becoming a hackneyed theme, by paying a tribute to the memory of a late member of this House, Mr. Alexander Forrest. I say before this House that I am one who has to thank Mr. Forrest for a good turn in my past life. There are many men in this State who have to do the same. His loss is a great one, socially, commercially, and politically, and I am sure his memory will long be cherished in Western Australia. I do not propose, as some hon. members have done, to make excuses for sitting where I sit. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] The member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) is pleased to receive my remark with laughter. [A MEMBER: Shame on him!] I think I shall make him laugh on the other side of his mouth before I have done with him. But I do not at present propose to

encumber my few remarks with this excuse at the beginning of what I have to say. I shall be very happy to talk about it at the finish. It is an important matter, and I think I shall be able to deal with it in a manner satisfactory to myself and to the House generally. I shall, on the contrary, confine myself at the start to the matters before the country which are mentioned in the Governor's Speech. To a very large extent, the greater portion of the policy put before this House has previously been submitted to the country, and I think has received generally the approbation of the people. It certainly is not a progressive policy. It errs, I think, a little on the side of retrogression. Instead of a game of borrow-and-spend, we shall have a spell of sorrow-and-mend. That is what appears to me. Whether at this present epoch that is a good policy for the State of Western Australia I think time will very shortly show. Just recently, there has been too much of a disposition to decry our position, to make the position of the State appear perhaps not so sound as it might appear in the English financial world. I for one am not prepared to accept this. I believe that in the past there has, perhaps, been too much tendency to spend money freely. For that, I do not hold myself responsible. I, as a new member, am not here to defend what has been done by the Forrest Government. There are gentlemen here present, the remains of that old party, who I think are perfectly competent to defend themselves; and it is not for me to do it. But in the face of the fact that the railways of Western Australia could to-day be sold for a sum which would pay the whole national debt of this State, I venture to say that even to the eyes of the greatest financier in the centre of the world's finance, London, ours is a magnificent position; and it only requires a little careful engineering to put us within a very short period on a cash basis. As regards the general policy of the Government, I think those who know me know very well that the bulk of its planks will receive my support. I am not a party man. I do not come here to vote for a party, but to vote for what, in my humble opinion, will be for the good of the State. The Speech touches on the water-supply. With a water-supply we

must have a sewerage system. The one is the natural corollary of the other. If we have a good water-supply for Perth, Fremantle, and the surrounding districts, we must have a sewerage system. I for one, as I told my constituents on the hustings, will not consent to any municipal control whatever. I think we have recently seen quite sufficient, in Perth at any rate, to show that a municipal council is not a proper body to control a great State scheme of this sort; and I would therefore respectfully suggest to the Premier and to the Government that they study the system which has for some years past been such a success in Adelaide. It is absolutely the best in Australia—the sewerage combined with a water-supply; and I think we ought to turn our attention to its study. Next is the question of land settlement. On this subject I feel, and for many years past have felt, very strongly. I do not think that with all the talent and ability of the late Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. G. Throssell), sufficient has been done in this State to induce land settlement. Some years ago, on the hustings in Fremantle, in opposing the late lamented Mr. Marmion, I put a scheme before the people which I should like to see carried out, and which to my mind to-day is as fresh and as feasible as on the night I put it before the Fremantle electors: that the Government should not attempt to sell heavily timbered lands, the prices of which are almost out of the reach of the ordinary selector because the cost of clearing is far greater than the value of the land, and necessitates an amount of capital which is certainly not within the command of the ordinary settler, certainly not within the command of the settlers amongst whom I have lived for 25 years in South Australia, and certainly, I think, not within the command of those in any part of Australia, or England, or Germany. Instead of attempting to sell those lands encumbered with this heavy timber, and subject to the outlay of an enormous sum of money in clearing, large districts should be set apart and cleared by the Government; and the land so cleared should be offered to selectors at a rent which would provide a sinking fund to pay for the cost of the land, the interest on the capital expended in clearing it, and a

fair and reasonable rental, so that at the end of a number of years, the people could have the land clear, and could make it their property. With reference to the railways, this is a subject that my daily avocation brings me into contact with, and I am satisfied and more than satisfied from day to day that the true solution of all these troubles is to put the railways under the control of a Commissioner independent of the Ministry of the day and responsible only to Parliament; and until that is done we shall always have the troubles we are experiencing at the present time. When the Government think fit to introduce such a scheme they will have my hearty support. With reference to the railway policy of the Government, it appears to be a policy of small sops: no railways, but any amount of surveys. I think that in nearly all places members of the Government have visited, those members have promised the people a survey of a railway. Most of those surveys I quite agree with.

A MEMBER: Name some of them.

MR. DIAMOND: If you will kindly give me a list, I will tick them off. With reference to construction of railways, I think the Government have wisely decided to give it a rest for a little while; but I trust that in the near future we shall not find ourselves in the despondent position the members of the Ministry seem to think we are in at present. In the Speech we are told it was thought desirable to have the Minister for Lands in the Upper House, because a member of that House would be more immediately in touch with the majority of the people owning the land or using it. I want to know who these gentlemen are sitting around me, for I really fancied that a large number of the people interested in the land of this country were in the Lower House, and I for one would certainly like to have seen the Minister for Lands sitting on the floor of the House. (General laughter.) I am sorry: I have too much respect for the Minister for Lands to suggest for one instant that he should sit actually on the floor of this House, because I am sure his position entitles him to a more elevated seat. The *pièce de résistance* of the Government policy is apples. I think that for many years the present occupants of the Treasury benches will be known as the Ministry

for apples. The difference between the rival parties, the consumer and the producer—I am a consumer and not a producer—seems to be this, that if we are short of apples we shall not have the pest, but if we have the pest we shall not be short of apples; consequently the consumer says “Codlin, not Short,” and the others say “Short, not Codlin.” To distinguish between these two extremes I shall have to take a very considerable amount of time, but it appears to me there has been terrible wind and flood about this apple business. I understand it is clear the Commonwealth customs law will wipe out the prohibition of apples, and consequently all the kudos, or the greater part of the kudos, that my esteemed friend the Premier (Hon. G. Leake) has gained through the country has been to a very great extent acquired. I will hardly say on false pretences, but certainly without the public knowing exactly what he was talking about. A Marine Board or Harbour Trust, both I hope, at the port of Fremantle and in fact every port in the State, is an absolute necessity, and I am pleased to see one or the other, or both, introduced in the Government programme. I have advocated them for some years. I think I carried one or two resolutions in the Chamber of Commerce at Fremantle in favour of them, and I trust their establishment is within measurable distance; but I certainly cannot agree with my friend the member for Perth (Mr. F. Wilson), who says the river Swan must be included, and that the inter-State steamers must come up to Perth. I hardly like to use slang terms, but on the hustings the hon. member was “pulling the legs” of his constituents, and to-night he is attempting to pull our extremities in a similar manner. In all river ports where ships carrying passengers are chiefly in evidence, there is a very considerable rise and fall of tides. For instance, in the port of London, where thousands of passengers are landed and embarked every day, there is a rise and fall of something like from 10 to 13 feet, twice a day I believe; consequently what would otherwise become a sewer is cleaned twice a day by nature. The Swan River enjoys the distinctive peculiarity of having a rise and fall at Perth of 8 or 10 or 12 inches. As a man who has had a great deal to do

with shipping and has lived in a shipping port, I say that if large passenger steamers were brought up to Perth, the water would become a common sewer in twelve months. The bringing up of passenger steamers to Perth is outside the range of practical politics altogether, and we need not waste our time to-day over it. There is another matter in the Speech which I would like to touch upon, and that is the question of alien immigration. I had the pleasure of reading the speech of the Premier at Queen's Hall, and saw that the hon. gentleman said we must have cheaper labour for the farmers; we must have alien immigration. Then he said—not in the exact words I am using—that we must not have them; and then he said we must. I think that if anyone reads his speech, he will find it was a case of "First he would and then he wouldn't, and then he said he really couldn't." I was very sorry—and I speak with all seriousness—to read that the Premier referred to Germans and Italians. Having lived in a colony for a quarter of a century where Germans are largely in evidence, I say they are of the very greatest value to any country where there is agriculture. The Germans come out, settle amongst us, intermarry with us, and remain with us all their lives. They do not want to go back to Germany. They are perfectly satisfied with Australia. I once heard a German member of Parliament say in the House, when they talked about war between England and Germany, "If Bismarck sends a German soldier to South Australia, I will take up my rifle and shoot that soldier." That is the sort of colonists the Germans are. The men who come to our port and are a menace are the scum of the Mediterranean—Italians and Greeks. If you pass regulations to admit these men as agricultural labourers, every man who lands here will be an agricultural labourer for the time being—you can bet your life on that. Therefore, while I would be in favour of offering facilities for the immigration of Germans used to agricultural pursuits, I should certainly object to the introduction of the other men. I do not want to say anything about rabbits: we have had quite enough of rabbits for some time to come. I only desire to remark that no effort should be spared, and that at the earliest possible opportunity the State should take steps

to prevent the influx of this terrible pest. I have seen the ravages it has made not only in South Australia but in the back-blocks of New South Wales and Victoria; and I should be sorry indeed to see it introduced into the western part of this State. I have to congratulate the mover of the Address-in-reply. It was a great pleasure to listen to his speech, which was calm, suave, polished, and graceful. The hon. member held the attention of the House from beginning to end, and I may say without any prevarication that it is an honour for this Chamber to have a gentleman of his attainments on its floor. At the same time I cannot quite congratulate him on the matter contained in his speech.

A MEMBER: Oh, that's another thing.

MR. DIAMOND: He certainly favoured us to a certain extent with a lecture on what we should do and what we ought to have done; but he entirely avoided details. He "sailed through all the latitudes with a heavy load of platitudes," and that I am sorry to say is about all he did. I sincerely trust the next time he addresses us he will direct his attention a little bit more to detail.

A MEMBER: That is a bit of a lecture for him.

MR. DIAMOND: The member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) not only lectured us, but also held out threats. I think I shall not be out of order in saying that the member for Boulder actually scowled at us.

MR. HOPKINS: Oh, no.

MR. DIAMOND: If he did so I am sure he did it unintentionally, because his kindly disposition would not allow him to scowl at anybody except in joke. At the same time, he and others who followed him accused certain members on this side virtually of not having kept their pledges to their constituents.

MR. HOPKINS: Pardon me.

MR. DIAMOND: I understand from a remark made by the member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James) that I am one of those criminals. As I have already said, I shall answer that before I sit down; but I would like to say now that the member for Boulder certainly found fault with the policy of the late Government. I have stated before that I am not here to defend that policy. The member for Boulder found fault with the

bold policy of Sir John Forrest. Well, I trust that the member for Boulder will give us a bolder policy. In the course of his remarks—like the immortal Silas Wegg—the hon. member dropped into poetry. The member for Boulder actually quoted Dante. I trust that in future he will give us notice before, I will not say inflicting on us, but favouring us with this sort of thing; as we shall have to read up our classics in order to be prepared. Dante is a very strong subject to fling in the face of this House. As I say, I trust that when the hon. member intends to give us Dante again he will let us have 24 hours' notice, so that we may look up our books.

MR. HOPKINS: You certainly need to.

MR. DIAMOND: With the exception of the circumstance that the member for Boulder threatened us, I have no fault to find with him.

MR. HOPKINS: Why don't you quote these things? I do not see them here (in *Hansard*).

MR. DIAMOND: I will talk to you about that after. The member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James), when I saw fit to interject during his speech, flung a severe taunt at me. He told me what my constituents would do to me.

HON. W. H. JAMES: No; what the electors of South Fremantle will do to you.

MR. DIAMOND: What the electors of South Fremantle would do to me! Well, I should be very pleased if the hon. member would resign his seat, and I would then resign my seat, and would fight South Fremantle with him.

A MEMBER: Oh, go on.

MR. DIAMOND: I mean it. But in reply to the charges which have been made, and in which I believe I am included, I have only to say this—I have here extracts from every address that I made to the electors—

A MEMBER: No, no; don't read them.

HON. W. H. JAMES: You were not misrepresented, I assure you.

LABOUR MEMBER: Take them as read.

MR. DIAMOND: I have not yet said I am going to read them; but hon. members opposite can have them to read at any time they like. What I have to say is that in those addresses I gave certain pledges, which I have not departed from by one hair's breadth. I have

stood by what I said on the hustings, and the proof of it is now in my hands. If hon. members opposite who are so ready to make accusations against members on this side would only take the trouble to read what those members said to their constituents, they would not indulge in such reckless charges. This business was first started by that distinguished newspaper, the *Morning Herald*, the editor of which had evidently made up a list of the members he wanted to sit on a certain side of the House. When he found that some of those members would not accept his dictation, he began to treat them simply to a volume of abuse and scurrility, which I venture to say is not worthy of a decent, respectable journal. I was very sorry to hear the member for East Perth make the remarks he did, because they are entirely without justification. The statements of the newspaper in question are entirely devoid of a vestige of truth. I hold the proof of that at the disposal of the *Morning Herald*, or of the hon. member opposite if he still doubts my word. Now, I am all the more regretful of these charges because the hon. member has been a friend of mine for many years. To a certain extent, when he was a younger man, I think I was his political sponsor. [A MEMBER: Oh!] I think the hon. member I speak of will acknowledge that himself. At the present moment he appears to be a sort of semi-detached pensioner on the Government—not worthy to be a member of the team actually; only worthy to be a sort of adjunct or outside member without a portfolio. [A MEMBER: A nondescript.] Some of us were accused of not taking sides. I have an answer to that. There were no sides to be taken at the time of the election, and hon. members who say so know that they are talking nonsense. There were no sides to be taken at that time. The only side, judging from what I have heard from members opposite, would have been up in a balloon.

A MEMBER: What about the ladies' side?

MR. DIAMOND: I should be happy to sit on their side. I would like to refer to the speech of the member for Geraldton (Mr. Hutchinson), who seems to have hit very hard; otherwise the

member for East Perth would not have got into the terrible state of mind he did get into. Another thing has caused me considerable pain, and that is when the member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead) interjected on two or three occasions that there were too many office-seekers on this side of the House. I, for one, throw back the taunt and accusation with contempt. As far as I know there are as few office-seekers on this side of the House as on the other, and perhaps a good many less. At any rate, I repudiate the idea that I am an office-seeker; and I certainly do not know any other office-seeker on this side of the House. As regards taking sides, I do not want to be disagreeable or to say anything that is not pleasant, but judging from the results of the last few days or weeks, I must congratulate myself on being on the right side of the House. The remarks of the Treasurer about the Midland Railway Company quite satisfy me that I am on the right side of the House. The handling of this terrible disaster, the strike, by the occupants of the Treasury benches satisfies me particularly that I am on the right side of the House. I will not take up the time of the House longer as the hour is getting late, but I will say that personally I have nothing but feelings of the most profound esteem for the gentlemen on the Treasury benches, and as far as my support goes, when they introduce measures which in my opinion are for the benefit of the State, they will have my support.

On motion by Dr. O'CONNOR, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 21 minutes past 10 o'clock, until the next day.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 10th July, 1901.

Motion (urgency): Railway Workers' Strike (not seconded) — Question: Railway Stations, Official Inspection — Question: Railway Officers' Association, Official Recognition — Question: Mines Inspector, Kalgoorlie — Leave of Absence, Debate on Attendances — Papers presented — Revenue Received: Ministerial Statement — Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MOTION (URGENCY) — RAILWAY WORKERS' STRIKE.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): I beg to move that the Council, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday next; and I do so for the purpose of referring to what I consider, and what ought to be considered by members of this House, an urgent matter—the present strike. It had been my intention to move the following motion this afternoon, after obtaining a suspension of the Standing Orders, but it is impossible to suspend the Standing Orders, because an absolute majority of members of the House is not present. The motion which I had hoped to move is to this effect:

That this House, whilst recognising the propriety of the Government demand that the differences between the Railway Department and the line repairers should be settled by arbitration, is of opinion that, owing to the long delays—caused by unavoidable political changes—which have occurred in dealing with the men's claims, and to the general admission of the justness of their demands, that arbitration should be waived in this instance, and recognise that the Government should introduce a resolution to make provision to accede to the request of the line repairers for an increase of 1s. per day in their wages.

I am sorry I am not in a position to ask the House to support such a motion, but I shall ask the House to consider the question, and, if possible, give an opinion on it, because I believe the opinion of hon. members will have some effect on public opinion. I trust members will look on this matter with a fair view, and beyond any party considerations. We know well enough that this House is supposed to be above party questions, and in a matter of this importance, it is only right and reasonable that members should waive their opinions in order to obtain a