

**ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.**

**THE CHIEF SECRETARY** (Hon. W. H. Kitson—West) [9.2]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 2nd September.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 9.3 p.m.*

**Legislative Assembly.**

*Tuesday, 19th August, 1911.*

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

**ELECTORAL—SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER.**

Mr. **SPEAKER**: I have received the return of a writ for the vacancy in the Yilgarn-Coolgardie electorate caused by the death of George James Lambert showing that Lionel Francis Kelly has been duly elected. I am prepared to swear in the hon. member.

Mr. Kelly took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

**QUESTION—ROYAL COMMISSION, PASTORAL INDUSTRY.**

Mr. **MARSHALL** (without notice) asked the Minister for Lands: Is it proposed to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commissioner (Mr. Fyfe) on the disabilities suffered by pastoralists?

The **MINISTER FOR LANDS** replied: The recommendations of the Royal Commissioner who inquired into the pastoral industry have received continuous attention from the Government, the latest being as recently

as this morning. An agreement has been reached on vital principles which involves a voluntary arrangement. A public statement on the matter will be made at an early date.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**

*Eighth Day.*

Debate resumed from the 14th August.

**MR. WILSON** (Collie) [4.36]: Since we last met, one of our members has passed away. The late George Lambert will be a distinct loss to this House and to his constituency, and my sympathy goes out to the widow and family in their bereavement. Most of the members who have spoken on the Address-in-reply have taken as the preamble of their speeches the subject of the great war now raging on such a gigantic scale in Europe and Asia. I, too, propose to take that theme for my remarks, first and foremost because my sympathy goes out to the fathers, mothers, wives, children and relatives of the soldiers who have already given their lives for the Empire and for liberty.

A good many months have elapsed since the men of the second A.I.F. left our shores. I know of boys of 18 years of age, men in the prime of life, fathers of large families of young children, who went with those forces and who have already died fighting for the liberty of the masses of people of all nations. This, to my mind, is something greater than even the much-lauded Magna Charta of 1215, and if we are successful, as no doubt we shall be, we must achieve something greater than the much-vaunted charter of that year. Boys and men, and even women, have died for us, and have left us a heritage—a heritage to look after their bereaved ones to the best of our ability and ensure that they do not want. We should take to heart the lessons learnt from the war of 1914-18. Strong committees should be formed in every district to prevent a recurrence of the evils that beset us in 1918-19. Members of the first A.I.F. might well co-operate with the second A.I.F. in an effort to do the best possible for our men.

I do not see much in the Speech of the Lieut.-Governor that suits me, although I am pleased to read the following passage—

Our joy in the accomplishments of the sons of this State is tempered with the deepest

sorrow for all those who have lost loved ones in this fight for freedom, and I should like to join with Ministers in expressing to them our sincere sympathy, and the hope that they may find comfort and pride in the memory of supreme sacrifice.

I am thoroughly in accord with that paragraph. I am, however, better pleased to read in this morning's newspaper that the question of soldiers' pay will be decided by the Commonwealth Government tomorrow morning. I trust the Government will make an increase sufficient to pay our soldiers an amount as close to the basic wage as possible. They are receiving a mere pittance when compared with the sacrifices they are making. When the war is over and our soldiers return home, I can visualise a Hell of a time for them if we do not make a greater move for them than was made after the 1914-18 war. It was then like Hell let loose. In the South-West it was impossible for a man to get work at a decent rate of pay. Some land schemes and other schemes to help our men were inaugurated, but after years of experimenting there was as much muddle as ever. I trust committees will be appointed in every town of standing.

The potentialities of each district should be gone into and something can be done to help in that matter now. We should ascertain the area of land available for settlement, our timber reserves, our ore reserves, our coal reserves, and what fuel and water are available. That brings me to the point I desire to make. I might be asked, "Where is the money to come from?" We are now being taxed heavily for war purposes and I suggest that that taxation might be continued for three to five years after the war.

I have read the Lieut.-Governor's Speech a few times, but have searched in vain for any reference to coal. It has not received a skimpy line in the Speech. The coal raised at Collie represents the enormous quantity of 14,974,524 tons, valued at £9,870,044; practically 15,000,000 tons for £10,000,000. The value of the coal is practically two-thirds of the tonnage.

Dealing with my own district and with the question of settling soldiers after the war, I point out that thousands of acres of excellent land are available, and we have large forests of timber and numerous outcrops of coal. There is sufficient coal at Collie to serve our purposes for the next 200 or 300 years. We have an almost illimitable quantity of water to spare. As

far back as April and June of last year, the "West Australian" newspaper gave prominence to the production of power alcohol from wheat. One item of news with which I am chiefly concerned appeared in the "West Australian" of the 19th July, in which the Minister for Supply (Senator McLeay) was reported to have said that—

Finance will be provided by the Commonwealth Government, which will work out final details of running the distilleries.

He further said that this State's allocation would be 2,000,000 gallons. I may be accused of partiality, but I think the best site for the erection of a plant to manufacture power alcohol is Collie. Members will want to know my reason for that statement, and I shall give it. We have had too much centralisation. Collie's claim for decentralisation in this connection does not stand alone. I shall now quote eleven points in favour of Collie as a site for the plant to be used for the production of power alcohol. They are not my points; I got them from the Collie Municipal Council and I thank the Mayor, Town Clerk and members for them. The first is, freedom from industrial trouble. Members may laugh at that statement, but fewer strikes have occurred in Collie during the last two years than have occurred in any other part of the Commonwealth. Certainly, hickering has taken place, but no strikes. Collie has kept the wheels of industry moving all the time. Eight hundred men are employed in the industry and, with their varying temperaments, there must be some bickering. Nor does the company always play the game. I have sufficient knowledge of the industry to say that Collie is very quiet. Less time has been lost as a result of industrial troubles in the local coalmining industry during the past 21 years than in any other now operating as regards wages and conditions under awards of the Arbitration Court. Two or three years ago a promise was made that the men would keep on working, and they have kept that promise. The second point is—

Defence aspects and vulnerability to attack: Collie is well situated in regard to this matter in the heart of the State forests, high above sea level, in undulating country situated 30 miles from the coast. The underground mine workings provide excellent shelter, and the natural forests provide ample cover in case of attack, or for defence purposes.

That paragraph speaks for itself. It would be possible to house safely half a million people in the Collie district. The mines are up to hundreds of feet in depth, and contain numerous chambers that could be made available to people in case of an attack by an enemy.

I wish now to speak on the question of the distillation of power alcohol from wheat, and this brings me to the third point—

Reduction of railway transportation and railway siding facilities: Empty railway waggons are continually journeying to Collie and the wheatbelt for coal and wheat loading, and may be used to reduce the cost per ton mile more than is comparable with any other centre in this State, so far as we can calculate. Railway sidings and other facilities exist and are available.

Collie is a big industrial centre practically midway between Fremantle and Bunbury, with both of which places it is connected by good roads. A very small auxiliary railway line could be built out from Collie to the Preston Valley railway line, and that would bring the town into contact by rail with Katanning, Albany and that part of the State. The next point is—

Availability of 200,000 gallons of fresh water every 24 hours, and 1,000,000 gallons of cool water every 24 hours. Collie is easily the most favoured centre in the State as regards unlimited supplies of fresh water all the year round; in fact, millions of gallons of water are pumped out of the mines and run to waste.

Let me illustrate that point. Last week I asked a question in this House, and this is how it appeared in the "West Australian"—

Answering a question by Mr. Wilson (Lab. Collie), in the Legislative Assembly yesterday, the Minister for Works said that the holding capacity to overflowing of the Mundaring Weir was 4,650,000,000 gallons; of the Canning Dam, 20,550,000,000 gallons; and of the Wellington Dam (Collie River), 7,555,000,000 gallons.

The Wellington Dam, therefore, contains two-fifths more water than does Mundaring Weir. I have since learned that there is an additional weir at Collie holding 150,000 gallons. I want members to realise that Collie is most favourably situated as regards rivers, in that it is served by no less than four, namely the Collie, the South Collie, the Harris and the Bingham. Besides these rivers there are scores of springs making rivulets which run all the year round. It can be understood, therefore, that Collie has water and to spare. It has land in abundance and water in abundance. We might

indeed say, to use a Scotchism, "We have water to burn." In addition to the water supplies to which I have referred, there are three big mines in the district discharging hundreds of thousands of gallons of water every 24 hours. That supply is at present going to waste, although it is all good usable water. Furthermore, there are five worked-out mines, all of which hold millions of tons of good water.

Mr. Doney: Is the water in the mines all drinkable?

Mr. WILSON: Most of it is usable, anyhow, for power-alcohol distillery wheat purposes. I now come to another point—

Electric power 500 h.p.: There is ample electric power available from the Collie powerhouse day and night for any demand such as this, and I am given to understand that the supply will be augmented in the near future.

Without any Government assistance whatever, we have plenty of electric power and light already in the district. Another point is—

Silo facilities: These do not exist, but timber is available, both skilled and unskilled labour, and all requirements in this direction might be cheaply and quickly provided to any given specification and plan.

Hundreds of thousands of good poles have been growing in the district for 30 years; indeed, there is a big forest extending from Collie to Pemberton. Another point is—

Effluent disposal: The natural contours of this part of the South-West are suitable to the efficient disposal of all effluent.

Seeing that Collie is 600 feet above sea level, no difficulty would be encountered in disposing of any effluent. A further point is—

Relative freight rates: The Collie line has the reputation of being one of the most economical in the State railway system so far as goods traffic is concerned. Collie is centrally situated. Huge supplies of wheat pass through it every season for bulk and bag loading in Bunbury and Fremantle. Fruit, orcharding and pig-farming are growing industries.

Land in the district is eminently suitable for pig-farming, dairying, etc., all within reasonable distance of the town. Building sites are also available at economic prices.

May I say a word or two concerning local requirements? The railway station at Collie is a disgrace to the system. For many years, endeavours have been made to have improvements effected there, but nothing has yet been done. We are always told that no money is available. Indeed, very little money has been spent by the Government in Collie

at any time. One of these days the Minister might look into the matter and see whether this trouble can be rectified. The schools are in need of attention, and many children have to sit out in the open, even in winter time. We have been promised that as soon as money is available the school at Collie will be put into order, but it takes a long time to get that money. I also wish to refer to Greenbushes, Balingup and Kirup, towns that are well deserving of assistance. Around these towns there is plenty of land available for farming. Timber could be provided for milling purposes, etc., at Greenbushes. Many young men have gone to the war from these districts, and there is no doubt that if many of them returned tomorrow and sought for work there would be none for them. The sooner the Government, or some other suitable authority, takes this matter in hand with the object of conserving the interests of those concerned, the better it will be for the State. I do not wish to dilate on what happened subsequent to the 1914-18 war. I participated in those hostilities and later saw the evil aftermaths. I know what happened subsequently. Some of our experiences were highly commendable but in other respects they were evil indeed. I trust that experience will not be repeated at the conclusion of the present war.

**MR. SAMPSON** (Swan) [5.1]: I join with other members who have referred feelingly to the passing of our late colleague, George Lambert. When in past years I listened to his speeches on metallurgical and mining matters generally, I often wondered why the Government did not take advantage of the knowledge he possessed. There is no doubt that the late Mr. Lambert was capable of furnishing advice in connection with mining problems. Now he has gone, but he has left the memory of a man who was able, even in circumstances of difficulty, to express himself with clarity and in a manner interesting to those who listened to him.

During the past two seasons the Apple and Pear Acquisition Board has been operating and although it has received much criticism, which is always to be expected when any new method of marketing is introduced, there can be no doubt that the establishment of the board has created a considerably better position than obtained formerly. The board has actually brought into being controlled marketing. I admit

that the returns to the growers have not been satisfactory, yet at the same time it must be accepted that, had it not been for the work of the board, the industry of growing apples and pears would have been a war casualty. Criticism characterises every effort made to protect the interests of a section of the community. One point upon which such criticism has been raised has been the non-approval of certain varieties of apples and pears. This applies particularly to apples. The matter has been of special interest because of the disabilities under which many small orchardists have laboured. The prices for apples are 3s., 2s. and 1s. per case, according to varieties and the quality of apples of approved varieties only. For varieties that are not approved, the Acquisition Board pays 1s. per tree. There are many growers who, unfortunately, retain in their orchards trees of non-commercial value. These include trees the fruit of which has gone out of date, such as "Commerce," "White Winter Pearmain," "King David," "Five Crown," "Nickajack" and various "Pippins," as well as many other varieties that are regarded as obsolete. At all events, those varieties are not approved as suitable for export, and that is the point.

The small growers to whom I have referred grow varieties of apples, many of which are early varieties. The suggestion has been made that such fruit could be exempt from the operations of the Acquisition Board up to, say, the end of February. If that were done, many of the present-day objections would be withdrawn. The same contention has been raised with regard to the William or Bon Cretien pears. Apart from the early varieties of apples, others are regarded as quite good for consumption, although not approved for export purposes. In such instances, the trees should be re-worked and thereby an apple produced that would be approved for export. I have interviewed a number of recognised growers of export apples, and they have assured me that they are prepared to supply buds or graft wood for the purpose of re-working trees that produce obsolete varieties, the retention of which under existing circumstances does not repay the orchardist. Mr. Tom Cosgrave of Parkerville, Mr. Ben Cross of Ben Cross and Sons, and Mr. Hector Price of the Illawarra Orchard at Karragullen, as well as others, are prepared to

supply buds or graft wood for the benefit of those placed in the position to which I have alluded. That represents a practical method whereby an improvement of the position of some orchardists can be effected; and the Government could give some attention to that matter.

At Illawarra I saw a very fine example of the results of re-working. An apple tree of questionable value was re-worked. For the first year, there was some fruit on the tree; the next year there were several bushels, and so on, until in the fifth year no less than 60 dump cases of marketable fruit were taken from the tree. Admittedly that was an exceptional instance, but the point worthy of note is that there was some fruit available after the first year. Thus to orchardists who desire to bring their trees to a state of production suitable for export, the means enabling them to do so are readily at hand. When I refer to the production of fruit suitable for export, that means, too, that the fruit is suitable for local consumption as well; that not only will the fruit be available for export but for marketing in Western Australia or elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

I admit that, apart from the need for re-working the obsolete or non-approved varieties of fruit trees, there are scores of hundreds of modern trees planted in unsuitable localities. It will hardly be denied that the Department of Agriculture is understaffed with regard to those working under the chief horticultural expert. We realise that where the departmental officials are able to give advice, they do so. The fact remains that under existing circumstances the department does not accomplish all it might, or would do, if the essential staff were available fully and efficiently to carry out the tasks for which the horticultural branch of the department was established. Without desiring to reflect upon the Minister for Agriculture—I know how hard he works at his Ministerial duties, to which he devotes so much of his time—I claim that the Department of Agriculture is of sufficient importance to warrant the services of a full-time Minister. I go further and say that the Minister in charge of that department should be sympathetic regarding modern marketing.

Mr. Cross: Is not the present Minister sympathetic?

Mr. SAMPSON: The member for Caning (Mr. Cross) should know the answer

to that interjection. It would ill-become me to inform a comparatively old member of this Chamber regarding something that is so well known! I do not desire to offend him by giving him advice respecting a matter fully within the knowledge of the veriest novice! It is important that a full-time Minister should be appointed to control the Department of Agriculture. The idea that one Minister can carry on the important work of that department as well as that of the Lands Department should be revised. To my mind it is not humanly possible for one man efficiently to attend to the work of both departments.

It is easy for criticism to be levelled respecting a project or the absence of a project. Many growers are greatly disappointed because the State, from the standpoint of the marketing of fruit, has been marking time for so long. More appreciable progress should be made in this State regarding the marketing of fruit and vegetables. Today, as from the beginning, those products are sold for what they will bring. That is not the way in which any other industry is carried on. No store could remain open, no business could continue, no insurance office, bank or other financial institution could operate successfully unless there was some definite connection between cost of production and selling prices. Beyond all doubt the small producer, as has been so from the beginning of history, remains the serf of the day. Lack of consideration in this respect has as its counterpart the persistent drift to big cities. Unfortunately there is a lack of public interest regarding the retention of population in the rural areas. Until the time arrives when some competent authority arises able to cope with the position, and achieve what is so essential, the present-day wholly lamentable state of affairs will continue.

I do not desire to reflect on Ministers as regards most things, but I say their lack of action in respect of the importance of modern marketing methods is wholly regrettable, and has the effect of encouraging more and more people to throw up their holdings and come to Perth and other congested centres. Why should that be? Why should the value of the efforts of the man who works on the land be appraised at a lower rate per hour than those of another

man who certainly does not have to exercise more ability, and who has not more money invested in the proposition in which he is concerned than is the case with orchardists and small farmers? So I appeal to the Minister for Agriculture and the Premier, and indeed to every Minister, to do something to stop what is a national scandal in Western Australia, in that the people generally are moving into Perth and its suburbs. Those people know that if they come to Perth they will be paid better. Are we to continue to let that state of affairs extend?

There is an ever present problem in the fruitfly. We were surprised to read the information elicited by Mr. Wood, M.L.C., that the amount collected for orchard fees in 1938-39 was £2,259, that in 1939-40 it was £2,932, and in 1940-41 £4,687, and that as a result of the collection of those large sums three extra inspectors had been appointed, the additional salaries involved amounting to £560. I realise that it would not necessarily be wise to spend all the money collected for this purpose right away, and that the registration fee or tax will end on the 31st December, 1942. It may be that the Minister is looking ahead and hypothecating this money, as it were, for the purpose of carrying on work without re-imposing the tax. But I admit that I do approve of the 1s. tax which was imposed previously. There was no objection to it from any member of this House. It was recognised to be a good thing.

Mr. Cross: Speak for yourself.

Mr. SAMPSON: Certainly! God forbid that I should try to speak for the hon. member interjecting! However, I shall speak to him if he persists in—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will address the Chair.

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do believe in the registration of orchards, but not in the imposition of the tax of 2s. 6d. per acre, although I acknowledge that many requests were made for it. Why people who are already taxed in every possible way should appeal or apply for another tax to be imposed on them passes my comprehension. It appears, too, that the more persons or bodies of persons are concerned to ask for additional taxation, the less able are they to pay it. Still, I know that a feeling of anxiety exists in respect to the continuance of the fruitfly, and that this feeling

of anxiety prompted the request for increased taxation. In passing may I say that "control" of the fruitfly will not be regarded as sufficient. It is not enough. What is needed is the extirpation of the fly. If that were brought about, then indeed we might say that from the standpoint of orchard hygiene or mastery of the pest success had been achieved.

There is another matter in regard to fruitfly which might receive consideration—the practice prevailing in various fruit shops of Perth whereby fruiterers throw unsaleable fruit into boxes which are taken away later by pig farmers and fed to their stock. I suggest it should be made imperative that in all fruit shops there be provided a fly-proof receptacle in which all contaminated fruit should be placed, and that once or twice a week the Perth City Council should remove this fruit and destroy it at the incinerator.

Mr. Cross: You ought to have someone to pick up the snails in the metropolitan area!

Mr. SAMPSON: I will not be personal; but from the standard of a human snail—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SAMPSON: I will leave the rest unsaid, Mr. Speaker. Anyhow, he is a good friendly snail. I regard the suggestion I have made as one which the Minister will appreciate, and I hope it will be carried into effect.

The Minister for Agriculture: Would you go further than that and suggest that all such fruit be boiled before being fed to pigs?

Mr. SAMPSON: I think it should not be given to pigs. It should be placed in the incinerator, and we would then know that it was thoroughly dealt with. Many people refuse to recognise what a great danger the fruitfly is. If they are allowed their own freewill in the matter, the fly will be fed to the pigs; some will be eaten and destroyed, and others will cause further trouble. The growers themselves do help very much in regard to the fly. The figures which I have just read show to what a practical extent they assist the Minister to assist the industry. I would like to see the hon. gentleman give consideration to the fly in the same way as the Fruitgrowers' Association of New South Wales has done. That association has achieved wonderful work with very little money. I suggest also that the Fruitfly Advisory Board might be taken more fully

into the Minister's confidence in being given authority to expend some of the money collected. Admittedly the Minister for Agriculture is overworked. While the Premier may look surprised at hearing one of his Ministers described as overworked, I can assure him——

The Premier: I think all the Ministers are overworked!

Mr. SAMPSON: Probably they are all overworked.

The Premier: And underpaid!

Mr. SAMPSON: I will not say that, because it would be an impertinence on my part to suggest that what Ministers do is done for payment. I do not believe that to be the case. The Premier has come back from the Eastern States, and certainly he does not look overworked. Rather he appears to be in the very pink of condition. Perhaps during his absence the Minister for Agriculture has been doing too much of the hon. gentleman's work. I shall not deal with that, however; it is another matter. Unquestionably the Minister for Agriculture should realise that there are others who are most anxious to assist, others who are thoroughly competent and who in connection with the fruitfly problem could render great help. The Premier and the Deputy-Premier, and even the Minister for Mines, would agree with that.

The Minister for Mines: Agree with what?

Mr. SAMPSON: With what I said.

The Minister for Mines: I do not know what you said.

Mr. SAMPSON: I will not ask the Minister for Mines to endorse anything, but the hon. gentleman will be safe in following the lead of his leaders.

The Premier: He has got "Leederville"!

Mr. SAMPSON: I suppose the Minister for Mines lives up to that name as much as it is possible for him to do. A most important point connected with fruitfly is that there should be concentration of effort during the period in which the fly mates. At present it may be said that such expenditure is unnecessary for the eradication of the fly, and I agree that during cold, wet weather the fly makes no progress. In a month's time, however, the fly will become highly energetic. The fruitfly knows no limit to its prolific habits.

The Minister for Agriculture: To its fecundity!

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes. Its fecundity is an example which might be followed by more useful creatures. Again, I draw attention to the need for a citroculturist. Why have we no citroculturist in a State which produces some of the finest citrus in the world, or at all events a State which, possibly because of the combined elements of soil and weather, produces some of the finest citrus in the Commonwealth? But no such appointment is made. Travelling in the North-West one realises the need for a citroculturist. The diffusion of the moth there has a deadly effect on oranges growing on the various stations. I wonder whether the Minister for Agriculture has ever given a passing thought to that, and, if so, since a citroculturist is needed in the North, will the Minister realise also that one is necessary here in the South, where the great bulk of our citrus is produced? It is a lamentable fact that every year up to the outbreak of the war we saw citrus in the form of grapefruit brought from Palestine for sale here. Our crop would then be out of season, but modern refrigeration would, I believe, make it possible to hold our grapefruit until there was a market for it and possibly carry it on throughout the year. That has been proved practicable in connection with other fruits. Are we to sit down and say, "Oh no; they are merely orchardists; let them put up with the absence of assistance, with the absence of help such as a citroculturist could give?" There is no answer to that, except the appointment of a citroculturist. Why is it not done? The Premier could not fairly refuse to give the necessary funds to provide payment for an officer of that description. What is the Premier doing in regard to fruit growing in his own district of Geraldton? It is most important that a citroculturist should be appointed to assist Northampton and elsewhere and more important that one should be appointed to visit and give advice to growers in the hills around Perth.

I wonder whether it is realised there is a very bad disease that attacks our citrus fruit every year. I refer to water spot. Many growers are losing dozens of cases of citrus fruit because of their lack of knowledge of how to handle this problem. It is no use our talking in this House unless what we say is translated into action. The only ones with power to give effect to our desires are the Premier and his Ministers. Perhaps when

a reply is made I may, on this occasion, be honoured by some reference to the complaints I have voiced so frequently. These growers deserve fair treatment. A citroculturist should be appointed and I propose to keep on talking about the matter until the Premier, realising the needs of people in the different centres where citrus fruit is produced, decides to make an amount of money available for the purpose I have mentioned. Are the heads of the Agricultural Department given reasonable opportunities? I recall that many years ago when a new Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department was appointed, the Minister then in charge of the department decided that the officer should go around the world to make a study of road construction. That was a sound step to take. We should realise we are living in a very backward State, where little progress has been made, where it would appear that the last thing to be done by those in power is to bring Western Australia into line with other countries. Why should that be? In regard to fruit production, there is no doubt that anyone who has travelled through California or the Okanagan Valley in Canada and in other parts of the world must realise that Western Australian methods are the most antediluvian, obsolete and out of date in the world. I am referring to methods adopted by white people in various countries, but I might go further because I recall that when I was in two of the South Sea Islands I noticed how efficiently the Maoris handled their oranges and tomatoes, and felt that we had much to learn from them. There were community packing sheds, and their fruit was marketed in a way that indicated their realisation of the importance of correct marketing methods. Will the Minister give consideration—

The Minister for Mines: Which Minister?

Mr. SAMPSON: The Minister for Agriculture. It is very important that the Minister for Agriculture should give consideration to enabling the new Superintendent of Horticulture (Mr. H. R. Powell), to visit the leading fruit-growing countries of the world. What would it cost? Not so very much—a mere bagatelle compared with the good that would result.

The Minister for Mines: What has he done to you that you want to send him away to get shot?

Mr. SAMPSON: He would go to California and from there to the fruit-growing centres of Canada. Whatever he may have learnt in this State, if he goes through the fruit-growing centres of British Columbia, he will come back a better man than when he went away. If it is impossible for the Minister to spare the Superintendent, perhaps the assistant, Mr. Ray Owen, could go.

Mr. Thorn: I will go if they will let me!

Mr. SAMPSON: I do not know that I am prepared to agree to the member for Toodyay (Mr. Thorn) going, but I am sure he will support the view I am advancing. Why should we be so backward, so smug and so self-satisfied as to believe that we in this State—the most backward in the British Empire—can do nothing to improve our position? I will admit that Queensland has made considerable progress.

The Minister for Agriculture: So have we!

Mr. SAMPSON: I will be glad to know in what direction.

The Minister for Mines: Why not take a day off and find out?

Mr. SAMPSON: Our marketing methods are the same as when the first white settler arrived here. Nothing has been done to bring about an improvement.

The Minister for Agriculture: You are not paying much of a tribute to the efficient men in your own district.

Mr. SAMPSON: Those men produce the fruit, but what they get for it is in the lap of the gods. They get whatever buyers may like to pay them. I do not desire to criticise the markets either, because they have to carry out the work in the only way possible at present. There should, however, be an improvement and we could not make a change without improving matters in respect to the marketing of fruit.

Mr. Marshall: What do you suggest should be done?

Mr. SAMPSON: I suggest control similar to that which exists in Queensland under the Committee of Direction method. In that State the lot of the grower has been gradually improved, country life has been made more bearable, and those who reside there have been given an opportunity to earn a living where previously they were the prey of the purchaser. In the old days the growers there received whatever price was offered, but today they obtain a more satisfactory figure.



I now have a word or two to say to the Minister for Health, who deserves some attention. I will begin by congratulating him on the big new Perth Hospital. It is a splendid conception and one reflecting honour on the department. I think it will bring satisfaction to the big list of honorary doctors who make hospitalisation in this State possible.

Mr. Thorn: You had better wait till the building is finished. It might fall over before it is completed.

Mr. SAMPSON: It is a very fine building and I congratulate the Minister in all sincerity on having obtained the vote that made its erection possible. I hope that as a result of petrol rationing the building, when completed, will be large enough to provide sufficient accommodation for many years to come. There is no doubt that a big percentage of patients in our hospitals are there as a result of motor accidents. However, that is another question. In the meantime the Minister for Mines might discuss with the Minister for Works the matter of compulsory insurance, thereby affording some monetary protection to innocent victims of careless motor drivers, truck drivers and motor cyclists.

A disease is making itself felt in different parts of the world and is not unknown in Western Australia. I refer to Brill's Disease and I suggest that all buildings, residential or business, should be made rat-proof.

Mr. Marshall: Hear, hear!

Mr. SAMPSON: There is nothing personal about this. I would like the Minister to take the matter up with local authorities. The Minister cannot cope with this menace himself, but something could be achieved if legislation were introduced providing that no building permits may be issued unless complete arrangements are made for preventing the access of rats to buildings.

The Minister for Mines: They are introduced with produce.

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes, they are brought in from other parts of the world. The rat is not indigenous to Western Australia. It was brought here, but we can prevent it from getting into homes and business premises. The matter is most important, and we can easily pass a small Bill to provide that no building shall be erected unless all care is exercised to ensure that rats will not have ingress.

Mr. J. H. Smith: What about buildings already in existence?

Mr. SAMPSON: The owners of such buildings should be called upon to do what is necessary, because rats may easily cause bubonic plague.

Mr. Withers: Door-keepers would have to be appointed!

Mr. SAMPSON: Something could be done. In all dwellings there are cavities in the external walls, and once rats get into them they are able to move about within the buildings and soon multiply. Once rats secure an entry into cavity walls, a house is no longer immune from intrusion by the rodents. All means of access should be protected by small yet strong metal mesh. Rats are plentiful in Perth and an outbreak of bubonic plague might easily prove a terrible scourge.

There is another matter I wish to bring under the notice of the Minister for Health.

The Minister for Health: I thought you said I was overworked.

Mr. SAMPSON: I did not suggest anything of the sort. There is a shortage of nurses and it is essential that more trainees be employed in our hospitals. The V.A.D.'s will prove useful for assisting in war service and other emergency work. Many women are at present receiving training in first aid under the St. John Ambulance scheme. Excellent work is being done in that direction. All this is very good, but hospital or ward experience must be provided.

The Minister for Health: Only a certain number can be trained in a ward.

Mr. SAMPSON: The Minister should give serious thought to the question of amplifying the opportunities for training nurses. At any time the services of more nurses than are available might be needed. As our boys return from the war, many of them will require hospital treatment and there may be a serious shortage of nurses. There is also a possibility of other abnormal conditions involving community disaster. What is being done to meet such conditions? So far as I am aware, we are not doing what we should. Admittedly this is a very difficult matter, but its importance demands consideration and I hope the Minister will give it serious thought. If the day comes when the demand for nurses is far in excess of the number available, the lot of the Minister will not be an enviable one. I for one will be prepared to tell him what he should have done when he had the opportunity. Not all

the women who enter as trainees become professional nurses, and possibly 90 per cent. of them listen to the persuasive arguments of patients who are convalescing and leave hospital work to get married.

The Minister for Health: Then what is the use of training them?

Mr. SAMPSON: When they marry, they continue to do very good work throughout the State. We all know how highly women with the training of nurses are regarded. They are the salt of the earth. Since 90 per cent. of the nurses marry, the Minister would be wise to get as many trainees as possible. We have many wonderfully fine young women in this State, and a majority of them are anxious to be of assistance during the present trying period.

Mr. Hughes: And so produce more nurses.

Mr. SAMPSON: A nurse must have training in a hospital ward. Assistance would be forthcoming from the medical fraternity, than whom no section is more ready to help in an honorary capacity. Doctors are prepared to give lectures and assist in every way; the difficulty is that more hospitals are not approved as training centres for nurses.

The Minister for Health: We have a training school. You are two years behind the times.

Mr. SAMPSON: But there is a shortage of nurses.

The Minister for Health: And a shortage of doctors, too!

Mr. SAMPSON: I have already pointed out that many doctors are prepared to assist by giving honorary work. The Minister would be wise to do all in his power to ensure that the maximum number possible is trained. If it is impracticable to train them all fully, then they should be given such training as is possible in the circumstances.

Mr. Marshall: Would you agree to granting them shorter hours?

Mr. SAMPSON: Admittedly the position is difficult, but unusual conditions call for unusual action.

Every member will thoroughly endorse the statements about constructing small ships in this State. Anything within the power of members to promote the shipbuilding industry will be done. Excellent markets in Singapore, Malaya, and throughout the Far East generally await the producers of this State, and now is the time to take advantage of the opportunity. Assistance to shipbuilding would be helpful. Recently I was in Whyalla, South Australia, where a town

has been brought into existence by the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. To me, the town was an eye-opener; it is remarkable. There is no local authority and no rates are payable. In a place where safety first seems to be the maxim of those in charge, the workers are given great consideration. I inspected the shipbuilding areas and saw a ship that had recently been launched. If we could only induce that company to take an interest in our iron ore deposits at Yampi, the State would benefit tremendously.

Mr. Thorn: What class of ship do you favour, wood or steel?

Mr. SAMPSON: The ships being built at Whyalla are of steel, but we might have to take what we can get for the time being.

Mr. Thorn: Ours would need to be of steel in order to develop the Yampi deposits.

Mr. SAMPSON: Yes. The work in progress at Whyalla is amazing. To the visitor, it appeals as a romance of industry. I went through the house of one of the key men—one of scores of homes built by the company.

Mr. Tonkin: Not much romance about the B.H.P.!

Mr. SAMPSON: For me, Whyalla was full of romance. The house contained £250 worth of furniture, and payment for the house and furniture was being made at the rate of 25s. a week. This should appeal to those people who believe in extending the greatest possible consideration to the workers who produce the wealth of the world.

Mr. Hughes: Still, the B.H.P. made £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 profit.

Mr. SAMPSON: Whatever might be said of the company's profits, it has shown that it knows how to go about its business. At Whyalla, pig iron is being produced in almost inconceivable quantities.

Mr. Hughes: The B.H.P. had the power to block competitors.

Mr. SAMPSON: I know nothing about that. Why should not the hon. member and others possessing money investigate the matter, and see whether we cannot establish something along the same lines in connection with the Yampi deposits?

Mr. Hughes: I will call a meeting.

Mr. SAMPSON: If those who were unable to provide much money contributed considerable argument, we might obtain the permission of the registrar to sell shares

and then Western Australia might come into its own, at least to some extent. We are the last word in backwardness. What have we done? We boast of being a primary-producing country, but we should be a country of secondary industries as well. The complacency of the Minister for Industrial Development is by no means warranted. We are getting nowhere. While we are marking time, the years are passing, our people are growing old, and we are still dependent upon other countries for manufactures.

The Minister for Labour: This is the first time you have advocated secondary industries for Western Australia.

Mr. SAMPSON: I have been a member of the Chamber of Manufactures for 15 or 20 years and am most anxious to see secondary industries developed here.

Mr. Doney: Will you tell us where you would sell the products of secondary industries?

Mr. SAMPSON: Reference has been made to the rationing of liquid fuel. Inquiries have shown that primary producers' licenses for liquid fuel are now subject to discretion and up to 85 per cent. of the previous month's supply may be granted.

Mr. Cross: To what part of the State does that apply?

Mr. SAMPSON: To the primary producing parts, including the district of Canning. I hope the hon. member will visit the primary producing section of his district and let the people know the position. The Liquid Fuel Control Board is doing its best in very difficult circumstances. To bring restrictive measures into operation is never easy, and the rationing of petrol has proved a very difficult matter.

MR. WILLMOTT (Sussex) [6.0]: As a rule, it is the privilege of private members on the Address-in-reply debate to advocate the needs of their electorates; but on this occasion we have a much greater task than to ask for what we want for a little corner of the State. We are at war, and it is the duty of every member of Parliament to do his utmost to bring the war to a successful conclusion. We can only do so by meeting the enemy with a united front; therefore, every member in this Chamber must work in unison. When we have won the war—as I and every member

of this Chamber believe we shall; there is no doubt about it, as the member for Toodyay (Mr. Thorn) said, although we do not know how long it will take—there is one thing we must do and that is to make preparation for our boys to have something to which to return. After the 1914-18 war, we had years of miserable depression. We have learnt our lesson and should make every endeavour to avoid a recurrence of those conditions. The Government's duty is to start at once to put things in readiness for our returned soldiers. I heard the Minister for Health say a few moments ago that a number of our soldiers had already returned. That is so.

The Minister for Health: I did not say that. I said the nurses would come back with our boys.

Mr. WILLMOTT: Some of our boys have returned and so work should be started. We have to find jobs for them. The Minister for Industrial Development has a most important task in this connection. I regret that more industries have not been established in this State for the production of war material. Of course, we know that that is a Commonwealth matter, but I understand the Commonwealth Government is assisting the State to some extent. I suggest to the Minister for Industrial Development that any buildings erected in this State to produce munitions of war should be erected in such a way as to enable them to be readily converted for secondary industries at the conclusion of the war. That is a vital point, as these industries are growing in Western Australia.

Although I said that the winning of the war was more important than was the advocacy of the needs of individual electorates, I point out some facts appertaining to my electorate. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Railways is absent at the moment, for I am touching on the railway service to my electorate. The rationing of petrol is causing much trial and trouble to country residents, who have been forced to use the railways more than they did previously. Let me point to Busselton. We have a daily service. The train leaves Perth at 7.30 a.m., arriving at Busselton at 3.30 p.m., after having taken eight—and perhaps 9½—hours to complete a journey

of 149 miles. My constituents would be quite content to have that service on some days provided, as the Minister for Railways will doubtless agree, they get one fast passenger service per week. I complain not only about the service to Busselton, but right through to Flinders Bay. The train for Flinders Bay leaves Busselton at 9.3 a.m. twice a week, arriving at Margaret River at 1.29 p.m., a distance of barely 40 miles—37 by rail, I believe—the journey thus occupying four hours. To Flinders Bay is an additional 30 miles and to cover that distance takes four hours. Do members consider that a fair deal? One could practically walk the distance in that time. I quite agree that the train is a mixed goods and passenger train. I ask the Minister for Railways to consider whether he cannot arrange for one fast train per week and thus benefit the people residing in my electorate.

As I have pointed out on previous occasions, Busselton is definitely a tourist resort: as is in fact, the whole of my electorate. If we get a decent train service more tourists would be attracted to the district. Because of petrol rationing, the tourist traffic from the metropolitan area, the goldfields, and the wheat belt is likely to decline unless we get a fast train service at least once a week. Some time ago I approached the Secretary for Railways (Mr. Tomlinson) and the Chief Traffic Manager (Mr. Gilmour) and succeeded in arranging for a Diesel service from Picton to Busselton. It connects with the Saturday afternoon train from Perth and returns on Sunday evening. These gentlemen, after careful consideration of my views, agreed to give the service a month's trial. I am pleased to say that it was well patronised; the month has elapsed and the service is still being continued. My endeavour is to get that train service extended further towards Margaret River and eventually to Flinders Bay.

Then there is the Busselton-Nannup service. The distance is about 40 miles by rail and the journey takes from five to six hours. It is a two-day service per week. The residents in that part of my electorate are, in my opinion, entitled to at least one fast train service per week. Now that these matters have been brought to the notice of the Minister, he will probably come to our assistance.

Notwithstanding petrol rationing, we should endeavour to keep our cars on the road. It was stated the other night that some 3,000 gas producers have been fitted to motor cars in this State. That means more charcoal will be required. I am glad the Minister for Industrial Development has agreed that some of the sustenance workers, who are "C" class men engaged on clearing work on vacant group holdings in my electorate, will now be employed in securing wood for fuel from land on which it would otherwise be wasted. Pits have been dug in readiness to burn the charcoal and wood has been carted to them, but we are waiting for sheet metal to line the pits before the charcoal can be burned. I do not know the reason for the delay in forwarding the sheets; perhaps the Minister for Industrial Development can enlighten me. I do not like referring to these "C" class men as sustenance workers; I prefer to call them relief workers.

The Minister for Health: They are now casual workers.

Mr. J. H. Smith: Very casual!

The Minister for Health: Some of them are working full time.

Mr. WILLMOTT: I suggest that the charcoal burning should be done nearer to railway sidings. At present it is being done about 10 to 12 miles from sidings, and this will involve a good deal of carting. There are thousands of acres of land to be cleared, consisting of not merely vacant group holdings, but also settled land. These relief workers will now be doing extremely useful work, clearing the land and producing something that will be in great demand in the future.

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

Mr. WILLMOTT: Before tea I was explaining the good work the Government was doing with the "C" class men in my electorate. They are engaged in clearing vacant group holdings and in producing charcoal. I hope that work continues for some time. There is plenty of timber available in the district. It has to be got rid of on the vacant holdings, and this is a profitable way in which to do so. The timber that is being used is some of the best that is obtainable for the making of charcoal. I think, however, the work could have been done somewhat nearer to a railway siding, as that would have saved a considerable amount of

cartage. Many of the men engaged in relief work have now been sent to the East-West road. Several of them did not wish to go there, advancing the excuse that it was not convenient for them to go so far from their homes. After I had pointed out to the men that this was really the first national job they had been asked to undertake since war broke out, they looked at the matter in a different light and went willingly. I have since heard that everything on the East-West road is satisfactory.

I am strongly in favour of a uniform railway gauge from Perth to Kalgoorlie to link up with the Great Western railway. That is a national work and should be carried out as soon as possible. If war comes to these shores the defence authorities will want quick service, and the quicker the service the better. A uniform railway gauge would enable quicker service to be given than can be given at present. The shipbuilding industry is one that may vitally affect my district. It has been pointed out to the authorities in Canberra that we have all the timber necessary for that class of work. We have jarrah, karri, tuart and a considerable quantity of light wood in our forests, namely, pine that is grown by the Forests Department, a great deal of which is fit to be cut now. We certainly have the harbours, namely at Busselton and Flinder's Bay, where the ships could be launched, and a few men who are accustomed to that work. If the industry is started in Western Australia I hope the Minister for Industrial Development will consider those two centres.

I was rather surprised to hear the remarks of the member for Nelson (Mr. J. H. Smith) concerning the restrictions in the acreage for tobacco planting this year. That was news to me. I know the Minister for Agriculture has started experimental plots in the Karri-dale area, and hope he can explain the remark that was made by the hon. member. We were all very pleased when that experimental work was commenced, and thought it would lead to the establishment of another industry in that district. When I heard the hon. member's reference I thought the Minister would probably explain the reason for the restriction. Presumably it is a Commonwealth matter. There is a shortage of tobacco in Australia, which makes the restriction all the more surprising. I wondered why Western Australia was chosen as a State in which tobacco-growing should

be curtailed. All our farmers are hard put to it to find labour with which to carry out their operations. It is almost impossible for them to secure farm workers. Many young men in the district have had to go into militia training camps for three months at a time; they then come out for three months and go in for another period. That has been very hard upon the dairy farmers.

A much better arrangement will be in vogue after the 1st October when the boys will go into camp for six months and return to their homes for a similar term. Many of the young men from the district own their farms. If there are two such young fellows on a farm one has to go into camp for the three months. The other is left on the farm, but, being without labour, he has to do all the work himself. A case came before me today of a family of three boys, who are milking approximately 100 cows. Some time ago one of the lads enlisted in the A.I.F., while the other two carried on the farm. The younger of those two was called up for militia training. The boy who was in the A.I.F. then put his case before the authorities, and he told me today he had been discharged. That is very difficult to understand. After the boy had been trained in the artillery for practically 12 months he was discharged because his youngest brother had been called up for compulsory training. This is a fact, and I saw the discharge today. Our compulsory militia training system should be more closely investigated. Happenings of that description are entirely wrong.

My duty to my constituents requires that I should refer to the Busselton and Flinder's Bay harbours. As I said before in this Chamber it is not for me or for any other member to advance a claim as to which harbour is the best. Our best engineers should be called upon to investigate our harbours from all points of view, and decide which are in the best order to handle shipping. Busselton is a safe harbour. A little dredging was done there some 30 years ago, in 1911. I have been told by fishermen who go out in small boats that they can see today the result of that dredging. That proves how little siltage there has been at Busselton.

Mr. Cross: If a harbour was made at Busselton would it not interfere with the shipping?

Mr. WILLMOTT: Quite a lot of shipping comes into Busselton.

Mr. McDonald: Perhaps the hon. member has never been there.

Mr. WILLMOTT: Timber mills have been established almost at the harbour's mouth, and further inland we have the Jarrahwood and Nannup mills. A great deal of timber is shipped from Busselton. The port has averaged probably at least one boat a week, which has given the lumpers from three to three and a half days' work per week. Most of the lumpers possess their own holdings, and in their spare time with the money they have earned they effect improvements on their properties.

Some time ago I introduced a deputation to the Minister for Works from the Augusta-Margaret River Road Board. We pointed out to the Minister that a great deal of shipping was done from Flinder's Bay some years ago. I showed him a photograph of five sailing vessels that were loading in the harbour at one time. Timber was shipped from there all the year round, which proves that it is a safe harbour at all times of the year. With regard to the Busselton harbour, I have been in communication with the Minister for Railways about the lighting of the jetty. Unfortunately, in the last 12 or 18 months ten seamen off the boats have lost their lives. The accidents were definitely due to the insufficient lighting of the jetty, which led to these men losing their lives through falling over the side. When I mentioned this subject last session or perhaps it was during the session before that, one member interjected that no drunken sailor could walk along the jetty safely. All the men I have referred to were not drunk and unfortunately the accidents happened. I hope the Minister for Railways will give this matter consideration and will deal with it promptly.

MR. F. C. L. SMITH (Brown Hill-Ivanhoe) [7.46]: This supplementary motion provides members with an opportunity to address themselves to vital topics and draw attention to the requirements of their districts which, if they could be provided for, would be in the interests of the community generally. I am always intrigued by the note of originality that the member for Claremont (Mr. North) repeatedly strikes when he addresses the Chamber. On this occasion he has drawn attention to the insidious propa-

ganda that seeks to undermine our Parliamentary institutions, to the type of criticism that directs itself to belittling and ridiculing members of Parliament and the work and functions of government, as it is derived from, and expressed in, our parliamentary institutions. Boastfully we sometimes say that Democracy is the best form of government. We can at least say without boasting that Democracy is the form of government best suited to us. Democracy is a form of government that is synonymous with freedom inasmuch as it gives a voice in the Government to all sections of the community, either directly or indirectly, through their chosen representatives.

Mr. Hughes: This House is not elected democratically!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Democracy is a form of government that recognises the fundamental equality of man. Its opposing forms of government such as dictatorships, feudalism or absolute monarchies, emphasise the inherent inequality of man and urges that government by the aristocracy is the best form, and that Democracy is one of the lowest forms of government. Our Parliamentary institutions over a very lengthy period have been subjected to many changes through the processes of development and evolution. The general character of our Parliament, it is true, is based upon that which was called the Model Parliament, which met in 1215, during the reign of Edward I. There have been many changes since then, the effect of which was to convert Parliament from a King's Council, as it then was, to the People's Council, with increasing supremacy through which grew up the Cabinet and party system of government, which was born, it has been said, from the need to ensure harmonious co-operation between the King's Ministers and Parliament.

We find from this brief review—we would discover it also if we went more fully and deeply into the subject—that our Parliament and our form of government represent the logical outcome of the party system, and that the party system itself in turn is the logical outcome of conflicting interests in the community, and between groups of people representative of those interests. Thus we find from history right down through the ages that there have been parties in Parliament, even in the days when Parliament was more of a King's Council than the People's Coun-

oil it is today. We can go from the days of Oliver Cromwell with the Roundheads and Cavaliers right down to more recent times when there were Whigs and Tories, Liberals and Conservatives—the interests of the industrialists and land owners being represented in Parliament—and ultimately to the Conservatives, Liberals and Labour Parties of today. So I draw attention to the character of Parliament and how it has grown up out of the party system. I do so because we hear so frequently that party politics should be dropped. As a matter of fact, politics represents the outcome of parties which, as I have already indicated, are in turn, the outcome of conflicting interests that are inherent in every community.

Mr. North: It amounted to civil war without bloodshed.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Our system of government, as Lord Macaulay pointed out, is an executive form of government in that the Executive is appointed, or drawn, from the leading men of the party that can command a majority on the floor of the House, and members of that Executive, or Ministers as we designate them, administer the ordinary affairs of their departments, while in respect of all matters of importance or of matters likely to be discussed on the floor of the House, these are taken to Cabinet which arrives at decisions in connection with them. I emphasise that point for the benefit of members and others who labour under the impression that Cabinet decisions on all matters are the decisions of Ministers, a habit of thought that, I think, the Press seeks to cultivate in the people. It may be said that certain Ministers exercise much influence in Cabinet discussions, but it would be the sheerest form of flattery to suggest that every Minister, on each and every occasion, gets his own way in matters he brings before Cabinet.

I was rather surprised the other day to read in the Press a paragraph calling attention to this very aspect of our form of government. It had relation to the increase in soldiers' pay that has been proposed, and the "West Australian," in a reference to that subject in its issue of Saturday last, published the following—

The Minister for the Army, Mr. Spender, who made the submission to the Cabinet, would not dissent it today. He left no doubt, however, that he was determined to spare no effort to force the Cabinet to agree to it.

I claim that either the journalist who wrote that paragraph has no proper conception of Ministerial responsibilities, or that the Hon. Percy Spender said something that justified the publication of the paragraph. If Mr. Spender did so, then he has no proper conception of his Ministerial responsibilities. I am prepared to extend consideration to Mr. Spender by saying that I do not think the journalist's paragraph was justified in the circumstances, otherwise we would set up a position in which the Hon. Percy Spender could go to Cabinet with his proposition and, Cabinet having rejected it, he could then, as an individual member of Cabinet, say, "Well, you know I was in favour of the proposal, but Cabinet turned it down." The Cabinet system could not work in circumstances such as that.

There must be team work in the Cabinet and when Cabinet gives its decision upon any matter affecting a department, the Minister concerned must justify that decision. It would certainly place a Minister in a very invidious position if he were to declare his intention, prior to the consideration of any matter that he had referred to Cabinet for its decision. I think even the member for North Perth (Mr. Abbott) will agree that our Cabinet system is elective. Certainly it is not one in which Cabinet members are elected by both Houses of Parliament. I do not know that he advocated any such system. It might possibly have something to recommend it if both Houses of Parliament were elected on the adult franchise, but certainly such a suggestion would have nothing to recommend it under existing circumstances. What I think is very desirable, and necessary, in all Parliaments is a strong and virile Opposition. I do not care how closely it approaches the numerical strength of the party supporting the Government, so long as the Opposition has a proper understanding of the critical functions of Parliament, submits constructive criticism and assists the Government, and Parliament, to do the right thing by the community. I do not think we would desire an Opposition that plays up to the emotions of the people, like the members of the Purity and Law Enforcement League, that, knowing full well that virtue dwells in ruins, insists that it shall only be articulate through its members who are over 50 years of age!

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Or through reason!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Nor do I think we should have an Opposition that seeks to cash-in on confusion, such as the Leader of the Opposition displayed when talking of the financial emergency tax. Nor do I think we should have an Opposition that tries to cash in on discontent as the member for Avon (Mr. Boyle) does when he deals with the farming industry in the Yilgarn district.

Mr. Doney: You are not entitled to draw that conclusion from what that hon. member said.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I am so entitled. The member for Avon said that but for the Government there would still be 50 per cent. of the farmers remaining in the Yilgarn district; and later, in the same speech, he agreed that those men should have been withdrawn from wheat-farming in that same district. So I say he is attempting to cash in on discontent.

Mr. Doney: We do not read his speech that way, anyhow!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: The Opposition should be constructive in its criticism, and in its general attitude should strive to clear up rather than cultivate misunderstandings. I must say that the present Opposition does in the main try to be helpful and constructive.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: How nice!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: If there is anything wrong with this Parliament—well, the matter must be referred to the calibre and quality of the Opposition; because the present Government has reason to be proud of its record. Like its two immediate predecessors, it has produced results in our economic life. It has almost rid us of the wide-spread unemployment that existed, with all its attendant miseries and deplorable features.

Several members interjected.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: There may be a great number of part-time workers yet, but the present number is not great compared with that which existed when the present Labour Government took office. It has to be remembered also—and attention was drawn to this by Mr. Colin Clarke in the economic study he made at our University some few years ago—that even under a condition of full employment, which he pointed out existed in Germany at that time, there were still a million of people out of work. He said that every country contained certain misfits and industrial “frictions” which could not be economically employed. So I do not hope to see this

community, or any other community, rid entirely of unemployment; but I do hope that a Government can reach what might reasonably be termed a condition of full employment in the economic sense. I believe it can be said that our Government has achieved that.

Criticism has been levelled at the amount of money raised in taxation during the past year; but the critics have not pointed out that the figures quoted include not only income taxation but also land taxation, totalisator tax, entertainment tax, licensee fees and stamp duties. All those taxes are included under the heading of taxation figures which have so far been quoted here. If by its efforts this Government has so created opportunities for the industrious in the community, it must have itself shared in that increased prosperity. I have no doubt that such is the case. At least it can be said that this Government has given the people value for the money raised by taxation, and has so administered the State as to rid us of the alarming deficits of its predecessors in office.

Despite the confusion which the Leader of the Opposition tries to create and cultivate, this Government has rid us of the financial emergency tax and placed taxation generally more on a basis in accordance with the accepted canons. It is easy enough for the Leader of the Opposition and some of his supporters to tell the people, through the Press and on the platform, that the financial emergency tax has not been abolished; but the hon. gentleman cannot deny that by Section 6 of the Income Tax Assessment Act Amendment Act of 1940 deductions for emergency tax were definitely abolished on all wages and salaries. Nor can he deny that now a taxpayer with a wife and two children, after he has made all his deductions other than those for the children, who had a net income of £324 in 1940, pays no income tax in the year of assessment 1940-41. Under the financial emergency tax that man would have paid anything from £8 to £9 in 1940-41 on his gross income for the year. Nor can the Leader of the Opposition deny that a taxpayer with a wife and three children who, after he had made all deductions other than those for the three children, had a net income of £386 in 1939-40, paid no income tax in the year of assessment 1940-41. Under the financial emergency tax that man would have paid



anything from £11 10s. to £12 10s. in the year 1940-41 on his gross income. These taxpayers who have thus been relieved are not to be deceived by statements that the financial emergency tax has not been abolished; nor will they be deceived, either, by the member for Avon quoting the taxation for single men without dependants and pretending it is the taxation of married men with dependants. Members of the Opposition are members of the same parties as comprised the Government that introduced the financial emergency tax.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And how much was that tax increased by your Government?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Then it was a flat rate of 4½d. in the pound on the earnings of single men receiving £52 per annum and of married men receiving £104 per annum—£1 per week and £2 per week respectively. The man on £10,000 a year paid the same flat rate of 4½d. under the taxation proposals of that Government.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He did not.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Yes.

Hon. C. G. Latham: He paid increased taxes.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: He paid 4½d. in the pound in emergency tax, the same as the man who was receiving only £1 per week. Under the taxing legislation of the Government comprised of the parties opposite, the married man with six or seven or eight children paid as much as did the man without any family responsibilities.

Hon. C. G. Latham: And that was continued by your Government for six solid years!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: It is absurd for the Leader of the Opposition to come here and tell each and every one of us who took part in legislation abolishing the financial emergency tax, that the tax is not abolished. At the last general election the Premier in his policy speech said—

We are, therefore, asking for a mandate from the people to abolish the financial emergency tax and collect the money required at the source under the provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

And that has been done. Members of the Opposition, when they went to the electors in 1930, the last time they succeeded in being returned, declared that if they were returned they would reduce taxation. Such was the tenor of the policy speech delivered to the

electors in 1930 by the parties now represented on the Opposition bench.

Hon. C. G. Latham: You said it would be work for everybody, when you went to the country!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: Then those members came here and tried to justify their statement by alleging that they did not know the Treasury was empty. Instead of reducing taxation, as they promised, they nearly doubled it by introducing the financial emergency tax while thousands of workers already had their wages reduced by other legislation already introduced by those members. Having listened to the Leader of the Opposition and some of the critics of the Government on the financial emergency tax, and remembering what they did when they were in power, I am convinced they are the party or parties that believe in taxing the family man, believe in the idea that "everyone should pay something so as to develop a sense of responsibility throughout the country." They of course ignored the fact that every person in the community is indirectly taxed through Customs and Excise duties—a fact that was repeatedly pointed out by the Premier of the Government representing those parties, namely Sir James Mitchell. Various members who have spoken have convinced me that they are prepared to make some concession to ability to pay; but they know that the lower the gradation of income tax begins, the lower it will be in the higher ranges of income. Apparently the principle for which they stand is the taxation of the family man. They resent this Government's legislation easing taxation upon the family man, whilst raising a similar amount to that which was raised in the preceding year, by the expedient of taxing persons with no dependants a little higher and taxing those on the higher incomes more in accordance with their ability to pay.

As the representative of a goldmining constituency, I wish to state that the people I represent appreciate what the Labour Government has done for the goldmining industry. The Leader of the Opposition stated here on a recent evening that all the present prosperity, all the revival in mining, is due to the higher price of gold; but I wish to tell him that this Government put in a pipeline from Coolgardie to Norseman, a distance of 101 miles, at a cost of £172,000.

Mr. Doney: That is all news to us!

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** The present Government also put in a pipe-line from Coolgardie to Ora Banda, a distance of 46 miles, at a cost of £23,500.

**Hon. C. G. Latham:** And they charge 10s. for a thousand gallons of water!

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** It reconditioned the goldfields main pipe line at a cost of £1,500,000. It built the pipe line from Yellowdine to Mt. Palmer, a distance of eight miles, at a cost of £6,500. It did all these things in addition to providing town water supplies at Mt. Palmer, Reedy, Agnew and other places, and reconditioning the main line from Kalgoorlie to the Golden Mile by replacing the 12in. cast iron pipe with a 21in. cement-lined steel pipe at a cost of £13,500. All these things, done in the interests of the goldmining industry, made a very important contribution to the prosperity which that industry is enjoying today.

**Mr. Marshall:** Who built the railway from Mt. Magnet to the Big Bell mine?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** It would become tiresome if I were to reiterate all that Labour Governments have done for the goldmining industry throughout the State. The revival of the goldmining industry can be traced back to the days when the Collier Labour Government appointed the Kingsley Thomas Royal Commission. Many of the recommendations of that Commission have since been put into effect with a great deal of benefit to the industry. The prosperity of the goldmining industry, as the member for Murchison (Mr. Marshall) has pointed out, is also due to the assistance rendered by Labour Governments when the goldmining industry was in the doldrums—

**Mr. Marshall:** Down and out!

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** —and everybody had lost confidence except the Labour Government.

**Mr. Marshall:** Which was prepared to assist the industry financially.

**Mr. F. C. L. SMITH:** The prosperity in the goldmining industry today is due to scientific development in the manner of the treatment of ores and up-to-date plant incorporating the latest improvements. It is due to more efficient management than existed 10 or 12 years ago. In part that prosperity is due to improved working conditions enabling men to produce more tons of ore per man

per year in fewer hours per week. Last year 294 tons per man employed was produced in the goldmining industry. That was the highest production ever reached per man in the industry, and exceeded that of the previous year, which was 269 tons. The industry prospers also because of the fact that, due to economic circumstances, development can be maintained well ahead of requirements. All those things and many others have to be considered in connection with the prosperity now prevailing in the industry. Amongst the more important of them are the encouragement and assistance that have been given to the industry where they were required by the present Labour Government.

I am grateful for the fact that the Government has had regard to the safety of the men employed, and has effected the improvement in working conditions of which I have spoken. The Government has done much to maintain the health of the men in the industry by the appointment of ventilation officers, constant checks on temperatures and dust counts. Those things are most important to the men employed in the goldmining industry. I am grateful to the Government for the broad outlook it has exhibited and its realisation of the importance of goldmining to this State. What the position of gold would be in a new world order is difficult to say. One can hardly believe that without revolutionary changes gold would be dethroned as a medium of exchange and a measure of all value. There will have to be striking changes if the new world order is going to ensure a better distribution of the national income.

There has been a good deal of talk on this question of a new world order, but I am somewhat sceptical about it myself. I am like the poet who said, "Man forever is but never to be blessed." I doubt the possibility of a new world order, but perhaps we shall get something of the kind if the privileged classes and those who represent them, the people who are at present the chief obstacle to reform, are prepared to sacrifice some of their privileges so that those who have too much will give some to those who have too little, and so bring about a measure of equality.

**Hon. W. D. Johnson:** Do you not think that democracy can do that without the individual doing it?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: I will leave that to the hon. member.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Well, you argued that way in part of your speech.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: We have been told by some prominent leaders in the community that after the war we must all share the poverty. That is not a very promising statement to make in connection with a new world order. I would ask, "Why should there be any poverty after the war?"

Hon. W. D. Johnson: What is poverty? What is the definition?

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: During the last war there were 20,000,000 men out of production and that war lasted four years. The men were well fed and well clothed during that period. Those responsible for feeding and clothing them were also better fed and better clothed than they were in the period immediately preceding the war. I say now, as I have said before in this House, that if those 20,000,000 men who were engaged in hostilities during the last war had been sitting down playing cards with one another, those that worked at home to feed and clothe them could have fed and clothed them just as well as they were fed and clothed. And if there had been no necessity for providing them with guns and ammunition, they could have had an army of waitresses to wait on them—

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: Waiters, not waitresses!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: —while they were playing cards. In spite of all the destruction that is going on around us, we find that the deposits in the banks are increasing by thousands of millions of pounds. Those deposits and other fixed money claims will be demands on future production, mortgages on future production after this war is over, and it is only from that increase in deposits, that increase in fixed money claims, that any poverty can come. If we are to have a new world order, let us have one in which the defence of our assets is paid for from such assets. We do not want conditions after this war like those that led to the march of the blanketeers from Manchester to London after the Napoleonic wars; nor do we want conditions after this war such as those that led to the depression we experienced not long since. Despite all our desires, and despite all the promises that have been made, I again say I am sceptical about the possibility of a new world order.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: If all people took the view you take, there would be no new order.

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: All the people do not take that view.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Thank God they do not!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: And although I take that view it is not to say I do not intend to strive to do what I can to bring about a new world order.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: That is a better tone!

Mr. Thorn: That is what Hitler is trying to do!

Mr. F. C. L. SMITH: At the moment there is a Commission under the Carnegie endowment functioning in New York with a view to bringing about some kind of new world order when this war is over. That Commission is doing very fine work and has issued an interim report of its activities, in which are defined the avenues that have to be explored with a view to creating a new order such as will make for the preservation of peace. It is very difficult at this juncture, as they point out, to give us a blue print of a new world order. Something must be done to explore avenues through which a new order may be secured but generally the objective was stated over 100 years ago by the immortal Fox. Speaking in the House of Commons in connection with the speech of a member who had referred to the poverty, destitution and general misery that could be seen in the highways and byways of London at that time and who had declared that such poverty was a dispensation of Providence, Fox stated, in general terms at any rate, the objective that might be pursued in the direction of acquiring a new world order. What Fox said was—

Give Labour its full rights; take the last grain of the poison of monopoly out of the cup of poverty; throw open the markets of the world to an industrious people, and if, after that, there be poverty, you have earned for yourself the unenviable distinction of a blasphemer of Providence. But until you have done that you cannot, you dare not come down here and look that gaunt spectre of human misery in the face and exclaim, "Thou canst not say I did it."

MR. RAPHAEL (Victoria Park) [8.29]: With other members, I wish to express regret at the sad and regrettable loss to the House of the former member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie, the late G. J. Lambert. The

hon. member was of great benefit to the State on account of the knowledge of metallurgy he acquired over the years and his training as an analytical chemist. At all times his knowledge and advice were placed unreservedly at the disposal of the members of this Chamber and of another place. He was one of the very few members who from time to time brought under the notice of the House the many minerals that could and should be used in the war effort. If Western Australia received its just dues from the Commonwealth, many of our minerals and by-products would be in use for war purposes. Owing to the great power acquired over the years by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, that right is denied to the people of this State. If we received our just dues huge smelting works would be operating 24 hours a day for the production of necessary metals for war requirements.

Mr. McDonald: We can do it if we want to.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The hon. member should consider the many attempts made by various firms to start manufacturing in opposition to the huge monopolies in the Eastern States and the inevitable results of those attempts. No matter what secondary industry is started in Western Australia, some action is taken in the Eastern States to ensure that it shall be crippled from the outset. Probably the member for West Perth knows that before a secondary industry can be started at the present time, the permission of the Commonwealth Government must be obtained. A few weeks ago there was a movement to start a factory for the manufacture of a certain class of paper, but permission was withheld by the Commonwealth because it was not a war requirement. We were told that such a factory could not begin producing during the war period.

Mr. Hughes: Are you sure it was not an application to raise capital for the company?

Mr. RAPHAEL: A scientist from overseas recommended that the factory be started and the Commonwealth refused permission to carry on the project.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: Did he bring the money from overseas to start the factory?

Mr. RAPHAEL: I do not know. I am prepared to give the hon. member the name

of the gentleman and he can find out for himself. I did not ask him what money he had in his pocket. The important point is that an attempt was made to start a secondary industry in this State and permission was refused by the Commonwealth.

When the war is over we are expected to revert to the position of a State of primary production and allow the Eastern States to continue, as in the past, their monopoly of secondary industry. We have been told that Tasmania has a monopoly of the production of paper in Australia. Why cannot Western Australia be given a similar right when it has the raw material to make paper? That material is sent to the Eastern States and there put through the necessary processes to produce paper. We have only to consider the various factories in the Eastern States to realise what a raw deal the people of Western Australia are getting from the Commonwealth. Not until two years of war have passed is Western Australia considered to be entitled to have a munition factory, and we are told that nine months will elapse before the factory starts producing. In South Australia I saw many acres of land covered with buildings in as many weeks, and the factories went into production immediately. But we have to wait nine months before anything is turned out from the Welshpool factory. Yet we have brass moulders, iron moulders, men who worked in the Woolwich arsenal during the 1914-18 war, and other men on relief work instead of being engaged in war work.

Mr. Abbott: I do not believe it.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Last week one of those men cracked up while engaged on digging drains at the Stirling Dam. The hon. member can verify that for himself. Previous to the appointment of Mr. Essington Lewis as Director of Munitions, South Australia was getting just as raw a deal from the Commonwealth as Western Australia is receiving. Today, however, huge factories are being built in South Australia for the production of munitions. Holdens' works have been converted into a vast plant for the production of many requirements from pon-toons to gas masks.

Mr. Sampson: Essington Lewis is a wizard.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I think he is a very able man. By their monopolising the manufacture of munitions as Victoria and New South Wales have done, a great hardship is being

imposed upon the rest of Australia. We read in the Press from time to time of the so-called large expenditure made for war purposes in Western Australia. I wonder whether members have noticed the commodities on the purchase of which that money has been spent. This is what we read—Mr. Mooney, Metropolitan Markets, potatoes and onions, £470; National Fisheries, £400 or £500; certain butchers, £400, £500, £600, or £700, and so on. The Commonwealth war expenditure in Western Australia is mostly for the purchase of food for the soldiers going oversea to fight Australia's battles. That war expenditure should be confined to these commodities is unjust. The Commonwealth is calling upon a larger proportion of the man-power of this State for military service, although the rest of the people are not getting a just deal from the Commonwealth. Western Australia has always been an ultra loyal State to the Commonwealth. that was proved during the 1914-18 war and is being doubly proved during the present war. Because other States have large munition factories, more men are put into reserve occupations and are not permitted to enlist for service oversea. The Commonwealth laid it down that if a man is employed on the manufacture of munitions or similar work, he is in a reserve occupation and cannot go oversea. The same consideration is not extended to the young men of this State. The Commonwealth has not established large munition factories here. Therefore our young men are not given the same opportunity as is given to young men in the other States. Even if they were, I do not think it would make any difference to their loyalty, but this State should not be expected to make up deficiencies in the reinforcements required from the Eastern States. Western Australia's enlistment figures are by far the highest in proportion to population.

Eastern States' newspapers mentioned some time ago that lead ore was being shipped abroad from the Mt. Isa mines in Queensland. I was pleased to see that after the public outcry that occurred, Senator Foll decided to resign various directorships he held on those mines. According to the reports, when the so-called disloyal lumpers refused to load the lead to make bullets that would probably be fired at Australian soldiers later on, the lead was conveyed in barges by night to the far side of the ships instead of being loaded from the wharf.

I desire to refer to the method adopted by the Commonwealth Tender Board with regard to the supply of furniture for military establishments in this State. One would imagine that Western Australia would have been given the opportunity to manufacture this furniture, even had the tender been a little higher than those of the Eastern States firms that did the work. Members must realise that in the Eastern States furniture is manufactured in back yards by Chinese and other foreigners. We do not want such a state of affairs to prevail in this State. Certain articles for the Geraldton air training school were tendered for. The successful tender was a few shillings below the Western Australian tender, but nevertheless the goods were manufactured in Victoria. I believe the freight from Perth to Geraldton was almost equal to the cost of the completed articles. I hope this deplorable waste of public money will no longer be countenanced.

The military authorities have issued a new order, with regard to full-time training of our militia, that requires looking into. At present the men are expected to keep themselves tidy, but there is a sad lack of clothing and boots. Then men are supposed to be issued with what is termed a giggle suit, which is the ordinary working suit. Two of these suits and two pairs of boots should be provided. Some of the men are out for two or three days during the winter months on manoeuvres and the only clothes they have are those in which they stand, with the exception, of course, of their everyday uniform. I trust the Commonwealth Government will take the steps necessary to ensure that these men are provided with necessary clothing. In the Melville camp alone nearly all the men are down with influenza or colds.

Mr. Thorn: Who is responsible? Are the military authorities?

Mr. RAPHAEL: The question of what should be done for our returned soldiers is one that ought to be discussed in this House. Many members have spoken about a new world order which they say must supervene upon the cessation of hostilities. There is no time more opportune than the present for suggestions to be made about this new world order and how our soldiers shall fare upon their return. When repatriated, they are kept for a period of three months under the repatriation scheme. The Commonwealth Government then does them a magnificent turn. The men are sent to the Marquis-street depot and put on rations.

Mr. McDonald: I thought the men were to be paid £4 a week until they secured work.

Mr. RAPHAEL: They are paid for three months and then sent to the Marquis-street depot and put on rations.

Mr. Needham: Returned men?

Mr. RAPHAEL: Yes. If the member for Perth does not believe my statement, I will give him some names.

Mr. Marshall: I believe he knows them.

Mr. Hughes: Let us have the names.

Mr. RAPHAEL: George Dudley is one. I have been so fortunate as to be able to find jobs for some returned men who are my constituents.

Mr. Hughes: The privilege!

Mr. RAPHAEL: I esteem it a privilege.

Mr. Thorn: Who is responsible? Are the military authorities?

Mr. RAPHAEL: That sounds like a parrot squawking the same thing over and over again!

Mr. Thorn: You will not tell us.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The parrot has only one word to say.

Mr. McDonald: What about my constituents?

Mr. RAPHAEL: I have enough to do to look after my own business, without trespassing upon the preserves of the member for West Perth. We have now a glorious opportunity to enlarge the franchise for another place. Personally I would like adult franchise to be granted to all the people of Western Australia so far as concerns another Chamber. I hope the Government will bring down a Bill this session providing that the men of the fighting forces overseas, whether they be 18, 19, 20 or 30 years of age, shall be entitled to vote for another place. They and their dependants should be given that right.

Mr. Thorn: Do you want the Bill brought down this session?

Mr. RAPHAEL: I am pleased to see by the notice paper that the Government intends to introduce a Bill providing that members of the forces overseas shall have a say in what Government shall be in power while they are away fighting.

I desire to touch upon a few local matters. I am sorry the Government had to decide not to proceed with the widening of the Causeway. Had that work been done, cyclists would be able to cross the Causeway without fear every moment they are on it of being pushed into by motor cars, motor

buses and trams. The money for a new bridge had actually been made available by the Commonwealth, but that project was dropped when war broke out. The Government should make some effort to provide a right-of-way across the river for cyclists. I believe three-fifths of all the bicycles registered are on the south side of the river. When the munition factory is erected, probably another 300 or 400 bicycles per day will cross the bridge carrying men to their work. The reason is that the train service to Victoria Park, Carlisle and Welshpool is such that I am sure the workers would always be late if they travelled by it. They cannot travel by tram, because people nowadays are hanging by the straps. I would not say that people were hanging on to the back of the tram, but they are occupying every other part. The tramways have not sufficient rolling stock to carry the people at peak periods to and from Victoria Park.

The Premier: The same thing obtains in Melbourne.

Mr. RAPHAEL: The people here are better trained than are the people in Melbourne. We have been strap-hanging for years and are accustomed to being jammed.

The Premier: I can always get in a tram.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I know that. In Melbourne plenty of seats were no doubt available until petrol was rationed, but now I believe conditions are altering there and approximating those of this State. Something should be done to improve transport facilities to Victoria Park. The member for Canning (Mr. Cross) is fortunate in that in his electorate some buses are running. Sometimes they forget to turn the corner, and go to Victoria Park to pick up people in my district who are waiting for trams. That is a slight alleviation of the position, but it is insufficient. If a munition factory is erected at Victoria Park, something will have to be done to improve the tramway service.

Another matter is the old-age and invalid pensioners. Originally the terminus of the tram service was at Mint-street. When the extension was completed, the section ended at State-street. It would not involve the Government in any serious loss if the old-age pensioners were allowed to travel from Mint-street to the post office for one penny in order to collect their pensions. From time to time representations in this respect were made to the Tramway Department, but

the department was adamant. It would not budge an inch. The miserable penny that is taken from the old-age pensioners would be of benefit to them, while the Tramway Department could hardly suffer a loss.

The Premier: We will have to give the pensioners another post office at Mint-street.

Mr. RAPHAEL: There is a post office there, at a shop.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RAPHAEL: The housing position is becoming acute. We have heard from time to time from goldfields members of the shortage of housing accommodation for workers on the goldfields. That shortage has been transferred to the metropolitan area, to Victoria Park in particular. It is not possible in Victoria Park to get a house for love or money. Additional workers' homes at Victoria Park are urgently required. I would be glad if the Premier could get the McNess Housing Trust to move a little quicker, despite increased building costs. I trust that the very fine building plan the Trust had in mind will be put into operation. It was doing a fine job, and is to be congratulated upon the homes that were provided at a small rental for necessitous cases. The schools in Victoria Park are still overcrowded and badly in need of extra accommodation.

Mr. Cross: A ferry boat is required to negotiate some of the puddles in the school yards.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Some of the children had a canoe at school the other day and were having a glorious time. The water was deep enough to float a canoe.

Mr. Hughes: Public swimming pools, are they?

Mr. RAPHAEL: Yes. I am sorry that more money is not available to spend on these schools. Septic tanks are needed at the Rivervale school, and all the grounds and buildings are in need of renovation and general improvement.

I wish now to deal with the position concerning the organisation and distribution of petrol, mainly in Western Australia, because of the effect of the Commonwealth regulations and the control that is being exercised in Victoria. Prior to 1939, in this State we were consuming 2,200,000 gallons per month. Because of the cutting in supplies and the restrictions imposed at the request of the Commonwealth Government, and because also of the action of the

Liquid Fuel Control Board in this State, Western Australia's supplies have dropped to 880,000 per month. I wish to say how pleased I am that the Leader of the Opposition (Hon. C. G. Latham) has been appointed to the Fuel Board, despite the fact that immediately on his appointment any power the board possessed was immediately taken from it.

Mr. Hughes: The authorities were playing safe.

Mr. RAPHAEL: Such discretionary power as the board possessed up to a few weeks ago was taken from it. I believe that the chairman of the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Control Board is now in the State to see whether he can deal a little more harshly than he has done in the past with Western Australia. In the Commonwealth there are five major oil companies, and in Victoria there are what are known as four minor oil companies. By the promulgation of its regulations the Commonwealth has forced the five major oil companies to pass over part of the petrol they bring into the country to the four minor companies in Victoria for distribution in order that they may make a profit. I believe that as a result of the military authorities expecting those companies to store the petrol at their own expense, and without any compensation for loss during storage, or for the cost of the storage tanks, a war has been declared between the major oil companies and the Commonwealth Government and military authorities in Australia.

Mr. Berry: Is that the "dinkum" oil?

Mr. RAPHAEL: I believe that many of the restrictions that have been brought about have come as a result of that conflict and not because of an actual shortage of petrol in the world today. Had not those other companies been allowed to participate in the distribution of the petrol that is brought into the country by the major companies, people today would not be restricted to two gallons per month. Because, however, a war has now been declared between the parties concerned, the people are denied the means of carrying on their businesses and attending to their respective duties. The assessment that was made was made by a Fuel Control Board comprising seven men, four representative of big business, two from New South Wales, and one

from Queensland. Western Australia is entitled to one representative on the board.

Mr. J. Hegney: The board members are all Australians!

Mr. RAPHAEL: I am not dealing with Australians. South Australia is entitled to a representative on the board and so is Tasmania. The member for Middle Swan (Mr. J. Hegney) can put his version before the House; I desire to express my view.

Mr. Hughes: Are you the spokesman for the major or the minor companies?

Mr. RAPHAEL: For neither. I am speaking for the people and the hon. member can speak for big business if he so desires.

Mr. Hughes: I have not been briefed!

Mr. RAPHAEL: When I have presented all my facts, members will appreciate that I do not speak for big business, but in the interests of people who have had to jack up their cars and of business people who are unable to carry on their legitimate activities. I am dealing with the facts associated with the present position and the restriction upon the use of petrol. I have described the position here. In Victoria, which has four representatives on the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Control Board, petrol is being delivered from Melbourne to Mildura and the tankers do the return journey of 720 miles over a road running alongside the railway line, over which a fast service is run, and those tankers use liquid fuel. In Queensland the companies pay £800 per annum for the specific privilege of running their motor vehicles alongside the railways, while in New South Wales a payment of 3d. per mile is made. On the other hand, in Western Australia, through the action of the local Transport Board, the consumption of petrol has been cut down to a marked degree. Despite that, no such effort is made in the Eastern States, where trucks, run on liquid fuel, still continue to compete against the railways—and some Governments are deriving profits in consequence! In 1939 petrol consumption in Western Australia was cut down to 7½ per cent. of the total used in Australia. That drastic reduction was decreed despite the vast area of this State.

In considering the rationing provided for cars used in Australia, we must take cognisance of what has happened elsewhere. Methods have been adopted in the Eastern States that, because of the honesty of Wes-

tern Australians, have not been resorted to here. I refer to the sale of "crook" petrol tickets. Millions of gallons of petrol have been secured in the Eastern States by means of false tickets. That was not done in this State. As a result, people in the Eastern States have secured petrol supplies, and the residents of this State have been denied supplies to which they are legitimately entitled. The average mileage decreed by the Victorian representatives on the Commonwealth Liquid Fuel Control Board—I say that advisedly—is positively inadequate as applied to Western Australia. Farms in Victoria are within an average of nine miles of a railway siding, and not many are more than that distance from railway facilities. What is the position of agriculturists in Western Australia? Farms here are, on the average, from 15 to 20 miles from a railway siding. Despite this, the same basis is applied to farmers here as to those operating in Victoria. I hope the Commonwealth board will take some action to review the edict regarding the freezing of petrol supplies that people were advised by the Commonwealth Government to secure for themselves against possible future requirements. The Federal Government advised people to secure 44-gallon drums in order to store petrol supplies for future use. Now that petrol is frozen, and I hope the position will be reviewed.

Mr. Cross: You do not expect the Menzies Government to do anything sensible, do you?

Mr. RAPHAEL: The Department of the Army has been appealing to the public for petrol drums. I do not see why the farmer, if he had sufficient brains and exercised foresight in the purchase of drums for petrol supplies to enable him to reap his harvest and do his ploughing, or the business man who made provision for future needs should be required, simply because the Department of the Army had not the foresight to provide for the future, to hand over his petrol drums. Neither should be forced to do that.

Mr. Thorn: You should not criticise the Army; you are a commissioned officer!

Mr. Hughes: In the Salvation Army!

Mr. Marshall: The hon. member is speaking in his capacity as a member of Parliament.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RAPHAEL: If people in this State and elsewhere in the Commonwealth are to be required to hand over their petrol drums,



why has not the Federal Government insisted that the drums manufactured in the Eastern States for despatch to New Zealand should be taken over? Hundreds and thousands of steel drums are being made and shipped to New Zealand. The Federal Government should see to it that the required number of drums was available for use in Australia first, and New Zealand could get the surplus.

Mr. J. Hegney: There has certainly been some bungling in that matter.

Mr. RAPHAEL: There is not much in the way of bouquets to be given to those in charge of petrol rationing.

Let me now refer to the A.R.P. activities. The amount expended has been in the vicinity of £2,000, of which salaries and allowances accounted for over £600. Whether the remainder was spent on literature and odds and ends, I do not know. For nearly two years big-hearted people in this State have been trying to bring the A.R.P. work to the pitch of efficiency that we expect. As one who has taken a keen interest in it and tried by all means to organise my district, I have found the task heartrending owing to the lack of support. From time to time we appeal for wardens and men come forward full of energy and imbued with a desire to learn their duties, but after a few weeks they lose interest. In Subiaco over 500 persons have passed through the hands of the A.R.P. officials and the number of wardens available for active duty, I believe, is now only 130.

Mrs. Cardell-Oliver: You keep to your own district.

Mr. RAPHAEL: I would be quite safe if I went to Subiaco; the hon. member had better not challenge me or I might go there. This has also been the experience in other districts. These men—wardens, sector wardens and instructors—have been carrying on for about two years and in many instances have received no support. There has been a sad dearth of training manuals and literature requisite for the information of the men undertaking this work. For seven months we have been promised that a training manual would be available "next week," but the books have not come to light. We have been told that a conference has been arranged with the Commonwealth to decide upon the measures to be taken, but, judging by past experience, by the time the instructions are printed and forwarded to Western Australia, the war will be over. We have waited many months to get

apparatus for first-aid work. In the first fortnight after the stretchers were made available, while South Perth men were doing training exercises with a patient who was a little on the heavy side, the stretcher broke. After that all the stretchers were called in because the manufacturer had not constructed them according to the specifications. Blankets, stirrup pumps and other paraphernalia requisite for training purposes have not been provided.

I hope the Minister for Health will be able to make arrangements at the conference to secure the necessary funds so that equipment may be provided for this training. Many of the men acting as A.R.P. instructors are working on the basic wage, and practically the whole of the funds used to provide the needed paraphernalia has been found by the men themselves. Many of these men have spent 5s. to 10s. a week, and spent it willingly, to ensure that the classes they are instructing have the facilities to carry out the work. This is asking too much of them. If the men give their time and services out of loyalty to the State, they should not be expected to spend their own money on the work. Some of the instructors are business men who take time off from their businesses during the day in order to instruct classes and bring wardens up to a state of efficiency, and the most they can get from the Civil Defence Council is a few petrol tickets. They themselves have to pay for petrol and oil, although they are giving their services free for the A.R.P. work. It is not a responsibility of private citizens to give their money as well as their time and services for the training of A.R.P. personnel. I hope the Minister will get a promise of sufficient money to ensure that the men doing this work are paid out-of-pocket expenses. Another requisite is the promulgation of a regulation for the signing of attestation forms by the people undergoing A.R.P. training so that there will be some check on the trainees and the instructors will have some control over them if occasion for their services arises. The Minister should aim to get sufficient money to ensure that A.R.P. work will be put on an efficient basis.

On motion by Mr. Thorn, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.24 p.m.*