

session will prove beneficial to all the people of the State.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

### BILLS (13)—FIRST READING.

1. Contraceptives.  
Introduced by the Minister for Health.
2. Reserves (No. 1).  
Introduced by the Premier (for the Minister for Lands).
3. Metropolitan Milk Act Amendment.
4. Plant Diseases Act Amendment.
5. Noxious Weeds Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Works (for the Minister for Agriculture).
6. Life Assurance Companies Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Labour.
7. Rights in Water and Irrigation Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Works.
8. Qualification of Electors (Legislative Council).  
Introduced by the Minister for Justice.
9. Railway Level Crossings.
10. Tramways Purchase Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Railways.
11. Inspection of Machinery Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Mines.
12. Workers' Compensation Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Labour.
13. Swan River Improvement Act Amendment.  
Introduced by the Minister for Works.

*House adjourned at 9.35 p.m.*

## Legislative Council,

*Wednesday, 30th August, 1939.*

	PAGE
Motion: Metropolitan Milk Act, to disallow regulations	404
Address-in-reply, tenth day	406

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

### MOTION—METROPOLITAN MILK ACT.

#### *To Disallow Regulations.*

Debate resumed from the previous day on the following motion by Hon. C. F. Baxter (East):—

That Regulations 102, 103, 104, and 105, and new Sixth Schedule made under the Metropolitan Milk Act, 1932-1936, as published in the "Government Gazette" on the 9th June, 1939, and laid on the Table of the House on the 8th August, 1939, be and are hereby disallowed.

**HON. W. J. MANN** (South-West) [4.35]: It is not my intention to allow this motion to be dealt with before I have made a few comments concerning it. Ever since the Metropolitan Milk Act was placed on the statute-book I have been keenly interested in it. Members who knew of the acute conditions appertaining to the whole milk industry prior to the passing of that legislation will agree that it has brought great benefit to those concerned. If we cast our minds back to 1933 we will recall that many of the milk producers were in a precarious position. Milk was being purchased at prices below the cost of production. For a great many people, particularly those living in the vicinity of the Peel Estate, the outlook was very poor. The passing of the Act removed many of the disabilities from which the producers were suffering. The industry has been stabilised, and the producer is getting a livelihood, but perhaps not as great as should be expected when we take into account the retail price. Too big a gap between the price paid to the producer and that which the consumer is called upon to pay seems to exist. Apparently that is brought about by high overhead charges. If these regulations do anything they should effect a reduction in such charges and make for a cheaper supply to the great masses of the people who have to purchase milk every day.

To arrive at a decision on this matter I have asked myself a few questions. What is wrong with the regulations; will they benefit anyone and whom, or will they penalise anyone and whom? I have also asked myself whether these regulations constitute an usurpation of the functions of the Arbitration Court. With the last-named question I will deal later. Yesterday afternoon the Honorary Minister went to some length to show the very marked disparity between the morning and afternoon deliveries. Until recently I had not taken much notice of such incidents. Within the last week or so, however, I have made inquiries and looked around the area wherein I live. I could neither find nor hear of any demand for a second delivery, neither have I seen the vehicles of milk vendors in the streets during the afternoon. That disposes of one query. The next point is that although a few letters have appeared in the newspapers, there does not seem to be any real weight of evidence against the board's proposals. The matter having been questioned in the House a very definite reaction might have been expected. I may be rather unfortunate, but I cannot truthfully say that I have noticed any evidence of reaction against the regulations. Apparently the people are satisfied that one delivery of milk each day in a climate such as we enjoy is quite sufficient, and they have not taken advantage of the course open to them for years. They have not taken action, except in a comparatively few instances, to secure afternoon deliveries. Consequently that phase has appealed to me. One objection raised was that hospitals, the sick and institutions where milk was consumed in great quantities, would require a second delivery each day. That is provided for, so that objection, too, is done away with.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: Provided a permit is applied for.

Hon. W. J. MANN: If the position is likely to operate all the time, then the writing for a permit is of no great moment. If the requirement is of an extraordinary nature, then the fact of having to apply for a permit would amount to nothing more than is necessary in respect of other matters concerning which we may desire to overcome the demands of prescribed regulations.

Now I come to the point that raised considerable doubt in my mind. I have perused the Metropolitan Milk Act carefully, and in view of Section 36 that this House approved when it passed that legislation, I cannot agree that the Minister has attempted to usurp any of the powers of the Arbitration Court, as was alleged against him. If I am wrong in the conclusion I have arrived at, then surely that is evidence of the necessity for members to be much more careful in providing powers under legislation than they have been in the past.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Does not the hon. member think that if we had intended to give such power, that intention would have been expressly stated?

Hon. W. J. MANN: If our intention had been not to provide such powers, the section should have been worded differently. We must be careful in the future to make sure that a section providing power for the making of regulations cannot be misconstrued in the direction suggested by Mr. Nicholson.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You admit the section in this instance has been misconstrued?

Hon. W. J. MANN: I do not admit any such thing. Section 36 of the Metropolitan Milk Act deals with the powers and functions of the board, and Section 38 sets out that the Minister may make regulations to enable the board effectually to perform and carry out its powers. Section 36 is a long one, and extends over three pages. Subsection (1) sets out, *inter alia*, that "subject to this Act, the board is hereby charged with the following matters:—

(c) the supply, sale and distribution of milk to consumers in the metropolitan area."

The word "supply" is most pertinent. I interpret the word to mean that it gives the board power to determine when the supply shall be—once, twice, or three times a day.

Hon. J. Nicholson: That seems a very wide interpretation.

Hon. W. J. MANN: Still, that is my impression.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: I am pleased you are not my legal adviser.

Hon. W. J. MANN: On this occasion at least I would not like to have Mr. Baxter as

a client. Then we find paragraph (f) contains the following provision:—

(f) the transport, carriage and conveyance of milk produced in dairy areas.

Does that not provide for the conveyance of milk? If not, what does it mean? Here we find the board has power to "supply," and then to "convey." To me the meaning of those provisions is most clear. I charge Mr. Baxter and Mr. Nicholson with reading into them something that was not intended.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: You are the one who is reading into them something that is not correct.

Hon. W. J. MANN: At any rate, that is my view. If the words I have referred to mean anything at all, it is, in plain English, that the board is entitled to regulate the supply and conveyance of milk. If they do not mean what I claim, what does the conveyance of milk mean? I have paused for a reply, but none is forthcoming. Members will, I think, concede that I have always been very jealous of the powers of the Arbitration Court and have taken great care to make my position clear when I thought the Government or anyone else was endeavouring to get behind the Act or the court. If I felt that there was anything of that nature implied in the regulations, my decision now would be very different. I definitely contend that the action the board has taken is fully justified by the wording of the Act. If I am wrong, that merely proves how much more careful we must be in future when enacting provisions of this nature. I have already drawn attention to the length of Section 36 and had we added another paragraph setting out that the powers furnished the board should not refer to the Arbitration Court, the passing of the Act would not have been endangered. That course was not adopted. If my interpretation of the words I have quoted is correct, there is nothing more for me to do except to vote against the motion, which I intend to do.

On motion by Hon. J. M. Macfarlane, debate adjourned.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

*Tenth Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. A. THOMSON (South-East)  
[4.50]: There is an old saying, "Uneasy lies

the head that wears a Crown." With some justice it can be said that the responsibility resting upon those occupying prominent administrative positions in the British Empire is certainly exceedingly great. Never in our history has so much anxiety concerning the future been experienced by those guiding the destiny of the Empire. Mr. Chamberlain and his Ministers have my sympathy in the difficulties with which they are faced in their endeavour to ensure the peace of the world and to prevent the Empire from being involved in war. Turning to Australia, the problems facing the Federal Cabinet are very serious indeed; its domestic responsibilities and the difficulties associated with defence are equally great. The Government of Western Australia has also to contend with serious difficulties. I appreciate the immense task that the State Government has to perform, and I hope that a greater spirit of co-operation with the Commonwealth Government will be manifested.

Member: That spirit has been exhibited.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Before I finish I will endeavour to indicate that in certain directions that spirit is not being shown. I should like to see genuine and close co-operation between all parties during the life of this seventeenth Parliament. While on occasion I shall probably be compelled severely to criticise the administrative policy of the Cabinet, I will endeavour to be fair and to support any measure the Government introduces that is designed to promote the well-being of the State as a whole.

A perusal of the Lieut.-Governor's Speech, and particularly that portion referring to the financial position, occasions me, as it probably occasions the Government, considerable anxiety. In view of the parlous position of the wheat and pastoral industries and last year's deficit of £220,442, there does not seem to be much hope of the ledger being balanced during the coming year. Increased taxation is forecast by the Federal Government. In our own State, the amalgamation of the financial emergency and income taxes is proposed, and I am afraid that will probably mean increased taxation for the citizens of Western Australia. May I venture to suggest that in preparing the measure for an amalgamation of those two taxes the Government will endeavour as far as possible to spread the burden of taxation

evenly, so that every citizen will pay his or her fair share. One of the serious problems facing the State Government is the deplorable position of the wheat industry. So far, the conference of interstate representatives being held in the Eastern States has not produced any tangible results, but I hope that ultimately as a result of the meetings that have taken place the Federal and State Premiers will evolve some scheme that will in a measure be satisfactory to the wheat farmers of the Commonwealth and especially those of this State.

I should like to see our wheatgrowers placed in a position comparable with that enjoyed by farmers in Canada, the Argentine and the United States where growers have been guaranteed 3s. 3½d. a bushel. For some time past Great Britain has been subsidising, to the extent of £2 an acre, the conversion of grass lands into wheatgrowing areas. When the condition of the wheat industry in the countries I have mentioned is compared with that of the industry in this State, and we consider the alarmingly low price that is being offered to our wheatgrowers to-day, we cannot help feeling that our farmers are justified in asking for better consideration to be given to their plight and for a definite assurance that the industry will receive assistance commensurate with that which has been accorded to secondary industries in the Commonwealth in past years. Mr. Craig referred to figures that were quoted recently by Mr. Teasdale, president of the Primary Producers' Association, figures that were submitted to Mr. Bruce when he was Prime Minister, and which showed that in 20 years the wheat industry had contributed no less than £74,000,000 to the secondary industries of Australia. Let us consider also the value of the wheat industry not only to wheatgrowers in Western Australia but to the State as a whole. During the 10 years ended the 30th June, 1938, the value of wheat exported from Western Australia was no less than £46,698,035, or an average per year of £4,669,803 of new wealth created by that industry each year during the last decade. If we consult figures prepared by the Acting Commissioner of Railways, we discover that the freight collected on wheat during the last finan-

cial year equalled 21.3 per cent. of the total amount received in freight by the department. That 21.3 per cent. was made up of 17.78 per cent. freight on wheat and 3.55 per cent. on special grain.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The total freight?

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. That shows that the railways alone during the last financial year collected from the industry no less a sum than £574,294. I have quoted these figures to show that in my opinion the fixing of a reasonable price for wheat is not only a Federal matter but a question of vital importance to Western Australia.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Do not forget that there are wharfage and other charges as well.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes, I have not touched on those. I am dealing with the one phase to show what the railways of the State have derived from the wheat industry alone. If the industry goes out of existence, not only will the State lose the amount I have quoted, namely, £4,666,803, but the Railway Department will lose over half a million in freight. When I mention that it is estimated that each farmer provides for seven persons in employment, one can realise the enormous value of the wheat industry, and so if it goes out of existence it will mean not only a very severe financial loss to the farmers, who are actively engaged in it, but the effect will be disastrous on the State as a whole. Therefore, even if it means increased taxation, the industry must be assisted. Some years ago we passed the financial emergency tax for the purpose of assisting those who, unfortunately, were out of employment. The Government would be justified in imposing special taxation to assist the industry if only to protect its own revenue. Wheat to-day is at a price which is the lowest recorded in the world's history, and yet we find that there have been no reductions whatever made in the charges imposed on those engaged in growing the commodity. The railway charges, the handling and other charges are exactly the same, and we find that the industry which has created so much wealth is in a very parlous condition. I commend the Premier for declaring that the task of financing a fair price belongs to the Commonwealth and for expressing the State's

willingness to provide about £200,000 as its quota, towards assisting the growers in Western Australia. He could have gone much further in the direction of doing justice to a section of the community requiring assistance at the present time. If he had not offered to assist, he would have been remiss in his duty as Premier, and would certainly have shown a lack of sympathy and failure to realise his responsibility to a big section of our community. I cannot, however, congratulate the Premier of Victoria, who so strenuously objected to his State contributing on a population basis, so that Western Australia might derive the benefit to which it was entitled. One would have thought that a man like Mr. Dunstan, the Premier of Victoria, a Country Party representative occupying the highest position in the State, would have been more generously disposed towards a State like ours on such an important matter. In support of this assertion I propose to show that Mr. Dunstan's attitude was in very bad taste indeed. In the early nineties hundreds of Victorians were starved out of that State. I was one of them. There were no opportunities at all for earning a living in Victoria at that time, and there is no gainsaying the fact that the discovery of gold in Western Australia materially assisted to re-establish the State of Victoria.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Thousands, not hundreds, came over here from Victoria.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes, I should have said thousands, but I am modest. I remember the difficulty that was experienced by all who were anxious to move to Western Australia in getting accommodation on the vessels that were sailing to this State. One had to book a long time ahead, and when the vessels did leave Melbourne, the passengers were closely packed in almost every part of the ship. To-day people would not for a moment submit to the discomfort that was experienced by those people who at that time were so keen on migrating to Western Australia. They all came here because it was a place where it was possible to earn a living, and from where they could provide for the requirements of the women and children who were left behind. I am sure you, Mr. President, and other members will remember that in those days many thousands of pounds were sent over each month to Victoria by way

of money orders. During the ten years ended in 1905 no less a sum than £2,486,000 was sent from this State through the money order office alone, to assist to keep the women and children in Victoria until such time as the breadwinners were able to save enough to bring them to Western Australia. That was an enormous sum of money, averaging each year, as it did, over a period of 10 years £248,000. For the 20 years ended December, 1915, the total sent to Victoria through the money order office alone was £4,028,000. Men were working in Western Australia and were keeping their wives and families in Victoria. If that was not helping Victoria during its years of adversity, I should like to know what it was. What Western Australia did for Victoria then shows that our State was a little more generous towards Victoria than Victoria is towards us to-day. Mr. Dunstan refused to allow his State to assist Western Australia.

I congratulate the Government on its desire to establish secondary industries on a larger scale, and while on this subject I will show what Victoria is receiving from us at the present time. For the 10 years ended December, 1938, Victoria exported to Western Australia goods of the value of £45,108,000, or an annual average of £4,510,800. Let us now take the cost of labour in the manufacture of those goods. I have taken the very low estimate of 30 per cent, and I do not include raw material, electric current, repairs, etc., which would also provide work. In wages alone, therefore, I estimate that in that period Victoria had from us £1,353,240 per annum. I trust that the Premier of Victoria will have these figures sent to him, so that he may ponder over them and reconsider his attitude towards Western Australia. To-day Western Australia is finding full time employment in Victoria for no fewer than 6,506 persons at the rate of £4 a week. That is the position that now exists as a result of goods imported into Western Australia from Victoria. Yet the Premier of that State considers there is no reason why his people should help Western Australian wheatgrowers. I wish we were in the happy position of erecting a barrier against that State to debar Victorian goods from coming here. Mr. Dunstan would then probably wake up to find that the number of unemployed in Victoria was increasing

rapidly. I was hoping that the question of assistance to wheatgrowers would be discussed at the conference in anything but a parochial manner, really in a spirit of true statesmanship. We expect men occupying high and responsible positions to have a broad outlook. Our desire is to stabilise the price of wheat and we realise—I do at any rate—that if we are to do that it will mean a restriction of the area under crop. I am not going to say that the amounts suggested should be provided by the Commonwealth Government, namely, £2,000,000 and £3,500,000 from the flour tax plus £1,500,000 to be contributed by the States, are sufficient. I strenuously resent any attempt to make the stabilisation of our wheat the subject matter of political intrigue. I am addressing these remarks particularly to the Country Party Premier of Victoria because he has not approached this question with a desire to arrive at a reasonable compromise. He has out-Hitlered Hitler, because Hitler definitely says, "I will not waive my views." The Premier of Victoria walks out of the conference which has been called to discuss an important question. Surely it should have been possible for all to sit around the table at the conference and discuss a matter of such vital importance to the Commonwealth and States and to arrive at a common understanding and agreement whereby the wheatgrower might at least be given some hope. The Prime Minister when here said, "So far as I am concerned, I will give you a definite answer: and I hope that a price will be fixed in August." As far as I am able to judge, the Prime Minister has endeavoured to fulfil his part of the obligation. At least he has made an offer. That offer having been made, surely it was a matter for negotiation. The Premiers might have said to Mr. Menzies, "Two millions is not enough; we must have more." Had the Victorian Premier adopted the same attitude as was adopted by our Premier, whom I congratulate on his action, there would have been some opportunity to arrive at a compromise. But there is the position. I am afraid when I call to mind the old saying, "Between two stools you come to the ground." If an election is forced, as hoped by some, then, in view of the world's present position, I do not know where Western Australian wheatgrowers will be. They cannot carry on with the present low price of wheat.

Hon. J. Nicholson: That is the grave danger.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. It has caused me much anxiety. I do hope people generally will realise that a stable price for wheat is of serious importance not only to the farming community but also to residents of the metropolitan area, seeing that the wheat industry provides more work and creates more wealth than any other of our industries with the sole exception of gold. The amazing feature is that our gold soars while our wheat becomes unsaleable. I trust that sweet reasonableness will be the ultimate result of the conference taking place in the East, and that some definitely better price will be fixed than that which rules to-day. What is at present suggested is that farmers should be offered, with the current price of wheat, 10d. per bushel approximately, assistance which will make a total price of 1s. 10d. or 1s. 10½d. Under such conditions it is impossible for farmers to carry on. As I stated earlier, the situation is so menacing that additional money must be found if the wheat industry is to be kept alive; and if necessary the additional money will have to be found by increased taxation, if only as a temporary expedient. I have strongly criticised the Victorian Premier because I had hoped that he, as a representative of the Country Party, would at least have endeavoured to bring about the showing of a spirit of compromise and a broader outlook, in place of being mostly concerned about his own particular State of Victoria.

Coming now to our Government's policy, I strongly support some items, but naturally disagree with others. I commend the Government's desire to foster industries already established here, and to encourage the introduction of other industries. I am entirely convinced that the Minister for Industrial Development, Mr. Hawke, sincerely desires to achieve success in his efforts to induce the establishment of new industries in Western Australia. I fear, however, that under the present conditions the Minister is somewhat optimistic, as another member has already remarked. In my view, until the Government exhibits a change of heart and of policy it is placing upon Mr. Hawke's shoulders a task almost impossible of execution. Mr. Baxter in his speech quoted the great disparity between charges for workers' compensation insurance here and simi-

lar insurance in the Eastern States. The hon. member proved what a severe handicap Western Australia has to carry in that respect. I feel sure members will agree with the clear exposition of the manufacturer's position given by Mr. Bolton. The hon. member showed what little encouragement had been offered to the establishment here of industries such as he and others are more especially interested in. Why does the Government deem it essential that the entire manufacture of railway carriages and trucks and trolley buses should be assigned to the Midland Junction workshops? I cast no reflection on that Government enterprise. The work done at Midland Junction is of a character of which we have every reason to be proud. But surely, if the Government sincerely desires the establishment of secondary industries in Western Australia it should encourage the private manufacture of omnibuses, railway carriages and so forth, which I am sure would be comparable to the products of the Midland Junction workshops. There is this additional advantage in my proposal: if we encourage the establishment of such industries here, they not only provide employment outside the Government, but also pay rates and taxes, which Government departments escape. The Railway Department has even contrived to evade payment of ordinary road board rates on railway lands, on the plea that these are Government property. From that aspect particularly, private enterprise should receive more encouragement than has been granted to it in the past. The Government claims to be sincerely desirous of establishing private industries in the State, but its policy and its actions are opposed to that desire.

Last week I asked the Honorary Minister the following question:—

What is the estimated cost of—1, Perth Technical School additions; 2, new Victoria Park State School; 3, Heathcote Mental Reception Home additions; 4, Hospital for Insane, Claremont, additions; 5, Government offices, Perth; 6 (a) King Edward Memorial Hospital additions; (b) cost to date of such additions; 7, Perth Hospital?

This is the reply I received—

1, £44,500. 2, £15,000. 3, £15,000. 4, £26,500. 5, Estimate not yet prepared. 6, (a) £70,000; (b) £70,000 (approx.). 7, Perth Hospital: Estimated cost of complete scheme, £765,000; estimated cost of portion now being proceeded with, £445,000.

There is the work just completed at the King Edward Memorial Hospital at a cost of £70,000, plus the additions at the Perth Hospital, which cost £320,000. Thus we find that the Government has embarked on the erection of buildings in the metropolitan area alone estimated to cost £936,000. Government engineers and Government architects, after all, are only human. When work is to be done by day labour they must protect themselves by making liberal allowance for contingencies. On the other hand, if tenders are called and if on every occasion the lowest tender is accepted, its acceptance means that the Government and this Parliament know what the work will cost. The Government's present policy is not in the interests of the workers themselves, because they have Arbitration Court awards; and certainly union officials are vigilant to see that awards are carried into effect. If any breaches of awards occur, action is taken. Therefore the position of the workers themselves cannot be any worse, if no better, under contract than under day labour conditions. When on day labour the men receive the rates fixed by arbitration awards; if any overtime is worked, they are paid extra. As that principle applies to departmental work, so it applies to contract work. In effect, the Government asks the Chief Architect to submit estimates. I am now speaking on a subject of which I have had a lifelong experience. I am not talking theoretically, but practically, and of what I know. If I were Chief Architect and were asked to submit an estimate for work which was to be done departmentally, I would necessarily protect myself, as a responsible officer, by allowing a liberal margin for the fact that I would have no control. Imagine the position. While the Chief Architect is administering, the Government has made him not only an architect but a contractor as well. And he has absolutely no control over work as it is being carried on. In saying that, I mean the Government has decided upon its policy, and so the work must be carried out departmentally. I cast no reflection whatever upon the present Chief Architect, or upon Government engineers. I am only criticising the Government's policy. Mistakes occur. If there is no check on the administration, nobody knows what the work is costing. If tenders are called and the lowest is accepted, the position is known. Here we have something like £1,000,000 worth of

buildings to be constructed, and all of them to be carried out under the departmental system. Thus there is absolutely no check on the department. But if tenders have been called, the contractor must carry out the work for the price he has submitted, irrespective of whether in the result he makes a profit or a loss. Again, I consider that the calling of tenders would mean that work would be done more cheaply. The result would be the spending of more money and the employment of more men than is possible under present conditions.

This is the position. I refer to action taken by the Government just on the eve of the general election. I cannot congratulate Ministers on that action. They seemed to be afraid, the fear being due to the possibility of a change of Government.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The result was never in doubt.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The Government hurriedly started the relief works I have enumerated—started them on the very eve of the general election.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Mere coincidence!

Hon. A. THOMSON: At the present moment the Government is contemplating the expenditure of over half-a-million sterling on buildings in the metropolitan area.

The Chief Secretary: Is there any of those works which you would suggest should not go on?

Hon. A. THOMSON: No. I am not raising the point that money is being spent in the metropolitan area. I am dealing with the principles at stake. The Government claims that its policy is to establish secondary industries; but at the same time it says to men who have spent their lives in acquiring practical and expert knowledge, "We do not want you; you can leave Western Australia, you can go elsewhere." That is the position. Again, consider our architects. We have competent architects. An Act governing architects was passed by Parliament, under which young men are compelled to go through a strenuous and expensive training. Are we now to tell those young men, "There is no room for you; we do not want you; we want only the Government architect"? If we are to encourage private industries, contractors should be allowed to tender for and erect buildings, of course under the strictest supervision, even under better supervision than is given to day work. I

make that statement honestly believing it to be correct. While the Government on the one hand desires people to come to Western Australia and invest their money in the State, it is, by its action, driving men out of the State. If contractors cannot get a share of the work which is being done by the Government, and for which the taxpayers have to carry their share of responsibility, then the contractors must go to some other part of the Commonwealth where they will get an opportunity to carry on their business.

The Chief Secretary: Surely they do not rely on Government work.

Hon. A. THOMSON: They are not relying on the Government to find them work, but they should have the right to submit a price for Government work, which is to be paid for by Government money. I know it is the Government's policy, but has the Government the right to say that all this construction work shall be done by day work? I have pointed out how impossible it is to exercise sufficient check over such work. If I were preparing an estimate, I would certainly estimate on the safe side. If the Government is sincere in its desire to establish secondary industries, then it should not act in such a way as to drive people out of the State.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And destroy private enterprise.

Hon. A. THOMSON: In effect, what the Government is saying to our architects and contractors is: "As far as Government work is concerned, there is no hope for you." It seems to me the Government is treating our contractors and architects in the same way as Germany is treating the Jews. Germany simply says, "There is no room for you." If the Government really intends to establish secondary industries, then I hope my criticism will result in a change of Government policy. Although some people may not agree with me, it is in the interests of workers themselves that competition should prevail; the greater the competition, the better.

Hon. J. Nicholson: It is said that competition is the life-blood of trade.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. There is no doubt that a man who is asked to prepare an estimate without definite knowledge of what the work will cost, will allow a margin for contingencies.



Member: And the taxpayers have to pay!

Hon. A. THOMSON: Not only so, but in the end it means less work. That is my view of the position. It is all right for the men working on the buildings, as they have a job; but it is difficult for hundreds of others who are unable to obtain employment. I therefore hope the Government will seriously reconsider its policy.

I am pleased that a member of this House has been appointed by the Minister for Industrial Development to the committee dealing with secondary industries. I hope the deliberations of the committee will have some influence on the Government to review the policy being put into effect at the present time. I have criticised the Government severely, but I think my criticism is justified. At all events, it is fair criticism.

I now desire to congratulate the Government on its financial assistance to the Albany Woollen Mills, and for its persistent support in purchasing the goods manufactured by the company. The people of Western Australia should insist upon purchasing the manufactures of the Albany Woollen Mills, such as blankets, rugs and tweeds.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Very good blankets they are, too.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Why does not the company put its goods on the market in the goldfields? Goldfields residents cannot buy them from the storekeepers there.

Hon. J. Nicholson: The hon. member can purchase them at any time.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Yes, by asking Mr. Wittenoom to get you a cheap suit length.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The hon. member must be more fortunate than I am, but I shall not deal with that particular phase. I repeat, the Government has been persistent in its support of the woollen mills.

Hon. C. B. Williams: The goldfields public would also be pleased to support that industry, if it had the opportunity.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I am glad of that interjection by Mr. Williams, because he should have some influence on the goldfields. Unfortunately, a very large proportion of the goods imported into Western Australia from the Eastern States is sold on the goldfields. I am not casting any reflection upon the people of the goldfields, who are very

loyal, but nevertheless they should support the State's industries.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Let the State industries be loyal to the goldfields.

Hon. A. THOMSON: If I can do anything to help in the direction Mr. Williams has indicated, I shall be glad to do so.

Hon. G. W. Miles: He is right.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I took one of the directors of the Albany Woollen Mills around Kalgoorlie, but it made no difference.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I agree with the hon. member. However, that is not the Government's responsibility.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Not in the least. It is the responsibility of the Albany Woollen Mills.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The Government has shown sympathy not only to the woollen mills, but also to the Albany Freezing Works. The latter, too, have been assisted by the Government, and I congratulate Mr. Wise on his sympathetic support of these works. When speaking the other night, Mr. Wittenoom was, in my opinion, altogether too modest in stating the part that he has played in the establishment and support of those two industries at Albany. To my personal knowledge, Mr. Wittenoom has devoted a considerable amount of his time—

Hon. G. W. Miles: And money.

Hon. A. THOMSON: And given financial backing to foster the Albany Woollen Mills. I think I am right in saying that had it not been for the timely help rendered by him and his fellow directors on one occasion, the woollen mills might have had to close down. That would have thrown 150 employees on the labour market. Again, I repeat that the woollen mills are deserving of greater support than they obtain at present. I hope the committee of which Mr. Craig is a member will be able to do something to increase the demand for the goods manufactured by the mills, and so provide more employment.

Dealing with the Albany Freezing Works, I would point out that the works were lying idle for many years, not even paying interest. Mainly through Mr. Wittenoom's instrumentality, Mr. Heron, who so capably controls the works, was appointed manager. Again Mr. Wittenoom backed his opinion with financial assistance. I know my colleague Mr. Piesse will bear out my statement that Mr. Wittenoom has devoted much time, money and energy in traversing the Great Southern and pointing out the advantages

available to those interested in the fat lamb industry. It is expected this year that from 70,000 to 80,000 carcasses of lambs will be exported. At a very low estimate, that means the creation of from £60,000 to £70,000 of new wealth, for which we can thank the freezing works at Albany. The industry is but in its infancy. The establishment of the works in question has encouraged farmers to embark in the fat lamb industry. I heartily congratulate Mr. Wittenoom for the part he has played in the establishment of those two industries.

I desire to refer to the possibilities of the southern portion of the State, in regard to the production of butter, fruit, pigs, fat lambs, wool, wheat, and also potatoes, in the marketing of which my friend, Mr. Piesse, has taken such a keen interest. The port of Albany showed a decided increase last year, and so I hope the Government will give more consideration to the provision of better facilities at the port than it now possesses.

Hon. G. W. Miles: Why not urge the Commonwealth Government to construct a naval dock there?

Hon. A. THOMSON: I hope the Government will put in hand reclamation work and the provision of wharves with modern facilities. Albany should also have bulk-handling facilities, although the present outlook for wheat is not very hopeful. Nevertheless, wheat is sure to come back to its own in time. Superphosphate works should also be established.

The outlook for the port of Albany is promising, particularly in view of the substantial increase of production in the Great Southern districts. Mr. Miles said we ought to use our influence with the Federal Government to get a dock constructed at Albany. I should like to see docks established at Fremantle and Bunbury, as well as at Albany.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I suppose Esperance does not count.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I shall include Esperance.

Hon. G. W. Miles: All those ports have not a claim for a naval dock.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Naturally the residents of Fremantle consider that the dock should be constructed there, and similarly the residents of other ports favour their particular localities. That matter has to be decided by experts, and I cer-

tainly hope that political influence will not be brought to bear. Speaking as a layman—and my opinion can have no possible effect on the decision of the experts—I strongly endorse the statements made by the member for Albany (Mr. Hill), who has fought so consistently for the southern port, that Albany offers advantages over other places as the site for a dock.

I hope consideration will be given to the question of providing tanks at Albany for the storage of oil. Albany is on the main trade route, but the point I am concerned about is that residents of the Great Southern have to pay too high a price for oil. They should be supplied at a price comparable with that ruling in the metropolitan area. In saying this, I am not reflecting upon the oil companies, because they have established in the country towns depots that are a credit to them, but it should be possible to reduce the cost of oil to those people by erecting at Albany tanks into which vessels could discharge direct.

Hon. T. Moore: It has not assisted Geraldton in that direction.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The price has not been reduced as a result of building tanks there?

Hon. T. Moore: No, the price is very high.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Perhaps Geraldton is situated a little less favourably than is Albany. People in the Great Southern are certainly being charged far too much for oil. On many occasions I have discussed the question of youth employment. I do not propose to deal with the subject at any length to-day, but I wish to quote a decision reached in New South Wales—

At the instance of Mrs. Crawford Vaughan, a motion was passed that legislation be introduced to provide for all wage awards to be based on the economic value of services rendered rather than on the age of the worker.

Mrs. Crawford Vaughan said there were many shocking examples of the treatment of boys who were automatically dismissed at the age of 21 years. They wasted the best years of their lives and, when no longer wanted, became unskilled workmen.

That is one of the problems facing the Government of this State. It is deplorable that young men on reaching the age of 21 years should be automatically dismissed, only to become members of the army of the "Great Unwanted." The Honorary Minister, when

speaking on the Supply Bill recently, told the House that members should not make a political football of the single men employed on relief work. I have no desire to do anything of that kind, but the outlook of many young men is almost hopeless. The Government should seriously consider the advisableness of amending the Arbitration Act so that opportunities might be provided for those young men to receive payment for their services according to value, and to have openings to learn a trade. With Mr. E. H. Hall, I was amazed to read of the refusal of the Trades Hall even to discuss the matter of assisting young men to learn trades. We have a duty to those young men—a fact I have emphasised on other occasions. Recently the Midland Workshops required eight boilermakers' apprentices, for which posts there were 71 applicants. That shows how serious the position is. I appreciate the Government's difficulties, but the single young men who are being sent into camps in the bush are not being given much opportunity to get out of the ruck. Many of them might already be included in the "Lost Legion"; they seem to have adopted the attitude that nothing now matters, and are content to drift along in their present groove. Our duty is to endeavour to improve their conditions.

Another problem confronting the Government has been created by the strike of employees at the biscuit factory of Mills and Ware, Ltd., Fremantle. Trades Hall officials at Fremantle have been responsible for the employees' ceasing work, and it seems the height of impertinence for them now to say that if the 44-hour week is conceded, they will confer on the other points in dispute.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That is nearly as good as Hitler's tactics.

Hon. A. THOMSON: In view of the existence of the Arbitration Court, surely it was the duty of the officials to tell the employees, "A tribunal has been constituted to investigate such claims. Therefore, instead of striking, holding up the industry and losing your wages, you must appeal to the court." If there was likely to be any delay in getting before the court, steps could have been taken to secure the appointment of an industrial board. The strike has continued for five or six weeks, and the

appalling fact is that there is a shortage of biscuits in Western Australia.

Hon. J. Nicholson: Supplies will be sent from the Eastern States.

Hon. A. THOMSON: That is so, but local industry should be supplying local wants. Parliament authorised the appointment of a tribunal by which disputes of this sort could be settled amicably.

Hon. G. W. Miles: That would have been done if the Government had had the courage to compel the employees to observe the law of the land.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I agree. As a result of the strike, about 700 people have been thrown out of work.

Hon. L. Craig: The number of employees affected is 265.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Anyhow, they have been idle for five or six weeks, and heavy loss has been sustained by the company. Evidently the secretary of the Fremantle Trades Hall, Mr. Mann, had a good deal to do with the dispute, but did not exercise commonsense and judgment. He should have told the employees that there was no need to strike and that the Arbitration Court had been established to settle such disputes. If the employees have a reasonable case, they should not hesitate to approach the court. Had Mills and Ware, Ltd., deliberately locked-out the employees, I doubt whether as much clemency would have been shown to the company as has been shown to the employees.

The Honorary Minister: The proprietors have been very foolish.

Hon. G. W. Miles: The Government had not the backbone to carry out its duty.

Hon. A. THOMSON: The Honorary Minister says the proprietors have been foolish.

The Honorary Minister: They are very stubborn.

Hon. A. THOMSON: We have a court of arbitration and conciliation, and surely the representatives of the men should have had sufficient influence to induce them to approach the court and thus obviate a stoppage of work! I deeply regret that the strike has occurred. Such happenings are not helpful to the Minister for Industrial Development in his efforts to get industries established in this State. I give him credit for earnestness, but it must be disappointing for him to find that some of the workers are not seconding his

efforts. I have no desire to enter into the rights and wrongs of the claim made by the employees. I do not know definitely what their claim is, but they should have been content to approach the court and abide by its decision. The late Mr. Alex. McCallum told us that the Arbitration Act was not only a great industrial measure but was also one that would reach right into the very kitchens of the workers. Seemingly some of the people in those kitchens are suffering as a result of the wrong advice tendered to them by responsible officials of the Fremantle Trades Hall.

Hon. G. Fraser: Mere assumption, of course! You do not know.

Hon. A. THOMSON: I know that the employees are on strike; that they have been on strike for five or six weeks, and that there is a shortage of biscuits in the State. I hate to think of supplies being brought from the Eastern States when the demand could have been satisfied locally. Even at this late hour it should be possible to arrange a compulsory conference. Cannot the Government do something in that direction? Surely it is the duty of the Government to take steps to end the dispute.

Hon. J. Nicholson: I believe the President of the Arbitration Court is taking action along those lines.

Hon. C. F. Baxter: He is calling a conference.

Hon. A. THOMSON: A conference should have been called weeks ago. It is a pity that the strike ever occurred.

Hon. G. Fraser: The fact of your knowing that does not give you the right to assume that the leaders gave the employees certain advice.

Hon. A. THOMSON: One can base no other assumption on the statements that have appeared in the Press. Apparently the secretary of the Fremantle Trades Hall, Mr. Mann, was consulted at the outset and has guided the destinies of the employees since. The workers may be entitled to what they are claiming, but their case should first be submitted to the Arbitration Court. It is satisfactory to know that the President of the court has convened a compulsory conference.

My main object in speaking this afternoon is to draw attention to the policy of the Government as it affects secondary industries. All members will want to see greater expansion in local industries, but

as things are people outside the State are not being encouraged to invest their money here. As the result of the deliberations of the committee that has been formed, proposals may be submitted to the Government that will induce it to amend certain legislation and slightly alter its own policy. If Government departments can prove that they can do work at a cheaper rate than can other people, by all means let them compete with others by way of tender.

The Administration is to be congratulated on the statement made in the Press this morning relative to the settlement of Jews in the North-West. Last session I was laughed at because I suggested the Jews might consider the raising of pigs and other stock. My suggestion was that the north of this State offered great possibilities and opportunities for settlement. Mr. Miles is to be congratulated upon the efforts he has made on behalf of the proposed Jewish settlement. We must all hope that the Federal Government will sympathetically consider the representations that have been made.

Recently I visited the North and was struck by the immensity of this State. The glowing reports that were published dealing with the visit of the Governor General to the area in which the Jewish people are interested have been endorsed by Mr. Miles and Mr. Angelo. I am delighted that the State Government is giving sympathetic consideration to this particular scheme. If I were offered the choice, I would rather have settlement by refugees, than that the North-West should be taken over by the Japanese. I am not posing as an expert, but know a great deal of what the Jews have done in Palestine. If they can do in the North what they have done in Palestine, they should be given every encouragement. It is to be hoped the Federal Government will not hamper the settlement in any way but will deal sympathetically with it. The North must be populated. I am pleased to know that the views I expressed last session on this question have practically been endorsed by Dr. Steinberg, who is visiting the State on behalf of the sponsors of the Jewish settlement. Western Australia is not being asked to spend anything. These people want to establish themselves and are pre-

pared to do so with their own financial backing. The Argentine exports considerable quantities of baby beef to Smithfield. I have visited those markets and seen the beautiful chilled beef that comes from that country. It is a serious competitor of the meat that we export. A certain amount of chilled meat is being exported from Australia, but not yet in sufficient quantities. By means of irrigation, a profitable source of income should be available to the Jewish settlement from the expansion of the baby beef trade, seeing that ample capital will be available for those concerned. Green fodder can be grown in that part of the State practically all the year round. Not only would an increased export trade be of benefit to the North, but to the Wyndham Meat Works.

Hon. G. W. Miles: And to the South-West as well.

Hon. A. THOMSON: Yes. The settlement offers great possibilities for those who are associated with it. I met Dr. Steinberg at Wyndham, and was impressed by his sincerity and confidence that the scheme would be a success. No cost to the State will be involved but great benefit should accrue to Western Australia as a result of the settlement. Not only will it be possible to produce in the North commodities for export, but a greater demand for Western Australian products will be created. On the m.v. "Koolama" I noticed 600 tons of merchandise bound for Darwin. Certain residents in the North may have a grievance against the State Shipping Service, but I think it is to be congratulated on the work it is doing. A market has now been established in Darwin for Western Australian products. In that way our manufacturers have been able to find a market for their surplus goods, and increase the amount of employment they are able to offer our people. Darwin has become a place of importance as the result of the expenditure of large sums of Federal money, and Western Australia has proved that it is in a position to get some advantage out of that expenditure by reason of its trade with that part of Australia. By supporting whole-heartedly the scheme for the Jewish settlement, the Government has adopted a wise course.

Mr. Seddon asked the Honorary Minister, "What supervision, if any, is

carried out in connection with these trusts?" The hon. member was referring to investment trust companies. The Companies Act is due for a drastic overhaul. Parliament should protect the interests of people who are willing to put their money into trust companies, just as it protects the community generally by insisting that a fire insurance company shall deposit £5,000 with the Treasury as a token of its bona fides and stability. The payment provides a form of guarantee that the company in question will meet the claims made upon it. I have seen the balance sheet of one company that is operating in this State, and I would be sorry to have any of my money invested in it. No company that is seeking investment funds at the hands of the people should be allowed to carry on business without making a substantial deposit at the Treasury.

Hon. L. Craig: Do you suggest that every company should lodge such a deposit?

Hon. A. THOMSON: I am referring to investment trust companies only. If it is reasonable that insurance companies should lodge a deposit of £5,000 with the Treasury, it is of equal importance that a similar procedure should be adopted in the case of trust companies, in which the people's money is likely to be invested. I should hate to see happening in Western Australia what has recently happened in New South Wales, where one man absconded and left others to act as the scapegoats. It is not suggested that anything like that would happen in this State.

I thank members for the patient hearing they have given me. It has been necessary for me to criticise the Government but I hope I have been able to offer one or two useful suggestions. In its endeavour to establish secondary industries in this State, the Government has my loyal support. Last session I endorsed the proposal to establish a bureau of industry, and can only hope that the committee now in being will prove as effective as some members think it will. I also trust that some good will come out of the Wheat Conference now being held in the Eastern States. Perhaps a ray of sunshine and hope will yet be brought to our wheatgrowers to the end that they will receive a reasonable price for their commodity to compensate them for their labours.

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

**HON. J. NICHOLSON** (Metropolitan) [7.30]: The present serious position in world affairs is a subject that stands paramount in the minds of all. For that reason, if for no other, it deserves first consideration in discussing the motion before the House. The last few days in particular have been filled with many anxious hours. War clouds still overhang and threaten the world. The outlook is menacing. If our anxieties have been great, we may well ask what must have been, and must now be, the anxieties of those statesmen and leaders of the Empire upon whom devolves the solemn responsibility of deciding on the course to be followed! We know, as a fact, that the Prime Minister of Great Britain and his colleagues have sought earnestly to find a peaceful solution of the difficulties; and Mr. Chamberlain has done even more than many claim he should have undertaken, to attain that great purpose. There comes a time, unfortunately, when the demands of a nation can be settled only by the arbitration of war. Whatever may be the outcome of the present situation, we in Australia should accept and endorse the decisions of our Empire leaders with calm courage and assure them of our fullest support, realising, as we all must, that our freedom and liberties may once again be imperilled and that the result of any conflict will determine the fate not only of Great Britain, but of Australia and the other Dominions of the Empire.

I now return to the Speech delivered by His Excellency, which has been productive of a high standard of thoughtful addresses by members who have spoken to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply. Helpful suggestions on various subjects, which deserve the Government's fullest consideration, have been made; and I was gratified to note that some members have sought, definitely to assert the right, which is the privilege of each member of this House, to offer criticism on such matters as they may feel justified in discussing, without being blamed or taken to task for so doing. I will always maintain that right, and exercise it in, I hope, a fair and impartial manner, which, I believe, has been the aim of every member of this House.

One of the first matters to which I propose to direct attention has relation to the State's finances, and the dangers that confront us should the present drift continue.

I refer to the subject in order to lend support to the suggestions made by members here and in another place to the effect that good would result if a standing parliamentary finance or works committee were appointed to assist the Government. As in former years, we are again confronted with a record of increased revenue and increased expenditure. The statement of receipts and disbursements recently published showed, under various headings, the usual details of income and expenditure for the financial year. The loan indebtedness of the State has now reached the huge total of £95,472,000. As members are aware, the operations of the Government for the year ended the 30th June last resulted in a deficit of £220,442. I may also refer to the fact that for the year ended the 30th June, 1938, there was a deficit of only £10,693. I allude to that result because gratification was then expressed that Western Australia had regained financial equilibrium, and the hope was voiced by the Government that that progress would be maintained, although, as Ministers pointed out at the time, the financial position compelled close supervision. Apparently that supervision was so close that by the end of July, 1938, the deficit of £10,692 had increased to one of £259,000. Now, as we learnt from the announcement at the end of last financial year, an adverse balance was disclosed greatly in excess of that foreshadowed by the Government when the Estimates for the year were presented to Parliament.

With a view to impressing members generally, and particularly Ministers of the Crown, I propose to review briefly the annual financial results of the Government's operations from 1933-34. The figures for each of those years show largely increased revenue and expenditure, with annual deficits except on one occasion, when there was a surplus. The year when the surplus was recorded was characterised by drought conditions that affected the State very widely. Certain areas have suffered from such conditions for a much longer period; and, in fact, some districts have not yet been relieved from drought. The details for the years I refer to are as follows:—

Financial Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.	Surplus.
	£	£	£	£
1933-34	8,481,697	9,270,600	788,912	....
1934-35	9,331,430	9,493,625	167,095	....
1935-36	10,033,721	9,945,343	....	88,378
1936-37	10,745,433	10,556,638	371,205	....
1937-38	10,819,042	10,829,735	10,693	....
1938-39	10,949,660	11,170,102	220,442	....

The total increase of revenue for five of those six years amounted to £2,467,963. The loan indebtedness, which, as at the 30th June, 1934, aggregated £85,847,802, has now increased to the stupendous sum of £95,472,000. In each of those years, members will be interested to note, the Government sought to impress upon Parliament the necessity for strict economy and supervision. For example, in 1934 it was stated—

The financial situation is still extremely grave, and requires constant attention. Rigid economy is necessary, and no funds are available for other than absolutely essential services.

In subsequent years references were also made to the necessity for strict supervision and no relaxation in economy respecting Government expenditure. Similar expressions have been used from time to time, and in the Speech His Excellency delivered when opening the present Parliament the position was emphasised by this statement—

As revenue this year will inevitably be affected by low incomes earned last year by farmers and pastoralists, it is imperative that the closest supervision be maintained over the financial position.

From the results of the Government's operations in the years mentioned, the expressed need to exercise close supervision over and rigid economy in the finances of the State would seem to have been honoured more in the breach than in the observance. The result is so serious as to justify one in asking the Government to adopt the suggestion, which has been frequently made here in past years and was referred to again to-night by Mr. Thomson, namely, that a committee, fairly representative of both Houses, be appointed to assist the Treasurer and the Government by making recommendations relating to expenditure of public funds. The committee could be a combined finance and works committee, if so desired. That the Premier, who also holds the responsible office of Treasurer, has his hands more than full must be acknowledged; and he should welcome the help of such a committee. Failing the immediate stoppage of the calamitous drift in our finances, the State will be faced with the danger of absorption by the Commonwealth, and unification will be the inevitable consequence.

The next important subject with which I propose to deal is one that has been referred to by almost every member who has

spoken. I have in mind the position of the wheat industry. It is not too much to say that every person, whatever his politics, deeply deplores the ruinous price of wheat and the trying experiences of all engaged in that industry. The Minister for Lands dealt with the subject a few days ago, and showed clearly that the difficulties experienced by the industry at present are due to world over-production. I congratulate Mr. Thomson on the excellent review he gave to-night of the position of the wheat industry, and particularly on his remarks concerning the attitude of the Premier of Victoria. He submitted valuable illustrations and facts in relation to the assistance this State has afforded to Victoria during many years, and spoke of the amazement he felt that the Premier of that State had announced his intention not to support the stand taken by the Premier and Minister for Lands of this State on the subjects considered by the conference. We must all agree that the attitude of the Victorian Premier is one against which we can justly protest.

From time to time experiences as unenviable, perhaps, as those suffered by the wheatgrowers of Australia have been faced by people in large industrial centres. We should bear in mind that the wheatgrowing industry is not singular in having suffered from a period of depression. One could give instances of various industries that have undergone similar trials. Consider, for example, some of the large industrial centres in the Old Country. The shipbuilding industry comes to my mind most aptly. I can recall the sufferings of the people engaged in that industry, sufferings occasioned through a depression experienced when I was a lad. Consider again the coal-mining industry, and the setbacks it suffered through depression. Turning to our own land, we think of the goldmining industry, which is so successful at the present time, but the extinction of which not so many years ago was regarded as very likely. That industry has now revived, and is largely responsible for maintaining the stability of the State. These facts I mention to indicate that most industries are subject to fluctuations of prosperity and adversity. That, however, does not lessen my regret and, I believe, the regret of people generally that the wheatgrowers of the State have had to undergo such sad

experiences. When considering the problem with which the Federal and State Governments are faced in rendering assistance to wheatgrowers, we must remember that the revenue of a Government is limited just as is that of an individual, and that there are many items of expenditure a Government has to meet. The responsibility rests with the Government to decide what help can be given, and the taxpayer has to bear an extra burden of taxation. Whatever be the occupation in which a man is engaged, as a taxpayer he shares the burdens of the man on the land, because he is called upon to pay the taxes that have to be levied with a view to raising money to rehabilitate an essential industry. One cannot overlook the fact that an industry such as wheatgrowing, differing as it does from some of our secondary industries and even from some of our primary industries, is dependent upon world markets. Thus there arises the need to try to find international means of stabilising the price of that essential commodity. We know that efforts have been made to reach an international agreement to stabilise the price; but those efforts, made over a long period, for certain reasons have been unsuccessful. Nevertheless I contend that until some international agreement can be arrived at, the hope of stabilising the price of wheat will remain remote. What is the use of suggesting that one State or one country should stabilise the price of wheat while others do nothing? I do not perceive how we can escape the conclusion that the stabilising of prices may necessitate the lessening of production. I hope that may not be necessary. I hope it may be possible to arrive at some means, internationally, whereby the price of wheat may be stabilised; but probably we cannot expect that to occur until world affairs are in a more settled condition. When people are once more engaged in their normal avocations, there may be a prospect of the price of wheat being restored to a more reasonable level. I sincerely trust that the efforts being made by our Federal and State Governments to reach a satisfactory solution of the problem will be successful. Many difficulties are facing not only the Federal Government but also the State Governments, and I hope the Premier of Victoria will cease to be the obstructing factor he has proved to be up to the present.

I have dealt with an industry that has reached a state of depression lower than has ever been attained in the world's history. I intend now to speak of the goldmining industry, which may be described as almost at the height of prosperity. The contrast is interesting because, as I have already remarked, not so very many years have passed since this industry, now so prosperous, was itself suffering a serious depression and was not then a favoured industry for investment. But the goldmining industry has been rehabilitated. Circumstances have arisen over the intervening years that have permitted mines to be opened up in our auriferous belts, and have given to those who have had the courage to invest in the industry, returns they never expected to receive. I am glad it has been prosperous, and everyone in the State should rejoice at that fact because, by reason of that prosperity, we are led on to hope that there might be a means of sustaining the other industry which is suffering from depression. The two industries should be like brothers and should go hand in hand and help one another. Really they have done so. It is interesting to recall that when the goldmining industry reached a low point, the first thing that occurred to the Government of the day was to try to find a way out of the difficulty by determining to make good citizens of those who were thrown out of employment instead of turning them adrift. The Government placed a number of those men on the land. We know that many from the goldfields took up farms and made successes of them for years afterwards. Now it seems that the position is reversed, and to-day actually we have quite a large number of men from the land who have gone to the goldfields for the purpose of earning a living to enable them to maintain the homes they established on the land. That shows the great advantage of having as many different types of industry as possible in place of the State or the people carrying on one industry alone. The more diverse the industries the better, because an opportunity is thus provided for the State to enjoy the recuperative power that it could not otherwise have. It is, however, necessary for the Government to consider the position with regard to the gold industry.

I have made a note of some matters with the object of referring to them because statements have been published at various times



as to the possibility of a fall in the price of gold. A little while ago it was said that America's purchasing of gold at a certain high price had contributed largely to the revenues of those engaged in the industry, and it was suggested that America might begin to restrict its purchases. An interesting article on the gold question appeared in the "West Australian" of the 20th July. Some hon. members, and particularly those representing goldfields centres, may have read it. The article dealt with the gold situation and pointed out the decision of the American Treasury in 1934 to purchase all the gold offering at 35 dollars per ounce. The article also set out the present-day changes that have taken place by the production of this valuable metal, and the increased value of the world's holding. At the beginning of this year, the amount of the world's holding of gold was estimated at approximately £5,400,000,000, and the proportions in which that gold was held by certain nations was as follows:—

United States of America—58 per cent. of the world's visible gold.

France—12½ per cent.

Britain—11 per cent.

Netherlands—3½ per cent.

The price of gold per ounce, as we have noticed by the Press recently, has markedly increased, and to-day it has reached a record figure. I think our Government should keep closely in touch with the position and watch it as one would watch a barometer, because if America should carry out the purpose that has been hinted at—and I hope that will not be done—it will be necessary for the Government to be prepared for that eventuality in some way or other. We do not want to suggest what the position might be, but we have had the benefit of experience in past years, and it is our duty to guard against dangers that possibly might face us in the future. I issue that word of warning for the benefit of the Government so that it may be forewarned, and by being forewarned it will be forearmed. We have been assured that gold will continue to maintain its price—I do not say the price ruling to-day is going to last, but so long as America continues to buy at the rate stated, it will be maintained. The hope of every person here is that the price will not fall below what it has been for some years, and that prosperity in the industry will continue.

By reason of the purchases made, there has been a large increase in production, and there are some interesting facts I should like to mention. We know, of course, that the production of gold in Africa is considerably greater than that in Australia. However, there is also the position in Russia, which has become a big producer. Up to 1930, Russia had been producing on an average for some years previously a little over 1,400,000 ozs. per annum. Between 1930 and 1934 the quantity increased to over 4,000,000 ozs., and in 1937 the output had increased to 7,350,000 ozs. There seems to be no limit to the production, and it looks as if the figures will still increase. It is not possible to permit gold to remain locked up forever, and America I do not suppose can keep on buying an unlimited quantity, any more than any country can buy wheat to an unlimited extent. There must be a limit, otherwise the market sags. We need to have employment for that money, and the increased output will require an expansion of world trade so as to provide a steady demand. Although the Australian production is very much less than that of South Africa, we in this State would feel the effect of any change in any condition and price just as keenly as any other country that is producing more gold than are we. I mention these facts for the benefit of the Government, hoping that it will take note of the position bearing in mind the value of the goldmining industry to our State.

There are two matters to which I wish to refer, and both are of moment to the Metropolitan Province. On these I will speak very briefly. One of them has been dealt with fully, and the other fairly fully, by other members. The first is the action taken by the Government in the direction of developing and promoting industries. Naturally in the metropolis we are concerned with secondary industries, and I wish to say at once that I am impressed—and I think other members are impressed—with the deep sincerity of the Minister for Industrial Development in the steps he is taking to try to carry out a scheme or plan he has laid down to extend industry. I offer him the best of good wishes in the efforts he is making, and I hope sincerely he will be successful, although I must acknowledge, like some other mem-

bers, that the chance of getting other industries established here will be not unattended with difficulties. I hope, as I say, that the Minister will succeed; but I should like to offer two suggestions for his consideration and that of the committee he has appointed. In that connection I highly appreciate the fact that a member of this Chamber has been joined as a member of the committee. I feel sure that hon. member will give service of a most beneficial character in the committee's work and deliberations. There are two points, if not three, of outstanding importance in the development and promotion of industry of any kind here. The first point is the absolute necessity for an increase in population. Without population, I contend, the prospects of extending our industries will be somewhat remote. Like other members, I am glad to express my congratulations to the Government on the favourable reply given to Dr. Steinberg regarding the settlement of refugees in our North. They have given him certain encouragement; and I hope those great spaces in our far North will be peopled, because there is nothing more essential than that for the development not only of our industries but of that huge territory. Besides promoting that form of settlement, and increase of population by that means, the Government should continue unabated efforts in the way of bringing settlers from the Homeland so soon as matters get into a more peaceful conditions.

Hon. L. Craig: What sort of settlers? Agricultural?

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: Agricultural if possible. A selection could be made. That is one of the subjects I deal with when speaking of the committee which has been appointed. As to the promotion of industry, we have to bear in mind that in Western Australia we suffer from a great disadvantage because of the provision of free trade between the States under the Federal Constitution, and also because of the fact that there have been established for many years in the Eastern States factories which can supply the demands not only of their own States but also those of Western Australia with its small population. To combat that position it is absolutely essential—what-

ever scheme is introduced for establishing industries here—that we should lay down a definite plan whereby it can be shown that we are able to produce those very goods now produced in the other States, and at a much lower cost. Cost of production is the next essential question to be considered and decided. With high cost of production we may as well leave the matter of trying to establish industries alone. With a low cost of production we may do something. We may even send our goods over to compete with those of the very competitors established in the East. I agree also with the suggestion that it will be better for the committee to give its consideration to the advancement and encouragement of industries already established here. In doing that the committee will be helping those who have helped the progress of Western Australia.

Hon. L. Craig: That is the very first consideration.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: I am glad to learn that. They should be encouraged in every way. I have no hesitation in congratulating the committee on pursuing the right course. I do not propose at this stage to offer any further comments on that matter, beyond repeating my good wishes for the success of the scheme; and I hope that the committee will be rewarded by witnessing that very success as a result of its recommendations.

Just a few words regarding the Perth Hospital. The matter is one which naturally concerns me as a metropolitan member. In common with my colleague Mr. Bolton, I desire to express my regret that the Minister saw fit to dispense with the services of the committee which previously administered the affairs of the Perth Hospital.

The Honorary Minister: The committee members resigned.

Hon. J. NICHOLSON: They resigned, the Honorary Minister says; but I think the conditions were of a nature which left them no option. No doubt the Government accepted the resignations, as the hon. gentleman says. We will take it that the members of the committee resigned. However, we have to realise that they rendered excellent service over a long period. Whilst they may not have obtained all the results desired or hoped for, it is to be borne in mind that they were faced with a most serious position. During the last few years they had to meet

a greatly increased expenditure without increase of revenue, not only in the case of foodstuffs, but also in the cost of wages and in re-arrangement of conditions for nurses and others. The position became one of great difficulty for the committee. I am quite sure the Minister appreciated—I think he did give expression to his appreciation—the services rendered. At the same time one regrets that the highly valuable experience gained in the course of years by committee members in charge of an institution like the Perth Hospital should all be lost. It is quite true that certain gentlemen have now been appointed as a board of management with an advisory committee. It is to be hoped that the work of the institution will continue in the way desired.

The last subject I shall refer to is the first matter referred to in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech—defence. His Excellency's Speech mentions that the Government is seeking to co-operate in every way with the Commonwealth in this matter. Everyone welcomes that declaration, and we know that that has been expressed not once but on many occasions by the Premier and his Ministers. However, I would like to know exactly what form the co-operation is taking. For example, I would have thought that the State Government, in view of the threatening attitude of certain countries and the risks we are running here, would have taken some steps to establish certain types of shelter for the inhabitants of each large centre. Take the capital, Perth, as an instance: there is not one shelter provided, not one. If co-operation was needed, it was needed in that respect. I contend it is not sufficient simply to state that we will co-operate—and then do nothing. Certain types of shelter have been provided in the Old Country. There is, for instance, the Anderson shelter; but that is simply to protect against flying splinters of shell and the like. That protection was given free to people at Home who applied for it. Thus they have protection against flying splinters of shell and so forth.

There is another question that might be taken into consideration by the Government, though I feel that my proposal may not be practicable in the present state of our finances. Still, it is something to be kept prominently in view, something that might be selected as a work in place of expenditure on, say, sewerage and various other

things. It is the conversion of our railways to standard gauge for military and other purposes. I quite admit the difficulties existing between the various States, but unless some State makes a start we are simply going to palaver and waste time, and make the position more difficult. Suppose equipment and guns and other material had to be transported to Western Australia from the other side: what difficulty would be involved in their transport from the East with the gauges all different! Of course, that difficulty was foreseen many years ago, but I take the opportunity of reminding the Minister. The suggestion might have come from a works committee years ago. The conversion of the existing railway to the standard gauge could be undertaken just as well as some of the other works contemplated, and it would give employment to men now out of work.

It may be necessary for the Government to give consideration to legislation. I shall not mention the subjects which are set out in the Lieut.-Governor's Speech; but the Government might have to give consideration to the question of liability for war damage to property, etc. The matter has been considered in the Home Parliament. The subject should, I think, be taken up without loss of time, but I offer no further comment in this direction at the present stage. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

**HON. C. B. WILLIAMS** (South) [8.32]: I support the motion. As the hon. member who has just spoken closed on the subject of defence, I would like to say that I hope the world will retain its sanity, and that we shall all remain subjects of the British Empire. Reference has been made by members to the strike at Fremantle. In my opinion, we should feel kindly disposed towards people in other parts of the world who have not our temperament, when we find our own people cannot settle their differences without recourse to strikes. I say that definitely as a Labour man. It is regrettable that employers and workers in our State cannot settle their differences without a strike. I myself have participated in many strikes, my share of the blame for some of which I suppose I can assume, but in those days we did our best. I can understand why strikes occurred when I was a lad, because

a large percentage of the working classes at that time had no education whatever and was easily led by those who could read and write. Nowadays, 99 per cent. of our people can read and write. We should not look down upon the Germans and Italians who take up arms for their country, when we ourselves use the same weapons. We should settle our industrial troubles by conciliation. After all, the workers of our State have much for which to thank arbitration and conciliation; and there is not now the necessity for strikes. Although I stand by the workers at all times, I think reasonableness gets one further than does striking. If differences are settled amicably, then antagonism on the part of the employer or the worker vanishes. They should settle their differences themselves, or by the intervention of a third party. I trust I shall always be able to help my fellow workers, no matter where they may be, to try to realise that under our social system both employer and worker are essential to each other.

Hon. A. Thomson: Hear, hear!

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: As I have said, I have participated in strikes and have seen the misery and suffering that follow in their wake. Very often the workers have had to "work off a dead horse" for many years after the strike has been settled. While we wish that war will not take place in Europe, we should educate our people not to war with one another.

Hon. A. Thomson: Hear, hear!

Hon. J. Nicholson: Quite right.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I desire to refer to a matter that affects my electorate. Norseman is now about the third largest mining town in the State. It has made wonderful progress, and the amount of money spent by speculators in the district is enormous. The water supply has revolutionised the district. Although the Government can, according to speeches made here, build a school to the value of £15,000 in Victoria Park—I have no objection to that, I think Victoria Park is deserving of the best it can get—we find that 400 or 500 miles from Perth there is a large town with a population of 5,000 which has not adequate school provision. Despite the warnings given to the Government by members for the districts—the Minister for Railways (Hon. E. Nulsen), yourself, Mr. President, Mr. Cornell and myself—the residents of Norseman threatened to keep

their children from school because of the insanitary conditions there. Had the parents taken such action, of course they would have penalised their children. Mr. Cornell brought the matter up in this House, and I wired the Director of Education on receipt of the "Kalgoorlie Miner" of the 9th August, in which I noticed a resolution that the parents had definitely decided to stop their children from attending school, for the reason I have stated. In my wire I told the Director that the conditions were disgraceful and disgusting, and that no Government department ought to tolerate them. The Director telegraphed me in reply—I published the telegram in the "Kalgoorlie Miner"—that he had instructed the Inspector of Schools in the district to employ a contractor to do the necessary work. I must apologise to the Minister for Education. He promised to go to Norseman, but could not do so on account of illness. However, it should not be necessary for a Minister to travel to Norseman to ascertain the exact position for himself. He knows the population of the town has increased in six years from 240 to 5,000. He must be aware that in such circumstances additional facilities are required. It must be remembered that the people in the outback districts are still the pioneers of the State, just as were the pioneers of the South-West 40 or 50 years ago. The people in those outback districts are living under conditions in no way comparable to those of Perth, or of the South-West or even of the wheat districts, bad as they are, so far as finance is concerned. I understand the work has been put in hand at the Norseman school, but I shall quote a letter which I received from the Secretary of the Dundas Road Board. It reads—

I am instructed to thank you for your endeavour to bring before the responsible authorities the deplorable conditions prevailing at the State school and the lock-up at Norseman, and to respectfully request that you continue those efforts until such time as the necessity for a more homogeneous building and provision of manual training and domestic science and other privileges, which are available at other schools having an enrolment of more than 300 scholars as we have at Norseman, is recognised.

The matter of adequate accommodation at the school has been brought before the Education Department almost every month for the past year, but it would appear that the authorities do not grasp the significance of the growth and the evidence of stability

which is reflected in every way, or is it that just anything is good enough for Norseman?

We are a peaceful lot of citizens but if our requests do not receive more sympathetic consideration than has been the case up to date, I am afraid that more forceful methods will have to be adopted.

The Minister for Education, together with the Director of Education, has promised to visit Norseman in the very near future, and we would be pleased if you would endeavour to accompany them.

With reference to the lock-up some renovations were carried out to the cells but the concrete floors were not touched. The surface of these floors is broken and the dampness seeps through. Prisoners are expected to sleep on a filthy mattress on these floors to the detriment of their health. I understand that four new mattresses were supplied to the police but I do not think that they have been put in use, although the lock-up is frequently used. Trusting that you will continue your efforts and are successful in convincing the Government that Norseman is on the map and that they are expected to "sit up and take notice."

The secretary of the board would not write in that strain unless he had been instructed to do so by his board. The prisoners to whom he refers in his communication are just ordinary men who drink a little adulterated milk on Saturdays and sometimes dry ginger ale that has gone a little hot, and so affects them. They then naturally get hot under the collar.

I trust the department will see that justice is done to Norseman, particularly when the Government has, as Mr. Thomson said, spent a million of money in the metropolitan area. After all, Norseman produces quite a lot of revenue by way of the financial emergency tax and the tax on gold. I trust that in the future, when schools in the outback districts require urgent attention, the department will not worry about the cost, but will put the work in hand at once. We have, unfortunately, many unemployed men who can do such work.

I now wish to deal with the Kalgoorlie Hospital, in which the Honorary Minister is interested. Children who enter the hospital as patients are charged 9s. a day. I have interviewed the Minister on this matter, but up to date do not seem to have made much progress. Adult workers on the mines contribute about £3 12s. per head to the medical scheme. For this payment the worker also gets medical treatment, to a certain extent, for his family. But when the man himself goes into hospital, he is charged only 6s. 6d.; that

is to say, the father receives hospital attention for 6s. 6d. per day, but he must pay 9s. per day for his children. That savours very much of Government methods. Contributors to the A.W.U. medical fund pay 72s. a year, of which the doctor receives 36s., the balance being for hospital accommodation, which costs from 6s. 6d. to 7s. per day. To charge the children of these men 9s. per day is ridiculous; and it seems to me that socialisation of industry will never get us anywhere in such circumstances. The wrong type of person seems to be running Government institutions; a type that does not seem to have an elastic mind.

Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I hope something will be done in the matter.

Reference was made by Mr. Thomson to the much discussed question of assistance to farmers. I have great sympathy for the farmers, but I am not in favour of granting continued assistance to those farmers who I consider should be removed from their holdings. It is idle to tell me that a man who can grow only 10 bushels of wheat or less to the acre over a series of years should be allowed to continue wheatgrowing in that locality. If the State is to be saddled with charges of millions of pounds every year to keep men engaged in farming unprofitable land, we shall be sadly neglecting our duty to the people. If a mining town declines, the business people have to walk out, and if a farmer cannot get satisfactory results in a certain part of the State, he should be removed from his holding. I agree that the farmer should receive what the working man gets, and if the farmer obtains a return in excess of that, he should be required to repay to the State any money that has been advanced to him in bad times. However, the point I wish to make is that we should not allow men to remain on blocks growing 10 bushels or less to the acre, especially when the price of wheat is so low. Some farmers are getting returns of 25 or 30 bushels to the acre, and similar yields are obtained in the Eastern States. What hope then has the farmer who gets only the State average or even less? We should place him in another part of the State and help him to establish himself there, instead of continuing to finance him on an unprofitable block. Much of the land that is held out of cultivation in the South-West should be

resumed by the Government so that people could grow food there under better conditions than those prevailing in parts of the wheatbelt. I am at all times willing to assist the people on the land because I appreciate that they are the true pioneers of this country.

As regards the unemployed on the goldfields, I contend that we do not get a fair deal, though we do not make much fuss about it. When a man is unemployed on the goldfields the chances are that he will find work in the course of a few weeks, but the Government should at least see that the men on the goldfields are encouraged to stay there and find useful occupations instead of coming to the coast and driving the Honorary Minister mad with requests to find temporary work for them. I told some of the men engaged on the Norseman pipe track who made complaints, that they were in the best position of all the unemployed. They were travelling through auriferous country, and in their spare time could undertake prospecting with the chance of finding gold. Their reply was that if they made a find the Government would immediately take it from them. Some of the men have fallen into a state of mind of thinking there is no hope left in life for them.

Years ago I suggested that the Government should utilise the services of unemployed carpenters and other tradesmen for the building of houses under the Workers' Homes Board. When our miners go on strike they are able to finance themselves for three months without any trouble. If 8,000 or 9,000 men can finance themselves for three months, surely the Government could get better results by utilising tradesmen as I have indicated. If the Government desires further information on the subject, I am prepared to make it available. The Workers' Homes Board agreed to build 16 houses a year in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. None has been built in Coolgardie or Norseman. Yet the housing problem is as acute in Norseman as it is in Kalgoorlie or Boulder. There were very few houses in Norseman when the mining boom came, and some of the people there are paying 35s. a week rent for a two-roomed camp. If facilities were given to the people, two-roomed houses could be built and the occupants could improve them as opportunity offered.

In Kalgoorlie the Government offered cer-

tain blocks for sale. Some of them considered to be worth about £2 were purchased for £105 each. That is where the speculator stepped in. If a working man needs a block on which to build a home, he has no hope of finding £105 for it. The best remedy I have heard has been offered by the local governing bodies who suggest that a lot of the Government blocks available should be disposed of by ballot instead of being sold to the highest bidder. Failing the adoption of some system of that kind the speculator has the advantage, because a man cannot pay £105 for a block unless he is able to erect an expensive house on it. The Government is supposed to be a Labour Government, and is supposed to look after the interests of the workers. The workers on the goldfields have been very loyal to the Government. They have never wavered in their allegiance to the party, and at all times have returned a majority of Labour men. Still, the Government cannot expect that allegiance to be continued unless the workers receive proper consideration. In saying that I am not uttering a threat, but if an election were forced on the question of housing accommodation at Kalgoorlie, the people might take the view that the Government was not doing them justice and supporters of the Government might be defeated. We are told that the Government has no influence over the board, but we know that the personnel of any board could be changed if its members were not amenable to reason. In justice to the people of the goldfields, further consideration should be given them. We have been loyal to the party and to the Government, but our loyalty might be overstrained.

Many years ago I attended a well remembered meeting in the Boulder Town Hall having reference to the subject of Esperance as the port for the goldfields. I recollect that a libel action followed that meeting because of some allusion by the "Kalgoorlie Miner" to three rotten sticks. Politicians then desired to make Esperance a reasonably good port to serve the goldfields, just as Mr. Thomson and others are trying to get improved facilities for ports like Albany and Bunbury. The Government acted after many years, but rather late. Had the railway been built in the early days, the trade of the Eastern Goldfields would have passed through Esperance. I wish to thank the Chamber of

Mines, the newly appointed Minister for Railways, and you, Mr. President, for the efforts to get interstate ships to call at Esperance. The Chamber of Mines has done particularly good work in this direction. The Lake View and Star Mine had oil tanks erected at the port, so that all the oil for its mine at Boulder, for the Norseman mine and for other mines now comes via Esperance. We have particularly to thank Mr. Thorn, of the Lake View and Star Mine, for the conferring of that benefit on the gold-fields. A substantial benefit has been conferred by the provision of facilities to ship goods through Esperance instead of Fremantle. Business people of Kalgoorlie and Boulder, however, have not assisted in this direction as much as could have been wished. The progress of Esperance has been retarded for many years through the existence of differences of opinion. Some politicians have been elected to do a certain job and have promptly forgotten all about it. The result is that there are people at Esperance who have no outlook worth mentioning. A boat calls there occasionally, and goods arrive by the railway, but of other activities there are few.

Recently two parties at Esperance requested a transport license to permit them to run motor lorries from Esperance to Ravensthorpe, a distance of 120 miles. They were prepared to cater for passengers and goods. The present arrangement is to rail goods to Newdegate, a distance of 306 miles from Perth, and then transport them by road, another 87 miles. If we had a service to Ravensthorpe as well as to Newdegate, what a benefit it would be to Esperance in the direction of providing employment! Permission to start the new service has been twice refused because the Transport Board considers that the present service to Newdegate is sufficient. One of the storekeepers at Ravensthorpe conveys his own goods from Esperance. If a license could be obtained for either of the applicants—I would not mind if both of them were granted licenses, because that would make for competition—stores could be landed at Esperance and then readily transported the 120 miles by road to Ravensthorpe. At present goods sent from the Eastern States are conveyed past Esperance, a distance of 400 or 500 miles, to Fremantle, then railed back 306 miles to Newdegate, and thence transported by road another 87 miles to Ravensthorpe.

I realise that you, Mr. President, are not in a position to work for this service as are Mr. Cornell and the Minister for Railways. In fact, the Minister for Railways finds himself in a rather invidious position. He is the member for the district, and, as such, would like to be free to act with you and other members. However, he has also to consider the other aspect. If we could get a service to Ravensthorpe, goods could be delivered there via Esperance and a saving of carriage of 400 or 500 miles by sea, and another 306 miles by rail could be made at the expense of an additional 31 miles of transport by road. I admit that I have not interviewed the Chairman of the Transport Board, but I trust that since I have ventilated the matter in this House, common sense will prevail so that the saving I have indicated may be effected.

For many years efforts have been made to induce the shipping companies to make Esperance a port of call for their boats coming from the Eastern States. Only after strenuous efforts have the shipping companies been persuaded to grant the request. Not until we threatened to enforce the provisions of the Navigation Act or something of the kind against the shipping companies did they deign to regard our request seriously. However, when the boat did call, the freight charge was loaded to the extent of 10s., though later that impost was reduced to 5s.—this for unloading at Esperance goods on which a saving of 500 miles of sea carriage had been effected.

I wish now to refer to Norseman. I am aware of the Government's difficulties and am not under-estimating them. If there is one thing that would pay the State handsomely, it is the discovery of a profitable gold mine. When I was first returned as a member for South Province 11 or 12 years ago there were 50 voters for the Legislative Council in Norseman. To-day the number is between 800 and 900, and I can safely say that the number of electors for the Assembly exceeds 2,000. A large town has sprung up within a few years. But for the water supply that is conveyed from Mundaring the town would be in a sad plight.

Mining was conducted at Ravensthorpe for many years. The ore, however, was so permeated with copper that it was difficult to treat. In the early days smelting works were established there, but were sold to a

man named Hoffman at a low price. He made a considerable profit, and then pulled down the works, to the detriment of the district. Mining is the industry there that shows the greatest profit and offers the best avenue for employment. I understand that if adequate means for the treatment of ore were provided at Ravensthorpe, a large number of men could be employed in mining there. A plant is required for the proper treatment of ore, so that it may be reduced from six-ton to one-ton concentrates. The ore would then have to be conveyed to Esperance and transhipped to Port Kembla for further treatment. The gold and copper would be extracted there.

This would mean that a vessel would call more regularly at Esperance; and, instead of unemployed being seen around Perth, Harvey and other places in search of work, they could get employment at Ravensthorpe. The men themselves would be making work for others and assisting the State to get out of the mire. We know what has happened at Wiluna and other mining centres in recent years as a result of assistance rendered to those districts. When he was last in Norseman, the Minister for Mines promised to visit Ravensthorpe. Owing to the rain, however, he was unable to do so, but hoped to visit the district as soon as weather conditions improved. I am informed that the roads are now in good order, and trust the Minister will carry out his promise at an early date. In some instances the Government has wasted money on sustenance works, and so would be better advised to engage in works that will yield a profitable return. Had not the Government put money into Wiluna, into Bayley's at Coolgardie, and the Sons of Gwalia Mine, the industry would not be in its present prosperous state. In those times, gold was worth little more than £4 an ounce, whereas its value to-day exceeds £10 an ounce. The Government is looking for means whereby to employ the people. We know that goldmining is the most paying occupation available to any worker. Assistance rendered by the Government to certain mining districts would undoubtedly benefit the State and improve the financial position generally.

Hon. J. Cornell: On the Phillips River goldfields the deepest shaft is only 380ft.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: That is so. I arrived in the State about 30 years ago, and, three years afterwards, work practically

ceased at Ravensthorpe. The industry there then began to decline. It may yet be necessary to run a railway through to Ravensthorpe for transport purposes.

I thank members for their kindness to me in the last two or three years, during which I have not been in the best of health. Whether or not I shall be with them next year remains to be seen. I can only hope that we shall all be here.

I wish to refer to the trucking arrangements for cattle in and around Kalgoorlie. In the early days, restrictions were imposed upon travelling cattle for the protection of the North-West herds. Now that cattle are coming from the South-West, as well as from the Great Southern and the Eastern States, the same necessity for protection no longer exists. Cattle arriving from the Eastern States are unloaded at Parkestown. They are transferred to trucks on the State line, and taken a distance of four miles to within two miles of the abattoirs. They are then put into a race, which crosses the main Coolgardie-Perth road, and in that way travel to the abattoirs. The system is supposed to prevent the spread of disease amongst other cattle, but it is a stupid one. The Commonwealth Government has offered to put down a third rail, so that the cattle might be run to the abattoirs, but objection was raised to that suggestion.

Hon. J. Cornell: The arrangement is a big joke.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Yes. I drew the attention of the Minister to the matter, and he wrote me stating that the cattle trucking arrangements at Kalgoorlie were under consideration. At the Kalgoorlie railway station, cattle yards are already available, but are in a bad state of repair and it is useless to spend money on reconstructing them. The present system undoubtedly adds to the cost of meat. The Kalgoorlie and Boulder butchers are anxious for something to be done to improve the situation, but do not desire money to be wasted on the yards at the Kalgoorlie station. Apparently the Agricultural Department, or some other department, objects to the cattle being sent straight to the abattoirs. When the beasts arrive from the South-West they are driven through the streets a distance of three or four miles, which is a stupid arrangement. If by smoozing to members of Caneus—subject



to my health being good—I had become a Minister, I would certainly have made someone smart over this question. The officials would never have been able to put a tin-pot system like that over me at the expense of the people.

Apart from anything else, there is considerable danger in allowing cattle to run through a big city like Kalgoorlie. The yards at Binduli, opposite the abattoirs, are wonderfully good. Instead of the cattle being shunted off at Binduli straight to the abattoirs, they have to be trucked to the Kalgoorlie yards and run through the streets. No wonder our railways do not pay, and people look upon politicians as "mutts." I shall be very disgusted if the Minister falls for the tricks either of the Agricultural Department or of the Railway Department. New yards are not needed at Kalgoorlie, and to repair the existing ones would be a waste of money. The other yards to which I have referred are good enough for the wild cattle coming from the North-West and South Australia. Apparently the authorities fear that something might be dropped on the ground that would poison the other cattle, notwithstanding that practically all the beasts concerned are en route for the abattoirs. The cows belonging to my dairymen "swap spits" with the cattle at the abattoirs, and there is no means of preventing it. We talk about the socialisation of industry, yet we allow stupid things like that to go on. If no notice is taken of the representations that have been made I hope I shall be well enough to pursue another course. The people of Kalgoorlie ought not to be put to all this extra expense. My chief concern is that the State shall carry on and become prosperous. I am not concerned about high wages so long as we get sufficient wages.

Hon. J. Cornell: The present system causes the bullocks to deteriorate.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Yes. The system is designed to ensure that cattle from the South-West shall not go into the race that the North-West and South Australian bullocks went into probably six months before. So it is that they are untrucked four miles away, and have to be driven through the streets of Kalgoorlie.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is the proposed Jewish settlement in the

North-West. I have no desire to speak disrespectfully of the community in question, but would suggest that there must be something wrong with people who are driven out of other countries. Members may recall the incident of the woman of 70 years of age who, on arrival in Australia said, "Thank God, I am in a free country." Apparently it took her 70 years to get here, and she must have spent more than the annual earnings of an ordinary worker on the journey, as she came by air to Darwin. The North, if it is to be populated, must be peopled by those who will not live on others. We do not want a repetition of that which is going on and has been going on for countless years in Europe.

When I was in the mining industry some 35 years ago I did not see more than five Jews and three Greeks at work in the mines. I care not what people go to the North so long as they are hard workers, will intermarry, and become fine Australian citizens. There is a settlement in the South-West comprising people who are growing tobacco. Many Italians and Slavs are to be found amongst them, but as they marry and have children, the descendants will be Australians. In the mining industry, foreigners intermarried with the local people, and thus many good Australians came into being. If we are to have a Jewish settlement in the North, let us use the same safeguards as if the settlers were Japanese or Chinese. Should they leave that territory, they should be forced to return to their country of origin. Thanks to bountiful rains, our producers of potatoes, onions and vegetables have lately had good prices for their commodities. Members of Parliament, unless they are blind, must be seized of the fact that foreigners are controlling all our fruit and vegetable shops. For many years these shops have been in the control of foreigners.

Hon. J. Cornell: And froek shops as well.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: Yes. We do not want this country to be built up under the system that has been encouraged in Germany and other European countries. I hope I shall not live to see that sort of thing in Australia. Our children will, and I certainly object to that. I shall certainly raise my voice against any such plan that may

result in the children of Australians being forced to be drawers of water and hewers of wood, while others are permitted to live on vested interests and, retaining their original nationality, refuse to become Australians in sentiment and outlook. These are the people who control Russia. If anything of the sort is proposed here, I shall see to it that the people know what is suggested and, if they approve, they will do so with their eyes open. I agree with Mr. Tuckey in his contention that, before anything is done in the matter, Parliament should be consulted. I certainly am not conservative in my views, but I sincerely trust that in the event of Parliament being consulted, all members holding conservative views will be present and will see that the Commonwealth is populated with people who will marry Australians, people who will forget their race and become good Australians. Most of us, in the enjoyment of the freedom of our nation, have forgotten what our ancestors were 100 years ago. We are proud of the traditions of our country, which we must endeavour to maintain in the future. I thank members for the patient hearing they have given me and trust the motion will be carried.

On motion by the Honorary Minister, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 9.17 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 30th August, 1939.

	PAGE
Questions: Transport, Lakes area, Newdegate	429
Traffic dangers, Stirling highway	429
Electoral, Irwin-Moore, Mr. C. O. Barker	430
Betting, fines, amount imposed and amount collected	430
Motions: Betting, starting price shops, referendum as to registration and operation	430
Milk, daily rations for school children	434
Stock Diseases Act, to disallow regulations	438
Metropolitan Milk Act, to disallow regulations and schedule	443
Horse racing and betting, to inquire by Select Committee	449
Bills: Builders' Registration, 1A.	450
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment (No. 1), 1A.	450
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment (No. 2), 1A.	450
Municipal Corporations Act Amendment, 1A.	450
Agricultural Bank Act Amendment (No. 3), 1A.	450
Bills of Sale Act Amendment, 1A.	450
Vermia Act Amendment, 1A.	450
Hire-Purchase Agreements Act Amendment, 1A.	450
Rural Relief Act Amendment, 1A.	450

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

### QUESTION—TRANSPORT, LAKES AREA, NEWDEGATE.

Mr. STUBBS asked the Minister for Works: 1, Have tenders been let for the new transport service to serve settlers in the Lakes Area east of Newdegate? 2, If so, who were the successful tenderers? 3, Was the lowest tender accepted?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied: 1, No. 2, Answered by No. 1. 3, In view of the absence of data as to quantities of goods and numbers of passengers likely to be offered for transport, the Transport Board arranged a temporary service for three months with the contractor who did the wheat carting during the 1938-39 wheat delivery season. Information gained from the operation of this temporary service will be used in making a more permanent arrangement.

### QUESTION—TRAFFIC DANGERS, STIRLING HIGHWAY.

Mr. NORTH asked the Minister representing the Minister for Police: 1, Have any further precautions been taken recently to minimise traffic dangers along Stirling Highway? 2, Are any further measures that might be taken held up by lack of finance?

The MINISTER FOR THE NORTH-WEST replied: 1, All precautions possible with the facilities available are taken to minimise traffic dangers, and increased motor