

wealth legislators to farther the building up of the new nation with which they have been entrusted, there is the danger that they may forget the wants and necessities of the States. This is not an occasion to go into the intricacies of Federal and State finances, but before I conclude, I may say that the Commonwealth Parliament and the members of that Parliament feel that they have been entrusted with a great mission. They feel that it is their duty to build up an Australian nation of which generations yet to come shall be proud. They are filled with great schemes, schemes that it is necessary to accomplish in order that their designs may be achieved. Those schemes are of a various character. There are those to-day who say that Australia should be represented in London by a High Commissioner: that he should have an office and staff commensurate with the dignity of the position. There are those in Federal politics who say that the Northern Territory should be taken over and that it should be developed; others again advocate the construction of the two Transcontinental Railway lines; and the majority of Federal members feel that they ought to keep faith with New South Wales and establish the Federal Capital. Furthermore, a large number of these members consider that a young nation like Australia should no longer be sheltering behind the skirts of the mother land and that she should do something to defend herself on sea as well as on land, that she should do something to help the mother land to bear the burdens of empire. Now all these schemes cannot be carried out without large expenditure, and one of the peculiarities of the position is this, that the party that is strongest in favour of most of these schemes has as the foremost plank in its platform the restriction of farther borrowing. The objection that exists among the dominant party in Federal politics to-day to farther borrowing, combined with the demand for the construction of these schemes, places a very great temptation upon whatever Government may be in power. At the end of 1910 the Brad-

don Clause expires and then the whole of the three-fourths of the Customs and Excise revenue will be entirely under the control of the Commonwealth Parliament. It seems to me, knowing what I do of Federal politics, that there is a very great danger indeed—and I think everyone who knows anything about Federal politics will agree with me—that a nibbling at that three-fourths of the Customs and Excise revenue will begin, and when that nibbling begins, it is difficult to know where it may end. That ought to be a warning to the State authorities to come to some arrangement for the settlement of the financial relations between the States and the Commonwealth before the expiration of the Braddon Clause. The time is gradually going by in which the States might make a bargain: they should make the most of what time is left to them. There is one thing which from a West Australian point of view is rather satisfactory, and it is this, that there has been no Federal Treasurer yet in office who has not recognised the peculiar circumstances of West Australia as regards its finances requiring special treatment, and I have the utmost confidence that there is a sufficient number of responsible members in the Commonwealth Parliament to see that whatever agreement may be ultimately arrived at, that the States will not be embarrassed. Furthermore I believe that those who represent Western Australia in the Commonwealth Parliament will see that no check by reason of any financial disarrangement will be placed upon the progress of this State, a State that every impartial person must agree is second to none in the Commonwealth in the greatness of its potentialities and in the brightness of its future.

Hon. S. STUBBS (Metropolitan-Suburban): In rising to second the Address in reply to the Speech of his Excellency the Governor, I do so with a certain amount of diffidence, because I have only just recently been elected a member of this Chamber. But I feel, like the mover of the Address-in-Reply, that at no stage in the history of this State has the prospect appeared more bright than it does

at the present moment. We have all listened with great respect to the very encouraging account that the hon. member gave us concerning the mining industry; and the practical knowledge and experience he has gained from living so many years on the goldfields warrants myself, and I think every member in the Chamber, in believing he was fully capable of dealing with the subject, an illustration of which he gave us a few moments ago. It is not my intention to make a long speech this afternoon because I do not think the occasion warrants it, but if my friend is enthusiastic about the future of the goldfields, I am even more enthusiastic concerning the agricultural and pastoral industries of the State. While we all recognise it was due to the wonderful gold discoveries that caused Western Australia to make such rapid strides and to be known all over the world, yet I maintain a time will come sooner or later when other industries will have to take the place of the gold-mining industry. When that time arrives, and long before it—and I venture to say the member who moved the Address-in-Reply will agree with me—the pastoral and agricultural industries will more than hold their own in exports, as the gold-mining industry does to-day. Consequently any measure that is introduced in the House having for its object the building of light lines of railway through the agricultural districts will have, I hope, the support of every member. I believe I am right in saying that interest will be paid, from the jump, on every pound expended in opening up the magnificent areas of land in the State which few people, even in the country, know anything about. I have recently made a trip through the Southern districts of the State and it is wonderful the number of people who have sailed there during the last two or three years. Many of them arrived with very little capital, and those who are engaged in clearing land anywhere from 15 to 20 miles from the nearest railway station are handicapped more than anyone can conceive. And when I tell members that from 1s. to 1s. 3d.

has to be paid for every ton of produce that has to be carted to the nearest railway station from agricultural centres, members will understand that it is necessary, if we desire to get people on to the land, to build light lines of railway to almost every place where they are warranted; lines of railway not with stations every five miles, but with sidings so that the settlers can send their produce at as cheap a rate as possible, consistent with paying the interest and sinking fund on the money expended. I hold, unless the lines of railway are built, it is no use sending Mr. Ranford or any other agent to England to ask people to come out and settle here. I think the Speech delivered by His Excellency to-day will convince the most sceptical that Western Australia has an immense future before it. I agree with the member who preceded me in saying that the financial relations that exist between the States and the Commonwealth are strained at present, yet I believe with him that we have men in the Federal Parliament who will see that no injustice is done to our State in any shape or form. I hope before the Bradton Clause expires in 1910, the arrangement in force now will be continued or that Western Australia will be placed on an even better footing. The returns from the Commonwealth have decreased by £400,000 during the past five years and if the falling off continues the Parliament of this State will be hampered in developing the great tract of country we desire to see opened up. I will not detain the House longer; I have pleasure in seconding the Address-in-Reply.

On motion by the *Hon. W. Patrick*, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 7 minutes to 4 o'clock, until the next Tuesday afternoon.
