

THE HON. E. R. BROCKMAN: I have no intention, sir, of following hon. members in a reference to all the works suggested. One hon. member having made some allusion to the evidence taken before the Agricultural Commission, I thought I would just like to say a few words confirmatory of what he said. Before dealing with that, however, I should like to remark that we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the *personnel* of the first Ministry, and I may say it is my desire to see them continue in office as long as possible. The borrowing of a large sum of money quite meets my approval, but of course its mode of expenditure is what we have to look to. With reference to the evidence which Mr. Bush quoted, and which was given by a personal friend of mine, I shall say little, except that the gentleman who gave it was in rather a contradictory mood when he was examined, and I believe that he has since contradicted what he then said. Another gentleman who was then examined gave some strong reasons for the construction of a Railway to the Vasse, but it does not appear in the evidence. He was asked the lowest price at which he could produce wheat. He said he got 40 bushels to the acre, but could not sell under 5s. a bushel. I asked him if that meant at his barn door, and he said it did. I said, "Why you want a railway," and he replied, "Why, did you not ask me that question first." Then another friend of mine was asked what he thought the place was most suited for, and he said, "I think it is better suited to the production of children than anything else." There were a great many other amusing things said, but these I need not mention now; though really, sir, they held out no inducement for the construction of the railway to Busselton.

THE HON. R. W. HARDEY: I will make a few remarks on the Speech at the present time, so that they may be a guide to the Government as to my views. I am sorry to hear from what has been said that the people of the South have a very bad opinion of their own country. I always thought that they had good country. I for one should certainly support the line to Busselton, for I know the country is good and that the line is required. It must be remembered, too, that unlike other parts the route is

more or less populated. It has been said that the wants of these districts are supplied by the steamers; but there are many complaints about them, and they are not at all satisfactory if trade is to be developed. As to the question of harbor works at Fremantle, I shall be glad, if anything is done, to see the river mouth opened up. If that be not practicable then I should like to see Owen's Anchorage made the harbor. I think it would be a great pity to push on the Yilgarn Railway at the present time. What has been done at the fields up to now does not, in my opinion, warrant the line, and, moreover, I agree with the hon. Mr. Morrison that this should be made to form part of the trans-continental railway. With regard to the lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin, I also agree with the hon. Mr. Morrison that the work should be constructed by the whole of the Australian Colonies. Having referred to the principal of the Government proposals, I shall not allude to the rest until they are properly and definitely brought before us.

THE HON. J. H. MONGER: In reference to the Bunbury Railway I am not now in favor of it, and I do not know that I shall be. When I was there I asked a man what it cost him to grow potatoes, and he said about £1 per ton. I asked him what yield he got and he replied, "From six to eight tons per acre." I then asked him what he could deliver them for, and he said he could not do it under £6 per ton. He added, "I get that for them here where I dig them." I asked him if he could not let us have them at £4 per ton? He said he could not. The railway to the Eastern goldfields is, I think, premature. We want one thing there, and that is water. To obtain that I would be prepared to go to almost any extent, but as regards the railway I do not think it justified until we know something more definite. The other proposed works I will refer to when they come before us.

THE HON. E. HAMERSLEY: Of the gentlemen selected to form our first Ministry, I can only speak in the highest terms. A more able and conscientious body of men could not have been found in either the House or the Colony, and I fully believe they will meet with a large measure of support, but they must ex-