

but Fremantle, a considerably larger centre, has no high school. The children of Fremantle who wish to attend a high school must proceed to Perth. That requires them to leave home very early in the morning and to return home late in the evening. The size and importance of Fremantle should justify the provision of a high school there. A block of land has been reserved for high school purposes, and in fact everything is ready for the Government to proceed with the work of erecting the building. Let us take the attendances at the high schools in the other parts of the State and see whether or not Fremantle by reason of its importance is entitled to such an institution. The average attendances are as follows:—Albany 100, Bunbury 150, and Geraldton 71. I trust it will be possible for the Treasurer to provide the money to permit the Minister for Education proceeding with the work of erecting the school. I shall not detain the House any longer because I shall have many other opportunities of speaking in this House before the session closes. I consider that I have placed a sufficient number of requests before the Treasurer, and also provided food for the papers to talk about. Doubtless they will refer to the parochial views of the members of the various constituencies. Personally it does not matter to me what they say, and in spite of whatever comment they may make I shall go on with the job just the same. I am here to do my duty not only to Fremantle, but to the whole of the State, and I intend to carry out that duty to the best of my ability and without the fear of newspapers.

Mr. COVERLEY (Kimberley) [5.3]: It is not my intention to occupy much of the valuable time of the House by repeating what we, of the North, are sick and tired of hearing about—the vast empty spaces and the wonderful potentialities and the hidden wealth of that part of the State. What we want is greater activity and more Government sympathy than the people of the North have had, so that others may be encouraged to make their homes in the tropical parts of the State. At the present time we are suffering from a decreasing population in the Kimberleys. This is due mainly to the excessive cost of living, high wharfage rates, seasonal employment and that to which I have already referred, unsympathetic administration on the part of past Governments. The improvement in health facilities should become of the first concerns of the Government. There is a medical practitioner in each district, but the hospital methods are crude. If the Government were to interest themselves and force the Federal authorities to do what has been done for Northern Queensland, namely, the supplying of a tropical laboratory and an X-ray plant, the people of the Kimberleys would be saved the enormous expense they are subjected to at the present time by having to travel south to seek proper medical attention. The people who live in the far North are not able to afford this cost. If

there were an X-ray plant and a research laboratory in at least one Kimberley centre, perhaps one-tenth of the existing trouble might be obviated. Another matter of considerable importance to the North, and which I intend to stress, is that of providing cheap excursion fares to the cooler latitudes. In this respect previous Governments have already recognised their obligations to the residents of what are in the southern parts termed the backblocks. Why should there be any distinction between the people living in the north and those living in the south? Those who live in the southern parts, places like Albany, Busselton and Bunbury, get the benefit of cheap excursion fares at Easter, Christmas, during the summer months and at holiday time, but the people of the north are never permitted to avail themselves of such a privilege. I feel confident the Government will interest themselves in this regard and provide for the people of whom I have been speaking, and also give them a long-awaited improved shipping service. There should be consideration shown for the pastoral, as well as the other industries that I have heard so much about, industries such as farming, mining and timber, all of which are more favourably situated in the southern part of the State and about which so much has been said since I have been in the House. The pastoral industry is of considerable value to Western Australia and should receive attention at the hands of the Government at once, as the stocking and the improvement regulations have been sadly neglected. On many large holdings not as much as a shilling has been spent in improvements for years past. The stock are all scattered about the natural water frontages, and the result is that the feed about there is eaten out. Then too, the stock have to travel such distances to and from water, that they become poor and often die in thousands. This tends to the breeding of miserable-looking and undersized stock, and members will agree with me that if the industry is to be maintained, we must grow quality as well as quantity. If the leaseholders were forced to improve their holdings, in the direction provided by the Act, they would be able to carry more stock and get better results. The recent appraisements were very unfair in many cases. I know of small holders, as far as 240 miles from a port of shipment and without a yard of river frontage to their leases, having to pay the same rental as the big absentee holders that are only 16 miles from a port of shipment, and who, in addition, have miles of river frontages on their properties. This is very unfair to the small holders. I suggest that the Government should appoint a board in the pastoral districts with instructions to see that matters of this kind are attended to. Another question to which I desire to refer is the administration of the Hut Accommodation Act. Under the Lands Act—that section applying to pastoral leases—stockmen are to have provided for them certain accommodation, but we



find them living in tents 6ft. by 8ft. The Hut accommodation Act should be made to apply to all pastoral leases. I have referred to seasonal employment, and the pastoral industry might come under that category. Stockmen are employed during the mustering and droving season, and as soon as the wet weather sets in they are put off, and the aborigines are kept to do the station work. Steps should be taken to minimise the exploitation of native labour. Another menace to the pastoral industry is the existence of dingoes. As we all know, this pest is a menace to sheep and cattle, and on that account a bonus is offered for scalps. Unfortunately, the amount offered for scalps is not sufficient to induce men to trap dingoes. I suggest to the Government that they should raise the amount to 15s. per scalp, and give the higher amount a trial for, say, twelve months to see whether it will have the effect of increasing the destruction of the pest. Mining in the Kimberleys is a neglected industry. I know many men who would have been prepared to go out prospecting had they been able to get financial assistance. It was on account of the high price of supplies that they were prevented from securing requirements that would have lasted them for a sufficiently long period. The Kimberley goldfields have never had a fair trial. Some 38 or 40 years ago thousands of men carried out what can only be termed hurried prospecting under the greatest possible difficulties. They were situated a thousand miles from the then telegraph line, and the necessities of life were practically unprocureable. It is no wonder that they soon left the Kimberley goldfields. Now that there are more up-to-date methods of transport, and improved means of treating ore, I consider it worth the Government's while rendering assistance to prospectors who may desire to test the Kimberleys once more. A State battery placed in a suitable position might be the means of the opening up of a profitable industry. Western Australia has another valuable asset in the pearling industry, but unless drastic measures are enforced very soon, we shall find ourselves situated similarly to Thursday Island—under the control of Japanese. We have heard a good deal lately about the menace to the industry known as "dummying." Perhaps I had better define that word. Under the Pearling Act, it is provided that none other than a British subject shall hold a pearl fishing license. To circumvent this provision, aliens make tempting offers to weak-minded white men who are thus exploited. A white man will take out a license in his own name, and thus he acts as a dummy licensee for the Asiatic. Recently a public meeting was held at Broome to discuss ways and means of eradicating the evil. Mr. Perry, the mayor of Broome, who presided at the meeting, gave a definition of the word "dummying." He said that Webster's dictionary declared that a dummy was a man who played a merely

nominal part in an action, a sham character. Then proceeding to address the meeting Mr. Perry said—

This is not the "dummy" as I know him, and when I came to Broome 28 years ago there was no dummy, and I am sorry I cannot say the same to-day. My definition of the "dummy" as I understand him is, he is a carrion, thief, and a perjurer. A carrion is a bird that lives on dead flesh, and there is nothing dirty enough for a dummy. There being a dummy gives an opportunity for shell and tucker to be put aboard the dummy boat that is thieving. He is a perjurer when he goes into the shipping office and makes a declaration and calls Almighty God as witness that that declaration is true. He signs that declaration, knowing it is a lying document, and that man takes a shilling stamp with the image of His Majesty, and seals the lie. There is nothing more contemptible to my mind than the dummy. I will now give you a description of the system of dummying, that is, as I understand, but not as Webster understands it. The system I will take as 1, 2, 3. The dummy I will call A, B, C, and the other parties X, Y, Z (that is the Asiatic). No. 1. Mr. "A" brings his boat into the bay in November. He finds he has no money and cannot get his boat out the following year. He approaches "X" and says, "I have my boat on the beach and am prepared to let you have it, can you assist me?" Of course "X" has to see his friends, and he comes back in a few days and says, "I will work your boat and will give you £200 a year and 10 per cent. on shell (that is two cwt. in every ton). "A" goes and takes his license out and "X" works his boat, finds everything and pays £200 a year. Next take "B." He approaches "Y." He finds he has a little money, but not sufficient to put out his boat, so he approaches "Y" and says, "I have a little money, but not enough to put my boat out." "We will go fifty-fifty." He, too, of course, has to see his friends first, who, of course, are agreeable. No 3 is a different man. He has four or five boats and plenty of money. He approaches "Z," who is probably a storekeeper or boardinghouse-keeper, and says, "I want divers and tenders and am prepared to give £100 a boat if you can find them for me." "Z" goes round to somebody else's men and says what a fine fellow "C" is. "I think more better you come work that place next year," he says. These conditions work for 12 months, but he is not prepared to take the £100 now. He is prepared to find divers and tenders or crews if you will work a boat for him for 12 months. He likes a gamble, and says to himself, "I will get my friend for a diver and I might get a £1,000 pearl." That is the system of the "dummy" as I under-



stand it. There are several others, but I am not going into them to-night. Now I am going to be very brief. I am going to ask you to-night to consider in what way you can eradicate and suppress this "dummy." The only way is by standing shoulder to shoulder and putting an end to the system and letting Broome get back to its former position. I appeal to you to give this matter your most serious consideration for the future of your race and security and safety of your country.

Let me read you the resolutions carried at the same meeting:—

That this meeting of the residents of Broome give their full and unqualified support to the following recommendations: (a) For the better suppression and dealing with dummying the Government be asked to appoint a special commissioner in Broome with powers similar and equal to royal commission, the appointment to be a permanent one. (b) That the resident magistrate be appointed the commissioner. (c) That the pearling inspector be empowered to refuse any or all applications for pearling licenses in all cases where he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that such pearling boats are being, or are intended to be, worked irregularly, and that the onus of proof be on the individual. (d) That the pearling inspector be empowered to cancel any or all pearling licenses previously granted in all cases where he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pearling boats are being worked irregularly, and that the onus of proof be on the individual. (e) On the refusal of a pearling license or the cancellation of a license by the pearling inspector, the commissioner to have power to deal with same at once, and be empowered to call for all evidence he may require, to examine all bank accounts, and to call for and examine all books, papers, and accounts he may think necessary belonging to the applicant or any person whatsoever, to subpoena witnesses and take evidence on oath, and appoint when considered necessary a duly qualified auditor to investigate all books, accounts, etc. (f) That any person guilty of dummying or irregular working of a pearling boat be prosecuted and all his plant forfeited to the Crown, and further prosecuted for making a false declaration.

Let me explain some of the evils arising from the dummying system. First of all, a dummy imports all his goods and supplies for working from the Dutch islands. This means money leaving Australia, and is therefore an obstruction to trade. Secondly, dummy firms are driving legitimate firms out of business by thieving their shell, their gear, and their good divers. Then the dummy firm falsely sign on their crew at a much higher rate of pay and percentage, and so the genuine pearler cannot compete with them. A large number of pearls fished by dummy firms are smuggled out of

Broome, and so the Treasury is robbed. Another objection is that they decrease the white population by employing no white shell-openers. Dummying has become so rampant that on 179 boats at Broome only 71 white men, including owners, are employed at shell-opening. Again, white men standing out of dummying arrangements at Thursday Island were driven out of the business, and white men standing out of dummying arrangements in Broome can see their fate sealed in the same manner. You have heard what the people of Broome think of dummying; and since the people directly concerned carried the resolution I have read, you will realise that there is something radically wrong with the existing Pearling Act. This State can compliment the Government upon the intimation in the Governor's Speech of their intention to bring down an amending Bill. I hope that when it does come down, and is passed, it will, like reinforced concrete, stand the test of time. In conclusion let me say I am prepared to voice whatever I think necessary for the advancement of the North, regardless of whom I may please or offend.

Mr. NORTH (Claremont) [5.20]: I should like to draw the attention of the Government to one or two small matters connected with elections generally. The first has to do with inmates of the Old Men's Home. It has been suggested to me by a number of electors that it would be more equitable if, when the next Redistribution of Seats Bill comes down, provision is made for inmates of the Old Men's Home voting by postal vote in their respective electorates. It is unfair that 600 men should all have to vote in an electorate in which they have no interests, instead of voting in the electorates whence they came and where their interests lie. I suggest, also, that the Government should set apart one day during the year for all elections, municipal, State and, if possible by arrangement with the Federal Government, Federal elections as well. Thousands of pounds would thus be saved. At present very large sums of money, and a great deal of time are wasted over elections happening within short periods of each other. We have the same old cars running round each time, and it all costs a great deal of money.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: We want compulsory voting, and no cars.

Mr. NORTH: That is also a matter that, no doubt, the Government will consider. I have seen three elections held in my electorate within two and a half months, which means wasted effort on the part of the people. We often hear the complaint that people do not care much about politics. Probably that, if true, is because they get too much politics, whereas if we had one day in the year set apart