

the service of the State. The last thing I wish to speak about is the establishment of a University. I am pleased to see that at this early stage of our career that that all-important matter has not been forgotten. I am also pleased to know, as is provided in the Labour party's platform, that when this University has been established it will be free to all, and that there shall be no distinction between rich and poor people. We know that when the Bill was originally introduced in connection with this matter by the previous Government that it was proposed to charge fees, and that that former Government charged fees for the Secondary schools in Western Australia. I trust that by one stroke of the pen all those fees will be wiped out in the future from the kindergarten to the university. We can afford to provide that they shall be absolutely free to everybody, because I consider the greatest asset Western Australia can have is an educated population. I feel sure that I have taken up sufficient time, and I will now conclude by moving the following Address-in-reply:—

*May it please Your Excellency—We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.*

Mr. B. J. STUBBS (Subiaco): In rising to second the Address-in-reply so ably and eloquently moved by the member for Bunbury, I desire first of all to offer to you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your appointment to the high position you now hold. I think that selection was a wise one indeed, because I think you are eminently fitted by your characteristics and temperament to carry out the duties pertaining to that high office. Whilst it is undoubtedly gratifying to the State, and particularly to the members sitting on this side of the House, that 75 per cent. of those who are entitled to vote went to the polls at the recent elections, I think that the most gratifying result was that a great majority of those people saw fit to cast

their votes in the direction of returning members who were pledged to support the Labour party, and thereby assisting in bringing progress and prosperity to this great State of ours. When I mention progress and prosperity I do not mention it in the usual acceptance of the term, I mention it in the way of bringing about increased remuneration for the general class of working people, because there is not the slightest doubt that by raising the standard of living enjoyed by the working classes we bring about the only true progress and prosperity which could possibly come to a nation. There is not the slightest doubt that for some years past this State, in common with all others in Australia, has enjoyed increased prosperity. If we look through the returns which we receive from the Statistical Department, we see that in every way possible increased wealth and prosperity have come to this State; but there is one dark cloud on the horizon, and that is with regard to the very dry season which we are experiencing this year in our eastern agricultural areas. I think that experience will not be without its beneficial results. I think it is generally understood that those who have studied this question have become convinced that those of our farmers who have pursued scientific methods are this year not suffering the effects of the drought as the others are. Those who have taken the trouble to fallow their lands, and use other means of scientific farming expounded by experts, find that the results are standing them in good stead at the present time. The member for Bunbury touched lightly on the mining industry. Although our gold yield has been declining for many years past, we still find that this State produces about 2½ times as much as the next gold-producing State of Australia, namely, Victoria, and produces considerably more than half the gold produced in the whole of the Commonwealth. I think these figures are very gratifying to all interested in the mining industry. It is also reasonable to expect that in the near future increased mineral wealth will be found in this State. We have not by any stretch of imagination exhausted all our privi-

leges of exploration in regard to mineral wealth, and I think we can reasonably expect that in the near future we shall have some other mining areas found, if not as wealthy as the Golden Mile, at least something that will justify the optimism in His Excellency's Speech. I particularly want to touch upon the new legislation foreshadowed for this session. There is a great deal of legislation which we have not heard much of in Western Australia, but which in other countries has been tried and found very beneficial indeed. The principal item of new legislation is to my mind the Homes for the People Bill, which is to be introduced. This principle has been given effect to in New Zealand and South Australia. In both these countries it has proved very beneficial indeed in enabling workers in the secondary industries to secure homes which they otherwise could not have hoped for. Another matter is in regard to the Saturday half-holiday. This was outlined by the Premier in his policy speech, and a Bill is to be introduced to give effect to the proposals of that speech by taking a vote of the people interested. Not only the shopkeepers and their assistants, but the whole of the shopping public have a right to be considered in matters of this kind. I think it is a step in the right direction; because after all I have never heard any logical argument why the weekly half-holiday should not be at the end of the week instead of in the middle. I do not intend to make any remarks with regard to the reduction of Ministerial and Parliamentary officers' salaries. The member for Bunbury has dealt fully with that matter. But what is gratifying to me is that a Bill is to be brought forward to amend the Criminal Code, to provide for the establishment of a court of criminal appeal. For the life of me I cannot understand how we have gone on so long refusing to a person who has had sentence passed upon him the right to appeal to a higher tribunal, whilst in most infinitesimal matters connected with property a litigant in a lower court has his right of appeal. Another matter is in regard to the introduction of indeterminate sentences. If there is one thing more than

another which criminologists have agreed upon it is that the old method of inflicting punishment for crime is out of date. It was a cruel way of punishing people, because the punishment brought about no good or lasting results. It had, in fact, opposite results. As far back as the time of Sir Thomas More very stringent articles were written, and that gentleman himself wrote a powerful book dealing with this matter, in which he pointed out that it was the height of absurdity to punish men for committing crimes which our system had practically educated them up to. This newer method of dealing with those who are unfortunate enough to bring themselves within the scope of the law has proved itself of great advantage in other countries, and there is no reason why it should not so prove here. One matter I would lay stress upon is that it is intended only to make the principle apply to the habitual criminal. I think that would be a great mistake. In Victoria, where this class of legislation has been brought to the highest pitch, the principle of indeterminate sentences applies not only to habituals, but to first offenders. It is applied to first offenders with a view of trying by education to take away from their environment those who in their youth have come within the pale of the law, and to try by various other means to make good citizens of them. I think that any steps we take in this direction will be well repaid to the State. I may say that, in Victoria, when this legislation was first launched it was brought into existence without mature consideration, inasmuch as it was introduced before a proper reformatory has been provided for those who were to come under its operation. Consequently when the board created under this Act visited the various gaols they found there was not a suitable place in the whole of Victoria, and because of this they were at a great disadvantage. I trust that steps will be taken to procure a suitable establishment somewhere away from centres of population, where there will be sufficient land for successful farming operations; because it has been found that it is only by putting these people to some remunerative and intelligent class of

employment that we can hope for some lasting good from the measure. With regard to education, another subject touched upon by the member for Bunbury, I would like to add that it is not only admission to our schools free of charge that we should insist upon, but we should insist that the whole of the school requisites of our children should be provided free by the State; because it cannot be said that education is free while children are charged a fairly large amount each week for books and other plant and material necessary to their education. With regard to the University, these remarks would apply also. Further than that, I may say I am in the happy position of being able to suggest an admirable site for the University. Crawley Park, which was purchased by the Government of this State a few years ago, is in my opinion the most admirable site we can find in the whole of the State for a University. It can be established there without any cost in regard to procuring the land, and at the same time an admirable park can be retained for the people, and while there is sufficient ground there on which to establish a University, there is also sufficient foreshore to make an admirable pleasure resort for the people. Another matter in the Governor's Speech I wish to touch upon is the proposed amendment of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Some little time ago the Federal High Court gave a definition of an industry, which, to put it mildly, staggered all the people in Australia who took an interest in this class of legislation. The High Court ruled that an industry should be defined according to the occupation of the employer and not by that of the employee. I think if we give a moment's consideration to this we will see how unreasonable it is. I may mention that in clothing factories at the present time there are engine-drivers employed. It would not take any great stretch of imagination to see the absurdity of the position of ruling that an engine-driver employed in a clothing factory should be a member of the tailors' union, and I hope in amending our Arbitration Act the Government will take particular pains to see

that industries are defined according to the occupation of the employee and not of the employer. Then, again, it is absolutely necessary that the procedure for citing a case before the court should be greatly simplified. At the present time we have the most cumbersome procedure that the ingenuity of man could invent. Not only is a union compelled to pass a motion by a majority of its members that it shall cite a case, but the motion has again to be submitted to the members in the form of a secret ballot. I contend, and I think it is a reasonable contention, that it should be sufficient to pass a motion by a majority of those who care to attend the meeting. Then, with regard to taking breaches of awards to the court it is essential that the procedure should be simplified. There is the same cumbersome method to go through as there is in connection with the citing of a case. I contend we should only be compelled to pass a motion to summon a meeting by a majority of those who show interest enough to attend that meeting, and that that shall be sufficient. Speaking of the arbitration court in conjunction with the references in the Governor's Speech to the civil service, I think it would be a wise procedure to compel the civil servants to approach the arbitration court to have their remunerations fixed. I can see no reason why Government servants should not have their remuneration fixed by the court just as is done in the case of outside workers. That would be of great assistance to the Government, because they would not have the workers or some of their servants approaching them every now and again seeking an increase in their salaries. I think that is a point which the Government might well consider in bringing forward an amendment of this Act. I think I have dealt with all the matters that it is necessary to refer to at this juncture, and I shall conclude by saying that it affords me great pleasure to second the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, which was so ably moved by the member for Bunbury.

On motion by Mr. Frank Wilson, debate adjourned.