

kind to me since I have been a member of Parliament. I can assure the new members that if ever they want to know anything, no matter what it is, they can go to any member of Parliament, no matter what his political affiliations may be, and they will get good advice. I have had that kind of advice and I thank everybody for it.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Midland) [8.27 p.m.]: At the outset, Mr. Deputy President, I would like to express my sympathy with Mrs. Simpson in the passing of her late husband, The Hon. Bert Simpson, who, as all members know, was a member of this House for a considerable time, firstly as a Liberal member and, for the past few years, as a Country Party member. During that time I feel sure he must have made many friends in this Parliament and contributed greatly to the workings of this House. He also made many friends in the agricultural province that he represented for so long. I feel that this House is all the poorer for his passing.

I would also like to thank all members for the way I have been received into this House and made to feel so much at home. I thank them also for the helpful advice they have tendered and the fact that everyone has greeted me so kindly. The staff are also deserving of my thanks for the help they have given me since coming to the House last Thursday. Nothing seems to be a trouble for them and any small request is immediately satisfied. I do appreciate it coming in as a new member and I say thank you very much to all members of the staff who have contributed so much to my feeling that I am really welcome in the Chamber.

Having read the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech delivered at the opening of this session of Parliament, I feel proud to be here as a Liberal member of the present Government. During the four years of office the members of that Government have contributed greatly to the advancement of this State as a whole, and to my province in particular. I am also very proud to be able to represent the Midland Province as it is one of the State's best wheat and wool growing areas. This Government has always done a great deal in the reticulation of water supplies throughout the State, but in many areas in the Midland Province there are still centres where a larger supply of water would make life reasonable for those who live there.

Towns such as Morawa and Perenjori are very badly in need of a better reticulated water supply; and I am hopeful that with the supply which has been found in the Arrowsmith area we will be able to get a better supply of water to reticulate the centres I have mentioned. I certainly hope that the Minister has set aside sufficient finance for this project. They are not the only towns in need of a better water supply.

Northampton and Geraldton also need improved supplies of water. Northampton has a reticulated water supply, but it is badly in need of a better type of water supply. More money must be spent in that area to ensure such a supply for that town.

Geraldton is growing very rapidly, and more water must be found to assist the people living in that area; particularly the tomato growers who, for the most part, have to cart anything up to 30,000 gallons of water a week to their tomato gardens to keep them going during the summer months. It is essential that these people be provided with a reticulated water supply. That is the only way to keep industry there on a payable footing.

The town of Goomalling has a reticulated water supply, but like Geraldton that town is also growing tremendously which, of course, means that more water is being used throughout the area, thus necessitating a greater supply. Kalannie is also in the same position, and a better water supply would help the people in that area no end. For the most part the people there rely on supplies from their dams, and as members know such a source of supply is very uncertain.

At the moment of course they have all the water they need, but we will not always have a season like the one we are experiencing now. It is essential that the overall water supply in the areas to which I have referred be improved if we are to create the same optimistic atmosphere that exists in other parts of the State.

I would now like to have a few words to say on agricultural high schools. I am proud that the Government has seen fit to assure us that the next agricultural high school will be built at Morawa. We should not stop there, however, because Wongan Hills and Geraldton should also be provided with this facility. Boys from both the country and the towns should be given an opportunity of an agricultural education to equip and prepare them for the life they will eventually lead when they become farmers, or farm workers.

One has only to visit the Cunderdin High School to appreciate how much is learnt by boys of up to 16 years of age. They are taught welding, blacksmithing, stock husbandry, shearing and the care of sheep. This education must prove of great benefit to them when they eventually own their own farms, or become farm workers.

Agricultural research also needs more money. The small amount of money that has been spent in the past has paid great dividends. The field officers of the Department of Agriculture contribute greatly to the wealth of this country by breeding new types of wheat, and by assisting farmers in the latest scientific know-hows. More money spent in this direction would enable field officers and agricultural scientists to pass on more knowledge.

It would assist in better types of wheat being produced; types of wheat which would be suitable to the differing rainfall experienced. In some areas the rainfall differs from as much as 9 in. to 26 in. In the past scientists have been able to breed some very good types of wheat, but they have only been suitable to certain types of rainfall. In the wetter areas a different type of wheat is needed; one that is not affected by black spot or other diseases.

It would be a great help if more finance could be provided for the breeding of legumes and clover to help build up the nitrogen content in the soil. The farmers are contributing a farthing a bushel towards this project, but I understand from those carrying on this great work that they need many more times that amount to help them speed up the breeding of legume and clover seeds, which in turn would create and build up better soil conditions.

People engaged in the fishing industry can, I think, also be considered primary producers. The new wharf that has been built for Geraldton is a great help to the crayfishermen in that area, and they are most appreciative of this facility. The Government's attitude in having a closed season for crayfishing is a very good one. The crayfishing industry has had rather a bad time this year; and perhaps one of the contributing factors is that too many licenses have been issued in the areas where crayfish are to be found, and possibly they have been outfished.

Like the seasons, the crayfish differ in their habits from year to year, and while this year the fishermen are having a bad season, last year conditions were very good and they experienced a bumper season. The Government is doing a great deal in the way of research in the fishing industry to help build up this great dollar earner.

I think some comment should be made on the road system, which has taken such a hammering during the recent rains. The engineers of the Main Roads Department deserve great praise for the wonderful job they have done in providing all-weather roads from Wyndham through to Esperance. I would like to pay a particular tribute to one of that department's engineers. I refer to Mr. Maguire who has just retired. No matter what part of the State one visits one sees roads which he has helped to build. He has been engineering roads since 1929, and they are still standing up to floods and seasonal conditions. The younger engineers are taking their cue from him, and the miles and miles of roads that have been built by the Main Roads Department are a great tribute to them.

A good deal more money should be spent however towards making the roads safer for the motoring public. They should be brought up to a standard where they can be regarded as all-weather roads. This

year a great deal more money was allocated to this important task, but due to the extraordinary season we have experienced we will be no better off at the end of the year, because more money will have to be spent in repairing the roads that have been washed out. I do think, however, that we should approach the Commonwealth Government for larger State road grants to enable our engineers to provide roads of which we would be proud.

In the matter of electricity, we in the northern areas of the State have in the past always just been so far behind the southern part of the State. This is possibly due to our lack of population. We will be pleased to see the S.E.C. take over the Geraldton electricity supply and link it with the State grid system. Not only will this provide cheaper power to small manufacturers in the northern areas, but it will also help the tomato growers who are at present without electricity.

Some of these tomato growers still use Tilley lamps or hurricane lamps, and anyone who works as hard as these people do should be provided with facilities in the way of electricity to enable them to pump water and drive the various motors they use in their industry. If this power is linked throughout the agricultural towns north and south of Geraldton it will provide better living conditions for the people in those areas. I consider it a great privilege to be able to push along these ideas in this House with a view to helping the Government further advance this great State of ours.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [8.43 p.m.]: Before making my contribution to this debate I would like to express my sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Hall, and also to the relatives of the late Mr. Davies and the late Mr. Simpson. I knew the late Mr. Hall many years ago in Kalgoorlie during his tram-driving days. When I met him here again he was most helpful to me, and went out of his way to do all he could for me. He was a jovial companion on our train trips to Kalgoorlie, and one would never have thought at the time that he was so ill.

I knew Mr. Davies when I was a small boy at Northam. He was a railwayman, and when I entered Parliament we often reminisced about our days together in Northam. Mr. Simpson was known to me in another organisation before I came here. We became firm friends in the short time I was here, and I regret his passing very much. I would like to add my congratulations to the three new members.

I knew Mr. Dolan only by reputation in the sporting field; but who did not? I used to follow his successes as a football coach, and except for actually seeing him I knew all about him. Dave Dellar I knew well. I used to work with Dave shovelling