

the question of education—I am sorry the Minister for Education is not in his seat—I always commend that hon. gentleman for his administration of that department. I have done so before and I repeat it. But I think one mistake he has made, and to which the member for Swan has already referred, is with regard to compelling the children to stay at home on one day in every three weeks. It may seem a small affair but it is a great deal in a child's life. Some members have interjected that it is to teach them politics. Every child wants to know why it is compelled to stay at home on one particular day. The child's father will perhaps give one explanation and someone else will give another, but the truth will dawn on that child, as the member for Kataning has stated, and it is perfectly right that the Government cannot afford to pay the teacher's salary. I was glad to hear that the arrangement was merely a temporary one, and the sooner it ceases the better I shall be pleased. During last session I moved in the direction of a committee being appointed from this House to co-operate with a committee from the other House to deal with amendments and differences that might arise in regard to Bills. That joint committee met, and if the session had lasted a little longer it would have arrived at a solution of the difficulty. I desire to say now that on the first convenient opportunity I intend to move that that committee be re-appointed to continue the labours it began last session, and I hope this time those labours will be carried to a successful conclusion, and that the effect will be the elimination of a lot of bitterness in discussion.

[The Deputy Speaker (Mr. McDowall) took the Chair.]

Mr. GRIFFITHS (York) [9.50]: I intend to be very brief in my remarks but I cannot let the occasion pass without reverting back to the last Address-in-reply. I think it was on the night of the 8th December, when the member for Irwin, the then leader of the Country party, gave utterance to sentiments which, had they been placed under the

heading of the speech delivered by the new leader of the party two evenings ago would have been found to be almost identical. The sentiments that were uttered by our leader, so far as we have been able to see up to date, have been supported generally this session. It is now a generally accepted idea that a truce should now prevail, and as a member of the Country party I am quite willing and prepared that this truce should be carried through to its legitimate conclusion, so that the greatest good might be done to the greatest number. The Ministerial side of the House say they welcome criticism so long as it is not of a carping nature, but at the same time, as the representative of the York electorate, there are certain things that I require some information about, and I feel sure that Ministers will be prepared to furnish it. There are certain things which are making the atmosphere rather heavy at the present time and I ask that these will be cleared up, and that the suspicion which prevails that proper British fair play is not being dealt out to certain individuals will be removed. Ministers will admit that in all my transactions with them I have endeavoured to be as fair as possible, and in asking for information I hope that straightforward answers will be given, particularly in regard to the State Implementation Works.

The Minister for Works: You can have the papers on the Table.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Certain matters have been placed before me which make me rather doubtful, but the Minister assures us that everything will be found to be correct, and I hope that that will be so. The member for Leonora, speaking last evening in connection with the proposal to amend the Mines Regulation Act, made an appeal for fair consideration for that measure. I can assure the hon. member that I have seen a great deal of the suffering that is prevalent amongst miners, and I am speaking on behalf of the party generally when I say that anything that can be done will be done to ameliorate the condition of those men who are undergoing what is practically

a living death. I gather that a Bill has already been before this House and the inference I drew was that it was unreasonable in its scope. We do not know what the scope of the proposed Bill is likely to be, and before it is introduced we would like to get some information about it, but I can assure the House that if the measure will be for the benefit of the miners and calculated to better their working conditions, it will receive our earnest sympathy and consideration. With regard to the Land Act, I was delighted to hear that an amending Bill was to be brought forward this session. As members know, at the conclusion of last session, the Country party almost to a man entered a protest when the Bill was dropped at the end of the session. More particularly did that measure affect my electorate and the neighbouring electorate. They were looking for relief from that measure, and those who had gone out on to waste spaces, and were endeavouring to battle through, had hoped to derive some measure of assistance with rent arrears. The association of which I am a member has as one of its principles that the Government should allow those outside the 12½ mile radius from a railway to hold their land for the first five years free from rental, or until railway facilities are provided. The taunt has often been thrown across this House that farmers should pay their debts. This taunt is, to my way of thinking, cowardly, thrown out as it is to a body of men who are deserving of the best we can give them so that they might win through. I will give an instance of a gentleman who this year is unable to foot the bill. I will suppress his name but any member can have it after the debate. This gentleman attended a lecture at Scarborough, delivered by Mr. Ranford, who dilated upon the great country which was waiting in Western Australia to be occupied, and that land could be got at from 10s. 6d. an acre, that schools were provided for children, and that railways would be built before the crop was ready to be taken off. So far as the school is concerned, one of this gentleman's boys had to walk 7½ miles until a farmer

living closer to it agreed to house the lad, who then spent only the week ends with his parents. The individual in question is 26 miles from a railway. He applied for the land when he came here and experienced great difficulty in getting it. He finally met Mr. Ranford, who had come out from England a fortnight later, and Mr. Ranford gave him a letter to the officer in charge of the Litho. Department, upon whose strong recommendation he took up the land he is now settled upon, land which is mostly morrell country. He has farmed in every possible way, but the three or four bad seasons, and the distance he is from a railway, and the cost of clearing the land, which amounted to 30s. an acre, have resulted in the swallowing up of the £2,000 capital which he brought with him and now he has had to apply for help from the Assistance Board.

The Minister for Mines: Did he have £2,000?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: He did. The threat was made a little while ago that all arrears of rents were to be taken out of the first year's crop. This occasioned a great deal of alarm, especially as the amending Bill was dropped last session.

The Minister for Works: That Bill would apply all round and not to any one party.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: The Bill, I understand, is to be reintroduced and will remedy the position. I would like to state what has taken place in some of the other States. In Queensland possession is given on payment of half of the cost of survey. In South Australia payments were extended under existing agreements to 64 years with special exemption for the first 10 years. In New South Wales possession is given on one small payment, and nothing further is demanded for five years. The Victorian Lands Commission, sitting in 1914, found that rents for the first four years should be very low, provided the lessee resided and improved, and also that it was useless to defer rents and then demand payment in full out of one harvest, as it left the settler in a worse position than before. Obviously it is un-

fair to take all the rent out of the profits of one year's crop. In reference to the Yilliminning-Merredin line, I must say the people out there have had bad treatment. At a banquet at Bruce Rock the late Minister for Lands definitely promised them the line. Many of these people are living 30 miles out, and it means ruin to them if they are not to have the railway. The Minister has since declared that he did not say exactly what he was reported to have said, but I can assure the House that I was there and heard it. Some of the settlers in that district have to cart water 15 miles, and are 26 miles or more from the station. They have been hanging on waiting for the railway, and it completely broke them up when they learnt the other day that the Premier had told the Esperance people that the Esperance line would be built straight away.

The Minister for Works: The Yilliminning railway was authorised after the other.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: In regard to the Industries Assistance Board I am in sympathy with the member for Beverley (Mr. Wansbrough): Probably I have handled more cases through that board than has any other member. In all I dealt with some 400 cases.

The Minister for Mines: All in your own electorate?

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Not all of them. Mr. Camm, Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Lowes and other members of the board have been most helpful to me in my endeavours to get assistance for various settlers, but I must say I cannot see why it should be necessary for farmers to get their representatives to interpose on their behalf. When we find six or seven letters sent to the board without attention it suggests that something is wrong.

The Minister for Mines: They have had so much to do, and so little time to do it in.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Some extraordinary things have occurred. Last week a man told me that he had asked for two

tons of super, and that when he went to the siding he found two tons of brar waiting for him. Many appalling things have occurred in connection with the board, and whilst we cannot hold Mr. Camm responsible, we must admit that there is something radically wrong. In the early stages of the operations of the board Mr. Paterson and Mr. Sutton were each taking a prominent part, but I cannot help thinking it was a great mistake to put those gentlemen on the board.

The Minister for Works: You said last session that Mr. Sutton was one of the best of our men.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Yes, but he should have been relieved of his other duties.

The Minister for Works: He was.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: No, all day long department after department was ringing him up on subjects outside the scope of the Industries Assistance Board. He had too much to do, and neither he nor Mr. Paterson was given a fair chance to carry out the board's work. I am sorry the Minister for Railways is not here, because I desired to bring under his notice the question of handling the crop. I have been assured by his secretary that something has been arrived at, but I would have liked a definite assurance from the Minister in public. I am sorry, too, that the Honorary Minister (Hon. R. H. Underwood) is not here, for I wished to congratulate him on his good sense in falling in with the wishes of the ladies in regard to the maternity hospital. I referred the other night to the carriage of newspapers on the railways, and the incident was published in the newspaper under the heading of "Tax on Knowledge," and it finished up with the word "Laughter." It may have been amusing to the Premier, who treated it in light and airy fashion, but it is not amusing to the people most concerned. The other day I was on a siding when the mother of a boy at the front asked me if I had the latest newspaper, and if I had any news of what was going on. This was only an isolated instance, but I have come across dozens of the sort. There appears

to be no arrangement between the Federal postal authorities and our Railway Department in regard to the carrying of mails.

Mr. Heitmann: Of course there is.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Well, no mail is carried on that railway, or on the Wongan Hills railway, either.

The Minister for Mines: That is a matter for the postal authorities.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: I do not know what the arrangement is, but there seems to be something in the way of mails being carried on that railway. Apart from the weekly mail it is impossible for the people up there to get newspapers except by paying 3d. freight. It is no trifling matter to those people. It is all very well for men in the City, who get their morning paper, and in the afternoon get their *Daily News*.

The Minister for Mines: The country people have much to be thankful for in being spared the *Daily News*.

Mr. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Gregory has brought up the matter in the House of Representatives, and I believe he interviewed the Minister for Lands when that gentleman was in Melbourne recently. It is to see if the postal authorities cannot be shaken up in some way that I have brought this matter forward. I have little more to say this evening. Sufficient has already been said on the question of patriotism. We all feel the gravity of the present position. Many members have their sons at the war, and we who are left must see to it that when they come back they suffer no detriment for their patriotism.

Mr. GREEN (Kalgoorlie) [10.15]: As the Governor's Speech was very brief and as most members who have spoken on the Address-in-reply have also been very brief, I intend to follow the example set. In common with other members, I noticed mention of the bountiful rains which have fallen throughout Western Australia. For the first time for two or three seasons the so-called dry areas are going to come into their own as regards the production of wheat. It is quite cheering to go into these so-called dry areas at present and find men who 12 months ago were exceed-

ingly pessimistic as to the outlook, speaking in the most hopeful terms of their intentions for the future. Only a few months ago many settlers in those portions of the State were talking of leaving the country, but I am pleased to know that with the return of rain there has been a return of optimism, and I think that these portions of the State will rank as one of the leading wheat-producing belts in the whole of the Commonwealth. It is expected that Western Australia will produce 20 million bushels of wheat this year, and if this optimistic forecast is realised it will be an increase of 50 per cent. over the last good yield in 1913. The Minister for Lands has predicted that we will require six million bushels for home consumption and seed wheat, and that will leave 14 million bushels available for export.

The Minister for Mines: It is a risky thing to venture into the realms of prophecy.

Mr. GREEN: Seeing that the season is so promising it is as well to look on the bright side when other things around appear so dark. The Commonwealth exported 42 million bushels of wheat in 1913, which was a fairly good year. If Western Australia exports 14 million bushels this year, it will be equal to one-third of the Commonwealth exportations in 1913. That goes to show of what any resident of this State must necessarily become more firmly convinced the longer he resides here, namely, that Western Australia must undoubtedly become one of the greatest States of the Commonwealth in all respects. It has been mentioned times without number that our gold production represents over one-half of the production of the Commonwealth, and it is cheering to think that the production of wheat will in two or three years place Western Australia in the leading position among the States of the Commonwealth. When we remember also that we are the leading timber State of the union, it makes one realise that Western Australia must shortly become a very important factor in the Commonwealth. Reference is made in the Speech to the number of miles of railroad which has been opened. Western

Australia with its sparse population of 330,000, or thereabouts, has a mileage of railroad very little below that of any of the sister States. We have one mile for every 100 of our population, or over twice the mileage per head of the average for the Commonwealth. This means development, and if there is one thing more than another which this large State, covering, as it does, one-third of the area of Australia, and having only a small population requires, it is money. I am not too sanguine as to what the position in regard to the public works policy will be after October next. It is vain to attempt to burke the fact that this State will be in a very parlous condition as regards its public works policy after October unless the war is ended before, and none of us is sufficiently sanguine to think that such will be the case. As it is impossible to borrow money from the Old Country during the war, and as the Commonwealth is absorbing the available capital for its war loan, there is only one avenue from which the State may derive funds. The key-note of truce pronounced by the deputy leader of the Opposition in his excellent speech the other evening, will have to be borne out in a tangible way by the direct Opposition and those on the cross benches by supporting the Government in passing taxation proposals of some description. If such proposals are not brought forward this session it will be necessary to introduce them early next session, and we shall then see the attitude towards Western Australia of the so-called patriots who are asking the unemployed to go to the front as a means of obtaining employment. The Bill providing for the taxation of incomes and amusements, sent to another place a few months ago, was turned down, and yet if hon. members in that Chamber were accused of not being patriots they would feel highly indignant at the accusation. What did the proposals mean? They meant that a man getting £157 per annum would be required to pay 5d. per week; a man getting £300, such as many members of this House have to depend upon, would have to pay 1s. 2d. per week, and a man

getting £1,000 per annum would have to pay only 9s. 5d. per week, or an amount which members in this House receiving £300 per annum are at the present time voluntarily subscribing to the funds of this State. It is hard for me to believe that gentlemen, who on the one hand claim to be patriots and on the other withheld those proposals from the statute-book, are in earnest, and it is time the workers hesitated about taking the advice to go to the front when instructed by men of that description. The member for Swan (Mr. Nairn)—I regret he is not in his seat—stated last year, during the unemployed trouble, "It is not possible to give every worker a full day's work and a regular day's wage in these particular times." The Government at the time admitted that such was the position. Consequently, as the taxation proposals were turned down, the Government had to seek other ways of saving money. The proposal was then made that each public servant should forfeit 7.89 per cent. of his working time, for which he had to suffer a corresponding reduction of income. No one would suppose for a minute that these employees would be paid the same wages for working less time. As a natural corollary, the Education Department had to fall in line with other departments of the service, and rightly so. Because of the turning down of the taxation proposals, for which the hon. member's friends in another place were responsible—there is not the slightest doubt that the Liberal party in that so-called non-party House were responsible—our children are losing one day's schooling in every three weeks. To accuse the Government of being lukewarm towards education because they were forced into this position is absolutely unfair. The hon. member must know that through the present Government we have a free school of mines, free technical school and a free university. This is one of the few places, indeed the only place, so far as I recollect where there is free education from the kindergarten to the university, and for this the present Government are responsible. Our expenditure on education is

1914 was £357,000, an increase of £93,000 per annum over the expenditure during the last year of the term of the previous Government. That ought to supply a complete answer to any statement with regard to the alleged laxity of the present Government towards the education system. The ex-leader of the Country party, in dealing with the State trading concerns, rightly pointed out that they, to many members on the Opposition benches, were like King Charles' head to that well-known character in "David Copperfield." The member for Swan has made it clear time after time that he differs from the Labour party, principally because they have gone in for State enterprises on lines which he considers bring them into competition with private concerns. He has frankly said many times that he is prepared at all times to uphold the Labour party in securing the highest wages possible for the manual labourer, but I would like to ask him and other members of the Opposition who have made a strong point of attack on these trading concerns which particular one they desire to have abolished? Would it be the milk supply, a small concern in itself, but one which has been responsible for saving the lives of hundreds of children in the Children's Hospital, and which has supplied with beneficial results the metropolitan hospitals also? I make bold to say that the hon. member would not favour the abolition of the State milk supply. Would the hon. member have been against the workers' homes scheme which was responsible for building 1,500 homes in the metropolitan area and other parts of the State and which have been responsible undoubtedly for the drop in the rents in the metropolitan area? I would further make bold to say that he would not be against that particular proposal, and that he would not be prepared to go and fight that workers' home scheme on the public platform. Would he then be against the State Implement Works? If he were so, I take it he would be at sixes and sevens with certain members of his party who

represent country districts. Such a hide-bound Tory as the member for Katanning (Mr. Thomson), when it comes to State enterprises, would be very loath to say that he was against the control of the implement works by the State. Would he, then, be against State steamers and other State enterprises? If so, he would be against the avowed policy of the present leader of the Opposition, who declared upon the public platform, when seeking re-election in 1911, that if the meat trouble continued he was prepared to put on steamers for the North-West in order that cheap meat might be brought to the doors of the people of the metropolitan and goldfields areas. Whilst State steamers have been the common point of attack with many members in this Chamber sitting in Opposition? I think we can make this assertion without fear of contradiction, that whatever Government get into power in this House there is none that would dare to abolish the State steamers which have been instituted by the Scaddan Government—that, notwithstanding the most venomous attacks made upon it by the members of the Opposition and the daily Press of the metropolitan area. The State steamers have undoubtedly been responsible for lowering and steadying the price of meat throughout parts of the State in the South-West in the metropolitan area, and in the goldfields districts. As Mr. Knibbs, the Commonwealth Statistician, has pointed out, Western Australia has been the only State in the Commonwealth where the price of meat has not increased during the past two years. To my mind, at any rate, the State steamers are solely responsible for that position of affairs. The State steamer route along the North-West coast of this State is the only route along the coast of the Commonwealth where the fares have not increased during the last two years. That, too, is solely due to the inauguration of the State steamship service. Would the hon. member, or any of his colleagues, say that the State sawmills have been an

altogether had undertaking? Is it not a fact that a large area of our timber country, the karri country in particular, has not yet been handed over to private hands, and that the fact of our having State sawmills has made it possible for the Government, being interested in the enterprise, to keep a sufficient number of men at work who had been thrown out of private employment in the timber industry, and whose employment represented an amount in wages of £100,000, which they would not have received through the timber industry if the State had not embarked upon it? Even if the State sawmills are bearing the distress of this particular bad time of industrial depression, which naturally follows upon the war, other private sawmills are similarly feeling the effects of the times. So much has this been the case that a gentleman who stands for private enterprise, pretty well on all occasions, rose in his seat in another place and had the temerity to ask the Government for assistance for privately owned sawmilling works, in the South-West, because of the parlous condition into which they had fallen. Would any member of the Opposition be game, after a visit to the State brickworks, to assert that these are not a success at the present time? I contend that with the workers' homes in operation, and that with the vast amount of public works going on which require bricks for their proper construction, it was absolutely necessary, owing to the high price of bricks that was being maintained in the metropolitan area, that these works should be established. In that area the price of bricks was £3 5s. per thousand, and the Government did quite right to step in and supply that commodity themselves to the building public. It may be news to hon. members opposite, who have not visited the brick works, to know that bricks are being made by the State for 35s. per thousand, and that the price of bricks to the private buyer before the inauguration of these works was £3 5s. per thousand. This has been one of the beneficent results which has followed in the

train of many of our State enterprises. They have had the effect of steadying the private exploiter, and the private employer and supplier has had of necessity to keep his prices in line with that of the State enterprises in many cases. With our Government enterprises paying, there is no reason in the world why the private employer should not continue to keep prices at that level and still make a fair profit. There is one other matter in the Governor's Speech which of course is very pleasing to me as a goldfields member, and that is the intimation that the Mines Regulation Act is to be brought forward again this session. I appeal, as other members have done, to those sitting on the opposite side of the House to see that the miners of this country are given every consideration, and that so great a proportion of the industrial workers in this State receive a fair deal by being helped through the medium of this particular legislation. No one who has resided on the Goldfields for any number of years, as I have done, can fail to be struck by the fact that numbers of men, whom one could call to mind several years ago as being healthy and robust, have in 99 cases out of 100, where they continued to follow up the mining industry, had their health ruined because of the dusty and unhealthy conditions under which they work. The matter of wages is not one that comes into the question at all. There is a matter far above the question of wages, and that is the question of health. It is not only of primary importance to the worker himself but it is a primary importance to the dependants of the worker, the wife and the family. It is nothing less than inhuman and cruel that in a country like Western Australia, which is regarded as the workers' paradise, and is the workers' paradise in many respects, this deserving portion of the community should be neglected so long for the sake of dividends. I contend that this small alteration which is required will not affect the question of dividends to any appreciable degree. Even if it did so I think that our position would not be more responsible or less weighty on that account, and that it would be just as neces-

sary for us to see that healthy conditions exist in that industry, and which can be made to exist in that industry just as in any other. Surely these men are worthy of as much consideration as any other portion of the community. They have not been less loyal or less brave than any other section of the people. As a matter of fact, when the call came from our great Empire to Australia for men to enlist for the front the proportion of men who enlisted from the mining industry, according to Mr. Knibbs, is shown to be second only to that of the Shearers' Union. The proportion of miners who have enlisted for the front has been 8.24 per cent. of the total number able to enlist, that is between the ages of 18 and 45. Others, however, who were not in unions averaged, according to Mr. Knibbs, who is not a Labour politician, but is the Government Statistician and a man of repute and ability, showed a proportion of only four per cent., which is less than half of what the miners' union contributed towards this great struggle in which we are engaged. The average for the whole of the unionists of Australia is 6.77 per cent. It is not my desire to draw comparisons, and indeed it would be somewhat unseemly to draw comparisons, between the number of unionists eligible to go to the front who have enlisted, and the proportion of non-unionists; but I think we should take note of the fact that the men who are so frequently cavilled at as having no stake in the country, did, when the great call for help came from the Empire, send 6.77 per cent. of their number to the front as against four per cent. of non-unionists. That is on the figures of Mr. Knibbs. I do not desire to detain the House, but I wish to mention also that the miners of Western Australia and the miners of Broken Hill were the first to land at Gaba Tepe. They were the men picked to land first, because of the fact that they were well accustomed to the use of digging tools, which was necessary to entrench themselves against the fire of the enemy. It is a proud record that the miners of the Commonwealth, the miners of Western Australia and Broken Hill, were the first to land on

what has already become a red letter day in the history of Australia. I trust, therefore, that the class of men who have done so much for the prestige of British arms will receive some consideration at the hands of members of this Chamber. Moreover, an industry which has already paid 25 millions in dividends in this State alone can surely afford decent conditions under which the miners may continue their ordinary employment. The present war naturally overshadows everything else, as the member for Canning (Mr. Robinson) has said. It is a time such as this that takes the bitterness out of party feeling, because we recognise that we have all to stand shoulder to shoulder to meet the common enemy. I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that in this age, after 2,000 years of Christianity, and after thousands of years of the evolution of civilisation, we who pride ourselves upon having advanced so far along the road of enlightenment, should find ourselves in what may be termed the cradle of our race in Europe involved in a fratricidal struggle. Because, whilst we are now inclined to say harsh things against the Teutonic race, we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that they are a wonderful race, and that the British, as well as the other nations of Europe, have much to learn from the Germans. From what I know of the German people, of German acquaintances of mine in Australia, I feel sure that it is really not the German people who are responsible for the present struggle. That responsibility rests largely on the Prussianising system that unfortunately has grown up in the German Empire. So far as the future is concerned, my personal view is that Hague conventions, and methods of that kind, are absolutely futile for the prevention of war. The only hope, in my opinion—and I trust I may not appear partisan when I say it; I do feel it deep down in my heart—the only hope for the world is that Labour Governments should come into power in every civilised country. Without any fear of contradiction I make the assertion that if the Social Democratic party had been in power in Germany, the

present war would have been impossible. That is the spirit of the working classes, at any rate. The idea of the working classes was voiced to some extent by a small band in Berlin when war was declared between France and Germany in 1870. That band sent the following message to their French comrades: "We are the enemies of all war. Solemnly we promise that neither the sound of the trumpet, nor the roar of the cannon, neither victory nor defeat, will swerve us from our common purpose, the union of the toilers of all countries." Whilst we, as representatives of the workers, now that this great struggle is upon us, recognise that we have to go shoulder to shoulder, and whilst we are prepared to bear our share of the brunt of the fighting, nevertheless we contend that there is a better and brighter future, which will arise when the working classes get into power in a democratic Germany of the future. I thank hon. members very much for their kind attention.

On motion by Mr. Heitmann debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.46 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Tuesday, 10th August, 1915.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

By the Premier: Statement by the Auditor General respecting the auditing of trading concerns.

By the Attorney General: Statutes 17 and 18 of the University of Western Australia.

By the Minister for Works: Regulations 1-6 under the Industries Assistance Act, 1915.

By Hon. R. H. Underwood (Honorary Minister): Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year ended 30th June, 1914.

NOTICE OF QUESTION—BLACKBOY HILL CAMP.

Mr. GEORGE (Murray-Wellington): I give notice that to-morrow I shall ask the Premier: Will he make inquiries from the Commonwealth Government as to: 1. Whether it is a fact that at Blackboy Hill Camp, where there are about 3,000 men now in camp, only three water taps are available for the use of the men and for washing up purposes? 2. Whether it is a fact that at the camp there are seven shower baths, which are not available for the men between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.? 3. Whether it is not in the interests of the volunteer movement that better sanitary arrangements be immediately installed? 4. If these questions are answered in the affirmative, will the Premier use his influence to have more suitable arrangements made?

The PREMIER (Hon. J. Scaddan—Brown Hill-Ivanhoe): I have nothing whatever to do with it. There is a member for the district in the House of Representatives, and there are six Senators representing the State. If the hon. member wires to one of them he can get the information; I cannot give it to him.

QUESTION—AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, JUTE IMPORTATION.

Mr. HARRISON: asked the Minister for Agriculture: 1. Is it considered by his department to be in the best interests of agricultural development that the present methods of selling jutes at the value of contents contained therein should be con-