

made to call for tenders for the works. The Hon. Mr. Crowder referred to the purchase of the Great Southern Railway. No doubt it would be a good thing to buy the line if the Government could get it on reasonable terms, but I cannot see any pressing necessity for it. We are having a good service given to us, and I do not think it can be improved. It might be a great advantage if the Government could get the lands in their own hands, but the Government should not rush into the purchase when the company is at the top of a boom, and will ask the highest price for their property. One of the most satisfactory parts of the Speech is paragraph 5, which refers to deep drainage. Last year, in referring to the tariff, I thought it wise for the Government to retain their revenues and provide for the sanitation of the towns with the money. I have never altered my opinion. I do not think the country districts object to pay the extra taxes, although of course in Perth and Fremantle the people want everything as cheaply as they can get it. I pointed out last year that we were getting things cheaper than we did years ago. Sugar is selling at 2½d. per lb. which we used to pay 4d. or 5d. for, and other articles in proportion. Last year, however, the Ministry said that the sanitation schemes were matters for the municipalities to deal with. That is all very well, but how are the municipalities to find the money?

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. E. H. WITTENOOM): I think I added that the Government had a scheme which would apply to all towns.

THE HON. E. McCLARTY: There is no doubt our sanitary arrangements are a reproach, and it is imperative that the Government should assist the municipalities in the matter. There is no good for people to get rich if they die in all directions, and I am pleased to see that the Government recognise the necessity of something being done.

THE HON. W. ALEXANDER: The various matters in the Speech have been very fully discussed. Some members think it better not to express an opinion until the specific items come before them in detail, and I am inclined to that view myself. I have to congratulate the Government on the pleasing statement they have

made. In the few remarks I have to make I shall take the last clause of the Speech first. Clause 10 shows that we have a large revenue, and, to put the matter shortly, it is an increase of 62½ per cent. over last year. Then in clause 9 members can see the time and care the Government have taken in laying out the works referred to therein. I can assure hon. members it is surprising to find the amount of work that has been done throughout the country. We have really no conception of it. With one exception there is nothing brilliant in the Speech. As regards the question of Federation, I think no harm can be done in sending ten delegates to the Convention for the purpose of considering the terms of a constitution. Whatever is done, the great stumbling-block will be the matter of customs duties. New South Wales is endeavoring to grasp the whole of the trade on the eastern seaboard; Victoria has its heavy protective duties, and in South Australia there is a mixture of free trade and protection. Then we have our own particular ideas on the subject, and it seems difficult to see how we are going to get unanimity. For my part, I believe there will never be Federation until we have a European war. As regards the increased representation the Government are only voicing the opinion of the country. The water supply scheme seems to be the bone of contention, although it is not the scheme but the cost which hon. members are somewhat frightened of. We must bear in mind that borrowing has been the curse of Australia, and I consider it unwise for us to follow in the footsteps of our neighbors in this respect. The water supply scheme, however, will be a reproductive work. It is stated that the water can be sold at 3s. 6d. per thousand gallons, and I may tell hon. members that at the rate of five million gallons per day it will take 10 years to cover the cost of the works without regard to the working expenses. As to the fifth paragraph dealing with the railways to Menzies and Kanowna, I can assure hon. members that these are necessary works. The greater portion of the country through which they will pass is sand. Not only am I in favor of these, but when the line reaches Menzies it must be extended northward, so as to make one grand trunk line

throughout the whole goldfields. Next session I hope to see a bill brought forward to construct a railway from Meuzies to Mount Magnet. As to clause 6, I approve of the customs duties being made as low as possible. I think our water supplies should be provided by the corporations. I understand the Government intend to lend municipalities money at 3 or 4 per cent. for the purpose of enabling them to undertake these works. I regret to see no mention made of a railway from Port Hedland to Marble Bar, and I think this line should be made as quickly as possible. With regard to the other works, I shall be prepared to consider them when the time arrives, especially the railway proposals.

THE HON. R. G. BURGESS: After the able speeches which have been made, I feel somewhat diffident in rising. I wish, in the first place, to endorse the remarks which have been made concerning the late Mr. W. E. Marmion. Everyone who knew him must feel proud of him. I congratulate the Governor in being able in his opening speech to give such a satisfactory account of our finances. Many grumble about the expenditure, but some people would growl about anything. Some have grumbled about the duties being taken off. After remitting £50,000 or £60,000 last year we have a larger surplus than ever we had before, and therefore the remarks of hon. members in this respect have very little in them. Several hon. members have deprecated the proposed water supply scheme on account of the cost, but in the same breath they advocate the raising of further moneys to build railways 100 miles in length. The Hon. Mr. Stone says that Marble Bar has not been treated well. He does not approve of a further loan, and yet he wants this long line constructed. There is no doubt but that the north has been neglected. The pastoral industry especially has not been looked after, and this may be accounted for from the fact that the industry is not properly represented in Parliament. The industry is not so flourishing as it was in days gone by, and our pastoralists to-day are more like slaves than anything else. The agriculturists form a larger community, and make themselves heard better, and they

will be heard even more in the future. As to Federation, there is only one man working it up in Queensland—Sir Samuel Griffith. The people do not agree about it, and when the time comes they will never have it on the terms they want it. We shall do the same. This colony in the past has had insult heaped upon it by the other colonies, and now they want us to join with them, and cripple every industry we possess. I represent a district which includes the goldfields, and I can say that the people will not be satisfied unless they have better representation. One man cannot represent everything. He cannot properly represent pastoral, mining, and agricultural interests. The people who are flocking here from the other colonies want free trade, which means ruin to our farmers. We are aware that our goldfields have done more for us in three years than we could have done in 20 years without them, and we should be reasonable on that account, but we should not sacrifice all other interests to them. I have heard it said that Western Australia has done more for her goldfields than any other colony would have done, and I have been told that our population is producing more per head than any other colony. We are, therefore, doing our best. As to the water supply scheme, the magnitude of the work does not surprise me, because I knew of it six or seven months ago. I do not say whether I shall vote for it until I know more about it, but at the same time I think the Government should get other opinions than those of the Engineer-in-Chief. I may point out that it seems to me that the loan proposals of the Government seem more justified than was the first loan of £1,333,000. There is no doubt we should be careful, but we must not be frightened to invest. We should not go on in the old way, and grow a bushel of corn and eat it, or fatten a sheep and watch it get thin again. Objection is taken to the harbor works at Bunbury, but I think something must be done, because the jetty which exists there is not fit to take a donkey cart upon. With regard to the sewerage schemes, hon. members must remember that fever is not prevalent in Perth and Fremantle alone, but all over the colony, and whatever is done for these two principal towns