

Mr. MANN: Then the Government should make arrangements for the selection. Unless we bring people to this State, we shall not be able to hold it because of the declining birth rate. I suggest that the Government should take up this matter seriously and send the right men Home to select the right people not only in England, but also in Europe—Norwegians, Swedes, and Germans. Young people in Germany are tired of their conditions and could well be brought to Australia.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: If we could arrange to send you to England, you would have to be in a better mood than you are today.

Mr. MANN: South Africa is drawing heavily on the migrants available in the British Isles and so are Canada and New Zealand. I am not concerned about the eastern part of the Commonwealth, but I am concerned about Western Australia where we have a population of only half a million. The Premier has a wonderful chance to adopt a sound immigration policy. One of the first planks in the Government's policy should be immigration. The immigrants who came here in the early days to pioneer the country did not ask to have houses provided for them. They housed themselves, and set about to develop this country. If men of that type were brought here today, they would help themselves and in so doing would help the State also. If the Premier loses this chance or defers action until the present housing shortage is overcome, he will find that he is too late. The field will then be for the southern Europeans, who will flock here in thousands. Unless we populate this State—the largest in the Commonwealth with relatively the smallest population—in 25 years there will be no Western Australia. In the islands to the north the Dutch are dispossessed and the Indonesians are in power, and I ask members to reflect upon what that will mean to Australia and this State in particular. Let us select suitable immigrants from the Old Country and assist them when they arrive here.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Thousands have been nominated and are awaiting transport.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MANN: I appeal to the Premier to select representatives from the trade union movement, the Chamber of Commerce and

the primary industries and send them Home to choose the right type of immigrants. I think by doing that we shall get a large population. It is far better that we should have, as immigrants, northern Europeans rather than southern Europeans. I wish the Government every success. I think the Ministry is sound.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Very noisy!

Mr. MANN: It is very sound indeed. I personally think the Government will achieve much. I hope it will.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Do you not think it could be improved on?

Mr. MANN: No. I think the best brains possible have been selected.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You have changed your mind.

Mr. MANN: I hope the Government will succeed because that would be for the good of Western Australia. I visualise the Government remaining in office for a very long time indeed.

Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You could see your own reflection in it then.

Mr. MANN: When I come to retire or am cast out of Parliament, I shall look back on my 17 years' association with members of this Chamber and think of the remarkable friendship that has existed between all parties. There has been no bitterness. We do not have squabbles here. Let us continue to carry on this Parliament in the way in which it has been carried on in the past. Our Parliament is unique among the Parliaments of Australia. I sincerely hope that that spirit will continue not only for the sake of goodwill among members, but for the good of the State of Western Australia.

MR. WILD (Swan) [3.25]: Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I, through you, congratulate the Speaker on his elevation to the high post which he now occupies. I have no doubt that he will add lustre to the office, as was done by his predecessors. To you, Sir, may I also offer my congratulations, although I hope that most of your work in the House will be in Committee. To the Cabinet I would also like to convey my congratulations. The members of the Cabinet have had very little opportunity to understudy those positions during the past 14 years, but I have no doubt that they will, by dint of application to the subject and hard work, overcome

those disabilities and rise to the occasion. I intend this afternoon to address myself to one or two matters affecting my electorate and then, prior to concluding, I shall speak on one or two matters that affect the whole State. First, I want to raise the question of the Plant Diseases Act which was passed by Parliament last session. I feel that this Act, as it stands today, has not the whole concurrence of the growers of the State. I speak particularly of Swan, because as members are aware, my electorate has a very big percentage of the men affected by the Act.

Growers are very perturbed over two provisions of the Act, Section 12 (b) and 12 (c), which give a municipal council, a road board or a certified fruitgrowers' association the opportunity to call for a poll of growers to decide whether a district shall be determined as verminous. Section 12 (c) provides that 60 per cent. of the growers, when the poll has been called for, must be in favour of such determination before effect can be given to it. I point out to the House that in Swan—I am not able to get a complete picture—taking the road from Kenwick through to Armadale we have 347 commercial growers; but in that same district there are over 1,000 orchards which, as you know, Sir, may have only one tree each. It has been said to me that the people owning these backyard orchards are not concerned with the poll; but I venture to say that if it means trespassing upon their own preserves and having to pay something, although I know it is but a mere pittance, $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per tree, or 6d. per acre as a minimum, they will probably go to the poll to record a negative vote.

In addition, Section 12 (d) provides that if the poll is defeated, the same set of growers cannot demand a poll again until the expiration of two years and nine months. Therefore, in effect, if these growers are defeated by the backyard orchardists, they will have to put up with the fruit-fly for a further two years and nine months before they can take action to eradicate it. I understand that the South Suburban Fruit-growers' Association in my district, with headquarters at Kelmscott, are taking action and have discussed the matter with the Citrus Council, and it is hoped that shortly some constructive criticism will come from them and that if they can think of a better method than the one already offered by the Government the Minister for Agriculture

will listen to their reasons and, if necessary and if thought fit, see that an amendment is put through to overcome their difficulties.

I wish to say a few words on the Kalamunda water scheme. This has been a hard annual for 25 years; and having perused the file, I find that the excuses for delaying the scheme have been insufficient population, the expense of the scheme and now, lastly, insufficient water. A few years ago Kalamunda was looked upon purely as a summer resort, but in latter years it has passed that condition and it is definitely an outer suburban area from which many people come to Perth for business every day. The population has increased to 3,000 in the last seven years. For that there are many reasons—the housing shortage down below, plus a road board alive to the time and prepared to allow people to erect structures not built down here. In fact people can there erect buildings with 9ft. 6in. ceilings and costing only £500 to £600. As a result the population has increased considerably. The late Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—

Hon. A. H. Panton: Not late! He is still alive.

Mr. WILD:—met a deputation last year or rather early this year, from Kalamunda in connection with this scheme and £100 was approved for a survey. I am pleased to see that this work is being undertaken, and would say to the Minister for Works that I hope when estimates are prepared for this big job we will have preliminary work of reticulation in the town undertaken before the Mundaring wall is completed. It was started in March of last year and I was led to believe it would take three years to complete. I understand now, however, that it will be closer to five years. I hope the Minister for Works will have the reticulation work commenced so that the day the wall is completed the people in Kalamunda will be able to turn on their taps.

My district is also very greatly affected by drainage. We all know that in the last two years there has been an unprecedented amount of rain. I was discussing the matter last Sunday with one of the old residents of my district. He has lived in Kelmscott for 40 years. He showed me a drain running through his property which 10 years ago he was able to step over, but to cross which today he requires the use of a 10ft plank. I have walked around this district

quite a bit in the last few months and I feel that a lot of the trouble is the result of closer settlement and of people moving trees and each man higher up improving his own property by draining water away, naturally to somewhat lower ground, with the result that the fellow at the bottom collects the whole lot from everybody higher up. I understand that a survey was commenced in Wongong during the war but could not be completed on account of the scarcity of surveyors. I appeal to the Minister for Works to see that this survey is completed and that an overall scheme for the whole of the drainage from Forrestfield to Wongong is undertaken as early as possible.

I do not intend to be at all critical of the previous Government. I would much prefer to accept things as they are today and try to face up to them. But I do think that with regard to the question of electric power the predecessors of the present Government cannot say that they were entirely blameless. Everywhere one goes in the Swan electorate one finds that people were promised power as far back as 25 and 26 years ago. I perused one file the other day in which it was indicated that in 1926 the people of Mundaring would have power within 12 months. But 21 years have passed, and I had to go to the board a couple of weeks ago and tell them that I regretted they would not get any power for another three years, because we had not any to give them.

In another district, Westfield—only a small centre—the people were told in 1922 that they were to be given priority for power. In 1940 the late Mr. Sampson went to them and said, "I think that if you all put in five per cent. of the amount required for the transformer to supply you, you will get power." Recently I was asked to find out whether those people should leave their five per cent.—it was only a matter of £121—where it was or have it back, and through force of circumstances I had to tell them that the best thing they could do would be to take their money back and get a little interest on it and try again in another four or five years' time.

I perused the report on the Government Railways, Tramways and Ferries, which provides some rather interesting information and indicates the foresight that must be exercised by the people in authority so far as electricity is concerned. This report

shows that for the last 10 years the power used in Western Australia—that is, with the available supplies we have had—has increased 100 per cent. If we go back to 1925 we find that between that year and 1935 the consumption rose 100 per cent. and from 1935 to 1945 it went up by 110 per cent. It is reasonable to assume, therefore, that in 1955, instead of requiring 57,000 kilowatts, as we have at present, we will require 110,000 or 120,000. I put it to the Minister controlling power supplies in Western Australia that he does not want to think in terms of one 25,000 K.V.A. unit but in terms of 10 units of that size. We all know that in the past few years, particularly in the past 10 years, the use of electricity has increased and would have increased terrifically if we had only produced the available power. But it is rather like coal. I think one chases the other. Coal is based on power, but we must have power to drive industry.

How can we attempt to induce industries to come here from the Eastern States if we have not the power for them to work on? I put it to the Minister that he should give the matter very serious thought. I think it will be found that in a few years every house in Australia where power is available will be equipped with a refrigerator and with a water-heating system, thermostatically controlled. These things will be part and parcel of every house.

The Minister for Education: Have you worked out what Governments were in office during the two decades in which the demand for electricity increased?

Mr. WILD: I want to say a few words about education. During the past few years very much has been done by way of educating the youth of our country; but I feel we fall short in the matter of supplying children with the requisite training to fit them to go out into the world. We bring children into the world and I maintain it is our responsibility to see that they are fitted when they leave school to take their place on an equal footing with others. I base my argument, firstly, on what has come to be known in Western Australia as the measuring stick of education, and that is the junior standard. The figures last year—the latest we have available—show that there were 54,454 children at school, of whom 5,671 left when they reached the age of 14 years.

I am going to advocate that the leaving age be raised to 16. I know that will cause howls from all over the place! We have firstly to consider giving children the opportunity in life that I mentioned before and, secondly, as to whether standard VI., at which the preponderance of them—95 per cent.—leave today is sufficient to fit them in keeping with the demands of today. I say, definitely, that it is not. In raising the age to 16 we would be faced with a very big problem as it would mean we would have 20,000 extra children at school in the first year.

With the present shortage of materials, etc., I realise it would be impossible to cope with them, but I put it to the Minister for Education that we might ease the question in gradually so that in 1948 we would allow 25 per cent. of those who would ordinarily leave school, to carry on for another six months. In 1949 we could allow them to carry on for twelve months, and in 1950 for 18 months, and in 1951 for the full two years. It would mean additional teaching staff, buildings and administrative staff, and more money. But what are those things when it comes to our objective? I realise that we cannot all be doctors or lawyers, or have a university education, but at the same time, knowledge is no weight to carry and I do feel that it is our bounden duty to give every child, whether he be yours, Mr. Deputy Speaker, or mine, an opportunity when he goes out in the world to earn a good living.

Before concluding, I want to speak on the subject of T.B. I feel that in past years this matter has been pushed aside. We have all said, "It is someone else's baby," and so it has gone on. We have done little or nothing to eradicate it. I do commend the previous Government for the Milk Act it put through, because I think that is a step in the right direction. It aims at eradicating T.B. cows. But we should go much further than that and have a mass x-ray examination of the population. Such an examination would, I feel sure, reveal that a larger percentage of our people suffer from T.B. than we imagine. One thing we must do is this: If a man, woman or child is stricken with this complaint we must see that he or she is maintained in good circumstances during treatment.

I cannot help remembering the unfortunate case of a man who was in the army with

me in 1943. He did not serve outside of Australia and, as a result, was not eligible for repatriation benefits. He was stricken with T.B., taken to Wooroloo and discharged. I did not know of this at the time. He was sent to Hollywood with some ailment, and from there he was moved to Wooroloo. I first heard about his wife and family of three little kiddies. All she was able to get—I forget the exact sum—was in the vicinity of 25s. a week to maintain herself and the three children while her husband was in Wooroloo, absolutely incapable of helping her!

Hon. A. H. Panton: That is completely altered now.

Mr. WILD: Yes, and I hope it is. We must ensure that whoever suffers from this complaint can be certain that not only he, but his family, will be looked after sufficiently while the treatment is being undertaken.

Hon. W. D. Johnson: You know that is the present policy?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. WILD: A small colony is being established at Wooroloo but we should go further than that. During the war we were able to spend £1,000,000 a day to go out and kill other people. If we could afford to do that, then we can afford to spend £2,000,000 a day to look after the health of our own people. In conclusion, I would like to say how pleased I am to have the opportunity of representing the electors of Swan. I hope that during my term here I will be of some assistance and that I will make some mark in the Parliament of Western Australia. I also hope that I shall not be tempted to criticise if I cannot be constructive. Furthermore, I feel that in Western Australia we have a magnificent State and, if we all pull together irrespective of our calling or station in life, there is no reason why this cannot be not only the peer of States in Australia, but in the whole of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

HON. A. H. PANTON (Leederville) [3.47]: In company with members who have already spoken, I desire to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his elevation to that position and to express my deep regret at his indisposition so early in the session. To you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I extend congratulations, and might I say that I think yours is