

collected and placed before the Government, I think it is the duty of the Government to stop at once the operations of the Kurrawang Firewood Company in that district. With respect to the various opinions delivered by hon. members since the debate on the Address commenced, it has been stated by members on both sides of the House that the Government are worthy of support. Well, I certainly think, judging by the policy they have submitted, that they are undoubtedly worthy of support, and that those gentlemen in Opposition who stated that they are worthy of support should see that it is their duty, while holding that opinion, to take their seats on this (Government) side of the House. Another matter I shall refer to is that the member for the Swan (Mr. Jacoby), dealing to-night with the question of the influx of aliens and the desire of agriculturists in this State to obtain a plentiful supply of cheap labour, gave it as his opinion that these aliens were of an inferior race, and he thought they ought to be encouraged to come here so that settlers in the agricultural districts might be able to obtain a supply of cheap labour. I am of a different opinion from the hon. member. I have had some experience of these people; and while objecting to their coming here, while believing that they should not be allowed to land here unless under strict supervision, I am of opinion that, after they have arrived here, after they have become accustomed to the ways of English-speaking people, they should be treated just as we are. I believe they are as good as we are, once they get to know what are our ideals and aspirations. But, with the hon. member, I do not think they should be taken advantage of for the purpose of working for selectors in the coastal districts; because we know very well that even if they were brought here in numbers, they would remain in the coastal districts for a short time only, and would ultimately gravitate towards the goldfields; therefore I am opposed to the landing of Italians or other European aliens in this country, unless under strict supervision and according to law. The member for Cockburn Sound (Mr. F. McDonald) referred to removing the duties off butter, bacon, and cheese. Well, while the agitation was proceeding over the question of federation or no federation

being submitted to the people in a referendum, it was tacitly promised by the goldfields people that a sliding scale should be permitted to exist for five years, and that these duties should, at the end of that period, be wholly removed. I certainly believe we should adhere to that compact. I do not believe in taking the duties off until the times at which they should be removed expire. Were we to do so, we should certainly be breaking our word with the people of the coast, and should render ourselves objects of contempt and detestation; and therefore I think we should adhere to the compact and still retain the duties in question. I have no more to say to-night. I have been speaking somewhat at a disadvantage, because we heard a very eloquent address just before I started; so that I will now resume my seat. I hope the Government will pay at all events some attention to those matters to which I have to-night referred, namely the inspection of mines and the necessity, in any future mining legislation, of seeing that mines are properly ventilated. (General applause.)

MR. A. J. DIAMOND (South Fremantle): It would be a charitable action if it could be arranged that new members of the House should have their say at the start; because, after the experienced members have spoken, with their flow of eloquence and the training they have received in many years of experience, we must appear to great disadvantage. I hardly like to refer to what is becoming a hackneyed theme, by paying a tribute to the memory of a late member of this House, Mr. Alexander Forrest. I say before this House that I am one who has to thank Mr. Forrest for a good turn in my past life. There are many men in this State who have to do the same. His loss is a great one, socially, commercially, and politically, and I am sure his memory will long be cherished in Western Australia. I do not propose, as some hon. members have done, to make excuses for sitting where I sit. [SEVERAL MEMBERS: Hear, hear.] The member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) is pleased to receive my remark with laughter. [A MEMBER: Shame on him!] I think I shall make him laugh on the other side of his mouth before I have done with him. But I do not at present propose to

encumber my few remarks with this excuse at the beginning of what I have to say. I shall be very happy to talk about it at the finish. It is an unimportant matter, and I think I shall be able to deal with it in a manner satisfactory to myself and to the House generally. I shall, on the contrary, confine myself at the start to the matters before the country which are mentioned in the Governor's Speech. To a very large extent, the greater portion of the policy put before this House has previously been submitted to the country, and I think has received generally the approbation of the people. It certainly is not a progressive policy. It errs, I think, a little on the side of retrogression. Instead of a game of borrow-and-spend, we shall have a spell of sorrow-and-mend. That is what appears to me. Whether at this present epoch that is a good policy for the State of Western Australia I think time will very shortly show. Just recently, there has been too much of a disposition to decry our position, to make the position of the State appear perhaps not so sound as it might appear in the English financial world. I for one am not prepared to accept this. I believe that in the past there has, perhaps, been too much tendency to spend money freely. For that, I do not hold myself responsible. I, as a new member, am not here to defend what has been done by the Forrest Government. There are gentlemen here present, the remains of that old party, who I think are perfectly competent to defend themselves; and it is not for me to do it. But in the face of the fact that the railways of Western Australia could to-day be sold for a sum which would pay the whole national debt of this State, I venture to say that even to the eyes of the greatest financier in the centre of the world's finance, London, ours is a magnificent position; and it only requires a little careful engineering to put us within a very short period on a cash basis. As regards the general policy of the Government, I think those who know me know very well that the bulk of its planks will receive my support. I am not a party man. I do not come here to vote for a party, but to vote for what, in my humble opinion, will be for the good of the State. The Speech touches on the water-supply. With a water-supply we

must have a sewerage system. The one is the natural corollary of the other. If we have a good water-supply for Perth, Fremantle, and the surrounding districts, we must have a sewerage system. I for one, as I told my constituents on the hustings, will not consent to any municipal control whatever. I think we have recently seen quite sufficient, in Perth at any rate, to show that a municipal council is not a proper body to control a great State scheme of this sort; and I would therefore respectfully suggest to the Premier and to the Government that they study the system which has for some years past been such a success in Adelaide. It is absolutely the best in Australia—the sewerage combined with a water-supply; and I think we ought to turn our attention to its study. Next is the question of land settlement. On this subject I feel, and for many years past have felt, very strongly. I do not think that with all the talent and ability of the late Commissioner of Crown Lands (Mr. G. Throssell), sufficient has been done in this State to induce land settlement. Some years ago, on the hustings in Fremantle, in opposing the late lamented Mr. Marmion, I put a scheme before the people which I should like to see carried out, and which to my mind to-day is as fresh and as feasible as on the night I put it before the Fremantle electors: that the Government should not attempt to sell heavily timbered lands, the prices of which are almost out of the reach of the ordinary selector because the cost of clearing is far greater than the value of the land, and necessitates an amount of capital which is certainly not within the command of the ordinary settler, certainly not within the command of the settlers amongst whom I have lived for 25 years in South Australia, and certainly, I think, not within the command of those in any part of Australia, or England, or Germany. Instead of attempting to sell those lands encumbered with this heavy timber, and subject to the outlay of an enormous sum of money in clearing, large districts should be set apart and cleared by the Government; and the land so cleared should be offered to selectors at a rent which would provide a sinking fund to pay for the cost of the land, the interest on the capital expended in clearing it, and a

fair and reasonable rental, so that at the end of a number of years, the people could have the land clear, and could make it their property. With reference to the railways, this is a subject that my daily avocation brings me into contact with, and I am satisfied and more than satisfied from day to day that the true solution of all these troubles is to put the railways under the control of a Commissioner independent of the Ministry of the day and responsible only to Parliament; and until that is done we shall always have the troubles we are experiencing at the present time. When the Government think fit to introduce such a scheme they will have my hearty support. With reference to the railway policy of the Government, it appears to be a policy of small sops: no railways, but any amount of surveys. I think that in nearly all places members of the Government have visited, those members have promised the people a survey of a railway. Most of those surveys I quite agree with.

A MEMBER: Name some of them.

MR. DIAMOND: If you will kindly give me a list, I will tick them off. With reference to construction of railways, I think the Government have wisely decided to give it a rest for a little while; but I trust that in the near future we shall not find ourselves in the despondent position the members of the Ministry seem to think we are in at present. In the Speech we are told it was thought desirable to have the Minister for Lands in the Upper House, because a member of that House would be more immediately in touch with the majority of the people owning the land or using it. I want to know who these gentlemen are sitting around me, for I really fancied that a large number of the people interested in the land of this country were in the Lower House, and I for one would certainly like to have seen the Minister for Lands sitting on the floor of the House. (General laughter.) I am sorry: I have too much respect for the Minister for Lands to suggest for one instant that he should sit actually on the floor of this House, because I am sure his position entitles him to a more elevated seat. The *pièce de résistance* of the Government policy is apples. I think that for many years the present occupants of the Treasury benches will be known as the Ministry

for apples. The difference between the rival parties, the consumer and the producer—I am a consumer and not a producer—seems to be this, that if we are short of apples we shall not have the pest, but if we have the pest we shall not be short of apples; consequently the consumer says "Codlin, not Short," and the others say "Short, not Codlin." To distinguish between these two extremes I shall have to take a very considerable amount of time, but it appears to me there has been terrible wind and flood about this apple business. I understand it is clear the Commonwealth customs law will wipe out the prohibition of apples, and consequently all the kudos, or the greater part of the kudos, that my esteemed friend the Premier (Hon. G. Leake) has gained through the country has been to a very great extent acquired, I will hardly say on false pretences, but certainly without the public knowing exactly what he was talking about. A Marine Board or Harbour Trust, both I hope, at the port of Fremantle and in fact every port in the State, is an absolute necessity, and I am pleased to see one or the other, or both, introduced in the Government programme. I have advocated them for some years. I think I carried one or two resolutions in the Chamber of Commerce at Fremantle in favour of them, and I trust their establishment is within measurable distance; but I certainly cannot agree with my friend the member for Perth (Mr. F. Wilson), who says the river Swan must be included, and that the inter-State steamers must come up to Perth. I hardly like to use slang terms, but on the hustings the hon. member was "pulling the legs" of his constituents, and to-night he is attempting to pull our extremities in a similar manner. In all river ports where ships carrying passengers are chiefly in evidence, there is a very considerable rise and fall of tides. For instance, in the port of London, where thousands of passengers are landed and embarked every day, there is a rise and fall of something like from 10 to 13 feet, twice a day I believe; consequently what would otherwise become a sewer is cleaned twice a day by nature. The Swan River enjoys the distinctive peculiarity of having a rise and fall at Perth of 8 or 10 or 12 inches. As a man who has had a great deal to do

with shipping and has lived in a shipping port, I say that if large passenger steamers were brought up to Perth, the water would become a common sewer in twelve months. The bringing up of passenger steamers to Perth is outside the range of practical politics altogether, and we need not waste our time to-day over it. There is another matter in the Speech which I would like to touch upon, and that is the question of alien immigration. I had the pleasure of reading the speech of the Premier at Queen's Hall, and saw that the hon. gentleman said we must have cheaper labour for the farmers; we must have alien immigration. Then he said—not in the exact words I am using—that we must not have them; and then he said we must. I think that if anyone reads his speech, he will find it was a case of "First he would and then he wouldn't, and then he said he really couldn't." I was very sorry—and I speak with all seriousness—to read that the Premier referred to Germans and Italians. Having lived in a colony for a quarter of a century where Germans are largely in evidence, I say they are of the very greatest value to any country where there is agriculture. The Germans come out, settle amongst us, intermarry with us, and remain with us all their lives. They do not want to go back to Germany. They are perfectly satisfied with Australia. I once heard a German member of Parliament say in the House, when they talked about war between England and Germany, "If Bismarck sends a German soldier to South Australia, I will take up my rifle and shoot that soldier." That is the sort of colonists the Germans are. The men who come to our port and are a menace are the scum of the Mediterranean—Italians and Greeks. If you pass regulations to admit these men as agricultural labourers, every man who lands here will be an agricultural labourer for the time being—you can bet your life on that. Therefore, while I would be in favour of offering facilities for the immigration of Germans used to agricultural pursuits, I should certainly object to the introduction of the other men. I do not want to say anything about rabbits: we have had quite enough of rabbits for some time to come. I only desire to remark that no effort should be spared, and that at the earliest possible opportunity the State should take steps

to prevent the influx of this terrible pest. I have seen the ravages it has made not only in South Australia but in the back-blocks of New South Wales and Victoria; and I should be sorry indeed to see it introduced into the western part of this State. I have to congratulate the mover of the Address-in-reply. It was a great pleasure to listen to his speech, which was calm, suave, polished, and graceful. The hon. member held the attention of the House from beginning to end, and I may say without any prevarication that it is an honour for this Chamber to have a gentleman of his attainments on its floor. At the same time I cannot quite congratulate him on the matter contained in his speech.

A MEMBER: Oh, that's another thing.

MR. DIAMOND: He certainly favoured us to a certain extent with a lecture on what we should do and what we ought to have done; but he entirely avoided details. He "sailed through all the latitudes with a heavy load of platitudes," and that I am sorry to say is about all he did. I sincerely trust the next time he addresses us he will direct his attention a little bit more to detail.

A MEMBER: That is a bit of a lecture for him.

MR. DIAMOND: The member for Boulder (Mr. Hopkins) not only lectured us, but also held out threats. I think I shall not be out of order in saying that the member for Boulder actually scowled at us.

MR. HOPKINS: Oh, no.

MR. DIAMOND: If he did so I am sure he did it unintentionally, because his kindly disposition would not allow him to scowl at anybody except in joke. At the same time, he and others who followed him accused certain members on this side virtually of not having kept their pledges to their constituents.

MR. HOPKINS: Pardon me.

MR. DIAMOND: I understand from a remark made by the member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James) that I am one of those criminals. As I have already said, I shall answer that before I sit down; but I would like to say now that the member for Boulder certainly found fault with the policy of the late Government. I have stated before that I am not here to defend that policy. The member for Boulder found fault with the

bold policy of Sir John Forrest. Well, I trust that the member for Boulder will give us a bolder policy. In the course of his remarks—like the immortal Silas Wegg—the hon. member dropped into poetry. The member for Boulder actually quoted Dante. I trust that in future he will give us notice before, I will not say inflicting on us, but favouring us with this sort of thing; as we shall have to read up our classics in order to be prepared. Dante is a very strong subject to fling in the face of this House. As I say, I trust that when the hon. member intends to give us Dante again he will let us have 24 hours' notice, so that we may look up our books.

MR. HOPKINS: You certainly need to.

MR. DIAMOND: With the exception of the circumstance that the member for Boulder threatened us, I have no fault to find with him.

MR. HOPKINS: Why don't you quote these things? I do not see them here (in *Hansard*).

MR. DIAMOND: I will talk to you about that after. The member for East Perth (Hon. W. H. James), when I saw fit to interject during his speech, flung a severe taunt at me. He told me what my constituents would do to me.

HON. W. H. JAMES: No; what the electors of South Fremantle will do to you.

MR. DIAMOND: What the electors of South Fremantle would do to me! Well, I should be very pleased if the hon. member would resign his seat, and I would then resign my seat, and would fight South Fremantle with him.

A MEMBER: Oh, go on.

MR. DIAMOND: I mean it. But in reply to the charges which have been made, and in which I believe I am included, I have only to say this—I have here extracts from every address that I made to the electors —

A MEMBER: No, no; don't read them.

HON. W. H. JAMES: You were not misrepresented, I assure you.

LABOUR MEMBER: Take them as read.

MR. DIAMOND: I have not yet said I am going to read them; but hon. members opposite can have them to read at any time they like. What I have to say is that in those addresses I gave certain pledges, which I have not departed from by one hair's breadth. I have

stood by what I said on the hustings, and the proof of it is now in my hands. If hon. members opposite who are so ready to make accusations against members on this side would only take the trouble to read what those members said to their constituents, they would not indulge in such reckless charges. This business was first started by that distinguished newspaper, the *Morning Herald*, the editor of which had evidently made up a list of the members he wanted to sit on a certain side of the House. When he found that some of those members would not accept his dictation, he began to treat them simply to a volume of abuse and scurrility, which I venture to say is not worthy of a decent, respectable journal. I was very sorry to hear the member for East Perth make the remarks he did, because they are entirely without justification. The statements of the newspaper in question are entirely devoid of a vestige of truth. I hold the proof of that at the disposal of the *Morning Herald*, or of the hon. member opposite if he still doubts my word. Now, I am all the more regretful of these charges because the hon. member has been a friend of mine for many years. To a certain extent, when he was a younger man, I think I was his political sponsor. [A MEMBER: Oh!] I think the hon. member I speak of will acknowledge that himself. At the present moment he appears to be a sort of semi-detached pensioner on the Government—not worthy to be a member of the team actually; only worthy to be a sort of adjunct or outside member without a portfolio. [A MEMBER: A nondescript.] Some of us were accused of not taking sides. I have an answer to that. There were no sides to be taken at the time of the election, and hon. members who say so know that they are talking nonsense. There were no sides to be taken at that time. The only side, judging from what I have heard from members opposite, would have been up in a balloon.

A MEMBER: What about the ladies' side?

MR. DIAMOND: I should be happy to sit on their side. I would like to refer to the speech of the member for Geraldton (Mr. Hutchinson), who seems to have hit very hard; otherwise the

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 10th July, 1901.

Motion (urgency): Railway Workers' Strike (not seconded)—Question: Railway Stations, Official Inspection—Question: Railway Officers' Association, Official Recognition—Question: Mines Inspector, Kalgoorlie—Leave of Absence, Debate on Attendances—Papers presented—Revenue Received: Ministerial Statement—Adjournment.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.

MOTION (URGENCY) — RAILWAY WORKERS' STRIKE.

HON. J. M. SPEED (Metropolitan-Suburban): I beg to move that the Council, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday next; and I do so for the purpose of referring to what I consider, and what ought to be considered by members of this House, an urgent matter—the present strike. It had been my intention to move the following motion this afternoon, after obtaining a suspension of the Standing Orders, but it is impossible to suspend the Standing Orders, because an absolute majority of members of the House is not present. The motion which I had hoped to move is to this effect:

That this House, whilst recognising the propriety of the Government demand that the differences between the Railway Department and the line repairers should be settled by arbitration, is of opinion that, owing to the long delays—caused by unavoidable political changes—which have occurred in dealing with the men's claims, and to the general admission of the justness of their demands, that arbitration should be waived in this instance, and recognise that the Government should introduce a resolution to make provision to accede to the request of the line repairers for an increase of 1s. per day in their wages.

I am sorry I am not in a position to ask the House to support such a motion, but I shall ask the House to consider the question, and, if possible, give an opinion on it, because I believe the opinion of hon. members will have some effect on public opinion. I trust members will look on this matter with a fair view, and beyond any party considerations. We know well enough that this House is supposed to be above party questions, and in a matter of this importance, it is only right and reasonable that members should waive their opinions in order to obtain a

member for East Perth would not have got into the terrible state of mind he did get into. Another thing has caused me considerable pain, and that is when the member for North Murchison (Mr. Moorhead) interjected on two or three occasions that there were too many office-seekers on this side of the House. I, for one, throw back the taunt and accusation with contempt. As far as I know there are as few office-seekers on this side of the House as on the other, and perhaps a good many less. At any rate, I repudiate the idea that I am an office-seeker; and I certainly do not know any other office-seeker on this side of the House. As regards taking sides, I do not want to be disagreeable or to say anything that is not pleasant, but judging from the results of the last few days or weeks, I must congratulate myself on being on the right side of the House. The remarks of the Treasurer about the Midland Railway Company quite satisfy me that I am on the right side of the House. The handling of this terrible disaster, the strike, by the occupants of the Treasury benches satisfies me particularly that I am on the right side of the House. I will not take up the time of the House longer as the hour is getting late, but I will say that personally I have nothing but feelings of the most profound esteem for the gentlemen on the Treasury benches, and as far as my support goes, when they introduce measures which in my opinion are for the benefit of the State, they will have my support.

On motion by Dr. O'CONNOR, debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

The House adjourned at 21 minutes past 10 o'clock, until the next day.