

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

Mr. SIMONS (East Perth) [9.42]: As a new member I have listened with a great deal of interest to what the veterans of our Parliamentary life have been uttering since this session opened. According to what one gathers from the remarks of the various Government supporters, it is accepted as a fixed principle that we are such a good, nice, tame, meek set of members that the whole session is going to continue without any criticism, without any correction, and without any attempt to keep the Government in check. If that delusion is finding shape in the hearts and minds of those who are supporting the Government, they are going to come up against a very severe disillusionment before many weeks have passed. I am bound to say that to-night I listened with amazement to the revelations made by one of the fathers of the House, the Minister for Works. We have heard a good deal of the control of the Parliamentary life of this State by outside bodies, but after reading "Hansard" for many sessions back I doubt if any more damnatory statement has ever issued from a responsible source regarding outside executive control than that which has fallen this evening from the lips of the Minister for Works. When we find a party machine sending its agents out through an electorate to hunt down, as though he were a criminal, a man who has grown grey in the service of his country, as the Minister for Works has, and when we hear documents read which disclose that, practically, a pistol is aimed at his head, and that he is threatened with having the power of 200 branches arrayed against him, we ask who are these agrarian Prussians, these agricultural Kaisers, that they want to marshal the forces of 200 battalions to bring a Minister to his knees? I do not know of anything more amazing than the statements made by the Minister to-night. A letter from the chief of this new organisation states that other Ministers have extended to it courteous consideration.

The Minister for Mines: He did not say that.

Mr. SIMONS: That is what the letter stated, as read by the Minister for Works.

The Minister for Mines: No; the letter does not say that. The letter says "other Administrations."

Mr. SIMONS: "Courteous consideration" were the words; I took them down. The writer might have said, with equal correctness, that the other Ministers had meekly submitted, had responded to the threats, had come to heel with the crack of the whip. We have to dwell on this question of control by outside executives, because every member on this side of the House had to fight his case on the hustings, had to meet the charge that we were controlled by outside bodies.

Member: So you are.

Mr. SIMONS: When I hear members on the other side making these inane interjec-

tions, I wonder whether they are correctly called primary producers, whether they should not rather be called Monger's magpies, birds who are periodically taken into the aviary to be taught the tune which they are to pipe for the next six months. After what we have heard to-night I am inclined to think that, instead of their being termed primary producers, they could more correctly be spoken of as primary seducers, members whose business it is to seduce Ministers from their legitimate duties—from the primary principles of responsible government. I believe every member of the House is prepared to give the Government all reasonable support in the financial crisis through which the State is passing. It has been refreshing to note in the speech of practically every member who has spoken the assurance that the Government will not be harried on behalf of the various electorates to meet anything but the most vital interests. I believe that the Leader of the Opposition, in giving to the Premier an assurance that financial disabilities would not be made a matter for party contention, was speaking for every member on this side of the House. We believe that finance is a subject which at a time like this should not be used for party advantage. I hope that when the wheel of politics turns, and the present Leader of the Opposition will be leading the Government, the same courtesy and consideration will be extended by Ministers and the primary producers when they come to sit on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. Willeock: May it be soon.

Mr. SIMONS: Every student of the condition of the State's finances must be impressed with the relationship of the railways to our deficit. No relief, no reform, no lessening of the burden of finance, can be brought about until we adopt some policy by which every acre of land adjoining existing railways shall be brought into productivity. The Premier has said that a new policy of railway extension will be carried out in some parts of the State. The policy of the State should be, not for more miles of railway, but for more traffic for the miles already in existence. No Government can ever hope to solve the financial difficulties of the State unless they are rigidly pledged to, and act upon, a policy which will bring in an unimproved land tax, or some other means of breaking up the big holdings fronting the railways. I will stoutly oppose the construction of one extra mile of railway until we have brought into use the lands already served by railways. It has been computed by an officer of the Agricultural Department that between Toodyay and Coolup, along the foot-hills of the Darling Range, is to be found 200,000 acres of the finest vine-producing land in any part of the world. This amazing statement can be borne out by facts. In no other part of the world is there land bearing such wonderful vine products as are to be found along the Upper Swan. I

have seen exhibits from that district placed on view in Sydney in the presence of experts from California, and I have heard those experts concede that in no part of California can be produced raisins and currants of the same degree of quality as those from the Upper Swan. And what is being produced there is also being produced as far south as Coolup; and between those two points lies 200,000 acres of soil of equal value, much of which to-day is held up by large holders. Near the pretty little hamlet of Pinjarra is a block of 60,000 acres held by one owner. Pinjarra, as we know, is built on the banks of a beautiful river and is surrounded by a most fertile area. Yet its population has not increased during the past 30 or 40 years. We must try to find some solution which will throw that land into use, and thus make of it a feeder bringing fresh traffic to the railways, which to-day represent the deficit under which we are staggering. Take the remarkable example of Toodyay. According to official figures, there was under cultivation in that district last year an area 2,000 acres less than that cultivated five years ago. Does that represent true progress? Every member of the House is in favour of a sane immigration policy. But hand in hand with that policy there should be a plan under which we can make those lands available to would-be settlers from abroad and also to our own people, in preference to sending families 160 miles to the wheat belt where the rainfall is not nearly so certain as in the districts nearer to the coast line. Something should be done by a practical Government to throw open those big areas already held up before attempting to build any fresh lines of railway. It has been represented that members on this side, without qualification, are opposed to the bringing of new people into Australia. There is not a single thinker holding any position of importance in the Labour Party who would say that Australia, with 5½ millions of people, is over-populated. There is no man who could say that Western Australia has sufficient people. It is an unalterable law of economics that the more people we bring in, collaterally with the development of our primary and secondary industries, the more work will there be to supply the needs of those already settled here. I remember that as a boy at Fremantle one of my first impressions of a public meeting was gained at a gathering convened to protest against South Australians and Victorians coming here. The State, then with fewer than 100,000 people, was regarded by that meeting as being over-populated. It was thought that Western Australia could not carry more than 100,000 people. Although that was 20 years ago, the same type of objectors still exist in Western Australia. We are not going to say that this great State, which a few years ago was importing pumpkins and wheat and the crudest forms of agricultural produce, and which last year produced nine million pounds worth from the soil, is in-

capable of absorbing tens of thousands of persons per annum. We believe that the man who writes abroad to prevent people from coming here is doing us all a wrong, and that the man who goes abroad like a cheap-jack, and paints the attractiveness of Western Australia in too vivid colours, is also doing us harm. We have to strike a happy medium and represent the conditions of Western Australia truthfully. At the same time we have to control immigration on such lines as will prevent the dumping of industrialists by the thousand into this country to reduce our social conditions. The Labour Party as a whole is in favour of immigration, provided it is not used as an instrument to lower the social conditions which we have been able to build up; because the higher we keep the social conditions of our country, the more attractive will the State appear to the man from abroad. I believe we are somewhat wrong in confining our immigration ideas to Britishers. After all, a mixed population, so long as the mixture be a right one, is a population which brings stiffening, idea, new thought, and variety, into a nation, qualities which make for greatness.

The Minister for Railways: And for trouble.

Mr. SIMONS: With a population of 5½ millions we are going to have more trouble in keeping out the Asiatic than if we could increase our white population to 10 millions. When it comes to the final show-down, it does not matter from what part of Europe a white man has sprung, he is going to fight side by side with the Britisher in keeping out the Asiatic. I have never yet seen a little trouble in which a Britisher and an European will not take the side of the white man against the Asiatic.

Member: You never know.

Mr. SIMONS: I do, because I have seen it; and what happens in regard to the individual gives an index of what will happen in a big community. If we survey the history of Australia, we must be surprised at the contribution men from continental Europe have made to this country. Provided that the immigrants bring families with them, or are married couples with the chance of founding families here, we should not be so narrow as to restrict our policy to Britishers; because so long as they are white we have security for the future. And since we have in Australia 5½ million people with British instincts, we can safely bring in a small percentage of whites from other parts of Europe. Some of us have admired Canada, where they have to stall-feed the cattle for nearly six months in the year, where the country is frozen over for half the annual period and where, notwithstanding, the population is increasing by 200,000 or 300,000 per annum. It is not done by restricting it to one nationality. It is because Canada extends her arms in welcome to every decent white man from any part of Europe. We might well take

pattern by Canada and adopt a broader view of immigration.

The Minister for Railways: Would you give these Europeans financial assistance?

Mr. SIMONS: No, I think it would be wrong to assist them, but we ought to exercise a greater spirit of toleration of white men who do not speak our language upon arrival. I would not assist them from State funds, but I would make it known to decent people in Europe that there are opportunities for building up homes in our country. We have with us the question of industrial unrest. I was interested at hearing members of the Primary Producers Party urging us on this side to go out and induce the industrialists to work for lower wages, saying "Accept any kind of conditions, but for Heaven's sake, give us peace." I, for one, am prepared to go out on that mission conditionally on an equal number of members from the Primary Producers Party coming along to urge farmers to reduce the price of wheat for local consumption.

Mr. Latham: You are misstating facts.

Mr. SIMONS. I am doing nothing of the kind. Why preach to us about asking our people to work for a lower wage unless you are prepared to advise your people to take a lower price?

Mr. Latham: We set an example last year, you know.

Mr. SIMONS: It must have been a horrible one, for I never heard of anybody following it. There are some people who contend that the price of bread does not represent very much to a community. Bread in itself does not represent much, so far as its relationship to prices is concerned, but in every part of the civilised globe the price of bread furnishes an index to the cost of the other commodities of life, and so much is said about bread because bread is the great staple and basis of our existence, and it has its reflex in every degree in everything needed for human consumption. In a sporting spirit I make an offer to go out in the country as has been suggested if an equal number of members from the other side will do the same to bring about a reduction in prices.

The Minister for Mines: I think you weighed it up well before you made the offer.

Mr. Lambert: The Minister apparently knows his friends well.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: Nothing doing.

Mr. SIMONS: I was very pleased that the member for South Fremantle (Mr. McCallum) was added to the list of members returned at the last election. If members of the Primary Producers Party will only be candid, I think they will admit that he is not such a monster as they thought. I know from a knowledge of inside workings that, though he has been called a strike promoter and a strike maker, for every strike in which he has taken part, he has helped to prevent at least five strikes. It is, therefore, good to find members on the other side brought into contact with the member for South Fremantle in his capacity as a legislator. I take

it that every member concurs in his remarks with regard to the arbitration courts. We have heard a great deal about direct action on the part of labour and a desire to wipe out the arbitration court. This may be the wish of a section of labour, but we must not be impatient. We have had criminal courts for nearly 2,000 years endeavouring to wipe out crime, but no one suggests sacking the judges and burning down the courts because crime still exists in our midst. We did not expect the arbitration court to wipe out all strikes and discontent in 20 or even 100 years, but we did expect that arbitration would prevent some strikes and lead to more peaceable conditions. This it has done. It would be as sensible to abolish the arbitration court because a strike occurred as to burn down a hospital because there was an outbreak of disease. Wisdom should guide us, not in the direction of wiping out the arbitration court, but by making some contribution from both sides of the Chamber to render the court more elastic, enable it to give more prompt decisions, and save the long drawn out delays which have brought the principle of arbitration into disfavour during the last few years. In coming to the basic principle in connection with strikes, this great point is generally missed. If we go back to the later stages of the war when industrial unrest became so pronounced, we have to ask ourselves what was the first kind of strike brought on. During the first three years of the war, there was hardly a strike of importance in Australia, but finally the position became unbearable, conditions became insufferable, not because the industrialists were striking, but because there were strikes of another kind. The landlords had struck against the old rent figures; butter sellers had struck against selling butter at the old price; jam makers had struck against the old figure for jam; shipping companies had struck against the old freights and fares. These, however, were not called strikes or direct action; they were simply called trade adjustments.

Mr. McCallum: There was no arbitration, either.

Mr. SIMONS: No, it was all direct action; no seven days' notice of intention to increase freights or fares. There was no saying "May we?" It was done without question.

The Minister for Mines: That is wrong. This applies to the whole world, and we fixed prices.

Mr. Muusie: The Prices Regulation Commission could not regulate freights.

Mr. SIMONS: That is what I am complaining about. Outside influence has made it impossible for the Government to bring down the price of wheat to a proper figure. The Government have been rapped over the knuckles by the Minister for Works to-night because they did not do their job.

The Minister for Mines: I am not talking about that.

Mr. SIMONS: I am. We have to accept this principle, that an industrialist whether a tramway man, railway man, lumper or clerk, has a commodity to sell, and that commodity is his or her labour. It is certainly not put in a tin like jam, or wrapped up like butter, or sold by the yard like calico, but for all that it is a commodity. Each industrialist is a merchant with something to sell, and that something is the product of his brain or his hands. When men selling that commodity get together and say they want an increase in the rate or an improvement in the conditions of labour, it is called direct action or a strike. But we have never heard of a strike of butter sellers, or a strike of jam sellers, or a strike of bakers or anything of that kind. In such cases they are not called strikes, but commercial adjustments. When we go back to the beginning of the disturbances which brought about the strikes, we must not look purely to the industrial sections of our social life to find the cause. Something has been said by different speakers about revolution and about the industrial classes of Australia hungering for revolution. I do not believe there is one responsible leader of the Labour Party in Australia to-day who is in favour of revolution. I will admit that there are some extremists of the type so vigorously denounced by the Premier of Queensland the other day who would, if they could get the power, take hold of the steering wheel of the ship of Labour, but we have not yet got to the stage when they are anywhere near the wheel.

Mr. Teesdale: The Premier of Queensland is coming off now; he supported them a few years ago.

Mr. SIMONS: He never did anything of the kind. That is an utter inaccuracy. There has never been a time in the history of Labour in Australia when any Premier or leader has flirted or finessed with the direct actionists.

Mr. Teesdale: I will give you an instance.

Mr. SIMONS: The hon. member will have an opportunity later on, and I do not mind how loudly he voices it. There has never been a period when any responsible leader of Labour has endorsed direct action. We have on the fringe of the social movement which our party represents, a certain class of men who are not Australian, who are imported from abroad and who know nothing of our conditions, of our sentiments, or of our aspirations, men without soul, patriotism or country, who are represented by the Press opposed to Labour as being the voice of the Labour movement of Australia. I had the privilege of being on the Sydney Domain a few Sundays ago and from 14 different platforms I heard a so-called new social doctrine enunciated, and in no instance was it enunciated in the Australian accent.

Mr. Angelo: Quite right; I was there.

Mr. SIMONS: Not one of those men had any controlling voice or guiding hand in the destiny of the Australian Labour Party.

The Minister for Mines: They are the people you are asking us to bring to Western Australia.

Mr. SIMONS: No, I can give the nationalities of these men. There were two Irish, two Scotch, two Americans, and the rest I should describe as Whitechapel cockneys. There was not one with a continental accent among the whole 14. I admit that a certain section of the Press, for propaganda purposes, has been representing to the people of Australia that these wild-eyed, mad-headed extremists represent the voice of Labour. They do not.

Mr. Munsie: They are not even members of it.

Mr. SIMONS: And they are fighting us as viciously as any other political party in Australia. I fought them in East Perth; the Leader of the Opposition fought them in Boulder, and the member for South Fremantle fought them in his electorate; we fought them everywhere, but we cannot choke them off because some of them, I fancy, are being subsidised by the other side.

Mr. McCallum: They are in Queensland and New South Wales. There is no doubt about that.

Mr. SIMONS: I know there is nothing that the legitimate leader of Labour in Australia fears more than the idea of revolution. We recognise that any principle won by revolution cannot be retained in a democracy unless backed up by a majority of the citizens, and where is the sense of resorting to force unless a majority of the people are prepared to agree to it? Every leader of Labour recognises this fact. Only within the borders of the Australian Constitution and of the State Constitutions can we hope to fight for those things we are seeking to attain. We realise that our hope is in ballots and not bullets.

The Minister for Mines: Are you occupying the late Ben Jones's seat?

Mr. McCallum: I was not aware that he was dead.

Mr. SIMONS: I do not think Ben Jones ever made more stupid interjections than I have been getting from the Ministerial benches to-night. The member for Gascoyne (Mr. Angelo) and other speakers have been deploring that Western Australia is in the Federation.

Mr. Angelo: No, I deplored the treatment we were getting from Federation.

Mr. SIMONS: We are getting everything we deserve from Federation. It is a judgment upon us for sending the type of senator whom we have representing us to-day. There are at least three of the six senators who are drawing £1,000 a year from the public revenue who would not be qualified for a yardman's job in a fifth rate hotel.

Mr. C. C. Maley: Who are they?

Mr. SIMONS: The hon. member knows them; if he does not he has not enough sense to be occupying a seat in this House. The people who sent members like these to Mel-

bourne to represent them are complaining of the kind of deal they are getting.

Mr. A. Thomson: We had it before those men were there.

Mr. SIMONS: But there was a chance of getting rid of them, and the opportunity was not taken. If we send representatives like these to Melbourne, why blame the system? To come down to matters of more local concern, as a metropolitan member I must express regret that in the whole of the Cabinet there is not one Minister representing a metropolitan constituency. I do not think there is a precedent for this in any part of Australia. This explains in a great measure why during the summer we were famishing for water. We were unable to wash decently or to drink decently, if I may so describe it. The member for Gascoyne deplored the fact that some ladies went to a hotel at 11 o'clock in the morning for cocktails or something of the kind. This probably is a habit that was contracted last summer when they were unable to get water. It indicates to what desperation the neglect of the Government has driven people because a decent water supply has not been provided for the city.

Mr. Angelo: They must have become very thirsty early in life.

Mr. SIMONS: It is no use criticising a scheme unless we have some remedy to apply. The Government for the past three years have been neglectful in not bringing the water from Mundaring into the metropolitan area. In 1903, when the scheme was established, with the idea of supplying water to Kalgoorlie and Boulder, there was an increase in the population of those cities of about 30,000 people. With the flow of years the position has undergone a change, and these areas are fast becoming de-populated. The State is now saddled with the capital expenditure on this tremendous scheme. We have in Perth people who are famishing for water, while there is this huge quantity at Mundaring not being used.

Mr. A. Thomson: Millions of gallons are going to waste every year.

Mr. SIMONS: Apparently the hon. member agrees with me at least on one point. We have this peculiar contradiction. The people in the metropolitan area have money ready to hand over to the Government, which is suffering from a condition bordering on beggary. The Government, on the other hand, have water to spare which they could exchange for real money, but they have not had sufficient business acumen to cause them to make the necessary provision for so doing. Mundaring is about 22 miles from Perth. The outlet from the Weir is about 80 feet above the level of Mt. Eliza. By the mere force of gravitation the water could be delivered to Mt. Eliza through a single line of pipes and thus not only bring revenue to the State but relief to a famished city. I tremble to think what will happen during the next summer unless the Government very quickly do something to relieve

the position from which we suffered so intensely last year. This cannot be too strongly emphasised. We have large and thickly populated areas which are not sewered within three miles of the Perth Town Hall. This indicates that our system of sanitation in these quarters has harked back to the time when men roamed about in tribes and had not enough intelligence to carry out a system of sanitation. That sanitation is absent because we have not sufficient water to enable us to operate the sewerage system already installed. It is all very well to be care free and say that all will be right and in the future pay for these disabilities with some severe epidemic. The mosquito pest is becoming more aggravating each year. People may say that is only a small thing but when mosquitoes come along in battalions it is no small matter. If I do not do something in East Perth to shift the mosquitoes they will certainly shift me. No one has any conception of what I shall be expected to do before the end of the session in fighting mosquitoes.

Mr. Mullany: You can't get them away from East Perth.

Mr. SIMONS: There is no such word as "can't" in relation to the eradication of mosquitoes. Something could be done by the Government in this direction. Lazy Ministers will say that it is a municipal function and that it is too small a job for them. I can well imagine them saying that. When the influenza epidemic broke out the Government did not say it was a civic or a municipal function to deal with but they faced their responsibilities and footed the bill out of the funds of the State. The people as a general body paid the cost of stamping out the epidemic. We have been warned by scientists who know their business that there are in Western Australia mosquitoes capable of carrying the germs of malaria and other diseases. It is therefore necessary that the State should take steps to meet the trouble beforehand. If an outbreak does occur as a result of mosquito infection the State will have to foot the bill. It is surely advisable, therefore, that the State should take the action necessary to prevent an epidemic from this source. The act of preventing an epidemic would be a great deal cheaper than that of stamping out an epidemic after it had occurred. I have lived in communities where the land has not been worth twopence an acre because of the mosquito pest. In ten years' time the same land has had settled upon it 60,000 people, although previously it consisted of mosquito-haunted peninsulas. The mosquitoes were got rid of because there were men there who did not know the word "can't." There was also the tremendous zone of uninhabitable lands along the Panama Canal route. Scientists on the spot did not say the mosquitos could not be eradicated. They set to work and wiped them out. In that part of New Guinea which we have taken from the Germans, although it is near the Equator and the climatic and

atmospheric conditions are not nearly so favourable as they are here, the mosquitoes have been eradicated to the extent of reducing the danger of the pest to a minimum.

Mr. McCallum: That system has since been improved upon by an Australian doctor.

Mr. SIMONS: That is so. In the fight against the mosquito the Germans even went so far as to fill up with cement the hollow forks of trees where any water might lie. What the Germans did we can do. The half-bred nigger republics in South America have also wiped out the mosquitoes in their region, and surely we have as much intelligence as they have. I hope members will realise the seriousness of this problem.

Mr. Johnston: Do you advocate that the Government should wipe out mosquitoes all over the State or only in Perth?

Mr. SIMONS: They might experiment first in East Perth. If the measures taken there prove successful they can then be taken to Williams and Narrogin and other country centres.

Mr. Angelo: You will have a vermin tax put upon your electors.

Mr. SIMONS: It does not matter what the tax is so long as we get rid of the mosquitoes. We let it be known abroad that Western Australia is a great place to live in and that Perth is a wonderful city. I know of a family who came from New South Wales last January with £15,000 to invest in Western Australia. They spent three nights in one of the leading hotels in the city, but could not get a bath because of the lack of water, nor a wink of sleep because of the mosquitoes. There is a cash value in making Perth more habitable, and in making Western Australia more habitable. The first impressions of the new-comer are generally lasting impressions. This is a business proposition, a commercial consideration. Something should be done before the ensuing summer to wipe out this terrible pest.

The Minister for Mines: Many people go East because of the mosquitoes, and spend their money there.

Mr. SIMONS: That is so. I remember reading a debate which took place in another place where criticism was offered to the expenditure which had been incurred on the Agent General's residence in London. While we are all pledged to economy, I do not think anyone, who paused for a moment to consider the importance of Western Australia being properly represented in London, would question the expenditure incurred by the Government in this way. The only thing I marvel at is that the Agent General was able to procure a residence for such a small figure. I believe in the dignified representation of Western Australia abroad.

Mr. McCallum: What about the furniture?

Mr. SIMONS: That is the property of the State and will be used by successive Agents-General. If we are to have a representative abroad he must be able to fill the

position with impressiveness, and dignity, otherwise there is no use in having that representation.

Mr. Teesdale: It will not affect the price of railway iron.

Mr. SIMONS: The Agent-General is expected on behalf of the Government to entertain visitors, financiers and others. If he brings them into an apartment costing £3 or £4 a week, which is a poor apartment in London, the impression gained by visitors from the atmosphere of the Agent-General's residence is likely to be the impression they will carry away of the importance of the State. To send the Agent-General round in a cheap fashion and expect him to invite guests into a cheap apartment, would be like sending a commercial traveller out in dungarees and moleskins and expecting him to bring in business. Our representation abroad must be in keeping with the importance of this great State. In a sense the Agent-General is an ambassador. He represents a country with great ambitions, which hopes to attract a great amount of capital.

Mr. Johnston: And to borrow money.

Mr. SIMONS: Unfortunately that is so. There may be two or three financial magnates abroad on whose advice will depend whether or not we get one million or two million pounds. The Agent-General should be so equipped as to give a good impression of the State that he is representing. On the other hand I cannot pass over the subject without saying that the Premier should communicate with the Agent-General and ask why he should show such bad taste as to call his home "Westrallia." There is no such place. It is a vulgarisation of a very fine name, "Western Australia." If the Agent-General is called upon to represent Subiaco some day, and follows that rule, he will place upon his house the name "Suby." I hope the Premier will do something to cause the Agent-General to abolish that sign of bad taste by wiping out this vulgarisation. The term "Westrallia" originated in a Sydney paper which did nothing for 20 years except write down this State in ridiculous language.

Mr. Pickering: It was not the "Bulletin"?

Mr. SIMONS: It was the "Bulletin." This State is entitled to have its full name given to it and not a nickname. With regard to our road system, I do not believe the Government are fully seized of their responsibilities in regard to the construction of highroads. With the development of motor traffic it is important that our roads system and our method of constructing roads should be entirely revolutionised. We have not altered our plans of road making or brought them into keeping with the requirements of motor traffic. We must adopt some system under which we will recognise that highroads are just as important as railroads. When that is recognised fully the State should declare certain lines of highroads

leading out in different directions, and these roads should be constructed on a uniform plan, carried out by the same engineers, and the ratio of expenditure on the mileage basis should be charged to the different local bodies through whose territory the highroads may pass. It would be impracticable to carry on a railway system between here and Albany by allowing each road board and each council to construct and maintain its own particular mileage. We would get nothing but railway chaos, just as to-day we have nothing but road chaos. Transportation between here and Albany by road is practically impossible owing to the condition the highroads are in for four months of the year. The Government must address themselves to the adoption of a uniform policy of road building in co-operation with the different local authorities between Perth and the outside centres. There is no mention in the Speech of any highroad policy. There is another matter to which the House should give considerable attention during the session. Some steps should be taken to commemorate in proper and fitting form the services rendered to the State by the late Lord Forrest. It is rather strange that such a suggestion should emanate from this side of the House. It strikes me as one of the most miserable commentaries it is possible to make upon any people to say that steps have not yet been taken to commemorate the life of this great father of the West. I hope not many months will elapse before some suitable scheme is urged in this Chamber by which the country will be able to express in a commensurate and suitable manner the undoubted gratitude and deep veneration we have for the life of one of the great fathers of our wonderful State. There were some on this side of the Chamber who did not agree with the political activities of the late Lord Forrest, but I do not believe there is any citizen, no matter how purblind politically he may be, who will not agree that in Lord Forrest we had one of the greatest men Australia has so far produced, not only from an Australian point of view but from the broader standpoint of the British Empire. When we come to think that the grave of this great statesman remains unmarked by the public and that no line has been written by the public to commemorate his wonderful life, we commence to wonder whether sentiment has left the hearts of the citizens of Western Australia. Perhaps a suitable way to perpetuate the memory of this great Father of the West would be to have some kind of building erected on the highest point of Mount Eliza overlooking the Narrows, where we could place the ashes of this great statesman. It could be erected on a position in the Park, to secure which he did so much for the people, and at a point from which the city he loved so well could be seen. Some scheme of this description might be worked out with the concurrence of the relatives and under the direction of, possibly, a Parliament-

ary committee representative of all shades of political opinion in this Chamber. The longer we, as a Parliament, allow his life to go unrecognised, the longer will we leave ourselves open to a charge of neglect of the memory of a very wonderful man. I do not think there was ever a greater act of vandalism perpetrated in this city than when "The Bungalow" was torn down and "The Bungalow" acre thrown over to commerce. That historic property should have perpetuated for all time, the memory of the late Lord Forrest, as a part of the city which could be pointed out to visitors from abroad as the home of the greatest man we ever had in this or any other part of Australia. In conclusion, I want to say one or two words on a couple of matters which have been referred to during the course of the speeches on the Address-in-reply. Some speaker on the Government side of the House mentioned that it would be wise, before a strike was commenced, if the wives of unionists were given the privilege of voting on the issue. I believe we, on the Opposition side of the House, are inclined to consider that question—

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear!

Mr. SIMONS: Conditionally. If the members of the Primary Producers' Association will bring their women—

The Minister for Mines: We do.

Mr. SIMONS: I mean if you bring your wives—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order!

Mr. Angelo: You want petticoat Government.

Mrs. Cowan: I made that suggestion. I did not want the Primary Producers' Association only. I spoke for all women.

Mr. SIMONS: I am speaking regarding women, too. If the Chamber of Commerce will alter their constitution and bring their wives along, and if the Chamber of Mines do likewise, then we will consider it. Then, too, if the members of the Pastoralists Association, before determining to oppress the poor shearers any more, will get their wives to participate in the discussion as to whether consideration of the shearers' requests is to be given or not, we may think of it.

Mrs. Cowan: Hear, hear! Why should they not?

Mr. SIMONS: If it is fair that the wives of the workers should be given that right, why should not the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Mines, and these other bodies, bring their wives along and let us have the whole thing on a basis of equality? I believe some of us could be converted to the idea.

Mr. Johnston: You would let the wives know what meetings their husbands were attending.

Mr. Munsie: How would your wife get on?

The Minister for Mines: Many of our wives would not go with us.

Mr. SIMONS: Regarding the Civil Service and the housing of the several Government departments, no one can fail to be impressed by the extraordinary

lack of foresight or co-ordination in the plans for Government buildings erected throughout Perth. Each building is a monument to very bad and very imperfect architecture. We have Government departments distributed all over Perth, and we have some departments with different offices in different parts of the city. A man from the country coming to the city to transact business with several Government departments, has to ramble all over the metropolitan area before his quest is ended. Before the State advances any further, we should adopt some co-ordinated plan and develop a great building scheme to meet all the demands of the future. If we take the rents that have been paid to private owners of property and ascertain what that represents in capital value, I believe it would be possible to erect a huge block of administrative offices which would be sufficient in capacity to house practically the whole of the Government departments, with the possible exception of the Railways. Take, for instance, the position where the old post office is situated, and take that block bounded by St. George's Terrace, Barrack Street, Hay Street and Cathedral Avenue, and concentrate on that as the site for an administrative block. If foundations were put down to carry eight or ten storeys, we could have a scheme under which each successive Government could add to the structure as the State developed, until in its eventual form, it would represent not only the embodiment of co-ordination, efficiency and economy, but would stand as a magnificent reminder of the confidence we have in the future of our great State. I believe such a scheme would have a practical value. I believe, although some may question the advisability of having an immense edifice, that it would pay. It would be an inspiration to the people to do bigger things, and stir in the souls of the younger people a spirit of emulation. Who can conjecture what the inspiration of the late Sir Winthrop Hackett represents to Western Australia? I suppose there were times when he was moving among the inspiring buildings and traditional reminders of his country. Who can say what was in the mind of that gentleman when he moved among those surroundings? I believe that in those days Sir Winthrop Hackett was absorbing the inspiration he gained from his surroundings, and in the fulness of time he was able to come here and endow Western Australia with practically everything we have which represents cultural attainments. When we see one life inspired in such a way, think what it must mean if that spirit were inculcated more generally among the people. When we consider that Sir Winthrop Hackett came to what was then practically an unknown State, with hardly any ambition to go forward, it is inspiring to realise that his name is associated with the Public Library, the Art Gallery, the Museum and very closely with the dedication of King's Park, the finest heritage any city has in Australia.

When we realise this, we begin to understand what it all means.

Mr. Angelo: Then there is the University too.

Mr. SIMONS: Yes, I am sorry I forgot to mention the University as well. From a contemplation of the work of the late Sir Winthrop Hackett, we see how one life radiates goodness over all and comes as an inspiration for the citizens of this State. Some materialists will say: "Does it pay?" They will ask: "Will it not cost too much?" One can never say what the results of one man's work will mean to the period in which he lives, provided that the man's mind is moulded in the proper atmosphere. We have to face another position seriously or accept the reproach of being one of the most backward States in the British Empire. I refer now to the question of improving the University facilities. The present institution furnishes another reflection upon us when it is realised that boys and girls who are fired with an ambition to become great in some line of thought or study, have nothing but a mere collection of tin huts and shanties to study in; insufferably cold in winter and swelteringly hot in summer. That is no atmosphere in which a youth may cultivate a great mind. It is not the atmosphere which stimulates study, or helps to higher thoughts, or inspires to greater things. I know that in the present condition of our finances it is useless to say that we have £100,000 to spend on our University; we have not. But I am one of those who believe that the University has been installed on the wrong side of St. George's terrace. It should be installed in Government House. There is a wonderful location there for a University, a location which would do us for the next 20 years. We have there 14 acres of the most beautiful land in the city of Perth.

Mr. Johnston: Why not make it a park?

Mr. SIMONS: On that location of 14 acres there are 15 people living—in the heart of the city, one person per acre. Without any reflection upon the present distinguished occupant of Government House, a man who, I believe, has already won the hearts of the people of Western Australia, and a man who has won the admiration of every citizen of this State, and also without in any way detracting from his dignity or from the dignity of the position of Governor, we could, I believe, house the whole of the staff in a less commodious building on King's Park-road, or possibly on the Observatory grounds, even if we erected for this purpose a new building at a cost of £5,000 or £6,000. Thus we should have Government House free for educational pursuits. The building is magnificent, and the surroundings are wonderful, magnificent grounds for the students to walk in when in contemplative mood. Between the water front and the enclosure there is a fine playing area; and the river is there for the boat sheds.

Mr. Johnston: The area is too small for University grounds.

Mr. SIMONS: Possibly; but it is 30 times bigger than the present University enclosure, which we shall be committed to for the next 20 years if the present condition of our finances continues. Some unwise men have suggested Crawley as a University site. They cannot understand what a modern University means, or they would not want to banish the students two or three miles out. The matter of transportation means a great thing to poor students, going backwards and forwards perhaps three or four times a day. Especially does this apply at night. Crawley as a University site is impossible for evening students. In modern Universities, such as those of Canada and the United States, and other countries to which we look for patterns, it is a common thing to find the young mechanic, the young clerk, and the young lawyer interleaving their time at the University with their time of business occupation. That condition is going to arise here just as surely as our civilisation is advancing. Now, for students desirous of alternating their university studies with business occupations during the day, Crawley is right out of bounds. As a University site, Crawley is impossible for the modern student who wishes to carry on his studies collaterally with his work. Such students will be working in an area bounded by Milligan-street and Bennett-street in one direction, and by the river and the railway line in another direction.

The Minister for Mines: Not at all!

Mr. SIMONS: To put the University area at Crawley means pronouncing a death sentence upon the student who has to work collaterally with his studies.

The Minister for Mines: What about the Fremantle students?

Mr. SIMONS: We could have a University at Fremantle too, if we had a properly progressive Government.

Member: What about the Midland Junction students?

Mr. SIMONS: However, there is no question at all about Crawley being unsuitable as a University site, first of all because it is low-lying—

The Minister for Mines. It is not.

Mr. SIMONS: The Minister has no sense of altitude if he says that. Secondly, because Crawley is too far removed from the arteries of traffic connecting the different metropolitan points. There are many other subjects which should have been covered, but just let me express the hope that this Parliament, before it is very much older, will see this House reduced to half its present number. Fifty members are altogether too many for this State to carry in the Assembly, besides the 30 members of the Upper House, and 11 Federal members—a total of 91 legislators. I never knew of any community of 300,000 people which could produce 91 statesmen. We can carry on much more expeditiously and much more efficiently with 25 members in this Chamber; and I am in favour of cutting the membership of the House in half as speedily as possible,

and sending us all back to the country to let the thing be fought out on the basis of the survival of the fittest. With regard to the future of the State, I do not believe that any of us can have any real misgivings. We certainly have an overdraft; but against that overdraft we have some wonderful assets. Western Australia is gifted with practically everything that God has given man in any other part of the globe. I believe there is only one thing we are deficient in, and that is the confidence of our own citizens in our own State. As heart-breaking a thing as one can come across is to go over East and hear some libel concerning Western Australia, which, when you ask where it originated, you find comes from some Western Australian visiting Victoria who has apologised for being a Western Australian. Not infrequently it is former members of this Chamber who have been the sources of such libels. It is a thing I have always failed to understand, why some people should take such delight in apologising for Western Australia, and in defaming the land from which they are drawing their sustenance. I travelled not long ago with a financial adviser from London, the representative of one of the large institutions of that city. We were travelling between Adelaide and Port Augusta, when he told me that his job was to go around the world reporting on various countries. He mentioned that he had made the circuit of the globe eleven times in fourteen years. I was curious to know what kind of report he gave out with regard to Western Australia, and he told me the equivalent of the following: "My report has been, 'Don't touch Western Australia with a forty-foot pole.'" I asked him, "Why do you give advice of that kind?" Let me explain that the institution which he represented performs the function of giving advice to people with trust funds to invest. Say a man dies leaving money for three or four children, to be invested in their behalf until they reach the age of 21 years: then the trustee or the solicitor who has to invest the money would apply to such an institution as this for advice. If a Western Australian or a Chilian proposition, or a proposition from any other country, were put before the trustee, he would refer it to this kind of institution, which advises in what directions money can be invested with safety. I asked this man why he warned his institution against Western Australia, and I said, "Don't you think Western Australia has everything that nature has given to any other country?" His reply was, "As regards the gifts of nature, you are superior to any other part of Australia." Thereupon I asked again, "Why do you warn your institution against us?" He said, "Because of the carping, criticising, fault-finding spirit of some of your citizens, which would damn the best country in the world." I said, "That is only a general assertion; give me an experience." He then said,

"I was educated as an engineer, and I was taught that the greatest water scheme in the world was your Coolgardie water scheme. I had read tributes to its efficiency in almost every European language. I never heard it condemned or run down anywhere except in Western Australia. The first thing I did on arriving at Kalgoorlie was to go to the water scheme office there, to see one of the engineers. I approached the engineer with these words, 'I have come to see your magnificent water scheme.' This fellow said, 'Magnificent! Where did you get that word from?' I replied that I thought the scheme was a magnificent one. He retorted, 'It is not; it is a rotten failure, and it is going to bankrupt the State.' I said, 'Are you telling me the truth?' He said, 'Yes. Come to-morrow and I will prove it to you.'" And the next day, when they went along the pipe track together, the engineer had a navy with pick and shovel proceeding in front to expose various portions of the track in order to convince this visitor from another country that the pipe line was rotten and was going to drive Western Australia to bankruptcy. The visitor's comment to me was, "In any other country they would have had a navy going ahead to cover up the bad points. If ever you put up a monument to typify the spirit of the West, model it on that man with the pick and shovel: he would be emblematical of your citizens." That man with the pick and shovel exposing the faults of our land to a stranger is, I fear, typical of only too many Western Australian citizens. I believe that the proper spirit is that of healthy optimism, for which I heartily commend our Premier. With that optimism and this wonderful land of which we have been made the guardians and inheritors, everything is possible for Western Australians, and our over-draft need not worry us too much. But we have to be more optimistic, we must have a stronger and more abiding faith in this great State of which God has given us the guardianship.

On motion by Mr. Wilson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Legislative Council,

Wednesday, 24th August, 1921.

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

QUESTION—OLD WOMEN'S HOME.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is there an official visiting committee to the Old Women's Home at Fremantle? 2, If so, who are the members of the committee? 3, Is a report furnished by the committee to the Minister? 4, If so, on what date was the last report furnished?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, No, but some weeks ago steps were taken to reappoint a committee, and the following organisations were each asked to nominate one member:—Labour Women's Organisation, Women's Service Guild of Western Australia, National Council of Women. 2, Nominations have only just been received, and the new committee will be appointed forthwith. 3, The last report of the previous committee was in November, 1920.

QUESTION—SCHOOL TEACHERS' STRIKE PAY.

Hon. A. H. PANTON asked the Minister for Education: 1, Is it a fact that the full deduction of strike pay was made from the salary of the deceased school teachers, Miss Mullet and Mr. Prisk? 2, Is he aware that the Teachers' Union refunded the amount to the relatives of the deceased teachers? 3, Does he consider rigid insistence in such cases in the best interests of the Education Department? 4, Will he issue the necessary authority to prevent future deductions in similar cases?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied: 1, Yes. 2, No. 3, In no case has the decision of the Government that advances made against wages lost during the strike period must be refunded, been departed from. 4, The refunds will be completed next month and an anomaly would be created by issuing the authority suggested.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

Additional Member.

On motion by the Minister for Education, Hon. J. J. Holmes was appointed to act for the President on the House Committee.