

130 RAILWAY NATIONALISATION

for years past, but it has not come about yet."

"Is there an agitation on still in that direction?"

"I have a fly at them every now and then."

"Do not all concerned in fruit-growing in this State combine for that purpose?"

"The matter comes up regularly at our annual conference, but we remain unsatisfied."

The State of Western Australia, which has neglected, yes and refused, to provide technical education at the request of the fruit-growers—and the fruit-growers of the State are attempting to work up an export trade in fruit—in operating 3,000 miles of railway. It could have provided technical education better than private capital. It has not provided the railway service as well. It may earn four per cent. on the capital invested, for it has a monopoly and fixes rates to please its own finance; but it does not give the service.

"Is the carriage of fruit on the railway satisfactorily performed?" Mr. Jacoby was asked.

"Generally speaking, it is not. As far as our export work is concerned, it is very good indeed. But the ordinary traffic for local purposes is shockingly bad—that is to say, the handling is very