

but steadily. Ministers are doing their best. If their best can be bettered, let hon. members better it. We have the right to ask members to help us.

Hon. T. Walker: What! to construct?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes. It is the hon. member's duty even to help us to construct. If he sees that the country is going to the devil, and if he can stop it, what sort of a man would he be if he did not help? The country requires that every man in both Houses should pull his pound when he is on the load, and God knows the load in Western Australia is heavy enough just now. If every man does not pull his pound, this country in time will not be worth living in, and will be but a poor heritage to leave to the children who come after us.

Mr. JONES (Fremantle) [8.48]: I am somewhat diffident in following the brilliant logic and grandiloquent rhetoric which we have had from the Minister for Works, and because of that I feel hardly capable of replying to him. I am not even going to attempt the defence of the member for Perth, for I realise that he is quite capable of undertaking that little matter himself. Mere words would be inadequate to express the feeling of bitter disappointment and disgust at the failure of the Government, as shown in the Speech presented to the House, to put forward anything like a concrete proposal, anything like a definite scheme that will help to save this unfortunate State; therefore I am not going to attempt the inadequate. I hope that, in my brevity, I shall conform to even the Teesdale time limit. The member for Boulder has administered to the Government castigation from which they are still smarting, and I do not wish to add to that castigation. It is true the leader of the Opposition did not deal with all the sins of omission and commission of the Government. Had he done so he would have been still peaking. But he said sufficient to show up the deeds of this business-acumen Government in all their naked nothingness. He described the Speech as being without substance. It is a true description—without substance: misty, spectral, ghostlike. It is nothing but a shadow, a long shadow thrown across this august assembly. Perhaps the shadow is particularly long because it is cast by the setting sun of the present Administration. For we must realise that the sun of our National Government, born in intrigue, as already passed its zenith, a very wintry with, and is rapidly declining towards the west. And evidence is wanting of a political Joshua, who can come forward and stay that sun in its course. We find that this collection of colloquialisms, these airy allusions to various subjects, to finance, to repatriation, come with very little weight to those of us who have expected more from the Government. And when we remember that the Government came into power because they said they were able to straighten the finances, because they had the necessary business acumen, the disappointment is all the keener, and the outlook all the more dreary. What, in brief English, do the financial proposals

of the Government imply? In the first place nothing but dismissal and retrenchment—and I am saying this after the wonderful defence the Minister for Works has put up on behalf of his colleagues—the dismissal and retrenchment of the lower paid men only, with scrupulous care for the higher paid officials, to whose ranks new appointments have even been made. Secondly, the complete cessation of all public works. I am not blaming the Minister for that, but we must remember that this cessation of work is a financial action of the Government which affects the worker by causing unemployment. On the other hand, we find lavish expenditure without question where the interests of their masters, the financiers and profiteers, demand and compel such expenditure. I propose to deal very briefly with the second part of that indictment before I sit down. We find that while such valuable public works as the Esperance railway and many other railways which should have been carried out, the sewerage works in the suburban areas, while the Government on account of financial stringency have been compelled to close down those works, money can always be found for Royal Commissions, whether on agriculture, or merely to find out if the village constable exactly suits the religious views of a lot of sly grog-selling wowsers.

Mr. Teesdale: You yourself have asked for a Royal Commission.

Mr. JONES: For the public good. The Royal Commission I ask for is to save the lives of the patients in the Claremont Asylum for the Insane, patients liable, on account of the mismanagement of that institution, to be brutally done to death. We find that money can be provided for the prosecution and the placing in goal of Percy Brunton. Possibly the Government hope to recoup themselves with the £25 they will receive from him if he loses his deposit.

Hon. P. Collier: I think he is likely to win the seat and strengthen the Government.

Mr. JONES: That is probably the only point on which I can congratulate the Government, namely, that they have induced a man like Brunton to come forward as an out and out supporter of their Administration. The Government are prepared to lavishly expend money on anything demanded by the interests of the big financial institutions. We look back briefly and consider what has been the cost to the taxpayers of the dry nursing of the National workers on the Fremantle wharf. Hon. members will remember that the initial expenditure, irrespective of the salaries of the highly placed Government officials who were sent to see that the salt was in the soup and that the asparagus was served hot to those National workers, the initial cost was something like £2,500. And now we are informed by the Premier that, an additional £1,920 1s. 2d. has been paid for extra police services on the wharf during the 13 months ended 31st July. The long-suffering public paid that increased expenditure. The addi-



tional police services on the wharf have been found necessary in spite of the fact that the wharf itself, like the bridges, is barricaded, and in spite of the fact that a large and elaborate naval guard, and a large and elaborate military guard are kept there to prevent the weevils walking over and biting the National volunteers! We find that the majority of those friends of the employers, the National workers, pampered up in the interests of the shipping community, were faced with the difficulty of bringing away the wages they had earned at Fremantle, and it became necessary for the Government to do something. I can compliment the Government on the fact that they were able to provide for the convenience of those men without having to put on the Ministerial car. A meat train which leaves Fremantle, and on which previously not for love or money could the average passenger have got a lift up to Perth, has been placed at the services of the National workers. Coaches have been added and daily that train waits the convenience of those men to proceed to Perth. All this has been done in the interests of the ship owners at Fremantle, in the interests, the Government will tell you, of economy. Money is lavishly spent where the financial masters of the present Administration demand that it shall be spent. Similarly we proceed to look at some of the departments administered by the Colonial Secretary. Take the Police Department, with which perhaps I shall be able to deal at a later date. The leader of the Opposition has already touched upon this. It seems to me that throughout the length and breadth of Australia—and Western Australia is falling well into line—an attempt is being made to Australianise American and Russian police methods. It is time that a democratic voice was raised against that procedure. Let me say I have no fault to find with the uniformed constables, those gentlemen in uniform who stand on the street corners and behave with civility and respect to the general public.

Hon. P. Collier: Gentleman John.

Mr. JONES: Yes, in many ways he might be described as Gentleman John, and that in spite of the fact that initially he is forced to become a pimp before he can enter the force. These uniformed men are being starved officially—I am not now alluding to starvation in the sense in which the Government endeavoured to starve women and children at Fremantle—in order that the plain-clothes men may be raised in status, may flourish and wax fat. As the member for Boulder has pointed out, there were two inspectors already in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department and the men who constitute the rank and file of that force have already been raised to the rank and pay of sergeant. They have been placed in a position similar to men who have stood the brunt of the police work in the State for 30 and 40 years, and who have earned their stripes. I throw out a suggestion to the Government to raise all the C.I.D. men

to the level of commissioners, so that we strike some mean at which the plain clothes men can stop in their rise over men who serve the promotion. Here we find again charge which I laid against the Government being borne out, for they are retrenching dismissing the lower paid men and allow the higher paid men to flourish unmolested.

Mr. Teesdale: The Minister did not say

Mr. JONES: He did not say so, but I am trying to prove it is so to the satisfaction of hon. member. We find that the Government in their efforts to retrench the men over years of age are starting with the constables and sergeants and leaving small stations at Northam, Albany, and Bunbury with inspectors who are already over the age limit, evidently to be carried on until the Commission has some favourite C.I.D. plain clothes men take their places. But the matter of the police will come up for discussion when some of the cases which have been dealt with are brought forward on some future notice of motion. From the police we naturally come to the prison, and I speak with feeling with regard to the prison. I live next door. During a few years that the prison has been under present superintendent no less than seven successful escapes have taken place. When we realise that the superintendent himself stated that he would not be surprised at getting up one morning and finding the prison doors open and all the prisoners escaped, wonder what manner of administration is being force in our Fremantle gaol. Perhaps we shall have an opportunity of dealing with that matter on the Gaol estimates in the course of a few months. When we consider the need for economy and its relation to the Fremantle Gaol, we find that the only retrenchment that is being carried out is being effected in every instance among the lower paid men. It has been found necessary for the men at the bottom rung of the gaol ladder to be forced to stand inside the gaol every seventh or eighth night to be on what is known as reserve duty. In an endeavour to effect economy many of the experiments of the superintendent of the gaol are being carried out. With the object of saving the services of one man various wardens have to be on duty all night. I would suggest for the attention of the Government that with a matter of only 100 or 112 prisoners to look after, the curtailment of the expenses of the Fremantle prison might be better started at the top. I shall have more to say on this subject at a later date, when we arrive at the Estimates. Another department under the control of the Colonial Secretary is the asylum, and that too could be better dealt with under the notice of motion which stands in my name. Here again, in violent contrast to the wasteful expenditure in the police service on the Fremantle wharf, we find conditions of overcrowding at the asylum. That institution is under-staffed to the absolute danger of the public and the staff themselves. The health inspectors would not tolerate the conditions prevailing, amongst the men and women who are mentally deranged, in a common lodging house. The Government are absolutely courting disaster. Let them turn as some of the men with which they are assisting



the interests of their St. George's-terrace friends and their shipping friends to the benefit of the mentally afflicted of the State. While I have made the charge that the Claremont Hospital for the Insane is under-staffed, that would not seem to apply to all institutions under the control of the Colonial Secretary. Turning to the "West Australian" of the 2nd September, I find an advertisement "Fremantle Public Hospital, wanted two kitchenmaids." Further back, on the 29th August, "Wanted, two kitchenmaids." Again, on the 27th August, "Wanted, two kitchenmaids." On August 17, "Two kitchenmaids wanted." On August 13, "Fremantle Public Hospital, wanted capable kitchenmaid." On August 9th, "Fremantle Public Hospital, capable kitchenmaid wanted"; August 4th, six days previously, "Fremantle Public Hospital, wanted capable housemaids and kitchenmaids." July 31st, "Wanted, capable housemaids and kitchenmaids." July 27th, "Capable housemaids and kitchenmaids."

Mr. MULLAY: Are all these in the "West Australian"?

Mr. JONES: They are. I do not know what rate per inch the Government are paying for the advertisements. Again, on July 23rd, "Fremantle Public Hospital, wanted capable housemaids and kitchenmaids."

Mr. Teesdale: Where do you live?

Mr. JONES: A considerable distance from the Fremantle hospital. It would seem to me that this institution requires 18 kitchenmaids in the short space of five or six weeks. Eighteen kitchenmaids required at one institution, and all advertised for under the name of H. Arliss Robinson! These advertisements are for kitchenmaids for one institution. Whether the institution is paying for the advertisements at the rate of 25s. an inch as is done in the case of Nationalist advertisements for the war loan, I do not know. It seems to me that if a hospital capable of employing 18 kitchenmaids they must have a lot of washing up to do, and while one department is under-staffed another department is absolutely staffed up with kitchenmaids. I would suggest to the Colonial Secretary or the Minister in charge of the department that it might be advisable to transfer some of the kitchenmaids, who cannot all be needed—there is not enough crockery in Fremantle for them to wash up—to some of the other institutions that need help so badly. It has been said by some members this afternoon that the subject of repatriation was a popular one, and was being used by members in order to sweeten their electors. I do not propose to deal at any length with the subject, but I am pleased that the member for Northam introduced his amendment, since it has at least had the beneficial effect of hustling the Government to introduce their Bill at a fairly early date. I notice that in the Speech the Government are pleased with the fact that 34 prospectors are being sent out, and I would suggest to the Government—it is not my own suggestion; it was given me by a returned soldier who has been a very capable mining manager in his day—that in case these returned men who are out prospecting merely discover poorly paying proposition that would hardly

pay to place a large battery on, it may be to the advantage of the State and the men concerned if the Government could establish a State mine with all its details in the particular district. Whilst the question of repatriation is being considered, I would also suggest to the Government that it would be of advantage if a committee of returned soldiers was appointed to advise the Government on any schemes they might adopt. I suggest this in view of what is happening in regard to the vocational committee that the Federal Government have established, in order to place returned soldiers in occupations when they are fit to take them up. I do not want to see the Government commit the injustices which the Federal Government are doing in this respect. It would seem to me that the logical conclusion one must come to from the work of that committee, is that the men who have been away to the Front and have come back to resume their civil occupations, simply do so that the employers who are philanthropic enough to take them on may benefit thereby. It means that if a man who returns is getting 30s. a week pension—putting it at a maximum—the Federal committee will allow him to take employment at the ruling rate less the 30s. that he is being paid as his pension. The position that arises is, that the employer is able to get cheap labour at the expense of the blood of the men who have fought in France, and of the taxpayers who are paying for the maintenance of that pension. Nothing as yet has been said upon the question of the discovery of oil in this State, although much controversy has been going on. I hope that the Government will be prepared to make a statement to the House as to what the position is. It seems to me that the financial position of the Government may easily be remedied by means of the rich deposits of oil which are said to exist in this State, provided they are used for the benefit of the State instead of being made over to some private company. I ask the Government to inform the House as to whether any concession has been made to, or agreement has been made with, any company outside Australia, or within the boundary of Australia, because we would eventually find that even a company formed within the bounds of Australia was a branch of the Standard Oil Trust. There is another matter which I would like to bring under the notice of Ministers, and that is the necessity for provision being made for a fishing harbour at Fremantle. There are about 70 fishing boats plying their calling in the vicinity of Fremantle, which have no spot at which to anchor. They are forced to come in at the risk of being dashed to pieces against the rocks or against the fishing jetty, or the fisherman have to take their chance inside the harbour, where they have no standing. In the event of any accident occurring there they have no chance of getting any compensation. The suggestion is—I think it would be a fairly cheap proposition for the Government—that a small breakwater should be run out between the present long jetty and the fish market. This would serve not only to establish a fishing harbour, but at the same time protect the markets themselves and a considerable portion of the railway line, which at present



is exposed to wintry weather and is expensive to maintain because of the damage by storms. Such a breakwater would also afford some protection to the Commonwealth boatshed, which happens to be handy to the position mentioned. If the Government find that finances are such that they cannot take up this matter, I think that the fishermen themselves would be prepared to stand a higher license fee, and to say that the money which they pay to the Government in this way for the right to run into Fremantle should go towards the cost of this work. This would also be an advantage not only to the fishermen at Fremantle but to Fremantle itself, because at present many boats are unable to find accommodation there, and are forced to go to other ports along the coast. It would be a factor, too, in providing the metropolitan area with a larger, cheaper, and more hygienic fish supply. I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Works and the Minister for Railways to the necessity for a uniform standard with regard to the treatment of apprentices who are compelled to undergo military duty. At present a boy who is serving his apprenticeship, particularly in State works, whether in the Railway Department or those departments controlled by the Minister for Works, upon being called upon to perform military duty is forced to make up the time he loses in the carrying out of that duty. I would suggest to the Ministers concerned that in such event there is a chance of a boy under the present system being apprenticed until he reaches the age of 60 or 70. It would, therefore, be advisable to have a uniform allowance as to the amount of time which a boy who is indentured or apprenticed should have to make up because of his absence on military duty. I congratulate the Government upon their announced intention of standing up for the principles of co-operation. I hope they mean what they say, and that this is not one of those empty sentiments which indicate that the effects of the Chinese procession, to which the member for Boulder referred, and the various other visits of Ministers to the Westralian farmers, are making themselves apparent in His Excellency's Speech. I trust that the Government will support wherever possible the principle of co-operation, the co-operative manufacture and distribution of produce, and the handling not merely of wheat, but of all cargoes on the Fremantle wharf. I trust, too, it means that the support of the Administration will be given to any endeavour to promote a co-operative spirit amongst the people of the State. I realise that the Government have a hard road to travel. I want to see them take that road in a spirit of humanity. I realise, and the Government evidently realise by the way they assisted in promoting industrial trouble in Fremantle, the existence of a class war, and although I do not think there can be any interest between the worker and the man who makes a profit out of his labour while the present system prevails, I can see that there is a higher standard than that of class warfare. There is a standard of humanity,

and it is possible for men in both classes to come together and assist in doing what they can to make the world a good place not for the few, but for the general community. The Prime Minister of England recently informed the Labour conference in Great Britain that the world was in the melting pot, and that the future would be stamped with the audacity which the workers cared to stamp it with. Realising this, and knowing that the future of the world spells a great change in administration and in the system that we have been living under, I hope that the Government will endeavour to adopt, as far as they can, a humanitarian standard, and are prepared in the measures which they may bring forward to effect a change that will be for the benefit of all. I am particularly concerned about this, as I trust that the Government will not leave to the Administration which will replace theirs in the course of a few months, too hard a row to hoe in its endeavour to undo the mistakes they have committed.

Mr. BROUN (Beverley) [9.25]: I have no desire to prolong the debate on the Address-in-reply to any great length, or to touch upon any of the subjects already dealt with by previous speakers. I regret that the financial position of the State is not as bright as we would like it to be. Like many other hon. members of this Chamber I realise that we are going through a trying time. I do think that the Government as a whole are doing their utmost to cope with the difficulties arising out of that position. More especially do I say this of the Colonial Treasurer. Perhaps his colleagues might make a special effort and give him more assistance to square the finances, or at least prevent the drift that is going on. I notice that during August last the deficit was £107,959. Although the revenue had increased by £7,024, the expenditure had increased by £14,553. No mention of this has been made by any of the Ministers, and no explanation has been offered as to why this extra expenditure has been incurred, over and above that incurred for August of last year.

The Colonial Treasurer: July and August this year show a depreciation of £16,000 as compared with the same months of last year.

Mr. BROUN: I noticed with gratification, when the Minister for Works was speaking, that a certain amount of retrenchment has taken place, and that a saving has been made. Notwithstanding this, the Government still show practically the same deficit as was shown for the previous year.

Hon. P. Collier: The figures quoted by the Minister have no bearing on the subject, because they are almost entirely loan expenditure.

The Colonial Treasurer: What nonsense.

Hon. P. Collier: The expenditure was made from loan.

Mr. BROUN: No doubt the Colonial Treasurer will place the financial position more fully before the House later on. With regard to the



question of education, it seems that there are further increases under this head, which I hope hon. members will stop by voting against them when the Estimates come before the House. I have said before that the Education Department is centralised to a great extent. Although education in our primary schools in the metropolitan area only runs into a per capita cost of about £2, in some places in the country—and a great many of them—the per capita expenditure is £20. That is perhaps only natural. Apart from this, I am of opinion now, as before, that, when we go beyond primary education, those who are able to pay for their children to go to the higher schools should be made to do so, especially in view of our present financial difficulty. Why should a rich man be able to send his son to the university at no cost to himself when he can well afford to pay for his education? If any of us in the country have a boy who is capable of taking a degree at the university, or has enough ability to go to a high school, we have to pay for that boy's board and lodging in the city in addition to any other expenses. Another point is, that in the country schools it is the rule to place only the lower grades of teachers, whereas the higher grades are kept in the towns. In hundreds of out back places we have practically only girls of 16 or 17 years teaching the children. There is no comparison in the matter of education between the country districts and the metropolitan districts. I trust that when the Annual Estimates come down, the House will be firm in refusing any increase in the Education Vote. The Premier has from time to time said in this House and on the platform that in order to square the finances and prevent taxation it is necessary to produce, produce, produce. To-night I shall speak only on production, and shall not deal with other subjects referred to by various hon. members. In the matter of production I take it to be necessary that the Government should give the producer some encouragement. The stability of the State, we know, rests entirely upon the production in our primary industries, such as wheat, wool, minerals, timber and so forth. Unless encouragement and protection are extended to these industries by the Government, the production desired by the Premier cannot take place. I notice, with many others that some time ago the London Wheat Board advised the Australian Central Wheat Board to curtail the production of wheat in this Commonwealth as far as possible, and instead to go in for stock raising. I should like to know why publicity was not given to this advice by our Government, why those who are able to produce stock in place of wheat were not let know of it. Had the advice been made public, many of us would have considerably curtailed our wheat growing in favour of stock production, with the result that the present difficulty of handling wheat would not have existed, and that the Government would not have been called upon to find such large amounts of money for that purpose.

Mr. O'Loughlin: Some of your colleagues doubt the accuracy of that announcement. Is it true?

The Premier: It has not been put in the right light.

Mr. BROUN: The advice is contained in the following minute of the Australian Central Wheat Board:—

In view of the advice received from the London Committee on the question of reducing our wheat areas in favour of stock and pig raising, it was decided that the matter be left to the Governments of the individual States to give such advice as they think fit.

That was in November last, and we have heard of the advice only recently. I have here a cutting from the "West Australian" of the 29th August, which I should like to read—

England's home food supply. Immense increase. London, August 29. The British Board of Agriculture has issued the following report of the area under cultivation. There are 12,398,780 acres under crops in England and Wales, which is the largest area for 20 years past. There are 7,481,000 under corn pulse, the largest for 40 years; 2,556,740 acres under wheat, the largest area for 34 years; and 1,778,960 acres under oats. Also 633,840 acres are under potatoes, the largest area yet recorded. Agricultural experts predict that the present will be the largest harvest garnered for 50 years.

This does not include Scotland or Ireland. In Great Britain alone they are growing practically as much wheat as they consume; and the result of this will be that we shall have here considerable quantities of wheat not required by Great Britain. I do not wish to be conservative regarding our wheat production, because I recognise wheat growing to be one of the staple industries necessary to the stability of the State. Further, it is essential that wheat growing should be encouraged in out-back areas where stock raising is impracticable. As regards such districts, the Government must come to the assistance of settlers by purchasing whatever wheat they grow. But 11 months ago I said to a member of the Cabinet that if I were the Government I would make some arrangement to purchase wheat only from those compelled to grow it in large quantities, while agriculturists able to produce stock would be given to understand by the Government that they must produce stock. The war will not last for ever; I hope it will end soon; and then we shall have an opportunity of sending large quantities of our wheat to the European States to be sold in open competition with other parts of the world. In such circumstances I feel sure there will be no difficulty in disposing of whatever quantity of wheat may be grown in this State. I have touched on the wheat question to this extent, refraining from dealing with other aspects of it just now, because I wish to point out the seriousness of the producers' present position, and wish to draw attention to the lack of foresight and of business acumen displayed by the Government in not having erected freezing work or canning works at Fremantle. Stock raisers some considerable time ago requested that the Government should state definitely whether they would construct these freezing works, and, if they would not, whether they would let the graziers know it definitely. Had