

are we justified in expending moneys which, from the nature of our financial difficulties, we are not in a position to spend? From conversations with teachers, I have some knowledge of the working of education boards both here and in the Eastern States, and I claim that thousands of pounds are uselessly spent on education in regard both to juniors and to seniors. Let me, in illustration of my meaning, quote a conversation which took place between two gentlemen, one of whom said, "There are only two educational institutions in which I am interested, namely, the Modern School and the Scotch College." The retort to this statement was, "Yes, you are interested in those because in the Modern School your daughter is being educated free, and from the Scotch College you draw a big fat cheque in premiums." The Modern School was not designed to provide education for the children of wealthy members of the community. I firmly hold that opinion.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: They go in by examination.

Mr. STEWART: A very proper safeguard, but I hold strongly to the view that the education of children of parents who can pay should not be provided free. The principle should here obtain which obtains in public hospitals, where every patient who is able to pay is called upon to pay.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: You know the reason why; otherwise the doctors would not attend the hospital.

Mr. STEWART: My opinion that we are needlessly spending thousands of pounds on education is confirmed by teachers and by graduates of universities both here and in the Eastern States. For students of exceptional ability provision could be made, as in the past, by means of bursaries or exhibitions. I come from a country where education is highly regarded and where it has always been the practice and privilege of parents to see that their children receive a good education, even if they have to pay for it themselves.

Mr. O'Loghlen: What country is that?

Mr. STEWART: The country which up to the present has provided the biggest percentage of soldiers at the Front, the country where, I am told, when conscription was introduced, there was hardly a military eligible left. I am proud to claim the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces as one of my countrymen. Another point to which I would draw the attention of the House is the attitude of the Government in regard to the late strike. An arrangement was made by the Government with the Railway Department under which the railway employees were not required to run the locomotives on to the wharf. This was done at the instigation of the unionists of the Railway Department. The result was that an engine was borrowed by the Harbour Trust, the men of the Railway Department refusing to take their engines on to the wharf to carry on the ordinary work of the wharf. To this extent the Government were guilty of what practically amounts to compounding a felony.

The Minister for Railways: I admire your modesty.

Mr. STEWART: I am correct in my facts.

The Minister for Railways: If you gave us facts we would take more interest in what you say.

Mr. STEWART: The Government arranged with the railway officers to sanction the determination of the railway men not to run their locomotives on to the wharf. If I am wrong in that statement, I shall be glad to be corrected. The effect of that action on the part of the Government was to declare the National workers "black."

Mr. Munsie: So they are; "scabs" of the worst character.

Mr. STEWART: It must not be forgotten that they, together with certain members of the Chamber of Commerce, were the men who came to the assistance of the Government and helped them out of their difficulty. And the reward which the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce secured was the turning down of their nominee for the Harbour Trust. If that is the way in which the Government are going to treat those who render them good service, they must not look for too much assistance from this quarter in the future.

Mr. TEESDALE (Roebourne) [9.15]: Following the example of the leader of the Opposition I will refrain from wasting the time of the House upon the Address-in-reply. There has been quite enough time lost to-day already, and I fail to see where the slightest benefit has accrued to the State as a result of what has been said with the exception of one or two matters which members of the Country party have brought up, the question of the invasion of rabbits which is an important thing, and the question of fires along the railway lines. Apart from these two items I doubt whether the State has benefitted in any shape or form as a result of to-day's business. The leader of the Opposition has been very considerate, and has shown good feeling in refraining from letting loose his artillery on the question. We on this side of the House have made a mistake and have been wanting in reciprocity. Many charges have been made to-day. Members have come here with grievances to ventilate, but if they have grievances they ought to be particular where they sit. There are seats in the Chamber for members who have grievances. There is not the slightest necessity to start the session with a long list of grievances. Let the past bury itself. What we want to know is about the future, and not about the past. We may possibly admit that all of us have made mistakes in the past. No doubt the Premier and the Minister have made mistakes and by previous Governments mistakes have been made, but, for God's sake, let us leave the past alone and try to avoid these mistakes in the future. Let those members who are throwing such a lot of light on various questions and coming forward with all these brilliant ideas see that for the future we do not make the errors that have been made in the past. Never mind about past errors; we can watch the future and see that Ministers keep on the



right track. We can at all events do our best to keep them here.

Hon. T. Walker: There are too many tracks going in all directions.

Mr. TEESDALE: That may be so. Our friends opposite have been very accommodating to-day, and will no doubt help us if they see we are doing the right thing. I hope that next session we shall start with a clean sheet, and allow all this wretched bickering and pin-pricking to slide. The country is already losing confidence in us. We are nothing but a bedlam, and barracking about things from one side to the other. That is not good, and I hope that all this will be stopped from next Tuesday onwards.

Mr. MONEY (Bunbury) [9.20]: As a new member I may probably be able to express the views of the people of Western Australia as well as any member of the House. Perhaps no member of this Chamber has been subjected to such an amount of opposition in his election as I have been, for I had the opposition of members who now sit on the Opposition benches and also the opposition of those who occupy the Ministerial benches.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: How did you get in?

Hon. T. Walker: Between two stools you fell to the ground.

Mr. MONEY: I agree that we must not waste time here in too much talking, and admire the attitude of the members of the Opposition who say they are desirous of getting on with the business of the country. At the same time we are asked to give some expression of opinion as to the methods by which we propose to improve existing circumstances, and as shortly as I can I will give my views, which I believe are also the views of the people, as to what we should do. The most important matter we have to discuss is that of the financial position of Western Australia. This can only be improved by two methods. We have to create more wealth, and to create more wealth we have to produce more. That must be the most important feature of our progressive and creative measures of the future. The Premier, in his policy speech, told us that production was to be the watchword of the future, and that in the past it had been somewhat neglected. I agree with him, and feel that if we are to produce more and create more wealth we must follow the practical methods that are before our eyes, and have been before them for some considerable time. I also agree with members who have stated that it is our bounden duty to preserve the wealth of the State by producing our own requirements, instead of sending money out of the State with which to purchase them. I am certain that by ordinary measures we can produce all the butter, cheese and bacon we require here. In Western Australia there is land which can be made as good as any other land with a little practical management. I am speaking particularly of the swamp lands of the South-West. By the ordinary system of drainage we should on this land be able to produce not only sufficient butter for Western Australia, but in a short time sufficient for export. There is one feature connected with the requirements of the farmers and settlers of Western Australia

to which I would like to refer. Years ago we were told by Government advisers that it was absolutely necessary that cheap agricultural lime should be made available for the settlers of the South-West, but years have gone by since that statement was made that it should be available, and yet to-day there is no cheap agricultural lime placed at the disposal of those people. There has been a marked neglect in that one simple particular. The cost of providing that facility would be very small indeed, but I believe the results as forecasted to us by our Agricultural Commissioners would be something marvellous. Our lands are sour and require the application of lime in order to make them yield to their full capacity. I am convinced that owing to the lack of drainage we are losing annually ten times as much as ever we will gain by any irrigation scheme that may be formulated. The ordinary measures of drainage and the application of lime should precede all artificial measures of production, and the natural resources of the State should be fully developed before it is thought necessary to go in for other artificial means. I am of opinion that the swamp lands will grow sufficient green fodder for our cattle during the whole of the summer months, without there being any necessity for irrigation works whatever. We have an example in the Stirling estate, where we can to-day see green grass up to our knees sufficient to carry a large number of cattle. The Minister for Works will agree with me when I say that the proper development of our swamp lands in the South-West would provide sufficient feed for stock throughout the summer months, and would give us the supply of butter and cheese that we so urgently require. I also wish to deal with the question of economics. We have heard that it is the intention of the Government to cut down this department and that department, and very largely to curtail expenditure. If we, as representing the people of the State, are sincere in what we preach it is our duty to set our own house in order first, and to ask ourselves whether we as members of this House, constitute a paying concern to the community. Can we effect any economy in our own house? Upon the institution of Federation much of the legislative work of Western Australia was transferred to the Federal Parliament, but was the cost of our legislative work in this State in any way decreased thereby? We know, however, that the contrary has taken place, and that instead of the cost decreasing with the decreased work of our Parliament it has increased.

Hon. W. C. Angwin: The work has increased, too.

Mr. MONEY: How can the hon. member say that? Let him read the Act and he will find all the administrative branches which have now reverted to the Federal Government. For instance, the post offices have been taken away from the State, the telegraphs have gone to the Federal Government, and even our marriage laws. That big department, the Customs Department, has also been transferred. On the list there are at least 23 matters which have been transferred