

appointed to represent us at this all-important conference. Led by the Assistant Commonwealth Treasurer (the Right Hon. Stanley Bruce) these men can be relied on, while eschewing any spirit of bargaining, to obtain the best results for Australia and the Empire. In conclusion, I express the hope that Australia having obtained unity of honest political purpose, the expectation of real Empire trade reciprocity being established at Ottawa, and the signs that Britain, the United States of America, and Europe are coming closer to a common sympathetic understanding, will emerge from its long period of darkness and depression and regain its wonted days of prosperity.

The Hon. H. PYE (*North-Western Province*).—I have much pleasure in seconding the motion. The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech contains pleasant indications of the Government's proposals, among which is its intention to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government for the relief of unemployment. There is no more essential work than the sewerage of country towns. It is reproductive work, and there is nothing to be lost, but the rate of interest charged on the money advanced should be as low as possible—I would suggest 2½ per cent. per annum—in order to enable country towns to install sewerage systems. It has been estimated by experts that 80 per cent. of the amount involved will employ labour. Employment will thus be provided for a large number of men who are now idle. Another advantage is that the whole of the money advanced will be returned eventually to the Government. A number of towns have detailed surveys of sewerage systems in the course of preparation, and in some cases the surveys have been completed. All that is required to set the works in motion is the provision of the necessary money. Whatever work is provided to relieve the unemployment situation, it must be work of a permanent nature. Too much money has been wasted already in dealing with this problem. The conservation of water and the construction of channels is one means by which money could be spent profitably, providing employment for a large number of men, and extending to parts of Victoria, which now

lack an adequate water supply, the great benefits of irrigation, the ultimate effect of which would be to increase the production of the State. There is another matter that must not be overlooked. I refer to the destruction of noxious weeds. There could be no better method of spending money than on a campaign of destruction from north to south, for there are thousands of acres in this State now out of production because of the encroachment of noxious weeds.

I must say that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and his advisers are optimists when they expect the primary producer to produce still a little more of exportable commodities. The man on the land is not in a position, however, to do more in that direction. The farmers have been told repeatedly to grow more wheat and still more wheat and other primary products. They have done their utmost, but to-day numbers of them are practically bankrupt. Some are verging on a state of starvation, and are finding it impossible to remain on their holdings. Parliament has promised to help them in the direction of relief from the severity of the burden of taxation. We must do something for the primary producers in that direction. There is that abomination, the land tax, which must be dealt with. Let us hope that it will be abolished. If its abolition is not brought about by Government action it will be ended because of action from other directions. The primary producers in very many instances are despairing. They have lost their equity, and they cannot carry on. If we ask them to produce more exportable products we must do our part by assisting them in the direction of relief from taxation, and by the passing of marketing legislation. There are no indications in His Excellency's Speech as to how the secondary industries are to be called on to support primary producers in growing more exportable produce. To-day the latter find that the cost of their implements and machinery is so high as to have become almost prohibitive. The pressure is so heavy upon the farmers that they are just about ready to vacate the land; they cannot carry on and continue to cope with their liabilities. It is gratifying to know that the Government proposes to do something to provide relief. Certainly,

the burden of taxation must be reduced, and I say, let that relief come very soon.

The Government, if it wants to economize still further, should go through all the public Departments. There are means of economizing in every Government Department. There is no reason why a committee should not be appointed to make a close investigation, and its recommendations should be adopted rather than cast aside and overlooked. In connexion with the action of the Government in increasing the salary of the Chief Commissioner of Police, I do not consider that that is an indication of an intention to stop the financial drift. We all agree that a man may be worth his money, but in these times we cannot afford to raise any high salaries. If we do so we shall have the primary producer reminding us that it is taking him all his time to continue to live.

On the motion of the Hon. E. L. KIERNAN (*Melbourne North Province*), the debate was adjourned until Tuesday, June 21.

ADJOURNMENT.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES OF MR. BRAWN, M.L.C.

The Hon. J. P. JONES (Minister of Public Works).—I move—

That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next, at 4.30 p.m.

The motion was agreed to.

The Hon. J. P. JONES (Minister of Public Works).—I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

The PRESIDENT (Sir Frank Clarke).—Before putting the motion I think that honorable members would like me to allude to the fact that one of our fellow members, the Hon. F. W. Brawn, has just completed 25 years of continuous service in this House. I should not like to go into the vexed question whether he is the titular father of the House, because Mr. Edgar was elected to this Chamber three years before Mr. Brawn entered the Council. Mr. Edgar, however, allowed a gap of four years to elapse in his membership. The two honorable members concerned can, perhaps, decide this matter between themselves. I assure Mr. Brawn, on behalf of his fellow members, that throughout the whole of the time in which

he has served in this House he has retained the honour and the affection of all honorable members. We wish him many days in which to continue in the position which he has adorned for so long.

The Hon. F. W. BRAWN (*Wellington Province*).—I thank you very much, Mr. President, for your kindly remarks with respect to my period of service in this Chamber. I came here, as you have remarked, 25 years ago, and I entered the Legislative Council with very high opinions as to what should be done with respect to legislation emanating from this Chamber. But, like many other things, politics are sometimes disappointing. Many matters which, when I first entered Parliament, were understood to be about to be achieved are still awaiting achievement. I think I am correct in saying that, with the exception of Mr. Edgar, I am the only living member amongst all those who were here when I was first elected a quarter of a century ago. I have sat under and supported some very excellent men and Governments during that time. I might mention numbers of names, but my mind recalls particularly that of the late Sir Thomas Bent. I remember when we sat in the old Chamber in the Exhibition building he propounded to the Council one of his schemes having to do with the purchase of land for railway construction purposes, and explained his particular views on the matter of paying the land-owners compensation. I recollect that there was hung on one of the walls of the Chamber a huge map showing how he was going to buy up land in the Western District and run a railway through that country, making everybody concerned fit in with his views as to values. Sir Thomas Bent certainly brought down much useful legislation; but, if I recollect aright, one night he found himself in this remarkable position, namely, that seventeen members of the House who were previously regarded as supporters of his Government crossed the floor and voted against his measure. That incident serves to indicate the uncertainty of politics. It was after that that he went to the country, and Mr. Watt came into office and power. When I first entered the Legislative Council Sir Henry