

loans for expenditure, apparently all in one place. This is not the time to discuss where the money ought to be expended. The Government are like a book canvasser, who says, "Here's a pretty book; just look at it." We tell the book canvasser to go away; that we do not want his books, and we ought to tell the Government that we do not want any loans or new railways. If you listen to the book canvasser he will, with his flattering suavity, induce you to give an order for the book; and in the same way the Government will endeavour to cajole this House into authorising a loan. But we want neither book nor loan.

HON. C. H. PIESSE: You want to stand still, do you?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: It would do some people good to stand still. I always like to give credit where credit is due. There is one paragraph in the Governor's Speech which I should like to see carried through Parliament. I have always wondered why a similar measure to that now proposed has not been introduced into every British colony before. Paragraph 33 says:—

My Ministers propose to ask you to consider the question of giving a preference to goods manufactured in the mother country over those manufactured by foreign countries.

That shall have my heartiest support. I cannot understand, and never will understand, why the British colonies have not thought it proper to pass such a measure before.

HON. F. T. CROWDER: What about Victorian butter?

HON. R. S. HAYNES: Let that come in, too. I would not apply the proposed measure to England alone, but to England and to English colonies. If any reasons can be urged against the proposal, they will be listened to very carefully; but the suggestion made in the paragraph is a very proper suggestion indeed. That is about the only thing I can commend in the Governor's Speech, all the other points lending themselves to a great deal of criticism. I now formally move that the following words be added to the Address-in-Reply:—

We, however, desire to express our disapproval of the proposal for reappropriation contained in paragraph 26 of your Excellency's Speech. This course is, in our opinion, one which should not be followed, as it practically

commits the colony to an expenditure without previously having made due provision for payment, and we feel that it would be unwise at the present time, directly or indirectly, to increase the indebtedness of the colony by raising further loans, or doing anything that would necessitate so doing, until we have at least exhausted the present loan authorisation.

HON. H. G. PARSONS (North-East): In rising to formally support the speech of my hon. and learned friend, Mr. Haynes, on the amendment he has submitted, I feel a very great responsibility. Even if on minor points I may not be absolutely with him, I am sure the sympathies of this House as a whole will be with him in asking the Government to pause at the present time before they pursue the lines of their apparent intention. Although on points of financial policy this House may not be the immediate judge, it must be admitted that the Government are really out of sympathy with the majority of the inhabitants of this colony on one, at all events, of the main lines of policy to which the Government are committed. It is obvious that the Government have not sufficiently encouraged the growth of the population of the colony, and on this point the speech of the hon. Mr. Haynes will command the support of all sections of the House. In the two or three years since the newer population came into the colony, we have had exceptional advantages, from a business point of view, to land us well on the road of prosperity. And what has been the result? We are now in a time of depression. Ought not some blame to be placed upon the administration to which we have been subjected during the last few years? I do not wish to impute any want of energy, loyalty, or patriotism; but it must be admitted that the Government have made mistakes, or we would now be more prosperous. We have not taken the right path in going on "like a bull at a gate," with a policy of expenditure up to the last minute and the last cent. No one would check a public works policy if it were necessary; but there is recklessness in the public councils of the country in regard, at all events, to some of the works. The interests considered have not been those of the colony, but political interests; and to put the latter first has been described as grossly immoral.

The various departments have not been satisfactorily administered, as every business man knows. In making this speech I desire, above all things, to be conciliatory, and to treat the matter as one of common partnership between the new-comer on the fields and the farming and other industries which must find their markets on the fields. On behalf of the fields, I protest against the burdens admittedly laid on the people there, who, through the Customs, the Lands, and the Railways, pay more than their proper share to the revenue of the country. I wish to make my main appeal to those hon. members who represent industries which produce other than gold. Surely the best market is the internal market? No one wishes to see this colony put on a level with Siberia or the Western States of America. This market has not been sufficiently cultivated or encouraged. We should not give railways merely as a policy of sops, which is a useless as well as an immoral policy. What is wanted are more customers, and to run the railways on a business footing. When the main trunk line of railway is paying is a time for reducing rates and increasing the population on the fields. But I will go back to the question of railways in one moment. Every business question reduces itself to the one question of a market. Take the Federation question. We all know that the Premier is not in sympathy on this question with the mass of his constituents, and with the men who have trusted him all his life, and intend to trust him still. The reason is, he does not appreciate the importance of the local market; and that is where he has made the most important mistake in his life up to the present time. This Federation question is a question of market. The cardinal mistake of the most liberal Minister of the colony—the Minister of Lands—has been that he has not understood the importance of the goldfields market. He came into office pledged to put the people on the land, and the part of the administration of the colony that he understands he has worked to the utmost advantage. If Mr. Chamberlain can be regarded as an up-to-date commercial politician, who can exploit the Empire for business purposes, we have

his counterpart in the Minister of Lands. He knows how to work his own department; but he does not understand the goldfields. He has mismanaged his share of administration on the fields, and the population has decreased—or, at all events, has not grown as it ought to have done. Customers of the railway and the taxable population have fallen off, owing to certain very definite steps taken by him. His mistake did not arise from want of good will, but from want of good management; and it is want of good management that I complain of in all the departments. People in the agricultural parts of the country have more confidence in their local mayors than they have in individual members of the Government. Again, the question of finance is a question of market. I do not understand finance exceptionally well myself; but, in regard to this “misappropriation” of funds, as it has been called, I would point out that any want of confidence on the part of the London and Westminster Bank or their backers in London must ultimately damage the farmers and the colony generally. The policy in this colony is admittedly one of centralisation. It is ruined by being combined with a policy of bribe and sop. If you are going to centralise, you should not give away everything all over the colony at the same time; the two things will not work together. The policy of centralisation is continually being extended and the public money is being expended, and we cannot afford it. The step which we propose to take is an extreme one, but we are forced to take it by the fact that we are spending what we have not got and what we cannot afford, and are not carrying on the business of the colony in a businesslike way.

HON. J. W. HACKETT: How is the colony maladministered, and how is it centralised?

HON. H. G. PARSONS: I think the whole of the Public Works Department is being conducted in an extravagant way, and, from what I hear, in a worse than extravagant way. While I admit that the water conservation policy of the Government has been a good one, and that railways have been constructed cheaply and quickly, I must yet express the