

Save State £400,000

ALL-EMBRACING EXPENDITURE CUTS

Ministers and High Officers
20 p.c.; Members 10 p.c.

BIG DEPARTMENTAL SAVINGS

THE Financial Emergency Bill, setting out in detail how the undertaking given by South Australia at the Premiers' Conference will be honored, was introduced in the Assembly this afternoon by the Hon. L. L. Hill (Premier).

It provides for a reduction of £400,000 in Government expenditure this financial year compared with that of 1929-30. Main provisions are:—

- Increase in cut of salaries of Cabinet Ministers from the 15 per cent. fixed last year to 20 per cent.
- Increase in average reduction of salaries in respect of Parliamentary offices held by members of Parliament to 15 per cent.
- Increase of cut of 5 per cent. in salaries of private members of Parliament to 10 per cent.
- Average cut in salaries of certain highly paid public officers of further 10 per cent., making 20 per cent. in all.
- General reduction of 16 2-3 per cent. in contributions by the Government to Public Service pension funds.
- Increase of reduction in police pensions to 16 2-3 per cent.

How Departments Will be Cut

DEALING with reduction in adjustable Government expenditure Mr. Hill said that the estimated cuts in departmental expenditure for the current financial year compared with actual expenditure in 1929-30 were as follows:—

Estimated

EDUCATION CUTS

Teachers Condemn Report

"PREPARE FOR FUTURE,"

SAYS PREMIER

In opening the annual conference of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union yesterday, the Premier (Mr. Hill), talking about cuts in expenditure, advised teachers "to take whatever was coming to them," knowing that the Government was most sympathetic to the Education Department.

He declared that he stood for higher education from the primary school to the university, a sound, commonsense policy. Children could not be allowed to suffer in this time of crisis and there must be preparation for the time when the depression lifted; provision must be made for the young people who would have to wage the great fight in Australia in the future. In 1929-30, said Mr. Hill, South Australia spent £1,020,000 on education. In 1930-31 the amount was reduced to £950,000. For the present year, 1931-32, he had given the figure at £879,000. This Government was making savings in all directions, but he was careful not to cut too close to the bone. Cutting the maintenance vote was a saving for today, but might it not be false economy? Teachers, however, must prepare themselves to face the inevitable. As Treasurer he could not do more than was being done with the money at his command.

Never in the history of Australia had Governments found themselves in such a position as the Government today. Taxable income had shrunk by 40 per cent. The number of taxpayers was decreasing and the number of unemployed increasing. The Premier said he could see how desperately hard it was for the Government to carry on. He hoped that teachers would turn these things over in their minds when they were asked to make some contribution towards easing the position.

Reduction of Salaries

Later the president (Mr. P. A. Corry) mentioned that the union had received notice from the Public Service Commissioner that an appeal was being made to the court for a 20 per cent. reduction in their pay. From July last, which included the 10 per cent. cut already suffered. Teachers were covered by an award until October 18, but the Government decided to stop the case to bring about the reduction at an earlier date. Mr. Corry added that, if the union may be persuaded by agreeing to this variation, it should get something in return—the scrapping of the education committee's report for the time being. By scrapping, he meant that, if there was to be another salary variation, conditions

"SAVAGE TAXES ON BOOKS AND PAPER"

Institutes' Protest

LOSS OF SUBSIDY

The Government has ruthlessly and discourteously withdrawn our subsidy," said Sir William Sowden, who presided over the annual meeting of the Institutes' Association yesterday. He alluded also to "savage taxes on books and paper."

Inch by Inch the Institutes had had their rights and privileges taken away most casually by Parliament, he said. When he first came to Adelaide the attitude of the Parliament towards education and literary culture was widely different from what it was now. The education in the State schools was paid for by the parents, and incidentally members of Parliament were not paid. Newspapers in those days were transmitted through the post without charge, but now the postal rate levied on them was as high as that in any country not distinguished, satirically or otherwise, as the head centre of culture.

These institutes were now actually subsidising the Government. Every penny added to the property of an institute enhanced the value of that property of the Government for buildings, libraries, furniture, and all else were State assets. The aggregate subsidy of £200,000 which had been so ruthlessly and discourteously taken away during the past two financial years was never more than a small grant to secondary education—in the country mainly. Subscribers contributed in the same period nearly six times as much. There were two-thirds of a million books, and half a million pounds had been spent on buildings, another large sum in land values, and the now seriously crippled establishments maintained for their maintenance nearly £26,000 annually, or about £500 a week.

"Crowning Blow"

The crowning blow had fallen since the State Government set the unhappy example in loading their communications, he said. It was not enough, apparently, that the charges for postage and telegraphic and telephone communications should have been largely increased. A still heavier burden had to be mentioned in the sad story of the persecution of the institutes, and the marks of culture generally throughout Australia by the Commonwealth authorities co-operating with local administrations, in imposing savage taxes on paper and books—in the latter case under another name

	(Estimated)	Estimated Reductions on 1923-24.	Percentage Reduction.
Education	£850,000	£170,000	17
Charitable and Health	£350,000	£70,000	17
Police and Penal	£350,000	£30,000	8
Land and Surveys, Agriculture, etc.	£160,000	£20,000	11
Miscellaneous	£750,000	£170,000	20
Railways	£2,500,000	£980,000	25
Harbors	£200,000	£30,000	13
Water Supply and Sewerage	£230,000	£10,000 plus 5	
Other Public Services	£150,000	£20,000	12
Totals	£5,540,000	£1,480,000	20

The Premier did not explain how the reductions would be made.

The Premier said that the Government did not propose to interfere with the tribunals whose duty it was to fix salaries and wages of Government employes. Consequently, no further reductions would be made in Civil Service remunerations, apart from adjustments decided on from time to time by the Arbitration Court, Board of Industry, or Classification Board, and those mentioned in the Bill introduced today.

Sacrifices by Individuals

AMONG the salary cuts provided in the Financial Emergency Bill are the following:—
 President of Legislative Council, £800 to £680.
 Speaker of House of Assembly, £800 to £680.
 Chairman of Committees, £600 to £223.
 Chairman of Public Works Committee, £400 to £320.
 Members of Public Works Committee, £250, £212 10s.
 Leader of the Opposition in House of Assembly, £500 to £235.
 Members of Parliament will receive £360 a year.
 These reductions will operate for a period of 12 months.
 Reductions to operate until Parliament otherwise provides will be made in the

salaries of the following officers:—
 Agent-General, £2,000 to £1,600.
 Chairman, Board of management of the State Bank £400, £200.
 Chairman Harbors Board £1,100, £880.
 Commissioner of Highways £1,200, £880.
 Commissioner of Police £1,200, £1,000.
 Garden Suburb Commissioner £900, £700.
 Manager State Bank £2,500, £1,650.
 Members, Board of management State Bank £300, £100.
 South Australian Railways Commissioner £2,500, £1,650.
 President Industrial Court £1,700, £1,250.
 Auditor-General £1,100, £880.
 All the salaries referred to were reduced by Act of Parliament last year.

(Mr. Hill's speech on Page 5)

which should be maintained.

Opposition to Report

The committee, sitting in camera, discussed the committee's report, and condemned it for the following reasons:—

In its treatment of salaries it failed to give a true survey of the position; the recommendation "that substantial reductions might be made by increasing rentals" was based on incomplete data; the proposed charging of fees in superprimary schools was inimical to an effective system of education; and to the best interests of the State, the proposal for a differentiation between fees in different types of schools was unjustifiable; and the suggested closing of many small schools would be unfair to backward students who are handicapped and would adversely affect the State by discouraging new settlements.

The conference supported the views set out in the minority report that "the economy effected by the proposed abolition of the position of head mistress and infant mistresses would not be commensurate with the loss of efficiency. It expressed the opinion that, when economic conditions become normal, the imposition of fees on training college students would prevent a sufficient number of entrants being obtained.

Officers elected.—President, Mr. R. A. West; immediate past president, Mr. P. A. Corry; president-elect, Mr. G. T. Polson; vice-presidents, Miss L. O. Heyne and Mr. J. W. Odgers; treasurer, Mr. W. H. A. Cochrane; librarian, Mr. T. G. Symons; general secretary, Mr. F. R. Forgan.

President's Address

There was a big attendance at the evening session, when Mr. Corry delivered the presidential address. He replied to those who contended that the education policy of the State should be curtailed. It was forgotten, he said, that the work of the ordinary worker had changed. The brain to-day played a more important part in work than ever before. For the welfare and existence of the nation it was imperative that the great masses of people should not be ignorant. Education to the top of the Primary Schools was not enough for progress and safety. The people of Europe were feverishly extending the scope and cost of education, and Australia should follow suit. There were some economies too costly and dangerous to practise—and reduction in educational facilities at the present time appeared to be one of them.

in a subterfuge to the pounds, shillings, and pence extracted from the people concerned.

Another consideration which affected South Australia was the extraordinarily high prices at which books, which public libraries in the more populous States were to be, partly at least, free from taxation, which would be forced upon the principal institution of light and learning in Adelaide, until this year the library committee could buy 787 volumes for £100, three-sevenths of the cost of which would be paid by the Government. They could now buy the same number of books for 353 books, or only about four where previously they could get nine. This meant that the income of £100,000 spent by institute committees on books every year would purchase only 353 books, or only one over £700. The Commonwealth Government now intended to re-assess, with a view to a six per cent. opposition of the institutes and educational institutions as a whole, the taxes which had been levied on all books imported into the country, and on values to be arbitrarily estimated by its officers. Perhaps the chief consideration was that books published in London by Australian writers would have to pay duty before they could be circulated here, while, if they were produced here and sent to London, they would have no chance whatever of payable circulation. Already the steadily reducing number of Australian books which were published were lightly estimated unless they had received overseas human approval. The idea seemed to be that no good authorship could come from Australia. It appeared that the only alternative to choice their ambitions and save their money.

Withdrawal of Grant Regretted
 The Chief Secretary (Mr. Whitford) congratulated the institute on the useful work it had done during the year, the success of which was in no small measure due to the donatory work of the council and individual committees throughout the State. The Government was regretting the withdrawal of the grant, which was essential to the people's well-being. He regretted that the withdrawal of the grant would mean the assistance had been found necessary.

Mr. S. Babot Smith said that books in Australia cost double the price paid for them in England. The institutes could adjust themselves to the hard times by buying slightly used novels of the Conan Doyle type and by supporting Australian literature and authors. The local author, Arthur Black, was sure equal to Edgar Wallace and other writers, in producing thrills in his novels.

The president unveiled a memorial tablet to the late Mr. F. E. Melena, who was the first secretary of the association, having been appointed in 1910. He was also secretary of the Australian Library Association and treasurer of the South Australian Library Association.

Exemptions Sought

The following resolutions were carried:—
 That during the past two years, as the subsidy has been withdrawn, the State Government be urged to exempt all entertainments in aid of institute funds, except where the expenses of such entertainments do not exceed 50 per cent. of the gross proceeds.

"That the Federal Government be urged to exempt or modify the purchase duty on books imported for institutes."

"That there are great possibilities for the extension of radio to the institute system."

Officers Elected

Members of the Council.—President, Sir William Sowden; vice-president, Mr. A. W. Brown; and Messrs. Bowyer, G. F. Hussey, H. E. Fuller, F. H. Taylor and the Rev. Charles F. Hall.
 Secretary, Mr. J. E. Ennis; Public Library Board, Messrs. H. E. Fuller, R. E. E. Rogers, and F. H. Taylor.