The Economic Society—Branch which has been established in South Australia, will serve a useful purpose in increasing the knowledge of public affairs and the interest of most taxpayers. In its limited to the amount of their means tax assessment, it is not affected by the more generally, there might be less occasion to evade others, as represented by Mr. J. B. Stacey, who said probably be less extravagant if people were less indifferent to the and spent no or very little time in their behalf. Nor does the blame for lavish expenditure rest entirely with Governments and the public. It is a national duty to ensure that the financial resources of the country are equal to any strain which results expenditure. Both sections of the people ignorant or cur- ously assume that Government possesses comparatively but with the most inadequate demands for expenditure, without regard to the replenishment of its coffers. The speaker said nothing for nothing is as the Under Secretary (Mr. R. R. Stacey) remarked in his submission. The country was now in a very serious position, and absolutely nothing was left for the country. In no other direction do the spending proclivities of Australian Governments provide for the distribution of loan money. “Easy come, easy go” is a maxim quite as applicable to public as to private finance. Until recently, the policy of Governments has been to borrow and spend, and to pay back with more freedom than discretion. Lately money has become a little more scarce and harder to obtain, and the expansion of the public debt continues at an alarming rate. Tides presented by Mr. Stacey showed that the public debt increased from £1,000,000 in 1914 to £2,500,000 in 1924—an increase of £1,500,000 in the year, and the public debt, which is financed by a large proportion of the revenue, will have to be repaid at interest. This is a double burden for a population of two millions to sustain. If the number of people were increasing at the same rate, this would be little cause for concern, but, unfortunately, this is far from being the case. The diminishing impor- tant public expenditure out of loan should bear some clearly defined relation to the welfare of the community, and the establishment of such a relationship should simply form the basis of an Australian national debt. In their report, the Finance Committee, which has been appointed for the purpose, are putting an indebtedness without regard to the popu- lation and production of the country. Another aspect of the problem which requires immediate attention is the tendency to spend loan money on capital works of a public nature—tendency which is, as said, becoming more common. In South Australia, for instance, 6,375,000 return interest and working expenses of 6,375,000 interest. The rate of return on investments was 2½ per cent., involving an interest of 6,375,000, and 6,375,000 is unproven.