DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1902.

A CRISIS IN AUSTRALIA.

South Africa Drawing Heavily Upon Its Population-The Commonwealth Now Has Only Four Million

People, and Can Spare None of Its Settlers.

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population has been steadily leaving Australia for South Africa. There is no abatement in the exodus. On the contrary, it has been increasing, and its dimensions are causing very serious slarm.

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When it is remembered that no one will be admitted into South Africa unless he can show that he is possesed of \$500 at lnest, or is going to an already secured situation, some estimate can be formed of the financial loss Austraila is incurring week by week. From Victoria alone, one of the six states comprised within the commonwealth, more than a thousand adults have gone within the last four months, and some

them. kept, and these young meh are now walking about the streets in idleness, For many months past a stream of | of the emigrants have taken with them substantial amounts, up to as much as \$25,000 in some instances. Altogether these circumstances, relegrams have been sent to Lord Kitchener asking during that period this one state has suffered by a drain of no less than three-fourths of a million dollars. I is not only this great cash loss which being taken back has to be deplored, but also the loss of The laboring classes in Australia are very badly off. The prices of the nec-essaries of life have advanced. Not since the collapse of the land boom so many young men and very desirable settlers who think they can do better in these "fresh fields and pastures

are and a set of south Africa. A common wealth which contains a total population fo barely four mil-lions can ill afford to lose any of its have times been nearly so bad as they now are. It is in the states of Victoria and South Australia that distress is greatest. The state of western Austra-lia, because of the satisfactory returns from gold mining operations and the population. In this same connection it must also be taken into account that population. the natural increase in the states has very seriously diminished, of late years. expenditure of borrowed money, is at present only almost imperceptibly af-There are not now the large famillos there used to be in the days of the early must come soon. colonization of Australia. The news-

In New South Wales the recent three [papers are trying to put a stop to the million loan will keep that state's head above water while the spending of this The hard times which have set in acborrowed money lasts; but after that it count for the largest share of the emiwill be worse off than ever. In Queens-land the gold fields help to make the depression less acutely feit than else-where. In Tasmania everything is gration which is going on. Young men who are without money or employment who are without money or employment are trying to get service in the garrison regiments and police force of South Af.-rica, and bitter are the complaints of some of these who, after being in ac-tive service, were brought back to the country. Before leaving as "Contingen-ters" they were promised that on their entry "biller" would be provided for

flat, stale and unprofitable . In South Australia it will afford some Idea of the want of employment which exists there when it is mentioned that redently a meeting was held in the Trades Hall at Adelaide. This meeting was attended by women only, who de-clared that it was not charity they eturn "billets" would be provided for hem. These promises have not been wanted, but work for their husbands, A deputation of these women waited many of them in absolute want. Under on the government and represented their distressful condition. They also requested that the stonebreaking upon which their husbands were employed him to re-enlist them either as mounted soldiers or policemen, but there is little prospect of any great number of them should be puid for in cash, and not ra.

In Melbourne things are just as bad, Groups of idle men are hanging round the street corners or lounging in the "unemployed" everywhere, and deputa-'unemployed' Veverywhere, and deputa tions from the working classes are al-most daily waiting upon the government and municipal bodies and demanding work. Appeals for help in the shape of money or goods are being made in the correspondence columns of the news-papers from members of parliament and others. The worst of it is that the people are now in the depth of win-

ter and it is expected the position will | a year each (the speaker and chairman got much worse even than it is. The government has no money to spend and municipal bodies are not much better

Hitherto all the states have been living far beyond their means-on bor-rowed money. Extravagance in expen-diture, much of it upon unproductive works, has been going on for years, and now the necessity for economy is feit. The deficit in Victoria upon the year's financial transactions amounts to 20 million dollars, according to the statement of the commonwealth treasurer, Sir George Turner, and aiready the state has been obliged to postpone for sevearl months the repayment of the moneys borrowed from local trust funds

The fact is that the enormous drain which is going out in the payment of interest upon foreign borrowed millions has become a terrible millstone round the necks of the various states, and the most drastic economies will have to be effected in legislative and admin-istrative expenditure. Therefore, the cry of economy and retrenchment mingles with that of "unemployed" just

There is much need for retrenchment. Take, as an example, the state legisla-ture of Victoria. It has two houses of parliament, the legislative assembly, and legislative council, both of them far too expensive. The assembly contains no fewer than 95 members at £300

of committees get several hundred more). The country demands that this house shall be reduced to 46 members house shall be reduced to 46 members at £200 a year each, and that the coun-cil shall be reduced to \$3. There has been a crisis in the state, and the Peacock government has been oused by a majority of three. Mr. Irvine is the new premier, but his assurances on the subject of retrenchment are not considered sufficientmy and the reconsidered satisfactory, and the re-formers have decided to oppose his reclection and that of all bis cabinet. This will probably result in a dissolution, and at a general election the reformers will carry the country in the adoption of their program. In the meantime Australia is in a

very bad way. All this depression, want of money, duliness in trade and scar-city of employment are directly due to the interference of the colonies in the South African war, and the spend-ing of hundreds of thousands of pounds in sending troops to South Africa. But in sending troops to South Africa. But for this the treasuries would not have been depleted as they have been, and the money would have been available for useful public works, and but for this interference there would have been no exodus of population and capi-tal to South tAfrica. Those who fav-ored the policy of interference are try-ing head to make out that su ing hard to make out that all the ills which have come upon Australia are due to the drouth, but this is a ridicu.

lous excuse to try and shift the respon-

sibility off their own shoulders. We have had many drouths before as bad as the recent one, and some of them of much longer duration, but these droughts never affected the fringe of the continent and the agricul-tural districts, cities and towns on this seaboard area as the other causes stat-ed are doing now. Those persons who inflamed the war fever in the colonies sowed the wind: the masses are now unfortunately reaping the whiriwind. New York Times. New York Times.

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