

P. R. D.

A motion from Petrusburg to the effect that the Public Works Department was responsible for great wastage of money and that congress should consider ways and means of putting a stop to this, elicited considerable discussion. Instances were quoted by delegates of waste in buildings and in other ways. Mr. J. C. Buys, M.E.C., announced that the Free State Provincial Council was at present considering the possibility of creating its own Public Works Department. This step was being taken on grounds of economy, for they considered the Provincial Administration could do work more cheaply.

Dr. N. J. van der Merwe said the Union Government had not as yet reduced the salaries of officials, apart from the reduction of allowances. Before the Government took the drastic step of cutting salaries he considered that it should explore other avenues of economy. He felt sure that great economy could be effected in various directions, including the Public Works Department, and for this reason he supported the suggestion that the Government should investigate the possibility of economies in this department.

This suggestion was submitted as a motion and agreed to.