

THE NEWTIMES

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Death Sentence on the Suburbs

The Passing of the Small Business

Not so many years ago we used to talk of going on a shopping-expedition. And it was an expedition—a pleasant adventure, a journeying—from store to store where one picked and chose and compared until one was suited. Courtesy was universal. There was time for a smile and a pleasant word on all sides—even in Bourke Street. And there were chairs everywhere, and a ready invitation to use them.

Fare forth into our big cities today, and you are like a Ford car being assembled—once you start you cannot stop. You are pushed, driven, knocked here and battered there. You pause a moment to have something added on to you, and straightway you are caught up again in the whirl and forced remorselessly onward. You have even an escalator lest you take a breather on a stairway. You end up feeling as though Whelan the Wrecker had been at work upon you. You stagger home with parcels, and upon opening them in the suburbs, generally find that you are thoroughly dissatisfied with a large part of your purchases.

This at least, is the common experience of those 90 per cent, of citizens whose incomes were classified in the 1933 census as being £5 a week or less. One is therefore prompted to inquire:—

1. What change has come over the city?
2. Why is it that today more and more business is transacted in the heart of the city, and less and less in the suburbs?
3. What future is there for the suburban shopkeeper?

ORIENTAL BAZAAR.

It would seem that the changed appearance of the city store is largely attributable to the growing Asiatic influence amongst us. Of our Australian cities this is most striking in Melbourne, where that influence is strongest. Twenty years or so ago, upon coming into a store the first thing you did was to sit down in European fashion. The attendant then brought you samples. The samples had to be genuine, because you fingered them, examined them, took them to the light.

Today's tendency is to model the great emporium and chain store after the Eastern bazaar, where you are one of a gesticulating, jostling throng. Day by day everything becomes more glaring, more gaudy. There is no reserve, no delicacy. At one time an intimate undergarment was a thing of privacy; today every picture tells the whole story, from Kotex to Kareen. And gone is the old idea of service, of building up goodwill for tomorrow even if no business results today. The motto now is: "If you want to buy a watch, buy a watch—and if you don't want to buy a watch, take your dirty nose out of my window." Buy or get out. And

don't think you can get away with the least trifle displayed under your nose. Enter the police courts any week and see how a beneficent government goes to great expense in devoting the time of its officials to protecting those who do not take reasonable measures on their own behalf, but who instead place every possible temptation before the weak and the poor.

Go into those sections of our establishments, which cater particularly for the £5-a-week-or-under customers (generally the ground floor and the basement).

SPEAKING OF ROYAL COMMISSIONS—

The appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the operations of the Electricity Commission will be considered by Cabinet towards the end of the present session.

Some Ministers take the view that because of the high charges imposed by the Commission some curb should be imposed on it.—"Star," August 13.

On August 9 the Metropolitan Gas Co. reported a profit of £221,000 for 1934-35—over 17½ per cent, on its paid up capital.

Throughout the depression this private monopoly has paid dividends of 13 per cent.

What are the Ministers' views in this case?

Accustom yourself to the artistry which places the devotional lines alongside the brassieres, and which caters for your convenience by jumbling up cooked meats with accountancy books and garden tools. What are the thoughts which, if by chance you find yourself able to pause' or think, must strike you?

The first is that you yourself are being debauched. No longer are you a consumer exercising your right of free choice. No longer

are you giving your orders to the producer. You are there to take what is offered you or go without. If you ask for anything which is not in sight, you are told briefly, very briefly: "We don't stock it" and the attendant—another poor wretch like yourself, known by a number, probably, and ordered about by a microphone—is dealing with the next in the queue.

The second thought, which will come to you may be, how pitiful it is that our wonderful machinery is being prostituted.

Among the jumble of these Eastern bazaars you will obtain some good things, some articles, which will give you satisfactory service. But if you keep a record of those articles you will generally find that you could have bought them at exactly, or very nearly, the same price from your local suburban store. And you could have done your buying quietly and comfortably where you were known—and where you might still have found a chair to sit on and someone with time to bid you good day.

Sometimes you will get a genuine bargain. And it were well for your peace of mind if you accept this without overmuch thought. For to trace the history of the article might not add to your pleasure. Have you ever heard what unfortunate women and girls on piecework get for providing you with such bargains? Have you ever heard of the contracts made by some great firms with small manufacturers—of the first trial order; of succeeding orders for bigger and bigger quantities at a somewhat lower figure; of cut-price sales by the big firm, resulting in the manufacturer losing all his other customers; and of the final stage where the manufacturer, faced with ruin, is forced to work for a pittance for the monopolist?

But it is the machine, which is mostly prostituted. Think of the knives you buy which will not cut: of the batteries marked "five hours" which will hardly give you a glimmer after two; of the hurricane

lamps which leak so badly that you are in fear of an explosion if you light them; of the "brass" vases having a brazen exterior which penetrates no deeper than gold leaf, and which leak so often that they should more rightly be sold as fountains. Think of these and ten thousand similar items foisted on the public every day, and ask yourself is it not a shame that wonderful machinery should be treated so ill? In the olden days of handicrafts you sometimes missed the finish, but the

INSANITY GOES UP.

Alarming increases in the incidence of insanity throughout Australia as being the inevitable result of conditions peculiar to modern times, are predicted by the acting-Director of Mental Hygiene (Dr. Catarinich).

"In Victoria at present, one person in 262 is certified insane. I will not be surprised if the rate increases to one in 230. . . I agree that the rush and bustle of modern times and the worry of the depression are contributory factors to the increase," he said.

After New South Wales, here the incidence is one in 254, Victoria has the greatest number of insane. In 1933 the rate was one in 265. Last year it had increased to one in 262 and further increases are expected in the current figures.

material was there. In these days the perfect machine finish is used to disguise shoddy.

Watch the crowds who come shopping in a city like Melbourne. We still have good stores, but what is happening to them? For the most part they are being driven out of the hub of the city; or their profits are seriously affected; or they are forced in self-defence to adopt the technique of the Oriental peddler. For the

crowds, the big crowds, are to be found in the vicinity of the bazaars.

THE SHOPPING REVOLUTION

In the space of half a lifetime we have seen a twofold shopping revolution. First, there has been a tremendous fall in suburban trade, except in respect of those items, which go into the larder. And, secondly, the city trade has tended rapidly to concentrate into the hands of those who conduct the type of business already referred to.

That this has happened without attention being drawn to it by the daily press is no cause for surprise. The huge advertisements of the Bagdad fairs provide far greater revenue than was ever derived from those who drew their customers from their own locality. But why has this revolution taken place?

The most obvious explanation of the decline of the suburbs is better and quicker transit to the city. Yet on consideration this is found to be no explanation. Tram services have been speeded up in some directions, but the trains have seen little change—except a growing shabbiness—for a good many years. Fares to the suburban housewife are a big item in her small budget—and there has been no reduction in fares since they were raised in the post-war boom. And the journey from the average suburban home to the city store and back again takes anything from one to two hours, against five or ten minutes each way to the local shopping-centre.

There must, then, be some compelling inducement offered the housewife that makes her turn herself into a beast of burden coming home from the city when most of her suburban purchases are delivered free. What is the inducement?

You will find part of the answer in the advertising pages of the daily papers, and particularly just before and just after the usual weekly payday. Week after week, all the year round, "slashing reductions" are brought under the

Dental Treatment is Not Provided For in the Basic Wage or the Dole

The result is that the majority of the population have decay and pyorrhoea. The "National Dividend" would make available to everyone his heritage of (a) health, (b) education, and (c) sustenance in their fullest sense. In the meantime, dental science has produced (A) the only University proven antiseptic tooth-paste in the world:

VIOPEN (Blue) THE ONLY ANTISEPTIC TOOTH PASTE

42 of the world's leading tooth-pastes have been tested in Universities to an internationally accepted standard. They all failed except Viopen (Blue), the antiseptic.

(B) A tooth powder that will actually harden teeth:

VIOPEN Recalcifying Tooth Powder

This is the tooth hardening formula of Professor Andresen, of the University of Oslo — its claims have been confirmed by Dental Professors and authorities of different nations. If you have orientated your economic thought to realities—put your mouth health in line with modern dental scientific facts. Viopen advertisement is plain, undistorted, scientific truth. The proof is on the wrapper. Sold everywhere, 1/-, 1/6 and 2/-.

Messrs. Wren, Cody, Theodore and Packer,
Imperial Miners, And
Principal Beneficiaries, To Date, of
Emperor Mines Ltd.

Dear Gold Diggers,
What a rake off!

Amidst the admiring congratulations you are receiving, have you a moment to help us answer a few inquiries in our mail. For what they are worth, we pass them on to you:—

(1) What actual cash outlay was represented by the 100,000 fully paid share's in Emperor Gold Mining Co. Ltd., which netted you £300,000 in cash, (500,000 fully paid 10/- shares in the new company, and an option at par over another 350,000 shares for 18 months from September of next year, which gives you effective control over the enterprise?

(2) With all deference to the unquestioned integrity and ability of the engineer whose glowing report forms the principal basis of your claim on the public for the benefits mentioned in (1), would it not have been more in accordance with accepted business practice and newspaper competitions to have given the public a report from someone who is not (as is this engineer) a director of the new company; or at least to have offered a confirmatory report from another engineer not associated with you?

(3) In view of the optimistic report, and of the haste of the public to subscribe, is not the brokerage and commission to the underwriter—6d a 10/- share, or £22,500 in all—just a trifle excessive? With £450,000 subscribed, out of which you receive £300,000 and the broker £22,500, it does not seem that, after all the other preliminary expenses (amounts unspecified) have been met, there will be a great deal of working capital left to earn dividends for a company whose paid up capital is £750,000.

(4) On several occasions the daily papers have related that Bill Borthwick, the prospector who discovered the mine, has been made "secure for life." As old Bill is over 70, this is rather indefinite. Would you give an indication of the currency value of his security?

We hope you will not consider these questions impertinent. We should not presume to ask them ourselves, but they have come to us from readers, and our motto (like that of the "Argus") is to try and tell the truth, impugn it whoso list.

Yours for dividends,

THE NEWTIMES.

P.S. : One question from ourselves—nothing to do with the above. Did Mr. Theodore, by any chance, while in Fiji, happen to come across the author of that celebrated song, "Yes We Have No Bananas"? We have often wondered who wrote it.
P.P.S.: Or did he meet the rich uncle?

THE "NEWTIMES"
IS OBTAINABLE
AT ALL AUTHORISED
NEWSAGENTS.

eye of the housewife—at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds annually for advertising space. And the crowds flock in to get, as has already been noted, some bargains; many discontinued, out of fashion, or out of season lines; many a great deal of shoddy. Once in the bazaar they naturally gravitate to all the stalls, even to those, which have not advertised, and finally come home with armfuls of parcels, with tired feet, with frayed tempers, and with empty purses.

As a result, the suburban storekeeper probably has to wait for his account. For the Friday and early Monday bargains are always timed to catch the pay envelope, and the terms are cash over the counter and, in most cases, carry away your own parcels.

In considering the case of city versus suburban shopping one would expect that, apart from price, the two outstanding advantages of the former would be wider choice and better quality. In the big emporium also it might be counted an advantage to get everything under the one roof. Are these benefits present?

Taking the last first, there are great emporiums in our big cities where you can obtain anything from needles to anchors. But did you ever try looking for a needle amongst a bundle of anchors? These stores, with their never ending expansions, have now become so huge that one can be shoved about literally for miles through their vast barns, directed—more often misdirected—from attendant to attendant, until one has covered a distance of several city blocks, and more than the total length of one's own local centre.

As for quality, you will get this in many city stores. But those stores which make quality the central point of their trading policy are generally outside the busy bazaar areas. Within or without, they are rarely to be found crowded. And, in general, you will always get quality locally: For the suburb, with at most a few thousands to draw upon, lives or, dies by quality. The bazaar can carry on for a long time by the catch trade of a million. In variety of choice the centralised establishment has always had a trump card, and it now uses it, not only to take its legitimate trick, but to win every trick in the hand. For variety of design, in these days of standardised output, does not enter so very greatly into business. Apart from the vagaries of women's apparel there are not so many articles used in the average suburban household that the store around the corner either does not stock, or would not, if patronised by the neighbourhood custom. And an extraordinary number of such items are proprietary lines sold at a fixed national price. To take but one minor instance, go into any chain store and look at the vast trade done in tooth pastes, selling there at the same price at which they can be bought from the suburban chemist or booked on the weekly grocer's bill. But the grocer is used for delivering sugar and other bulky (and often almost profitless) lines, and the chemist is a convenience for urgent prescriptions. Why consider them otherwise?

THE FUTURE OF THE SUBURBS

Variety of choice was the big attraction of the city shop a generation ago. In those days our suburbs were also busy and prosperous. In the intervening years the suburbs have themselves been "able to offer a wider and wider choice". In spite of this, with very few exceptions—and those mostly where they have become small replicas of the bazaars—they have gone downhill; at first slowly, and latterly with a rush that threatens the extinction of every retailer in our metropolitan areas except the threat emporiums, the cheap jack chain stores, and the struggling suppliers of the table.

The victors have not won by convenience of location; they have not won by better quality,

or courtesy, or service. They have not as big an advantage in variety as they had years ago.

The suburban shopkeeper, on the other hand, is known personally to his customers. He knows their homes and their individual requirements, and he can offer them better advice. He dare not make a dissatisfied customer by pushing a line of which he is doubtful; he would be out of business in a few months, as he will tell you candidly, if he dared to stock the rubbish peddled across the bazaar counters. He knows his stock far better than the average city assistant, who is frequently an underpaid youth or girl, perhaps classified as a parcel wrapper. Yet ruin is staring him in the face.

It is high time the suburban shopkeeper started to do something. And putting up stickers like "Shop in your own suburb" is not doing anything practical. It is just about as sensible as the "Eat more fruit" cry, or that other unfortunate slogan of a few years ago, "Grow more wheat."

If the shopkeeper will think quietly—and his days are not so filled in attending customers that he cannot get an occasional hour for thought—he will find that the main issue before him is quite a simple one. Stated shortly it is this:

Trade is going to the Oriental bazaar because the people are trying to make one shilling do the work of two.

The householder likes quality today just as much as ever. The householder, in buying cheapjack stuff, is not buying it from choice, is mostly not even buying it from ignorance. The state of mind of the average buyer is: "It will do for a - while; it will, have to do until I can afford better." If the people had enough money to buy their own products they would begin by selecting the quality they wanted and then ask the price. Today the first question is not "Can you recommend it?" or "Will you guarantee it?" but "How much is it?"

The result is a boom in the lowest priced goods. The suburban shopkeeper cannot as a rule afford to handle these, for two reasons. In the first place the margin is so small that there is no profit except for spot cash and with a turnover bigger than the possibilities of a suburb. And, in the second, the cheap is often also nasty and ruinous to goodwill. The people, therefore, flock to the well advertised catch lines and, once in the hub, they buy there their other requirements.

THE WAY OUT

There is only one way by which the suburb will ever again come into its own. That way is to see that there is as much money in the hands of the people as there are prices on goods for sale in the shops. The technical side of the matter has been stated in this paper before, and doubtless will be stated again. But if the shopkeeper wants the principles set out in a few words, there are two things for which he should agitate and use his influence and his vote. The first of these is that the right to issue the money required by the community should be restored to the community. The second is that every member of the nation should receive as by right a national dividend. The amount of this should be sufficient to take up the slack between the goods produced and the quantity of money required to enable producers and retailers to earn a fair livelihood, and should be regulated, not by politicians or by bankers, but by the statistics of production and consumption.

If the suburban shopkeeper will not act along these lines, then he might as well put up his shutters right away.

If you think the NEW TIMES is worth supporting, your best way of doing so is to make it known to your friends.

TAXING MONEY EVERY MONTH Gesell's Depreciating Currency

In a letter to the "New Times" last week Dr. W. Maloney, M.H.R., suggested that the adoption of Silvio Gesell's idea of a depreciating currency would be an excellent means of correcting the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few.

What is Gesell's suggestion?

Within the space here available it is impossible to discuss in any detail his complete proposals, or even to refer to any but his scheme for overcoming hoarding.

The central idea of this is that there is a universal decay in all forms of production. Goods produced and not used for their lawful end, consumption, rapidly deteriorate until through the ravages of time and pests they cease to have any value. Money was designed as a means of exchanging or distributing production. Therefore money, if it is to keep in step with production, should be subject to the same laws of deterioration. In practice, however, hoarded money, unlike hoarded "grain, increases in value, adds to itself, multiplies itself, gives its possessor not only the power to buy things, but the power to prevent things being sold and to levy toll upon the community.

Gesell would give money a limited life, after the manner indicated by Dr. Maloney in his illustration of the ten shilling note. A note issued on January 1 would be worth ten shillings until January 31. On February 1 it would, in order to keep its value, require a penny duty stamp to be affixed to it, and so the process would continue until at the end of a year a person who had hoarded it would find that he had lost a shilling by doing so. The supposition is that in this case people in possession of money would get rid of it as quickly as possible by buying goods, thus effectually disposing of the problem of what is known as frozen capital—and also leading to the rapid disappearance of interest, since those who could not use all their money at once would be forced to lend it freely in order to preserve it.

THE WORGL EXPERIMENT

An experiment along Gesell's lines was carried out a couple of years ago in the little town of Worgl, in Austria. Business was bad; unemployment and destitution were rife; the town could not collect its rates. The local mayor, a disciple of Gesell, induced the municipality to issue a type of currency of its own, which it called "tickets for services rendered," and which was to follow the scheme of depreciation indicated above, the stamps likewise being issued by the municipality.

Needless to say, this challenge to the Austrian National Bank was quickly stopped through the courts. But the Worgl experiment, during the few short months of its life, worked a remarkable transformation in the little town. The Council issued its notes to municipal workers for the building of streets and other public works. The workers bought goods from the shops, the shopkeepers paid their rates, the Council paid its bills, and so on. Everybody, in short, was rushing around like mad to change money into goods before the money became stale—the old game of "last home, lousy."

Gesell's followers all over the world now point to Worgl as proof that a depreciating currency would solve most, if not all of our present economic troubles.

ANOTHER FORM OF TAXATION.

Critics of Gesell from the orthodox viewpoint, even friendly critics—such as H. T. N. Gaitskell in the book, "What Everybody Wants To Know About Money"—devote a good deal of space to Gesell's omissions. It is pointed out, for instance, that in taxing notes and missing bank deposits he is getting at the merest fraction of the com-

munity's real money supply. Such criticisms of technique need not interest us, since there would seem to be no great difficulty in extending the scheme to cover all forms of money, while at the same time making due provision (as Gesell contemplated) for exempting the accumulations necessary for the purchase, say, of a house, a motor car, or furniture. We need concern ourselves here only with the underlying principle.

The main idea in the minds of those who advocate a depreciating currency would seem to be that if all the money issued through the production of goods were used to buy goods then all the goods would be sold. From this it follows that the quicker you force people to spend the quicker the goods will be disposed of. If any refuse to spend their money, tax it out of them and give it away (through public works, pensions, civil service pay, or otherwise) to those who need it.

The scheme of a depreciating currency, it will be noted, is very similar to a scheme attempted by Mr. J. T. Lang in New South Wales a year or so before the Worgl experiment—and ' which had an even shorter life. Mr. Lang aimed at a ten per cent, capital levy upon those who had sufficient money to lend it at interest, and accordingly designed his raid upon mortgagees. The Gesell scheme provides for an annual ten per cent, levy on those who actually hold money. But the basis of both is taxation.

DEPRIVE OR ADD?

Now it would surely seem that fresh taxation should be the last resort of any government. Particularly does this apply in an age of abundance, or at least of potential abundance. For taxation is merely another word for deprivation. It is the very opposite to the slogan of those who are called the New Economists (such as Social Creditors), whose cry is, "Not less for some, but more for all." Hence, before adopting any fresh scheme of deprivation, it would seem to be the policy of common sense to inquire into the alternate course, which is one of addition.

Is it necessary, in order to provide for those" who have not enough, to take away anything from anyone, even from those who have a superfluity? Taken in its literal terms the answer is easy. It is not. Wealth, real physical wealth—food, clothing and shelter, and so on—is so easy to provide nowadays, thanks to science, that a sufficiency for all is easily attainable even if the millionaires are left millionaires. There is no need, therefore, to take away anyone's property, unless a monopolist is squatting on land or natural resources, which are needed for the production of wealth. Gesell saw this, and agreed with it. He even provided for compensation for those whose land should be taken from them. He went further with his proposals. For he did not suggest that real wealth should be taxed. If a man used his money to buy tangible goods Gesell would let him off scott free. The man he was after was the one who would not take immediate wealth but who—presumably for the sake of greater future wealth—hung on to his claims to wealth, that is, to his money.

All those who are seeking social justice will agree with Gesell that there should be no such thing as a Money Power. The idea should be far less thinkable than a Bread Power or a Butter Power. But to remove power from money is it necessary to shear its locks with the taxation scissors?

Wherein lies the power of money?

It proceeds from monopoly and it is exercised through scarcity.

Most of us nowadays know where the monopoly of money lies—in its issue through the private banking

banking system. Here in Australia, for instance, we have about £55 millions of national money—of notes, silver and bronze. Yet our bank-recorded and bank-created deposits amount to about £550 millions.

This monopoly, like all other monopolies, derives its greatest power from the scarcity, which it creates in its own interest. Gesell quite correctly saw that accumulations of unspent money cause a stoppage in the flow of goods to consumers. But with this discovery he was apparently satisfied that he had hit on the cause of slumps, and so, without further examination for any chronic scarcity of money, he proceeded to write out his prescription. Were his diagnosis correct his remedy (provided it were applied to all forms of money) would achieve, his objective. If there were enough money to go round it could be distributed as desired by taxation.

As a matter of fact Gesell's remedy, though in a different bottle, has been tried for years and found wanting. Nearly every form of taxation we know is of its nature similar to a depreciating currency, in that it takes money from those who are holding it and gives it to others who will spend it the moment they get it. What is the effect of the income tax? Big money incomes in various countries today are taxed, not at the rate of ten per cent, per annum, but at rates, which climb as high as 75 per cent. And what is the wage tax but an endeavour to deprive those who (supposedly) have more money than the need, in order to give it to the destitute unemployed: These latter certainly do not require the stimulus of a depreciating currency in order to spend at once all they receive. But, in spite of Gesell's idea that velocity of circulation would enable existing money to clear the market of goods, we know from experience that the higher taxation climbs the worse the depression gets. Besides, the tendency of taxation is inevitably for the charge to be passed on to the under dog and so defeat its purpose.

WHY WORGL GOT PROSPERITY.

Turning back to the Worgl experiment, why then was it successful while it lasted? Followers of Gesell will tell you that the secret lay in the compulsion of the recipients to spend their money. But was this the real reason? Was it not rather because the municipal tickets were nothing less than an infusion of additional money into the little community? (Which explains the opposition of the Austrian bankers.)

The Council workers were impoverished, the shops were impoverished, everyone was suffering from a lack of money. They therefore required no inducement to persuade them to spend at once. Had there been no depreciation tax at all would they not have acted exactly as they did?

This brings us back to the more thorough diagnosis of our monetary troubles. Gesell was not only right in asserting that unspent money means unsold goods; he was also right in attacking the power that attaches to money through the very fact of abstinence from spending. But when he sought the cure through speeding-up circulation he was merely putting forward a palliative. He would have been offering a real remedy had he insisted, first, that the money issued to buy goods should always correspond with the prices of the goods; and, second, that it should be used only to buy goods and not to produce new goods. No monetary proposals can be satisfactory which do not begin by accepting what is proved both by theory and by experience, that modern mechanical industry does not produce money at the same rate as it produces prices, and that therefore the first essential step is to supplement the incomes of consumers, not by taxation nor by borrowing, but by the distribution of additional money.

FREEDOM THROUGH THE CHILD

By BRUCE H BROWN

By arrangement with the "Castlemaine Mail."

Two weeks ago we asked how much the Director of Education, the heads of Government departments, and the headmasters of our public schools know about the Money System? To these we would add the master or mistress of every school, the members of the professions, and the clergymen of all denominations. Newspaper editors could be included, too, but most of them write as they are paid, not as they think.

Last week we saw that only a small proportion of the people advance beyond the mental standard appropriate to the age of 18 to 20 years, and that as the brain grows old or deteriorates the last things learned are the first to disappear, and the first things learned are the last to go. In the face of this, Mr. W. M. Hughes was not far wrong when he referred to the electors as morons, and, however distasteful the thought may be to our personal vanity, we have to face the fact that much less than 50 per cent of us have receptive learning brains.

A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION

This lack of mental development possibly accounts for the regular appearance in our daily papers of editorials appropriate to the conditions of half a century ago.

It probably explains how Sir James Barrett and Dr. Priestly could seriously ask the Premier for extra financial assistance for University work when they should have been the first to recognise the impotency of the Premier and his Government in financial matters and the impracticability of providing it under the existing system.

It may be why Dr. Page, as Acting Prime Minister, still thinks he is making progress when he seeks the co-operation of all sections towards extending our markets overseas, notwithstanding that on every side evidence is accumulating that opportunities for the extension of such markets no longer exist.

It may be the reason why Mr. A. W. Relph, president of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, officially made the statement that "until those who had been thrown out of employment in industry ceased to draw pay from the Government, the unemployed problem would not have been solved."

It possibly accounts for the illogical hope of "eminent business men" for taxation concessions while they support a system under which money, the indispensable agent of business, can only come into existence as the property of a private monopoly.

And what else could explain the attitude of members of the Taxpayers Association who moan about the excessive taxation when they themselves are the very people who oppose the measure put forward to relieve them of the burden?

All of which supports the belief that, generally speaking, men over 40 years of age are a hindrance to progress and must be swept aside by younger people with better knowledge and greater mental virility.

THE "SOLUTION" OF "THE ARGUS."

On the 25th July "The Argus" admitted editorially that "slums" are inhabited because poor people have no means to live in better houses, but it relentlessly and blindly opposes all activities peering to provide these same poor people with the means to live in better houses in better localities. No honest person would deny for a moment that we have everything that is actually necessary for slum abolition — plenty vacant land, plenty of building material of

all descriptions, and plenty of labour. We all object to slums and the Government admits the need for their abolition, but because of monetary limitations imposed by some outside body the "Sovereign" Government is not sovereign.

A partial explanation of this almost inexplicable attitude of opposition on the part of "The Argus" may be found in its editorial of the 1st August, in which the following appears:—

"There is no solution in monetary reform or in reduced working hours. Industry and honesty, old fashioned virtues though they may be, are necessary still . . . Mr. Dunstan's best hope now lies in the fidelity with which he follows the main principles which his predecessors laid down." How shamefully dishonest! Everyone who has had anything to do publicly with the practical side of things has declared that finance is the only obstacle, and yet this journal continues to babble that that obstacle should be left alone. We are also assured that production could be increased materially without requiring the employment of any additional hands, so that if "unemployment" is to be reduced, the available work must be spread, because the quantity of work is not likely to increase. The only trouble is in distributing production to the people. The medium through which distribution is effected is money. Obviously, therefore, the only thing wrong with the general organisation is the money section of it, without the reform of which a solution is impossible.

The statement that industry and honesty are still necessary is a gratuitous inference that those who advocate monetary reform and shorter hours are lazy and dishonest. Such a statement is so contrary to the truth that it merely indicates the low morality of the author.

Regarding the remaining sentence, Mr. Dunstan should be warned that if he does follow the worn-out principles referred to he will inevitably increase the poverty of the community and provide the incentive for an outbreak of civil disorder. The fact that the community takes notice of a journal expressing such out-of-date views is a further reflection on our educational methods of the past.

HOW TO GET OUT OF THE BATH

These methods of the past, and the frightful conditions they have produced, remind one writer of a dream his father had. He found himself having a bath in the aisle of a church during a service. To get up and walk out, without so much as a towel to wrap round himself, was just as impossible as to stay where he was. In fact, the only solution was to wake up. That is exactly how we stand with this nightmare of needless distress. If we would wake up we would find not only that there is no problem, but that in actuality we have merely been the subjects of a gigantic swindle. It is too much to expect the old men, of whom so few get beyond the 20-year-old mental standard, to wake up out of the nightmare, but we can expect more wakefulness from the younger section of society.

Mr. G. W. L. Day, of London, reminds us that since the depression began in 1929 there has been a notable change in thought, and most people have now come to the conclusion that Finance is the culprit. We have always been encouraged to believe that this Finance business is such a complicated subject that only bankers and economic experts could possibly understand it, and have simply taken it at that.

FINANCIERS WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND FINANCE

Have you ever heard of the Rev. Studdert Kennedy, better known as "Woodbine Willy"? Not long before he died, he called one day on the editor of the publication "John Bull" and said to him: "Look here, I feel sure all this trouble is due in some way to Finance. I'm going to get to the bottom of this money business." When he came back a few weeks later he told the editor that he had had long talks with the most famous financial experts in the kingdom, and had finished up by spending a weekend with Montague Norman, Governor of the Bank of England. "And do you know," he said, "They don't understand their own system!" Confirmation of this was subsequently given by Mr. Norman himself, when he admitted publicly that the economic position was too much for him, and that he could not see the light at the end of the tunnel!

What would you think of a Defence Department, which knew nothing of military matters, or of an Agriculture Department, which knew nothing about farming? If you were in a party being conducted over perilous mountains and your guide suddenly confessed that he was hopelessly lost, would you leave yourselves in his hands or organise the resources of the party? We think you would follow the latter course. But not so with the financiers, for despite his own admission of incompetence, Mr. Montague Norman was recently re-elected for the 16th time as dictator of the British Empire. We allow ourselves to be governed in this way only because of our ignorance on the all-important question of National Finance.

Mr. Day also reminds us that first the cry was for economy, then for wise spending, then for the stabilisation of currencies, then for the raising of prices, then for industrial planning, and so on. Few of us are any better off than we were last year and a great many of us are even worse off. The bankers and business magnates tell us we can't be prosperous again until our overseas trade revives, and yet all of them admit there is no sign whatever of it reviving yet awhile. According to the League of Nations' Bulletin of Statistics, world overseas trade reached the lowest point ever recorded in February 1935. With Mr. Day we ask: Are we to spend the rest of our lives in poverty and misery waiting for the impossible or are we to press on with a campaign to ensure the proper and adequate education of our children?

TEACH THE CHILDREN.

Now it is a fact that our ideas are controlled by our minds, and that the impressions of our earlier years have the most lasting effect on the mind. Because of this, and the absence of effort to educate the young, the mass of the people of today find it quite impossible to discuss the present impasse except in terms of "production," "work for money," "everyone must work (no time limit)," and with placid acceptance of money as some holy thing about which we should not inquire regarding its origin and production. The unfortunate part of the business is that the "leaders" of all political parties are mesmerised by the private controllers of finance and their professional henchmen. These leaders were born at a time when the purpose of work was to provide more goods, and they fail to realise that conditions in this respect have entirely changed. The age of scarcity is past, and except for a few years of each man's life there is no call for "human" work. This call for human work has been superseded by the immense output of goods by mechanical energy, and the monetisation of this output should

CIVIL SERVANTS DECLARE FOR MONETARY REFORM

Strongly Worded Resolution by Public Service Association

The annual meeting of the Victorian branch of the Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association was held at Anzac House, Melbourne, on Monday last, 13th inst. With an attendance of about 300 members, the following motion was carried with eight dissentients:—

1.—In view of the fact that, notwithstanding increased production and increased ability to produce, the basic wage was reduced in 1931 because the judges of the Arbitration Court believed there was a shortage of money; the Premiers' Plan was officially declared to be necessary because all Governments were short of money; wages, salaries, and pensions are still subject to cuts because it is claimed that governments cannot find the money; all Governments officially

admit that they cannot undertake necessary public services because they have not the money; hundreds of businessmen have been sent bankrupt since 1929 because of the loss of trade following a sudden and acute shortage of money; the slums must be continued because the poor cannot be supplied with sufficient money to live elsewhere; our sick are suffering unduly, and even dying prematurely, because of serious lack of accommodation and up-to-date equipment in our public hospitals owing to shortage of money; thousands of innocent and helpless children are suffering from malnutrition because there is a shortage of money; and every unsatisfactory feature of our public life can be attributed to the same cause—i.e., shortage of money—we are forced to the conclusion that there is something radically wrong with the control of the money system.

2.—That, as all money used in Australia is made in Australia, the obvious remedy for a shortage of money is to increase the supply of money, and the fact that this has not been done suggests that the community has been the victim of a swindle.

3.—That the conditions in the community in all parts of the Commonwealth are so serious that a study of the financial system is the first duty of every responsible citizen.

4.—That, for the reasons set out this meeting recommends all members of the Clerical Association in particular, and all public servants in general, to devote their personal attention to a study of the true cause of the disgraceful conditions which now exist, and instructs the incoming Branch Council to include the question of monetary reform in the agenda for the forthcoming inter-State Conference.

5.—That in view of the provisions of Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution Act, which gives full power over currency, coinage, legal tender, banking, and the issue of paper money to the Federal Parliament, it is our conviction that the responsibility for such a deplorable state of affairs falls entirely upon that body, and that "shortage of funds" cannot be accepted as a bona fide excuse, much less a reason, for the confiscation of salaries or the continuance of the conditions referred to.

WHY BANKS KEEP GOLD

Sir Basil Blackett (Director of the Bank of England) suggests: "I think the first, and most important answer is because other central banks keep gold. Perhaps another answer would be because the banks think that people think they ought to keep gold, or even because the banks think that people think that the banks think they ought to keep gold."

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The Seamen Must Be Wrong

Needless to say, the case of the seamen has already been judged by most of the daily press and the verdict pronounced. Any group of employees in the community, which proceeds to the extreme of withdrawing its services, or which even dares to discuss doing so, is immediately blackguarded. We see this today with the men who man the ships; we saw it a week or two ago with the teachers who debated a regulation strike; we have seen it all our lives.

That the all-out strike as a weapon is usually ineffective does not enter into the question. That is a matter of tactics. But on the principle involved we have yet to see an instance where the press has given fair play to strikers. In the case of the seamen the issue is no longer the minor matter of overtime on the Murada, concerning which a Sydney court has already given judgment. The point at issue now devolves around what the shipowners are pleased to call their right of free choice in engaging men. Bluntly put, what has to be decided is whether free choice extends so far as to give employers the right of unlimited exclusion, otherwise victimisation of individuals. In the absence of evidence to the contrary it would seem as though a deliberate attempt were made to bar from all shipping employment certain men whose claims for a few shillings of overtime pay had rendered them obnoxious to their bosses. In confirmation of this is the announcement made on Wednesday afternoon by the acting Federal Attorney-General, who said he had been officially informed by the Steamship Owners' Federation that

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if the strikers returned to work a limit period would be set to the "qualified" discharges of the Murada seamen, and that that period would not be a long one. Translated into simpler English this would seem to say in effect: "We won't victimise these men permanently. Provided they eat humble pie, we shall be satisfied to victimise them merely for a shorter period as an example to the others."

The nature of his discharge means to a seaman far more than it does to any landsman except a car driver, and his licence should be subject to endorsement only upon grave reasons. No matter what attitude may be taken up by that section of the press which derives a regular revenue from shipping company advertisements—not to suggest that the press is prejudiced on that account—the public are not convinced that the "offence" of the Murada men justified this drastic course. And the public will take a lot of convincing that the men were not victimised subsequently.

It is improbable that in the struggle now going on the loss of profits to the owners will hurt them nearly as much as the loss of livelihood will affect the men. Many people who are not parties to the dispute will also suffer. But it is to be hoped that they will not allow themselves on that account—as so often happens—to lose sight of the real causes of the turmoil.

Taxpayers' President and "Herald" Insult Australians

During the week we have had further examples of how unfairly the press presents the case against the under dog. On Saturday evening the "Herald" published this:

"A country storekeeper 20 miles out of Melbourne had work to offer, and so he drove around the district to interview each of the 22 men registered as drawing sustenance. Not one of them would accept the job.

"This report from a member of the Taxpayers' Association was read at an executive meeting of the Association yesterday, when the president (Mr. C. W. Wilson) said that strong reason existed for the theory that Australians were fast becoming a race of mendicants."

For a man in the position of Mr. Wilson to make such a statement was childish. For a newspaper such as the "Herald" to publish it was outrageous. We have no hesitation in branding the "theory" as a damnable lie. Have Mr. Wilson and the "Herald" forgotten that a few weeks ago, when 50 jobs of hard labouring work were offering at North Melbourne, nearly 3000 men applied, and that so great was the pressure that a fire hose was turned upon them? Have they not heard how some of these men were so weak from insufficient food that one, at least, fainted after he had been an hour or so on the job? Does this betoken a race of mendicants?

Moreover, just consider the absurd old woman's tale. An anonymous somebody in an unnamed district had an undesignated job to offer at

an undisclosed rate of pay—and nobody would take it. We challenge Mr. Wilson and the "Herald" to disclose the names, the locality, the nature of the job and the remuneration offered. If they do so we are prepared to make a thorough investigation and to publish the results. If they are not prepared to make the information available, then the least they should do is to apologise for the public slur they have cast upon our country and our unfortunate citizens who have the misfortune, because machinery is doing their work, to be rendered destitute.

"The Star" On Whippings

An even more callous and venomous insult came from the "Star" office on Wednesday. It is possible that Mr. Wilson's views just slipped into the "Herald" through careless editing—though that newspaper went to the pains of printing his photograph—but the "Star" published its views editorially.

"Men and women who pride themselves on belonging to a young and virile race," it said, "must be shocked to learn that there are dozens of youths in Melbourne who prefer to lounge around the city out of work rather than go to jobs in the country . . . If young people demand to be pampered in the city because they turn up their noses at the thought of acquiring honest blisters on their palms, society should see that they are whipped out of their lethargy."

As in the case of the anonymous storekeeper, the hysterical journalist who scribbled this trash about "honest blisters" has nothing to say of the conditions of employment offering in the country, and which are such that the "pampering" dole in the city is preferred to them. But, in any case, why should youngsters be compelled to leave their parents and homes just to acquire honest blisters? We have already seen how the fathers have been driven to slave camps in the bush under the threat of having their wives and children starved. We have likewise seen several cases reported in the press—and God knows how many have occurred which have not been reported—where the wives and children, even to babies, have been evicted like cattle in the absence of their natural protector. In these families there are sons not yet old enough to be seized under the dole laws for compulsory serfdom, and it is such that the "Star" would have "whipped out of their lethargy"—otherwise out of their homes, such as they are, and away from parental influences.

If this country were in a position where it was threatened with a shortage of wheat, wool, meat, fruits, milk, or any other necessary commodity, there might be some sort of a case for forced labour in the country. But as our problems are the very opposite of these, and as farmers are being forced off the land instead, the attitude of the "Star" becomes one of sheer, disgusting brutality.

3/9. DEMOCRACY AT THE CROSS ROADS posted 4/-

By LESLIE H. HOLLINS, M.A.I.A.E.

Reviewing this work, the *New Economics*, Melbourne, said: "It is a good book—one which can be recommended both to the inquirer and to the convinced advocate" (of the Douglas Proposals).

Order your copy from your bookseller, or direct from the author-publisher, 91 Walpole Street, Kew.

Direct Action from the Mallee

If proof were wanted of the half wittedness behind the "Star's" brutality—and the two qualities generally go together—we have it in the presence in Melbourne of the women's deputation from the Mallee, The Closer Settlement Commission has already put 1600 or 1700 settlers off their wheat farms in Victoria, and some hundreds more are due for a similar fate. Those who have thus far been dispossessed began by putting all their capital into their blocks. What advances they have had from the Commission have gone into improvements.

Of the product of the farms the Commission has been receiving the whole crop, and the settlers have been granted the munificent living allowance of £3 a month for a single man, £4 for a married couple, £6 for a family with four children, and £7 as a maximum—there are instances of eleven children and their parents. This allowance is supposed to suffice for everything except house rent and what the settlers can provide for themselves in the way of milk, eggs and vegetables—and those who know the Mallee farms also know how many months there are in the year when vegetables cannot be grown on them.

Compensation has been paid to those who have been put off, compensation, which has averaged under £25 per family! The maximum amount payable under the Act is £100. What a fine prospect to entice a lad to leave his family, set his course by the "Star," and fare forth to the bush in search of honest blisters.

But the Mallee women in Melbourne are not worrying about blisters just at the moment. They are on a mission, which, if taken to heart by the rest of us, would speedily solve most of our economic troubles. Their purpose is to obtain some measure of justice, and their method is to demand action from members of Parliament.

When they first came to town the Minister could not see them. He was ill—"diplomatically ill," as one of the ladies expressed it in an interview with the "New Times." "We found he was not too ill to attend a Cabinet meeting," she added, "so we decided to wait on in town until he was well enough to see us. We can live on very little. You get used to that in the Mallee."

The Minister was seen. The Premier was waylaid in a lift. The ladies have threatened to sleep on Parliament House steps, if necessary. They positively decline either to take No for an answer or to be put off with the vague half promises usual on such occasions. Good luck go with them.

These women have hit upon the right idea. The only way this community, or any other community will get its wrongs righted by constitutional means is through Parliament. And the only way to move Parliament is to pester the life out of it, to demand results, and to threaten each individual member with dismissal at the next election if he will not carry out the instructions

of his masters, the people. Do the people want all this unnecessary destitution abolished? That it can be abolished is obvious from our bursting granaries and warehouses. Then tell your M.P. to abolish it. Call on him. Write him letters. Ring him up. Send him telegrams. Threaten him with the loss of his job. And don't let up.

Generating Power from Sunlight

A report in the "Sunday Graphic" for June 16 (says "Social Credit") states that the Radio Corporation of America is experimenting with the photoelectric cell as a means for the direct conversion of sunlight into power. Already it has been found possible to generate enough power by the use of a cell of this description, only a few inches square, to drive a small motor, and it has been found that ordinary light from an electric lamp is sufficiently powerful to make the motor revolve.

Dr. C. W. Hewlett, when interviewed in New York, stated that amazing things are now being done through the medium of photoelectric cells, and sunlight-driven machinery is quite possible. We have only to remember the rapidity with which wireless telephony has been developed to realise the possible developments, which may follow researches into the use of sunlight. How long it will be before coalmining is rendered unnecessary it is impossible to say, but this would appear to be the logical development of the direct utilisation of the sun's power.

Those who still regard unemployment as the problem to be solved are indeed fighting a losing battle, unless they can secure such power as will permit the incarceration of all inventors and the prohibition of new plant, machinery and processes.

The most damning evidence against the present financial system is the inability of industry to distribute its products; that industry (working only at 50 per cent. of its capacity) is able to produce an abundance of goods sufficient for the full needs of every man, woman and child, while 45 per cent. of the people—unable to buy the produce—live in abject poverty; that the dictates of financial policy force the nation to destroy millions of pounds worth of goods before attention has been paid to communal needs; that millions of men and machines remain idle, when their productive activities could feed, clothe, and house many millions of hungry, ill-clothed and miserably housed people. In this country the national heartache, anxiety, despondency and the pyramid of avoidable grief are more than ample evidence to prove that Finance has failed to fulfil its true purpose. Yet the evidence which other countries within the British Commonwealth of nations will provide will be even more damning. — "Prosperity," (London), July 1935.

"Parliament has sat for only 38 days and spent 288 days in recess. Mr. Holt says that the Ministers abroad are doing well and that there is no need for Parliament to meet.

"This is the first step toward a state of dictatorial government such as now exists in Germany and Italy."—Mr. Don Cameron, August 9.

PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON, Ivanhoe Hall,
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, at 3 p.m.
 Speaker—REV. C. P. BRADLEY
 Subject—"The New Age."
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BRUSH UP YOUR JARGON

D. Izzie's Correspondence Course will enable you to translate Plain English into Economic Jargon and vice versa fluently and in several different ways.

No one can deny that the use of Jargon is one of the best ways of spreading and maintaining ignorance. Possibly in many professions this is unnecessary and undesirable, but the fact remains that there exists such a demand for good Economic Jargonists that we can absolutely guarantee to place our graduates in lucrative positions with banks and schools of Economics. The reason is that money and finance are supposed to be mysterious natural phenomena. They confer on their controllers wisdom and favours that cannot be shared with the uninitiated. It is to prevent general recognition of the inherent simpleness of these subjects that Jargonists are employed to confuse the inquirer and maintain the power and privilege of the financial wizards.

Economic Jargon consists not merely of unknown and unintelligible phrases—although these are very valuable when a discourse becomes too clear—but also of subtle contradictions and irrelevancies that confuse and bewilder and leave the ordinary man impressed and uninformed. Jargon stifles his desire for knowledge and increases the prestige of the financiers. It reaches its pinnacle in articles written for our daily press by our most competent Jargonists.

THE MASTER JARGONIST

A superb example from the pen of Professor Copland entitled "France's Economic Problems," was published in the "Melbourne Herald" on August 9. A short criticism of passages from this excellent article will be good exercise for the student and impress upon the beginner the necessity for thorough training, such as is given in our course, before he can hope to enter this well-paid profession.

In Plain English, France's problem is that she can produce stacks of goods but cannot sell them. Other countries, being in the same position, are not able to buy them, and the French people cannot. An easy solution would be to enable them to buy and consume what they produce, but that would mean initiating them into the secrets of finance and allowing them to participate in its benefits. To prevent this the Jargonist is employed to suggest all sorts of obscure causes and cures for the trouble. The more confusing his Jargon the more erudite he is considered, and the higher his reputation and, of course, his emoluments. The article in question fulfils all the requirements of good Jargon, as will be briefly indicated.

FRANCE AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

"France has maintained her Gold Standard at pre-depression parity. . . . The Bank of France has been unwilling to embark upon a policy of credit expansion. . . . Trade has declined and investment languished. . . . National income has shrunk. . . . Unemployment has risen."

This is good Jargon, because it puts the blame on the Gold Standard. But in other countries, where the Gold Standard has shifted round, the banks have not expanded credit, trade and investment have drooped and contracted, incomes have vanished and unemployment has grown, as in France. In these countries the reason is that the Gold standard has not been maintained at pre-depression parity. Our Professor also introduces the question of national income, inferring that it comes from abroad and that unemployment ensues when it stops. This is a subtle contradiction of the popular belief that income falls when people lose their jobs.

"There are two ways out. One is to expand money incomes by altering the value of the currency. The other is to reduce money incomes in conformity with the decline in the national income and at the same time bring down the general level of prices and the cost of living."

This is not quite so subtle, for it tells the reader that it is possible to manipulate money in any desired manner. True, it gives no indication of how this is done, so the admission is covered and counterbalanced by mystery. The writer goes on to show that both alternatives are almost impossible and that, whatever is done, the general public will get it in the neck.

The first course would lead to inflation and bring about that rise in prices which is essential. The second would lower the cost of living, which is also essential, but it would also lower prices. The Government has chosen, or has had chosen for it, the second alternative. As it is essential to raise prices in order not to imperil

SUITS "AT A PRICE."

"It is becoming increasingly obvious from year to year that the production costs of the Australian clip must be reduced. . . ."

"In recent years two new and powerful factors which bear on wool prices have come into being. One is artificial fibre of various sorts. The other is mass production of suits 'at a price.' Both of these tend to act as a brake on any substantial rise in wool prices. It is really quite a new condition of affairs which has sprung into being and gives, moreover, a condition which is obviously permanent and which will become intensified in the future."

—Mr. J. E. Wardell, the "Herald" wool expert, August 10.

It does not seem to have occurred to Mr. Wardell that artificial substitutes and suits "at a price" are not the real cause of the brake, which is simply lack of money in consumers hands. No one really wants either the substitute or the shoddy. But without the remedy of consumer credit Mr. Wardell's conclusions are, unfortunately, only too correct.

the "Debt Structure," the Bank of France will expand credit. Thus it will be seen that there will be deflation and inflation simultaneously. This will not lead to maintenance of the status quo, as the reader might imagine. It will be deflation for wage earners and inflation for the wizards and their Jargonists. Only keen students of Economic Jargon can grasp the full implications of this. It will be seen that the services of expert Jargonists will be in great demand explaining why incomes must fall, prices rise, cost of living come down, unemployment be lowered, rationalisation be increased, foreign markets expanded, the foreigner's market contracted, etc., etc., all at the same time. These experts are going to have their work cut out to divert the attention of the people from the possibility of a good way out by the medium of a National Dividend.

A GEM OF JARGON

"It is, of course, a mistake to imagine that the real value of the national income would necessarily be different, but it is equally a mistake to assume that because real income may not be different, no problems arise when a country sets out to enforce a policy involving a great alter-

ation in the value of its currency unit."

This is Jargon par excellence, exquisitely put, saying little grandiloquently and maintaining the mystery of finance. It means that if the value of the currency is altered there may or may not be a change in real income. If there is a change, then there will be an alteration; whilst if there is no change, then problems will still exist. Our students would realise that at once, but what chance has the ordinary man?

These few examples are sufficient to tell intending students the reasons for and the use of Economic Jargon, and they also

explain why we are able to guarantee positions for all our graduates. To encourage study of this most interesting subject we propose to give one free course to the person who sends in the best translation of the Professor's complete article. We commend this invaluable course to all those enterprising, people who would like to obtain an easy and well-paid position. The course takes, normally, about two years to complete and is reasonably priced at twenty-five guineas, with a reduction for second shots and further tries free. Address: D. Izzie, School of Economic Jargon, c/o the "New Times."

first portion of our objective.

Father Coughlin has advocated the proposals of Major Douglas. His radio audience is the biggest in the world, and he has shown how to launch a campaign and what to advocate in the initial stages to get the people interested. The technicalities will follow later as the people become educated on the subject.

"COMMON SENSE."

SOCIAL CREDIT AND THE PRICE FACTOR.

While I admit I am an admirer of Major Douglas that does not mean that I must swallow everything he proposes without a great deal of thought. I am heartily in accord with his idea of a national dividend, although not in the form he advocates. Still, I accept the principle.

However, a national dividend should be fair and equal to all members of the community, and his so-called "just price factor" does not comply with that condition, unjustly favouring the wealthy as against the poor. For argument's sake, say the rate of discount was fixed at 25 per cent. Then a wealthy buyer getting £1000 worth of goods would receive a benefit of £250, while a poor person who could afford only £10 worth of the goods would get £2/10/-. Besides, the proposal is unwieldy and complicated, and would require an army of inspectors and a lot of Government supervision (interference)—conditions that none of those in business would welcome.

If Major Douglas would stick to the national dividend and drop the latter part of his proposal I would be wholeheartedly with him. As it is, I am not.

"RETAILER."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE COUGHLIN CAMPAIGN

The wonderful speech by Father Coughlin, as reported in your issue of August 2, should be deeply studied by every monetary reformer—particularly those of the Social Credit School. How often do we listen to a competent speaker who is miles above the heads of his audience? The average Social Credit advocate has a horrible way of becoming so technical in his terms and explanations that the ordinary citizen cannot understand him.

Father Coughlin advises workers—be they farmers or factory hands—to join their unions, so that the strongest pressure may be applied towards ensuring an annual income to each and all. When the people see that without adequate individual incomes they remain poor while the nation grows richer, they will commence to demand a change, and not a change of the New Deal variety. So Father Coughlin aims at welding all classes into a

body that will understand what it is after. His National Union is a concrete shape of the effort known as the Electoral Campaign in England. The pressure of the National Union will be applied right on to the Parliamentary member.

The first step Congress must take, he wisely asserts, is to ensure that money or credit must be nationally owned. Then, very sensibly, instead of confusing the people with a speech about national dividends, he points out that unemployment is a permanent condition—so far as producing life's necessities is concerned—and to meet this condition he advocates permanent Government works. Everyone must have an income. Anyone capable of thinking clearly will realise that Government works must become less and less necessary as we rebuild slums and provide for transport and other demands of a nation—but why worry about side issues at this stage? Let us get after the

The Key to a Mans Career

DR. NORWOOD SAYS "A PROPER GRASP OF PELMANISM WOULD SAVE ANY LIFE FROM FUTILITY."

Amongst the many Australians who have achieved distinction in Great Britain none is regarded more highly, either there or in Australia, than Dr. Norwood. Dr. Norwood is the Minister of the City Temple, London. He has travelled much, has had a wide experience of men and of life, is a keen observer and a great thinker.

Pelmanism," Dr. Norwood says, "is sound Psychology and an admirable system of Mind-training. It is more than mere Memory training. There is no co-ordination of knowledge without a retentive memory, but the mind is more than memory. It involves the whole man."

"Pelmanism reduces to a coherent system what every person who lives intelligently and strongly must at least partly carve out for himself. A proper grasp of it would save any life from futility and would cause many to discover powers latent within themselves of the existence of which they had not dreamed."

It teaches that man has the key to his own career and enables many to find the key itself which, for want of self-knowledge, had lain undiscovered."

Amongst other well-known Pelmanists are:—



Dame Sybil Thomdike.

Pelmanism does indeed bring out the mind's latent powers and develops them to the highest point of efficiency. It strengthens Will Power; it develops Personality; it gives Courage, Initiative, Forcefulness and Determination. It banishes the defects, which interfere with the efficient working of the mind, and in their place it develops such attributes and qualities as:—

- Concentration
- Judgment
- Decision
- Will-Power
- Initiative
- Self-Confidence
- Social Ease
- Organising Power
- Courage
- Cheerfulness

and a Reliable Memory
For faces, figures, names, appointments, Prices, arguments and useful data of every kind.

The development of these strong, positive, vital qualities contributes to one's earning capacity and makes it possible to live intelligently in the present and build strongly for the future. What is of equal importance is that there is increased happiness and a keener appreciation of the beauties of Nature, the Arts and Life generally.

In a sentence, Pelmanists live a fuller, happier and more successful existence.

This is borne out by the letters received from those who have taken the Course, some extracts from which are given here:—

A CLERGYMAN writes: "I have experienced much benefit, and wish I had undertaken the Course earlier in life. Had I known at the age of 30 certain things, which I know now—largely through the Pelman lessons—I think I could have avoided one or two painful nervous breakdowns. . . . To summarise (and employ a fashionable word), I think I have gained a better orientation towards life."

A TYPIST says that she has abolished groundless fears and now leads a much happier life.

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Dr. F. W. Norwood, D.D., of the City Temple, London.

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Thousands of similar letters could be printed did space permit.

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WHERE DOES INVENTION LEAD?

A Conversation in a Train

By EIMAR O'DUFFY.

[With acknowledgements to the British Broadcasting Corporation's publications, *The Listener*.]

The characters are Professor Pangloss, who might have stepped out of "Candide," but looks like a successful stockbroker; Mrs. Cork, thirty-six, shabby, careworn and innately jolly; Lady Banstead, formerly governess to the children of the widowed Lord Banstead, though she tries to forget this; and Knox, a young man.

Lady Banstead: (recognising the Professor as she takes the seat opposite his): Oh, how do you do, -Professor? Economising, too, I see. One must in these hard times.

Professor Pangloss: Well, to tell you the truth, I always travel third. Force of habit, you know. When I was young and unknown I had to, and now I just say, "return to So-and-So" without thinking.

Lady B.: Well, I do it for economy, partly from necessity, and partly from patriotism. We all ought to economise in these hard times, oughtn't we?

Pangloss: Certainly.

Lady B.: I am so glad to hear you say so, because our local Council at present is urging us to spend to create employment, and I've been wondering which I ought to do.

Pangloss: A little judicious expenditure by everyone would certainly do a great deal to mitigate unemployment.

Lady B.: So I should imagine. But—I hope you won't think it stupid of me—I can't see how one can spend and economise at the same time.

Pangloss: One must do them at different times, my dear lady. A wise expenditure that one can really afford is not inconsistent with due economy.

Lady B.: How clearly you put it! Well, I've done my bit in both directions in my own small way. In the spring I bought one frock less than usual in the interests of economy, and in the summer I bought an extra hat in order to give employment. Was that right or wrong?

Pangloss: I'm, sure you always act for the best, Lady Banstead. (There is a moment's silence. Lady Banstead looks pensively out of the window.)

Lady B.: Isn't it dreadful the way the countryside is getting built over near London? And with such dreadful cheap villas, too. Why, only a year ago this part of the line ran through beautiful green fields. The view was too lovely for words. Really, the Government ought to do something about it.

Pangloss: All this building makes work, you know.

Mrs. Cork: It makes 'ouses for people to live in, what's more important.

Pangloss: Not more important, my good woman. Important, no doubt, for the people who are to live in them, but from an economic point of view, what matters is the employment given to the building trade and the indirect employment to ancillary industries, such as plumbing, carpentering, glazing, electricity, gas, furnishing, textiles, horticulture, iron and steel, and so forth—not to mention the assistance to the local rates.

Mrs. C.: No offence, guv'nor, but ain't you putting the cart before the 'orse, some'ow? What do you think Adam built the first 'ouse for? To live in, or to give 'imself employment?

Pangloss: That is an entirely irrelevant consideration, my good woman. Adam—if there was ever such a person—existed under primitive and extremely individualistic conditions, not in a highly complex and interdependent civilisation like ours.

Mrs. C.: What's that got to do with it?

(The train stops: when it is just beginning to move again the door of the carriage is torn open and Knox is shot in by a porter.)

Pangloss: A close shave, sir. You very nearly missed it.

Knox: It looks as if that porter was an instrument of destiny. I couldn't make up my mind whether I ought to catch it or not, or whether I oughtn't to throw

myself in front of it, and while I hesitating he shoved me in. Which reminds me, I haven't a ticket.

Pangloss: You ought to cultivate decision of mind, young man.

Lady B.: Why did you think you ought to throw yourself in front of the train?

Knox: Well, I'm in a nasty dilemma, and that seemed the only way out.

Pangloss: Sort of taking it by the buffers, what! (He laughs heartily.)

Mrs. C.: It's a shame for you to laugh at the boy, and 'e only just saved out of 'the jaws of death, as the saying is. What was this 'ere dilemma, young man?

Knox: Oh—it isn't for me to bother strangers with my private troubles.

Mrs. C.: Course it ain't. And it ain't for us to be inquisitive about what don't concern us.

Lady B.: Still, it might be a relief to you to unburden your mind—get the trouble off your chest, you know.

Knox: Well, if you'd really like to know, the fact is I'm a scientist—an inventor—and I've invented a machine for use in coalmines, which will double the present output with less than half the present labour.

Pangloss (who has shares in a coalmine): Excellent. Reduce costs and increase our export trade.

Knox: Yes, but on the other" hand, it will throw thousands of miners out of employment.

Lady B.: Well, then, for heaven's sake keep it dark. The country will be ruined.

Pangloss: Not at all, madam. This notion that machinery causes unemployment is a delusion founded on a fallacy: Machinery lowers costs; therefore it increases our wealth; therefore it means more employment, not less.

Mrs. C.: Easy, guv'nor. I don't see 'ow you makes that out. 'Ow can a machine that does the work of a thousand men give more employment?

Pangloss: By" saving costs, mar-laiii, which can then be invested in new undertakings, which, in turn, give employment.

Mrs. C.: Not in the mines, they don't. And a miner can't turn tinker or tailor at five minutes notice.

Knox: Exactly. So there was my position. If I sold my invention I should destroy the livelihood of fifty thousand men and their families; and if I didn't, I should starve—for I put every penny I had into it, and I've nothing even to pay my rent with.

Lady B.: Weren't you rather foolish, young man? Couldn't you have invented something more harmless?

Knox: No. This idea came to me, and simply had to be worked out. An inventor must invent what's in him, just as a poet must write or an artist paint what's in him.

Pangloss: Quite so. We mustn't shackle science; and progress must go on in, spite of sentimental considerations.

Lady B.: I suppose so. But I wish you scientists would invent something that would make work instead of taking it away.

Pangloss: They do make work, but I wish they would do it less indirectly—to avoid these sudden dislocations, which cause so much temporary trouble.

Knox: The whole object of scientific invention is to save labour and create leisure. But under present economic conditions—which I don't profess to understand—leisure has become a curse instead of a blessing. So you see, I came to the station not quite sure whether I ought to go up

to London and sell my invention or throw myself under the train.

Pangloss: Well, my young man, my advice to you is to get rid of these foolish scruples, this false sentimentality, sell your invention, and invent some more. You will be creating employment in reality, even though apparently doing the opposite.

Mrs. C.: Excuse me butting in again, guv'nor. Do you say that the object of all this 'ere science and progress is to make work instead of saving it?

Pangloss (patronizingly): Most, certainly. That is the principal benefit it confers on society.

Mrs. C.: Benefit! Then, all I can say is you ain't never done no work.

Pangloss: On the contrary, I probably work harder—certainly longer—than most manual labourers. I often do ten or twelve hours a day—no trade union restrictions in my job, you know. But perhaps you wouldn't consider lecturing and writing books as work.

Mrs. C.: Not real work, I don't. But that ain't what I'm getting at. Suppose you 'ad to make ends meet on thirty-seven-and-six a week—when you could get it—and keep a 'ard-working man and three 'ungry children on it, and cook all their meals and wash up after, and make their beds, and clean all the 'ouse, and darn their socks and patch their clothes, and tidy up the things they leave about, besides doing a bit of charring outside—would you want anybody to make work for you then?

Pangloss: You are arguing on a false analogy, madam.

Mrs. C.: There ain't nothing false about me. Wot's true in the 'ome is true in the country. Nobody wants work made for 'im. We're ready and willing to do what's necessary to get the goods made that people want to buy. Making work after that is only doing what my Bill does when he dirties my clean floor. And when I read in the papers of 'ow they're destroying the things, we've sweated to make—cotton and wheat and tea and things—and then trying to make more work instead of letting us do less, it fair gets my goat. You say that the object of industry and science and progress is to make work. Well, wouldn't an earthquake or a great fire make more work than any of them?—and do it quicker, too? Would you call them blessings on that account? If an earthquake laid all the buildings in England flat tomorrow, there'd be work for everyone then, wouldn't there?

Pangloss: Undoubtedly, in one sense. But-----

Mrs. C.: Excuse me. You'd know what a 'ouse was really for then, guv'nor, when it was giving you more work than you'd ever done in your life.

Lady B.: Oh, I do wish we could have a real big earthquake like that. It would solve the whole problem at once.

Pangloss: Nonsense.

Lady B.: Why? It would make work for everyone, wouldn't it?

Knox: You can't get away from that, Professor. If work is the object of our system, as you say, an earthquake on a sufficiently large scale would solve this terrible problem that has baffled all our economists and all our statesmen—directly, too, not indirectly, and quite suddenly, without any awkward transition stage, and wouldn't that be a blessing in reality, even if a disaster in appearance?

Mrs. C.: 'E's got you there nicely. Professor. Ticked you off proper in your own very words. Now, suppose such a thing really 'appened all over the world at once, why shouldn't we all, on your own showing, be better off than what we are?

Pangloss: The case is impossible, madam, so no useful conclusion can be drawn from it.

Mrs. C.: It 'appened in Japan not so long ago, but I don't remember if they counted it among their blessings.

Pangloss: Well, if such an impossible event did occur, instead of there being work for all, there would be no work for anybody.

Mrs. C.: No work for nobody, with everything in ruins!

Knox: Don't be paradoxical, Professor.

Pangloss: Well, perhaps I did put it a little—er—strangely. There would be work—far more than we could pay for.

Knox: You economists ought to attend a little to the niceties of language. A minute ago you said there'd be no work. Now you say there'd be too much. What is the poor uneducated laity to make of such a contradiction?

Mrs. C.: Don't worry, the poor gentleman after 'e's climbed down so 'andsome. Let's put it another way. A few weeks ago, guv'nor, the 'Ood and the Renown 'ad a collision and smashed each other up. That gave a lot of employment in the shipyards, didn't it?

Pangloss: I believe so.

Mrs. C.: And that's a good thing—according to you?

Pangloss: A very good thing—for the men employed.

Knox: Now, Professor, don't hedge. If unemployment is a social calamity, anything that helps to cure it must be a good thing for us all.

Pangloss: To a certain extent.

Mrs. C.: Well, if that's so, wouldn't it be a good idea to get a 'ole lot of our ships to run into each other on purpose—taking care that nobody was 'urt, of course?

Pangloss: Don't be ridiculous. Of course it wouldn't.

Mrs. C.: Why not? It would give employment to all the idle workers in the yards.

Pangloss: Once again we are getting back into the realms of absurdity.

Knox: Very true, Professor. But why? Because we are following a doctrine of political economy to its logical conclusion. So it's not because we're absurd. It's because political economy is absurd.

Pangloss:!! (he snorts indignantly, overwhelmed by the preposterousness of this assertion, which, however, he is unable to answer.)

Mrs. C.: Never mind 'im, guv'nor. Listen to me. A short time ago the Bury Town Council decided to use hand labour instead of machine labour on a road they were making. Was that right or wrong?

Pangloss: It was very humane, my good woman, but hardly economical.

Knox: How can it be uneconomical if the purpose of industry is to provide work?

Pangloss: One has to consider the cost, my friend. Human labour is more expensive than mechanical labour. We could probably set every one of the unemployed to work on the roads by such a policy, but it would mean involving the whole community in a huge load of debt.

Knox: Well, paying it off would give us more employment still, wouldn't it?

Pangloss: Undoubtedly. More than we should relish, I'm afraid.

Mrs. C.: And work such a noble thing and all! Ain't it queer that there's always too much of it, or else too little, according to these 'ere eckernomics. Well, Mr. Professor, 'ere's one last question. Suppose that instead of an earthquake or a lot of accidents making work for everybody, machines could do all the work, leaving none for nobody. What would happen then?

Pangloss: That is another impossible supposition.

Knox: Not at all. We're gradually approaching a situation of the sort. Machinery is steadily doing away with the need for human labour. Suppose that in another hundred years or so we require only a million workers to supply the requirements of the whole population?—Shall we all have to starve, or rub along on a dole levied out of their wages? And if not, how are we to live?

Pangloss: It is not the function of a Professor of Economics to lay down laws for an impossible Utopia of slackers.

Lady B.: Oh, Professor, why not? I should love to live in a Utopia where everything was beautiful and the people had nothing to do that made them coarse and common. Look at me. Once I had to work for my living, and my hands were spoilt, and I was often

shabby and bad-tempered. Now I have factory-workers to earn my living for me and so I can attend to my appearance and I'm always comfortable and happy. Why shouldn't everyone else be the same if machinery can do the work and supply everything they want?

Pangloss: In the most fantastic Utopia any poet ever dreamed of there'd always be work for someone. The machinery would have to be tended, you know.

Knox: But even in this prosaic and un-Utopian world of ours there's no work for several millions. Why should they starve when the goods they want are ready for them?

Lady B.: Come, Professor. I believe there's nothing standing between us and prosperity but these horrid-economics of yours, and the very silly notion at the back of your mind that people ought to be compelled to drudge for the good their characters. Well, that's nonsense. When I had to work I had to do all sorts of mean and petty and selfish things in order to get on, as it's called. And I often had to take jobs that were utterly useless, merely for the sake of the money. But now I can be generous and large-minded (though I forget myself sometimes by force of habit—like when I said silly things about, those villas just now) and I can be useful sometimes as well as ornamental.

Mrs. C.: And look at me, wit my temper and my appearance spoilt, and 'ardly able to stand sometimes after working all day at things that some of these 'ere 'ouse 'old machines could do for me, if could afford to buy them. And my 'usband 'elps to make such things, and we 'aven't got one our selves, and 'e's often out of work for weeks at a stretch.

Knox: And look at me, trying to commit suicide because people can't afford to buy enough of what I invent to give me a decent livelihood and go on inventing.

Lady B.: We're all against you, Professor. You must invent a new system of economics that will begin with goods and leisure, and end with work and money, instead of the other way around. I'm sure you're clever enough to do that if you'd only try.

Knox: That's right. We scientists can provide the goods and the leisure if you can work out how to distribute them.

Mrs. C.: 'E won't do it, I can see it in 'is eye. 'E's that set on these 'ere eckernomics of 'is that 'e can't see the truth, not when it's put under 'is nose.

Lady B.: Oh, I'm sure that's not true. You will try and think out a plan, won't you, Professor Pangloss? For your own sake as well as for the poor unemployed, because we'd all be so much happier if things went smoother. Just think what a delightful world it would be if all this pinching and economising which is really just unnecessary as the poverty of the workers, were done away with. Why, it would be a regular paradise instead of -

Porter's Voice (as the train stops): Clapham Junction!

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THE PROTOCOLS AND — V.-MONEY

By JOHN SMITH

This is the last of a series of five articles, of which the earlier ones appeared in our issues of July 12, 19 and 26, and August 9. The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, which date back at least some thirty years, and of which a copy has been in the British Museum since 1906, set out an alleged Jewish plan to subjugate the world through the monopoly of money. As was explained in the first article, it has been proved that at least some parts of the Protocols date back to the 19th century. Moreover, their authenticity has been generally denied by Jewish writers. But the important thing about them is the uncanny way they forecast the manner in which the world is actually being enslaved in the interests of the international money monopolists, who, whether nominally Christian or openly anti-Christian, are certainly the enemies of Christianity, of virtue and of freedom. It is to analyse these aspects that this series of articles has been written.

Our cursory dipping into the contents of the Protocols may be concluded by some references to the subject of money as outlined therein.

"Economic crises," says the text "have been produced by us for the goyim" (Gentiles) "by no other means than the withdrawal of money from circulation. Huge capitals have stagnated, withdrawing money from States, which were constantly obliged to supply to those same stagnant capitals for loans. These loans burdened the finances of the State with the payments of interest and made them the bondslaves of these capitals..."

"The present issue of money in general does not correspond with the requirements per head, and cannot therefore satisfy all the needs of the workers. The issue of money ought to correspond with the growth of population and thereby children also must absolutely be reckoned as consumers from the day of their

"Every kind of loan proves infirmity in the State and a want of understanding of the rights of the State. Loans hang like a sword of Damocles over the heads of rulers, who, instead of taking from their subjects by a temporary tax, come begging with outstretched palm of our bankers. Foreign loans are leeches, which there is no possibility of removing from the body of the State until they fall off of themselves or the State flings them off. But the goy States do not tear them off; they go on in persisting in putting more on to themselves so that they must inevitably perish, drained by voluntary blood-letting.

"What also is, in substance, a loan, especially a foreign loan? A loan is an issue of government bills of exchange containing a percentage obligation commensurate to the sum of the loan capital. If the loan bears a charge of five per cent, then in twenty years the State vainly pays away in interest a sum equal to the loan borrowed; in forty years it is paying a double sum; in sixty, treble—and all the while the debt remains an unpaid debt.

"From this calculation it is obvious that with any form of taxation per head the State is paying out the last coppers of the poor taxpayers in order to settle accounts with wealthy foreigners from whom it has borrowed money, instead of collecting these coppers for its own needs without the additional interest.

"So long as loans were internal the goyim only shuffled their money from the pockets of the poor to those of the rich, but when we bought up the necessary person in order to transfer loans into the external sphere all the wealth of States flowed into our cash boxes and all the goyim began to pay us the tribute of subjects." (Protocol No. 20.)

Dealing with the subject of internal loans and "confidence," the Protocols discuss oversubscription thus:

"In a few days the Treasury safes are, as they say, overflowing; and there's more money than they can do with (why, then, take it?). The subscription, it is alleged, covers many times over the issue total of the loan; in this lies the whole stage effect—look you, they say, what confidence is shown in the government's bills of exchange.

"But when the comedy is played out there emerges the fact that a debit, and an exceedingly burdensome debit, has been created. For the payment of interest it becomes necessary to have recourse to new loans, which do not swallow up but only add to the capital debt. And when this credit is exhausted it becomes necessary by new taxes to cover, not the loan, but only the interest on it. These taxes are a debit employed to cover a debit." (Protocol 21.)

And the following might have been written about our internal conversion of the Premiers' Plan and our failure to convert our overseas loans at the same time:

"Later comes the time for conversions, but they diminish the payment of interest without covering the debt, and besides they cannot be made without the

consent of the lenders; on announcing a conversion a proposal is made to return the money to those who are not willing to convert their paper. If everybody expressed his unwillingness and demanded his money back, the government would be hooked on their own flies and would be found insolvent and unable to pay the proposed sums. By good luck the subjects of the goy governments, knowing nothing about financial affairs, have always preferred losses on exchange and diminution of interest to the risk of new investments of their moneys, and have thereby many a time enabled those governments to throw off their shoulders a debit of several millions.

"Nowadays, with external loans, these tricks cannot be played by the goyim for they know that we shall demand all our moneys back." (Protocol No. 21.)

Mercenary Rhymes

By P. I. O'Leary.

A banker in the United States, addressing a kindergarten association recently, said that nursery rhymes might usefully be applied to teach qualities of thrift, frugality, etc. They may also be used in other ways, as witness:

Hi, diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle.
The bank rate dropped at noon:
The little dog laughed—but it rose again;
Alas! he had laughed too soon.

* * *
Hark! hark! the dogs do bark,
The cockies are coming to town;
Some in rags, some in bags—
The banks haven't left 'em a brown.

* * *
Little Bo-peep has lost her sheep
And never more will spot 'em;
She raised a small loan
On her flock and her home—
And now the banks have got 'em.

* * *
Banker Simon met a Pieman
Going to the fair;
Said Banker Simon to the Pieman,
"Let me taste your ware."

* * *
Said the Pieman to Banker Simon,
"Show me first your penny."
Said Banker Simon to the Pieman,
"I get things without any."

* * *
Hickory, dickory, dock!
Banks shut at three o'clock; But they open again At the stroke of ten—
And, oh, what profits they sock!

* * *
Green gravel, green gravel, the grass is so green,
And the public's the greenest we ever have seen.
They think we're obliging; but, oh ain't it funny?
Though we call it Credit, it's really New Money.

Where Real Credit Lies

It is notorious that the entire resources of the Bank of England, with the assistance of all its satellites, could not produce so much as a loaf of bread—no, not even a single fountain-pen wherewith to create its own stock-in-trade. If every bank in the country, with every penny of the credit they have created, were wiped out tomorrow, things would be in a bit of a muddle for a while, no doubt, but we could get along after a fashion—and, very possibly, better than at present. On the other hand, if the rest of the community, along with their creations, disappeared, how long would the banks last?

That is the real point at issue. —R. L. Northridge, in "Social Credit."

DEVIL WORSHIP IN 1935

When the professors of the future examine their few carefully preserved records of our defunct civilisation (writes G. W. L. Day in "Social Credit") they will no doubt decide that we perished from a curious form of mass hypnosis which ended by destroying even our instincts of self-preservation.

They will note that, having broken the first two commandments, our dissolution followed, slowly to begin with, then rapidly. Our idols, consisting of false moral precepts, became tyrannical monsters, depriving us of our liberties and demanding bigger and bigger sacrifices of all the necessities of life.

Men, women and children, the professors will discover, had to be starved and tortured at their command, till at last even death became a commonplace in the ritual of idolatry.

Perhaps you think this is soap-box oratory. Surely, you will say, enlightened public opinion of 1935 will not put up with anything like the devil worship of Moloch or Baal.

But is there so very much difference in the needless suffering inflicted then and now? Mass hypnosis works in just the same way as ever. The crowds who roared and screamed round the bloody altars of Baal, believing the priests who assured them they were balancing their accounts with the angry god and so averting a national calamity, have their counterpart today.

The high priests of Finance make us believe it is necessary to allow pregnant mothers and newborn babies to go on starvation rations, and thousands of people to commit suicide each year through financial distress. The great God Money demands it!

NEEDLESS DISASTERS.

Just lately there have been enquiries into the fate of two vessels, the *Usworth* and the *Blairgowrie*, coffin ships both, and Lord Runciman has been drawing terrible pictures of timber boats with huge deck cargoes standing on their beam-ends in mid-Atlantic during the hurricane season.

"Give ships and their crews a fair chance," he pleads. But while Finance is enthroned on the high altar what chance is there that anything will be done?

Here, too, is a charming little cutting from "The Times," which shows that the Ouetta disaster was not so much an act of God as it first appeared to be.

"The appalling destruction in Ouetta city is traced to the poor constructional quality of the buildings. Although Ouetta was known to be in a serious earthquake zone, little appears to have been done in the city to counteract the devastation of earth-

quakes by sound building methods. In Japan, California, New Zealand and other regions where earthquakes occur, efforts have been made in recent years to avert the collapse of buildings by the erection of earthquake-proof structures, but Ouetta, with foreknowledge of its likely fate, appears to have neglected this safeguard. Such earthquake-proof buildings as had been built in the area survived the catastrophe. In the railways lines, where enormous damage was done and casualties were heavy, earthquake-proof buildings remained intact. Not even their chimneys fell."

In other words, Ouetta knew its probable doom and Finance refused it a reprieve. "The Times," to add insult, delivers a callous funeral oration blaming it for its negligence!

What must be the feelings of those who have lost near and dear ones in the tragedy when they read such unctuous encomiums? Can even "The Times" believe that precautions were omitted owing to obstinacy or recklessness? Isn't it obvious that they were omitted because the authorities at Ouetta were not given enough money-tickets, which but for the Money Idol could have been issued at the cost of ink and paper?

Exactly the same thing may be said of the railway disaster at Welwyn. But for financial credit, which ought to be simply a matter of mutual convenience, there is nothing to prevent us from making our railways all but making our railways all but accident-proof.

A DEVIL'S KITCHEN

The whole of the Western world, one or two countries excepted, is in a sort of devil's kitchen where most of the victims suffer and some are tortured to death. Yet the torturers are few, and did we but know it we could easily overwhelm them and walk out!

Was there ever such a tragicomic state of affairs, and was there ever a clearer demonstration of what Jehovah really meant when He gave Moses the first two tablets?"

Finance is the religion of 1935, and a very little thought will show to what an extent it has taken the place of the Church.

But having seen this horrible truth, can any one of us leave it floating in the mind as a mere intellectual abstraction? It is necessary to feel it with all the horror of a man sinking in a quicksand, and then to fight while there is still a chance to fight.

Money has been in plentiful supply—too plentiful, perhaps, to stimulate bank earnings. —"Manchester Guardian," June 25.

ADVICE TO WOMEN

"I have read your enclosed budget for a weekly £3/10/- wage, and find it balanced and sensible. The trouble is that furniture instalments must be paid, and that increases the rental outlay. Couples could furnish gradually. Many men while out of work could make useful articles from butter boxes, which when planed and stained or polished, make splendid unit pieces fit for any home . . . Continue making a science of economy, for that is the best effort of all for any woman, and the most purposeful."

—Advice in the Home and Personal Service department of the "Herald", August 12.

We wonder have Mr. Fink and Sir Keith Murdoch any butter box loughboys or extension tables. Incidentally does the "Herald" know that even butter boxes, which cost sixpence each, are beyond the reach of men out of work?

And how will the "Herald's" advice appeal to the furniture firms, which spend such large sums in its advertising columns?

birth. The revision of issue is a material question for the whole world.

"You are aware that the gold standard has been the ruin of the States which adopted it, for it has not been able to satisfy the demands for money, the more so that we have removed gold from circulation as far as possible...."

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The Candy Mint with the Hole

DONT DRIVE ME RADICAL!

By JOHN DOE

(Editor's Note. —The article below, reprinted with acknowledgments to "The Christian Century," of Chicago, U.S.A., may serve to remind some of those who glibly prate of returning prosperity that there are hundreds of thousands of John Doe's in Australia, thinking the same thoughts as are put into words below. The responsibility for those people rests, not only upon politicians, but upon all of us who have a vote. And we are driving them radical!)

After five years of this depraving, depriving depression what a changed man I am! When I look into my mental mirror, I scarcely recognise myself. In fact, if it were not for a few mental scars that recent experiences have deeply carved into my memory, I could easily be persuaded that I am not the same person that went about life so complacently previous to 1929.

I suppose that I ought to say just here that I am one of the ordinary common-garden-variety American citizens. There is nothing that distinguishes me from tens of thousands of other John Doe's. Previous to the time that I was "let out" (early in the spring of 1930) I had worked, off and on, for the J-----steel company for seventeen years. I had seen "hard times" before, but I took it stoically and unconcernedly. It was just a part of the system and there was nothing to do about it. I cannot recall that I ever gave one challenge to the absolute right of the company to hire and fire at its discretion. In fact, I remember saying that it was only right for a large industrial plant to turn the fire hose on those "damned striking radicals" on a certain sub-zero day.

I. For years I had been active in the Republican Party. I prided myself, and often boasted publicly about it, that I had never voted for a single person that was not a safe, solid, G.O.P. man. Once I served as a precinct committeeman and had some important instructions from one of the ward bosses pertaining to vote-getting. During these times more than one luckless socialist felt the lash of my tongue. And as for a "red" (I didn't really know what either a socialist or a "red" stood for)—well, a vigilante should shoot him down like a rat!

I wore the community badge of respectability by holding membership in one of the churches. My wife always insisted that we ought to take the children. It never really struck me that the whole insipid programme and system of the church was a weird monstrosity in the world of today. To tell the truth I didn't care much for the church—just accepted it as one of the necessary things to have about.

To sum it all up: I suppose that you would class me as an outstanding champion of things

as they were. While I didn't have any love for the big guns down at the mills, I shirked when I could and let it go at that. Those radicals, ever increasing in numbers, who talked about "more equitable distribution of wealth," "share of profit motive," and other high sounding phrases were plumb crazy!

We had a family of four children, and for seven years after Jane and I were married, we lived near the mills paying rent month

There has not been a time when the Australian who had the sheen of gold before his eyes has not been out in the wild and the desert, intent upon his quest. Hard labour, rough living, thirst, hunger and loneliness have not daunted him. Of late his numbers have notably increased.

—"Herald", August 12.
So have the hard labour, rough living, thirst, hunger and loneliness.

after month. About 1925 I got one or two small raises, and we began to live a little better. But we didn't seem to get ahead very much. It never dawned upon me that I was getting in less and less time of actual work. For several years we had been dreaming a dream, and one fine day in 1927 that dream came true: we bought a home of our very own. Of course, we didn't own it, but we would some time. Frugality became the household watchword. In order to meet the payment of the loan company we went back to a standard of living that was almost equal to my poverty-stricken childhood days. We gave up the automobile, cut down our church pledge, and bought cheaper food and clothes. All this in the name of a home of our own.

II. At last that October of 1929! It is too long a story to repeat here. My unemployment came early. From that first lay-off until the present I have made less than 300 dollars a year. God (I suppose there is still a God) only knows what we had to contend with. Our family has run the whole gamut of human emotions and suffering. We lost our home; the oldest boy in sheer desperation wandered away from home and we do not know his present whereabouts. Helen

(she was the youngest) took sick, and no one can ever tell me that her death was not due to undernourishment and exposure. We have been hungry, cold, and destitute. I have stood in breadlines to receive doles of food. Jane would humiliate herself and take the children to the Red Cross for clothing. We would send the children to the nearby soup kitchen. I owe bills that it will require months to pay even if I have steady work.

For the past three months I have been working again. But it seems to be the same old future. If the orders come in I will get some work; when the orders stop, unemployment for me! We are living like hunted animals. Every night when I come back from work there is the unasked question on the faces of my wife and children: Do you go back tomorrow? The mere writing of this on a piece of paper brings an extreme fright. I was with the A.E.F. for nine months, but the over-the-top order never brought the fear that the thought of having to go through another depression brings. Unemployment will bring again that hell of the past five years!

What things the depression has done to me! I am completely changed. It is something like this: the Republican Party be damned! That doesn't mean that I have switched to the democratic party, although I am for Roosevelt and the principle of the new deal. The capitalistic philosophy is now eternally anathema with me. I become almost a soapbox orator in my denunciations of a situation in which economists talk about an era of abundance and at the same time I know of many who are still walking the streets hungry. It is something like this: Granaries full of grain. An excellent system of transportation to my city. The man owning the grain wants to sell it, the railroad wants to transport it, thousands here want work in order to buy it; but not a wheel moves. I do not need to belong to the "brain trust" to see that somewhere along the line there is some pretty raw, crude ignorance. Hungry men and sealed granaries! And that church—I laugh out loud when my wife comes home and refers to the platitudes the poor minister mouths.

III. Well, I swear by the high heavens that I'll never consent to this situation being continued. Never will I go back to the plan whereby the rugged individualism of a few makes millions of us ragged individuals. Those memories of a wife and children huddled around a little laundry stove, our last piece of coal burning in it, empty bellies, scrawny bodies, black despair—and I, an able-bodied man tramping the streets trying for any possible employment and getting only humiliating taunts! God! the memories of those weary walks home at the end of the day and no work!

No, I'll never go back! If that is capitalism (whatever that means) then I am pledged to combat it forever. I am through with the system of the past. I swear that I will die in combat against such a monstrous thing.

I make one last plea. I make it to my President, to Congress, to the men who wield financial power on Wall street, to the industrial giants, to the American Federation of Labour and all other labour organisations, to anyone that can help: Don't drive me radical! I want to save the good that the past has created! I want to help build a better world for my fellowmen. When I think about the things that we could do if we would all get behind the plan that is for the common good, I get real religious feelings.

I don't want any of this driving up stuff—yet. I want to

work and save and live. Not only that, but I want to help others to live. I tell you I get thrilled with the idea that we can save future generations from the suffering that millions have experienced. Out there on that cold winter afternoon when we laid the body of my poor dead Helen in a pauper's grave (just as soon as we can we shall buy a lot-in some cemetery and move her to it), I promised Helen that I would try to keep this from ever happening to another human being.

Don't drive me radical in my attempt to attain this for my family and every other family! Don't make me "red." I want to live, let live, and help to live. But I serve you this warning: I'll never go back to the old system. I'll go "red"! I'll fight—and with real guns! I'll die before I'll ever go back to the horrors of 1929-1934. Don't drive me (and remember that I am only one of the millions of John Doe's) radical!

A Stupendous Opportunity

Until the modern scientific era it was materially and physically impossible for any but a very small fraction of the human race to escape perpetual and grinding poverty. No system of government or organisation could then secure the production of enough material comforts to go round. Now mankind has a new and stupendous opportunity. Poverty is no longer imposed inexorably by lack of material resources; it can be abolished if we can get a system under which increased productive capacity is always accompanied by increased purchasing capacity, so that nobody stops making because others can't buy. —Traders' News (the official organ of the Victorian Storekeepers and Traders' Association).

To New Readers of the "New Times"

At a moment when the world is gorged with unsaleable goods and human bodies are crying out for food; at a moment when most of the press is gorged with items of undigested news and human minds are crying out for information, the "New Times" is endeavouring to put before you, without regard to whom it may offend, the truth of what is happening.

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C. H. DOUGLAS

A Brief Sketch

[Editors Note. —The following personal note on the career of Major C. H. Douglas, the originator of what is known as the Social Credit proposal is given in response to a number of inquiries from our readers.]

The most talked of man in the world today, Clifford Hugh Douglas, is a Scot by birth and an engineer by profession. He is about 55 years of age, and was educated at Cambridge University.

After early engineering experience in America he returned to England and joined the staff of the Westinghouse Company. Following this he spent several years in his profession in India, being engaged mainly in the installing and supervision of electrical equipment in cotton mills. In 1911 he was deputy chief electrification engineer of the Buenos Aires Pacific Rail way; in 1913-14 he was engineer of the P.O. Railway, London. During the war he was assistant superintendent of the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough.

At about the end of the war Major Douglas first began to publish, in the *New Age*, London, his economic and monetary analyses and proposals. At first they were given little notice, but in the year that have followed they have received worldwide attention, until today those who subscribe to his views embrace countless millions in every quarter of the globe.

The first of Douglas's books, *Economic Democracy*—a reprint of *New Age* articles—was published in 1920, and it was succeeded by a remarkable series of books, pamphlets, articles, addresses and debates. In 1923 he was the chief European witness invited to give evidence before the Canadian parliamentary inquiry on banking and finance. In 1929 he visited Japan as a member of the World Engineering Congress, before which he delivered a paper. In 1930 he tendered his much-debated evidence before the Macmillan Committee on Finance and Industry.

Since then he has been called to all parts of the world for advice and consultation. At the beginning of last year he paid a brief visit to Australia, en route to New Zealand and Canada, delivering addresses in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Some weeks ago he addressed an audience in Oslo, Norway, which included the Norwegian King and many of the most distinguished citizens and the most prominent businessmen (and economists) of Norway. He has since been in Alberta, Canada, having been called in by the Parliament of that State to advise it on economic affairs.

It is not proposed in this outline to discuss Douglas's monetary and economic analyses or proposals. But it is important to note that the views advanced by him were not, as are those of most other alleged economists and monetary reformers of today, bred by the depression. Douglas put forward his statements when the world appeared to be entering on a period of boundless financial prosperity. As an instance, he made the following remarks to the Canadian Parliamentary Committee in 1923: "My one object in coming here is to make clear that I, personally, am convinced that if you go along the lines you are following at present, I am perfectly certain you are heading for the most terrific disaster that the mind of man can possibly conceive."

The answer to that began in 1929.

If the constitution prevents us from bringing in a system which would bring food, clothing and shelter for our people, then it is time the constitution was changed. —Wm. Aberhart.

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