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VOL. II. No. 8. Transmission by Post as a Newspaper

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1936.

Every Friday, 3d

## Making a Racket of Defence

## Death for the Young Men

## Wartime Profits for the Conscriptionists

## IF WE HAVE CONSCRIPTION, LET US CONSCRIPT INDUSTRY—AND FINANCE

Two aspects of our so-called defence question are receiving considerable prominence these days. One is the matter of our manufacturing bombing planes in Australia, but with overseas "capital." We discussed this last week, and we would merely repeat here that we welcome the idea of providing for ourselves locally such weapons of defence, as we may really need. We welcome still more the idea of building within Australia the commercial planes, which the country needs, both for business purposes and for bringing medical benefits to outback settlers. But we fail to see why national loans from bankers should be required to give us the former or why foreign "capital" should be needed to supply us with the latter, since either we have all the necessary materials and men on the spot, or else we can easily buy them with our exports.

The second question, which is being stage-managed likewise as a financier's racket, is the advisability of again introducing compulsory military training for our young men. The preliminary stages, as usual, are being carried out through the medium of a campaign in those advertising and propaganda broadsheets politely termed the daily press. One of the principal functions of this press is to bespatter with its foul mud anyone who dares, by the slightest suggestion, even to hint at disagreement with anything proposed by the financier. Its slogans in the present campaign are "Empire" and "Patriotism"—words to which, like "United Australia", "Nationalism" and "Sanity", it claims the sole right of usage. Its practices are similar to the cowardly tactics adopted during the last war by those financiers' daughters and their feather-brained friends who made their contribution to the Victory of Small Nations by becoming streetwalkers for the purpose of distributing white feathers to those whom they selected as "eligibles."

Unfortunately this financier-owned press has got most of the community bluffed, and fear of being dubbed "disloyal" is silencing, or at least greatly modifying the public opposition to the racket which one would expect from such sources as the political Labor party.

## THE VIEWS OF THE CHAMBERS OF MANUFACTURES

A typical example of the sort of statement that is allowed to pass unchallenged was that made in Melbourne last Saturday by Mr. F. R. Lee, secretary to the Associated Chambers of Manufactures.

"All manufacturers", said Mr.

Lee, "are primarily citizens of the Commonwealth, recognising and being guided by their general obligations as citizens, quite apart from their business interests and commitments. Therefore, they have always taken the national and patriotic view—you will note the good old adjectives—"that every facility and reasonable concession must be readily given to the youth of Australia to acquire a measure of military training in keeping with a policy of preparedness for war"—then comes the convectional afterthought—"but a real desire for peace."

"This", continued Mr. Lee, "is not the only form of co-operation which manufacturers are always prepared to extend to the nation and the military authorities"—these, apparently, are apart from the nation. "They are ready at all times to cooperate in matters of plant equipment and production, which could in any serious crisis be immediately turned over for war purposes, as is done in every other country where military strength is essential."

Having thus proved the patriotism of the pious manufacturers, Mr. Lee proceeded to say his little piece in favour of conscription: "The question of whether

military training for Australian youths should continue on a volunteer basis, or be made compulsory, raises both political and social issues, which do not immediately concern manufacturers."

## MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE DEMORALISED

The Melbourne "Argus", a paper which steadfastly refuses to inquire into the causes of demoralisation, published the following suggestion from a correspondent last Saturday:—

In view of the disturbed condition of Europe and the defenceless condition of Australia could not all those able-bodied young and middle-aged men who are on the dole and are leading an idle life, which is demoralising, be made to give some of that idle time to being drilled and to learn the use of the rifle? They would not be a permanent reserve, and any service beyond Australia would be voluntary. Without doubt they would immediately volunteer if their country were attacked, but then they would be trained volunteers.

One would have thought the secretary of the Associated Chambers, in the terms of his own definition, would have stopped there. But that would have been like expecting a bank chairman, in presenting his annual report of

usury, to refrain from telling the nation how to manage its affairs. And so Mr. Lee unburdened himself of the particular propaganda to which all his other remarks were but the lead-up. "The experience of those who run our factories", he concluded, "has been definitely in favour of uniform training being made obligatory on all physically fit sons of the nation who may be called upon in an uncertain world to defend our shores." We should like Mr. Lee to explain and justify that last sentence. But there you are; the cat is out of the bag. The secretary of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures says that their members want to reintroduce conscription, "in keeping with a policy of preparedness for war, but a real desire for peace."

## THE MANUFACTURERS' CONTRIBUTION

On looking over Mr. Lee's remarks about defence, the first question that occurs to one is this: If a group of men who will not be called upon to face the horrors of war are to justify any attempt on their part to impose conscription upon those who will be selected as human sacrifices, what are they prepared to offer as their own contribution?

*Production of bread now begins. Assume that the shareholders want no profit, no dividends—that they are pure philanthropists. Assume that they have no overhead charges, that all the costs of bread production are distributed as the bread is being made and are available to buy the loaves hot from the oven. What about the factory and its machinery?*

*With every loaf turned out, some wear and tear (depreciation) takes place. Neither factory nor machinery will last forever. And unless this depreciation charge can be recovered in prices the time will soon arrive when the factory and plant will be just scrap. Is this fair to the shareholders—who, mind you, are asking for no dividends, who are merely expecting their real capital to remain in working order so that they may continue to render service?*

*But how can the depreciation charge be recovered from the public? No new money was put in their hands to represent the factory's value when it was built, consequently no money can be taken from them to represent its loss of value as it depreciates.*

*And this is the policy which you defend, and of which we are constantly seeing the results in company liquidations, in the writing-off of capital as "lost," in foreclosures, in insolvencies, and often in suicides—not to mention that public companies listed on the Melbourne Stock Exchange are now over £2 millions in arrears on preference dividends alone.*

## THE NEW TIMES

*P.S.—We know the position has been "improved" in the past by your issuing the required money to the community as interest bearing national debt. But we hardly regard this as a satisfactory solution—to the community.*

*To The Bankers of Australia  
Dear Sirs,*

*Amid the welter of details of banking TECHNIQUE, which have thus far been placed before the Royal Commission, there has been one most significant statement of banking POLICY, which we earnestly recommend you to think over. That statement has been the admission from your own witnesses that banks do not as a rule make loans for long-term capital purposes, and that new companies are expected to obtain their funds either from public share issues or by borrowing from institutions which are holding savings for investment. This means in effect that the banks expect new capital production to be financed from existing money and not from new money.*

*Let us apply this to a concrete instance. A new company is formed to spend, say, £20,000 upon buildings and machinery for producing bread. The financial operation is that the company first, by the sale of shares, withdraws from some members of the public £20,000, previously distributed to the public through some other process of production. This money, as the buildings and machinery are erected, is again distributed to other members of the public, enabling them to buy the things (food, clothing, etc.) that the investors abstained from buying in order to equip the new factory.*

*So far, so good. There has been no hold-up in the sale of goods already produced; merely the purchasing power to obtain them has been transferred from certain individuals to certain other individuals. But what is the position when the new factory is ready to start operations? There is an additional capital asset (the factory and machinery) valued at £20,000. The shareholders' ownership is indicated by their holding of share certificates. AND THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL MONEY IN THE COMMUNITY TO REPRESENT THE NEW FACTORY.*

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political drivel of the Lyons-Menzies type, they know that they are not prosperous again. The farmer knows that whatever increase he has got this year in his export prices has been due mainly to war preparations abroad. The manufacturer knows that there is no security or continuity in his little boomlets of the last year or two; he knows that the sudden stoppage of national loans or bank-inspired building programmes would send him back to the depths of 1931 within a month or two. And so both, though they may hate war personally, are being driven to look to it as their only hope.

There are exceptions, and in the rapid growth of their numbers lies our main hope. These are the men who are no longer content to accept without question sudden fluctuations in prices and markets, who cannot see that depressions in good seasons are acts of God, and who ask themselves why war is necessary for industrial prosperity. And to such men we address the following suggestions on the subject of conscription.

#### CONSCRIPT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING

If there is any talk of conscription, let us agree with it. But let us insist that it be thorough, that it be carried to its logical conclusion. If conscription be lawful, then it is made lawful only by national emergency. And if the State has any right to claim the very lives of its young manhood, then it has a far better right to claim the mere material possessions of its wealthy citizens.

If a nation is at war, then none of its citizens are neutral, and all their properties are subject to seizure by the enemy—did we not arrest harmless German citizens and possess ourselves of their property in 1914-18? Very well; let us put the lot at the disposal of our country in war. Why should only young men who choose to volunteer take part in

defending us all? Why should only young men be conscripted?

Let us insist that, immediately upon the declaration of war by Australia, every man, woman and child in the Commonwealth becomes a conscript. Let the highest pay be given to those who risk the most—their lives—beginning with the men in the front lines and coming down the scale to headquarters. Let the same rates apply to their dependents. Let every factory, every farm and every industry be, in Mr. Lee's words, "turned over for war purposes"; let it be immediately nationalised for the duration of the conflict. Let the wives and daughters of the wealthy, instead of rattling collection boxes in our best streets, instead of knitting socks at afternoon tea parties, instead of organising entertainments for "comforts" funds, don overalls and work in factories alongside their sisters in emergency. Let there be no individual profit coming to any person from war—least of all to the financier who supplies nothing but book entries. Let us pay for the war as we wage it.

Is there anything illogical in this? Is there anything unfair in suggesting that those who endeavour to send young men to death, in the name of patriotism, should remove from themselves the stigma of profiting from it? Surely not. Install this form of conscription, and we shall have no difficulty in accepting the sincerity of Federal Cabinet, of the bankers, of the Associated Chambers, of the press. Install this system, and we shall have little fear of war, either.

For one thing, those who now profit from war would lose by it. For another—and this is the chief point—the bankers would never permit war on such terms. Because, if the people found that the needs of war could be financed without interest-bearing loans, they would also realise that the needs of peace could be met in similar fashion. And that would remove the chief cause of war.

## THE FALLACY OF CONQUEST

Condensed from "Harper's Magazine" by "The Reader's Digest" for February 1936.

Here is a common-sense summary, without reference to technicalities or allusion to monetary problems, of the world's position today.

Who has not heard of Italy's need for expansion? The Italians say that their need compels them to make war for additional territory. The British say that Italy's need for expansion is legitimate but that it does not justify the resort to war. None has said what need for expansion means or asked whether it means anything at all. Does any country really need expansion?

Granted that certain countries have a larger population than they can feed out of their own resources. What can such a country do? Expand, is the obvious answer. How? Expansion can take only three forms; it can seize partly uninhabited lands to which to send its excess population; it can seize undeveloped territories as markets for exports; it can seize territories with stores of unexplored raw materials.

#### OUTLETS FOR POPULATION

Take outlets for population first. Here the experience of Italy is eloquent. For 50 years Italy has strained its resources to win an empire, ostensibly to relieve the pressure of population. It joined in the scramble for colonies in Africa after 1880, and fought wars against Abyssinia and Tripoli. But in 1914 there were in all the colonies, which it had won in Africa only some 8000 Italians. There was 50 times that number in New York State alone.

Take the example of Germany. It was in order to win an empire that Germany challenged British naval supremacy and foredoomed the World War. And in 1914, at the outbreak of the war which had been brought on by the lust for colonies, there were in all the German colonies in Africa—900,000 square miles in extent—about 22,000 Germans, and in all the German colonies in other parts of the world just 2000 more. There was more than that number of Germans between 80th and 90th Streets on Manhattan Island.

The other stock example of presumed over-population is Japan. At the cost of some 300,000 men Japan won South Manchuria from Russia in 1905—and incidentally Japan is now driving itself into another war with Soviet Russia or the United States or both in order to get possession of China. It must, say the Japanese apologists; for the population has been increasing at the rate of from 600,000 to 1,000,000 a year for a generation. But in 1930, 25 years after the acquisition of South Manchuria, only 200,000 Japanese had settled there—fewer than had died in the war to acquire it. There were half as many Japanese in California alone.

The argument for empire based on pressure of population is palpably specious, simply a rallying-cry to whip up patriotic passions. Figures demonstrate that in so far as the inhabitants of a country emigrate, they emigrate not to their country's colonies but to other independent countries already settled. They do so for the very good reason that nearly all of the territories that constitute colonial empires are almost uninhabitable by white men.

For practical purposes the only parts of the world open to conquest in the past 100 years, that is, those parts occupied by weak or backward peoples, have lain in Africa and Asia. Such as are not already densely populated by their own people, as are India and China, are completely unsuited to white colonisation. How many Italians can survive the climate of the East African coast? A European nation, which believes itself to be over-populated, can take all the colonies in the world and the pressure of its population will not be relieved.

Further, it should be observed that it is the countries most vocal about their over-population that make a cult of increase in population. Mussolini has for years preached multiplication to the Italian women, and has even offered bounties for conspicuous feats of fecundity. Now that his appeals have achieved results—if they have—he must have colonies to make room for the increase. Where the defence of aggression on the ground of population needs is not insincere it is absurd.

#### MARKETS FOR EXPORTS

Against the policy of seizing territories in order that they may serve as markets for exports, we need cite no hypothetical example. There is Great Britain. No nation could have more, bigger, and richer colonies. India is a British colony, with a population of 350,000,000 people. And what nation is now capturing that market? Not England, but Japan. The Malay Peninsula is a British possession. Not England, but Japan is selling goods there now. The former German colonies are now British. But 99 percent, of the artificial silk imported into Tanganyika is Japanese, and for every yard of British textiles imported into Kenya there are six yards of Japanese textiles.

Parallels may be found in other imperial possessions. Java and Sumatra are Dutch possessions. But Japan's trade with Java and Sumatra is greater than that of the Netherlands. Italy may subdue and hold Ethiopia in perpetuity, but Japan—or Germany or the United States—will get the bulk of the trade with Ethiopia.

In a word, possession of colonial territory no longer guarantees enjoyment of the economic perquisites thereof. Trade no longer follows the flag, despite tariffs, control of credit, and manipulation of currencies. Trade now goes to the most efficient producer regardless of nationality; to the producer who can lay down goods of equal quality at the lowest price.

#### ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS

Expansion in order to secure access to supplies of raw materials still has certain validity. Monopoly of the iron, coal, oil, gold, copper, rubber, and tin of an area offers a compelling motive for national aggression, since these and similar raw materials are indispensable to industrial production. Possession of a colony does give prior rights to such national resources; but it does not give monopoly. For practical purposes no nation can maintain a monopoly of all the resources within its control without provoking retaliation by other countries at points where it is vulnerable. Great Britain controls the rubber of Malaya, but it had to come to terms with the United States, the principal consumer of rubber. Access to raw materials is of limited advantage unless accompanied by command of markets, which in turn depends upon an efficient, broad-based industrial structure. And if a country has such an industrial structure it can get the raw materials it needs by purchase in the world market.

It probably does not even have to pay a premium for them, since there are few materials, which are so exclusively confined to one area that their price is not fixed in the world market.

All the colonies still extant or subject to conquest will do Italy and Germany little good. And for Japan, the price of conquering China may be so much higher than Japan would have to pay for China's raw materials in the normal processes of trade that Japan will bankrupt itself.

Purchase, in the long run, is the surest means of access to raw materials, if not also the cheapest. Colonial conquest is not only more expensive but not sure. The benefits will go to the industrially most efficient country in any case.

What then of expansion? There is a considerable vogue just now for the theory that the danger of war arises from the division of the world into countries that are sated and countries that are unsated, notably Germany, Italy and Japan. The unsated will seek to redress the balance, it is held; hence the certainty of conflict. A neat, well-rounded theory, but it has only a superficial relation to the facts.

#### RICH EMPIRES WITH POOR PEOPLE

Even on the most casual scrutiny of the sated countries, satiation would not seem to be very satisfying. What nation could be more replenished than Great Britain with all that is supposed to endow a people with wealth and power? And how flourishing is Great Britain just now? How secure is its empire and how stable its economic organism? Suppose Germany or even Italy should succeed in supplanting England, carving out as great an empire as the British; how much better off would it be? For an empire greater than the British no nation could hope. It is not likely that any nation can ever again be what England was in 1900, not even England. Let the unsated take all England's colonies and more; their needs will still not be met.

The truth is that the rewards of empire are barren in the 20th century.

From this it does not follow, of course, that they will not be pursued. Nations will arm themselves, form alliances against one another, embark on aggressions, and finally plunge into another Armageddon, no doubt. But it should be emphasised that *they will be doing so in order to get what they will not have when they get it.*

The case for national expansion no longer holds. Today the course of empire can lead only to death and to destruction. For a way out of the desperate economic dilemma in all industrialised countries, it is better to turn back into ourselves. An integral factor in the depression felt throughout the Western world is the loss of foreign markets in the once backward areas, which have begun to industrialise and make their goods for themselves.

*New outlets, therefore, must be found by reorganisation at home—by making it possible for the disinherited at home to buy the goods we have hitherto counted on the heathen in backward parts to pay for.*

—Nathaniel Peffer.

(In other words, make up the shortage of money in the home market by giving everyone the NATIONAL DIVIDEND.)

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## ROUTINE SCHOOL TEACHING OR EDUCATION?

By BRUCE H BROWN  
(By arrangement with the "Castlemaine Mail.")

Last week we commented on the tragic fact that the headmasters of our great schools are so silent on the all-important subject of money—a mere Symbol exercising overriding control of every real thing in the world. From further study of the position it would appear that there is either a conspiracy of silence amongst our educational authorities or an unbelievable ignorance on their part concerning the fundamentals of the money system.

Real education is "leading the child or youth out or on to attain the best results from the natural, mental, physical, and psychical inclinations of each," i.e., to secure the full development of each individual personality; but owing to the curse of the artificial inhibitions of the "Money System" the accomplishment of this desirable result is prevented. God is thwarted by Mammon. To our recognised authorities on education we respectfully put this inquiry: Do you not realise the difference between the present so-called education and real "E-duca-tion"? Un-

der the obligation to get some money to get some goods to live, education nowadays demands getting enough of the superficial stamp of knowledge of wide varieties (called "certificates," "diplomas," etc.) to confer some precedence over other fellows to get a "job" to get some money, whether the natural bent of the lad is that way or not, thus making life merely a struggle for money—something about which he is never taught. The term "Education System" is a misnomer. It would be more appropriate to use the term "School-teaching System." Mr. Darling evidently realises this and sees the need for re-organisation, but when he says that re-organisation to secure true education would cost money, he says something that is not correct, for money merely does the "costing" or accounting of the re-organisation and the benefits secured for humanity. Actually the substance of education, "learning," is the property of no person, no class, and no section. It is a natural power to which we are all, every one of us, allowed to hold with firmer and lesser grip during our passage through life. We die; but knowledge is everlasting.

### GENERAL IGNORANCE OF PROFESSIONAL MEN.

There is no desire on our part to castigate any of the masters of

our public schools. We simply invite pointed attention to the fact that their great brains have apparently not hitherto been directed to the vital factor, which causes and controls practically the whole of the "problems" encountered by the community. Unfortunately we see the same thing in many other professions. For example, the press of February 6 intimated that the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants, and the Law Institute of Victoria are to join with the Chamber of Commerce and the Taxpayers' Association in asking the Government to "tax less and spend less." By this action they are telling the world that they are either totally blind or woefully ignorant concerning the what and the whence of money, and that, despite the clear indication of events since 1929, they still fail to realise that Government expenditure on a large scale is absolutely essential to the solvency of Industry. Government spending is only a burden because the funds are obtained from the pockets of the people through taxation or from the borrowing of privately manufactured money, with its staggering demands for interest. These men have not conceived that under an honest system of finance practically all taxation could be abolished, and that taxation is merely the measure of our enslavement to the private money-manufacturers.

With a full knowledge of the meaning of the words I am using, and a clear appreciation of their implications, I publicly declare, as a responsible Australian citizen, that any Federal Government which "borrows" privately-manufactured money for public purposes is allowing its office to be utilised by the Money Monopoly for the perpetration and perpetuation of a swindle against the whole Australian community. It is not the spending of money by the Government that is the trouble at all. It is the method adopted by the Government to obtain the money to spend. If businessmen knew their business they would be insisting that this "borrowing" from private mints should cease and that the Commonwealth Government should itself issue all money required for national purposes as a credit to the nation instead of as a debt to the private banking system. When this is done we shall be using for public purposes legal money, which is free of debt, and free of interest, and when a public facility is provided it will be as free of debt as new bank premises are free of debt. (Think that over carefully. The palatial bank premises you so greatly admire cost the banks nothing.) We repeat again that when government spending of loan money was reduced from £60,000,000 in 1928 to nil in 1932, bankruptcies more than doubled, suicides increased alarmingly, unemployment reached terrifying proportions, and marriages declined seriously; but immediately the spending of loan money was resumed, bankruptcies became fewer, suicides less numerous, more people secured employment, and the marriage rate began to return to normal. This, however, was but an easing of the financial tension, not the abolition of the financial grip. Interest, Depreciation, and Profit can come from two sources only—either from the money circulated by governments for things, which are not for sale, or from the failure of other enterprises. If governments spend less there will be less purchasing power in circulation and more bankruptcies.

And yet the men who intend advocating that course to the Government belong to what is known as the "professional" class—i.e., products of the highest section of our school-teaching system.

### UNIVERSITY TEXT BOOKS:

Perhaps this is not surprising when we know the sort of stuff that is sedulously "taught." I have before me one of the textbooks of the Melbourne University. It is called "An Economic Survey of Australia" and edited by D. B. Copland, M.A., D.Sc.

### BANK LOANS AND "SENTIMENT."

Extract from evidence at Banking Commission:—

The Chairman (discussing bank loans): In the last resort you may have to get down to considerations that are not business, such as whether a man has a wife and children or not?

L. J. McConnan (chief manager of the National Bank): That is so.

Professor Mills: Sentiment overrides business?

McConnan: No, not at all. You must choose on some basis. You balance the two cases and decide on balance.

The Chairman: And if business gives you no line, you must act on personal opinion and perhaps sentiment?

McConnan: That is so.

Practically the whole of the contributors are, or have been, writers for the Melbourne "Herald" and the Melbourne "Argus," two newspapers whose policy is definitely against the liberation of the people from the thralldom of Finance. One of the contributors (Mr. J. W. M. Eddy) is now Finance Editor of the "Herald" and another (Professor T. Hytten) has become attached to the staff of the Bank of New South Wales.

In a characteristic foreword, Professor Copland explained, "In view of the severe depression through which Australia is passing at the present time, contributors were asked to deal with developments up to the depression, rather than to explain its causes and effects." The part I have emphasised is more than interesting, for although I have personally sought by correspondence to get some information from him as to the actual cause of the "crisis" and the "emergency," he has resolutely fought completely shy of it, and referred me to a host of books by himself and others with similarly clouded vision.

Space does not permit reference to each of the contributions, but we ask you to think over this statement from Professor Hytten: "A young country must of necessity get into debt. The development may be hasty and go too far, but it has to be undertaken and debt must result." Not anywhere in the book does he explain why. No attempt is made to show why it is that when we all work together and build a bridge we create a debt, but when we build a marble house for a banking institution the bank creates an asset.

Mr. George Anderson, M.A., LL.M., M.Com., wrote: "It is true that part of Australia's economic difficulties can be traced to the aftermath of the Great War; but it is also true that a great part is local in origin. The export prices of her primary products have fallen to an alarming level, and her large overseas borrowings have ceased!" Evidently the word "local" has taken on a new meaning. Reams of paper have been used in discussions about the happenings and possibilities, but never a word as to why our producers got less and less money (figures on paper) for more and more goods, and yet the author was a Master

of Arts, a Master of Laws, and a Master of Commerce!

### "CIVICS" FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS.

Another standard work from which our kiddies are taught is called "Civics for Australian Schools," by Miss Alice Hoy, M.A., who is a member of the staff at the Teachers' Training College. Like all the others, Miss Hoy discusses money after it has been created and placed into circulation. Not a word about how, what, or who regarding its manufacture. In her references to the National Debt and the Coinage she says: "When any particularly expensive work is undertaken by the Government, it is usually not possible to raise the whole of the money required by taxation. Further, if the projected work is one from which coming generations will benefit largely, it is not fair that the whole burden should be borne by the existing community. In such cases the Government raises the money by floating a loan." Here we have the admission that although Government works are controlled by money, money is not controlled by the Government, but not a word as to why. Then we are told that the carrying out of government works is a burden which it is not fair to place on the present generation, but here again not one word as to why it should be a burden or why posterity should be saddled with it.

Take the building of the Sydney Bridge. There was no burden in securing the materials or in putting them together. If the men did find the manual effort burdensome they nevertheless completely carried the burden themselves and have not passed it on to posterity. The bridge is there in all its glory, every actual requirement having been fully met and every human burden completely discharged. It paid the real costs—materials and human energy—as it was built. Only the accounting or book-keeping part is being improperly imposed on the community as a burden, and this has been possible only because the community has been kept in ignorance of the true facts about money—a mere accounting symbol.

### NATIONAL DEBT EVERLASTING.

Miss Hoy proceeds to say that the money, which cannot be obtained from taxation, is obtained by the "floating of loans," but she is completely silent as to who floats the money to make the loans. "If in any year," she continues, "the Government has a credit balance, it will probably put aside some of the money to reduce the National Debt, for though the repayment of the debt need cause no worry, it must be kept within limits because of the burden of paying the interest each year." In other words, this means that the National Debt is so manipulated that those who create the finan-

'Phone: F 1996.

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cial amount represented by it, which she so glibly accepts as everlasting, will have interest alone always as a yoke equal to the maximum that can be carried by the man-power and the resources of the country. She admits the burden of interest, but says nothing about the treason of governments surrendering themselves and their people to the mercy of counterfeiters and usurers.

### "GOOD" SHILLINGS AND "BAD" SHILLINGS.

Speaking of the "Coinage," Miss Hoy declares: "Thus if we have good shillings and bad shillings, no one will part with a good shilling when he can offer a bad one, and so soon only bad shillings, if there are enough of them, will be circulated. On the other hand, if all our shillings were bad shillings, but everybody agreed to accept them, no harm would be done. As a matter of fact, none of our shillings contains a shillings-worth of silver, and none of our bronze coins is worth the penny or halfpenny represented. But we accept them because they have the Government stamp, and we know that anyone else in the country will take them in exchange for goods of the value

### "MITIGATING" PROSPERITY.

"It would have been virtually impossible for the banks to have materially mitigated the boom effects of the high incomes of woolgrowers and others, who, because of the high prices ruling in London, were the first recipients of the increased income that Australia received during this period."

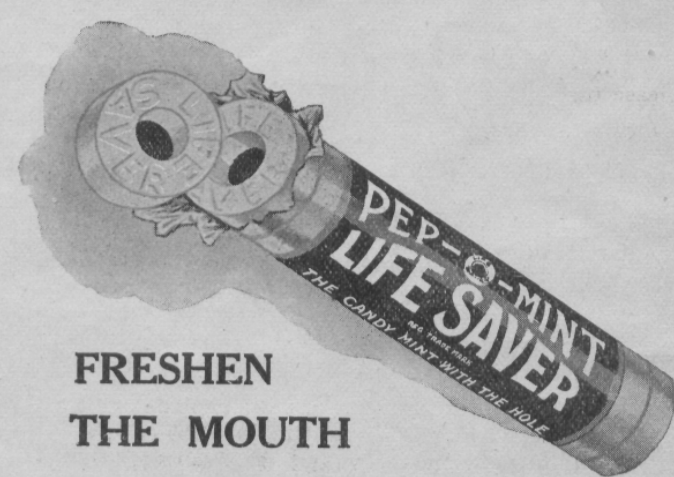
—L. J. McConnan, chief manager of National Bank, in evidence before Royal Commission.

they represent. In this the Government assists us by declaring that silver coins are legal tender up to £2 and bronze coins up to 1/-. That is to say, no one in the country may refuse to accept these coins in payment of any debt up to the amount mentioned." The jargon about good shillings and bad shillings is delightful, particularly when the book may be searched from cover to cover without finding any reference to credit-money, which accounts for more than 90 per cent. of our business activities. It omits al-

(Continued on page 6, column 1)

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## THE NEW TIMES

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Telephone: M 5384.

Vol. 2. No. 8.  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1936.

### All Aboard For London

The departure of more Australian politicians for London is causing considerable heartburning in the daily press, though it is hard to know why. We haven't heard any very strenuous protests from anyone at the prospect of losing R. G. Menzies again for some months. On the contrary, there are many who go so far as to suggest that the cause of internal harmony might be cheaply served by paying his salary and expenses and keeping him permanently out of the country.

Mr. Menzies himself, however, appears to think that a departure over which large numbers of his fellow-countrymen are breathing sighs of relief should be made the occasion for a little more limelight by stressing his individual importance to us, wherever he may be. And the Menzies press agents in Melbourne have dutifully written ponderous leading articles to give him due publicity.

Preaching his own panegyric amid the pleasing aromas of good food and Young Nationalism, Mr. Menzies, with that unconscious humour, which often runs through statements he wishes to be taken seriously, artlessly revealed that the big push in Cabinet for his departure came from Dr. Page. The wily Doctor, who has forgotten more about political maneuvering than Mr. Menzies seems ever likely to learn, may or may not have intended it, but one result of this move has been to distract attention from his own trip abroad and to centre it on that of the Attorney-General.

In view of the enormous sums being extracted from us all in taxation every moment of our lives (and after our deaths, if

there is anything left), the few thousands involved in sending Ministers abroad seem trifling. But, since we pay the bills, we may be entitled to ask a question or two.

Dr. Page is going hat in hand allegedly to seek sugar concessions against the beet growers of England. With nothing new to add to his case, are his efforts likely to be any more successful than were those last year of the Prime Minister, of Mr. Menzies, of Sir Henry Gullett, and of their numerous offshoots, to say nothing of the constant efforts of Mr. Bruce, of our Agents-General, and of the permanent officials of Australia House?

The alleged reason for the departure of Mr. Menzies to London is to give us the benefit of his supervision over certain proceedings before the Privy Council. Is it necessary to have such proceedings at all? Have we not the constitutional power to abolish these appeals altogether? Did not our sister Dominion, the Irish Free State, do so recently? And has not General Smuts (who is above any suspicion of "disloyalty" which might attach to Mr. de Valera) just announced that South Africa is about to do likewise? We have the highest possible respect both for the outstanding ability and for the unassailable integrity of the Law Lords of Britain, but we fail to see why it is necessary or advisable to call upon them for decisions on local points of law—the more so as such distant and expensive appeals are always in favour of the rich against the poor. If we may quote against itself the words of the Melbourne "Herald": "Australia is no longer a distant colony. It is a nation amongst the nations." And surely a nation can interpret its own constitution and administer its own laws.

Besides, there are not a few people in this country who regret that Mr. Menzies, through pressure of overseas duties, will have to defer still further the long-anticipated discussion in Parliament on the Petrol Commission's £10,000 report. This is a subject on which our Attorney-General, from first-hand knowledge, is well qualified to answer pertinent questions.

### Migration—On Conditions

To counterbalance the softening of the head denoted by his desire for a "flow of capital" from abroad and his inability to see that Australia already has everything really needed for enormous numbers of migrants, Premier Smith, of Queensland, has gone to the other extreme with his heart. In a statement to the London press last week—Mr.

Smith is becoming quite at home in London—he criticised mass migration because "frequently migrants were all homesick together." He therefore expressed himself in favour of juvenile migration, presumably arguing that if youngsters get homesick, and if they are widely enough scattered, the ill effects will not be noticeable.

The case for child migration is also being pushed in other quarters, but with a more realistic candour. Thus the Victorian secretary of the Big Brother Movement says that at least 20 boys a month could be placed on farms. The secretary of the Boys' Employment Movement is still more plainspoken, and states that his body would favour the migration of English lads "if they went only to farm work." Australian boys, he added, "object to farm work because of the limited prospect of advancement, the isolation, and the possibility of long hours." On similar grounds it is being suggested that we might permit English girls to come out to Australia for domestic drudgery.

What a commentary this is on the brains and hearts of a people that still call themselves Christian! In a land whose chief problem is the disposal of its abounding production it is alleged that we cannot allow families or groups of families to seek happy homes; the best we can do is to tear boys and girls from their guardians and their friends, permitting them to come lonely amongst us on condition that they are satisfied to remain wood and water joeys and washers of dishes, "with limited prospects of advancement." To add to the idiocy, statesman Forgan Smith, the noble Socialist who cannot see that giving the people increased incomes would be of any benefit, wants to make a compact with Britain that even this measure of migration must be conditional on our handing over more of our real wealth in the form of exports without our receiving real wealth in exchange.

### One House in Six Condemned in New York

One out of every six houses in New York is unfit for habitation, according to the Director of Housing in Public Works Administration. One out of five has no bathing facilities and three out of four have no heat.

This gives a new slant upon the most modern and up-to-date capital city in the world. Evidently, in the United States they are short of bricks, steel, coal, builders, architects, plumbers.

Either that, or they are short of paper out of which we understand a certain proportion of Japanese houses are built up.

—Social Credit.

### OPEN LETTER TO BUSINESSMEN

A first printing of the open letter to the businessmen of Australia, reproduced in leaflet form from the New Times of January 10, having been exhausted, a second edition has been run off the press and is now ready.

Price: 1/- per hundred; posted 1/2.

## AN IMPRESSION OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON BANKING

By W.P.B.

A warm afternoon. A long upstairs room on the sunny side of the old Shell Building. Through the blinds enough sunshine filters to give an atmosphere of pleasant drowsiness.

At the centre of a table across one end of the room sits Mr. Justice Napier, a long, cadaverous figure in black, president of the momentous inquiry. On his left is the mute counsel assisting the commissioners, Mr. Reynolds. Next to him again is the rubicund face and scrubby black moustache of Mr. E. V. Nixon. On the president's right are two of the numerous officials whose tally always outweighs the actual commissioners in inquiries of this nature.

Down the sides of the room are long tables. At the top end of one the big bulk of Mr. J. P. Abbott, looking strangely out of its element here, peers through thick glasses across the room to where the equally big bulk of Professor R. C. Mills, looking thoroughly in its element, peers back across the top of its glasses from the end of the opposite table.

Below Mr. Abbot is Mr. H. A. Pitt, Victorian Director of Finance, a short, stocky figure with a parchment face in its characteristic attitude of being stuck far out from the body. Mr. Pitt is balanced on the other side by Mr. J. B. Chifley, whose constant shifting in his chair gives the impression of restlessness at the entire proceedings.

Still more officials rustling papers. A bunch of pressmen murmuring asides below the salt.

At the bottom end of the room are a few benches for the great public of Australia, the said public consisting at the present moment of two monetary reformers, two unorthodox journalists (including me) whispering unorthodox pleasantries, and a stout lady following the proceedings with the difficulty inevitable when a witness has his back to you and speaks in a low voice.

Half way up the room is the witnesses' table, so placed that the public has the same rear view as impelled H. G. Wells's Mr. Polly to make his famous remarks about too much *arriere pensee*.

Mr. L. J. McConnan, chief manager of the National Bank, is giving evidence. To be strictly accurate, Mr. McConnan's secretary is reading Mr. McConnan's evidence for Mr. McConnan—chief managers of banks must not be expected to do anything so menial as to read their own evidence.

You close your eyes while Mr. McConnan's "officer" goes through his reading lesson. Every time he turns a page you are made aware of it by a general rustling, as each member of the Commission, the Commission's assisting counsel, the officials, and the pressmen (or such of the latter as are following the proceedings) turn over the pages of their copies.

At long last the secretary finishes. There is quite a stir as he gives up his chair to his chief and retreats to a little table immediately behind, ready to rush to the chief manager's assistance with more sheaves of figures on the least provocation.

Then begin the questions. The president adjusts his glasses and deliberately turns over the sheets. He has the courtly, old-world manners associated with Adelaide. You feel he is anxious to put Mr. McConnan at his ease. You breathe more freely as it hardly seems fair that one lone banker—even a chief manager—should have to face cross examination by such an august and numerous body.

The president looks at Mr. McConnan and smiles encouragingly. You feel he is going to say:

"Now, little man, do you know what happens to boys who tell lies?" You are wondering whether Mr. McConnan holds the same views on hell as Judge Foster. But no. The president just smiles. You cannot see Mr. McConnan's face, but the back of his head seems to be smiling. All the other members of the Commission smile—except Mr. Pitt.

Confidence thus established, the president proceeds to examine the witness.

You await a barrage of questions dealing with banking principles and general policy. You can think of dozens of queries you yourself would like to put to Mr. McConnan. Again you are disappointed. The president is merely making an inquiry about "gold points." The question seems quite a staid one. You can see nothing humorous in it. But apparently the president can, for again he smiles broadly as he asks it. You find yourself in a perplexity—are the humours of banking too deep for you to understand, or is the president merely amused at your bewilderment? You give it up. More questions are put from the chair. Professor Mills joins in with quite an animated smile—for a Professor. Everyone is in high good humour. It is just like the atmosphere in those snappy "Shorts From the Courts" published in the evening papers.

And it all seems to you so desperately trivial, so utterly confined to the technique of bankers'

A man aged 66 had been struck off the sustenance list because he could not stand up to the work demanded of him. As he could not prove his age by producing a birth certificate, he was unable to obtain an old age pension. — Statement at Ballarat Trades Hall, Feb. 17.

practices, so carefully avoiding anything that may border on a probe into the principles and purposes which should guide banking policy.

The by-play wearies you. It has long since wearied the two monetary reformers. You decide you cannot afford the months that will be necessary to wait for the questions you really want to hear. You start calculating the cost to the taxpayers of the whole proceedings. You wonder will the report be ready by, say, a month before the next Federal elections. You give it up and follow the example of the vanished monetary reformers.

The stout lady, still trying to follow the evidence, holds the fort for the great Australian public.

### The "Scrap-the-Spindles" Loan

To cut our coats according to our cloth

Is sense, but doesn't it arouse your wrath

To see the banks perform this curious caper,

To cut our cloth according to their paper?

C.G.D., in *Social Credit*.

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# WATER-LOO

## Drainage Funds in Liquidation

By M.M.N.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is facing a crisis. Drainage funds have evaporated.

"No further drainage works can be put in hand by the Board of Works unless the drainage rate is increased", said the chairman (Mr. D. Bell) today.

Mr. Bell said the drainage fund was exhausted.—The *Star* (Melbourne), February 5.

Mr. Bell's statement was not unexpected. Annual accounts (Official Commonwealth Year Book No. 27) have shown that a recasting of the Board's finances cannot be postponed indefinitely.

### DRAINAGE AND RIVERS—MELBOURNE, 1932-33

Revenue.....	£ 80,655
Expenditure:—	
Debt charges (including interest, interest on renewals and payments to sinking funds).....	58,676
Working expenses .. .	17,284
Surplus .....	4,695
Percentage of working expenses on revenue	21.43
Percentage of Debt Charges on revenue .	72.74

"Experts", if called upon to advise the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, will issue stereotyped instructions to reduce expenditure. Advice of like nature

It has come to our notice that a request, forwarded in the usual way to the proper authorities by the head teacher of a Melbourne eastern suburbs State school, for free books for seven children whose parents are in very poor circumstances—the father is a council employee earning slightly over £3 a week—has been turned down. More "Technical Difficulties", we presume.—J.K.L.

has been temporarily effective in the past. The Premier's Plan was an opiate. Necessity for a major financial operation, delayed for a time, has become urgent. The most drastic retrenchment, impossible to contemplate, of dismissing the entire staff of the Drainage and Rivers department, would effect a saving of 21.43 per cent or approximately one-fifth, of normal expenditure. The main expenditure, fixed overhead debt charges, would remain as a nightmare to constituent councils of the M. & M.B.W.

Debt charges absorb 72.74 (nearly three-quarters) of the departmental revenue.

Mr. Bell's threat of an increased drainage rate, if carried into effect—and there is no present alternative—will be greeted by a public outcry. The M. & M.B.W. will be loudly criticised. Local authorities have often been made scapegoats for circumstances over which they have no control. Debt charges are the main drainage from revenue

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in all waterworks throughout Australia.

### WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE—SYDNEY

Revenue.....	£ 2,806,744
Expenditure:—	
Debt charges.....	2,054,881
Percentage of Debt Charges on revenue	73.29

### NEWCASTLE (N.S.W.) WATER SUPPLY

Revenue .....	£ 208,251
Expenditure:—	
Interest (excluding sinking fund) . . . .	146,821
Percentage of Interest on revenue .....	70.2

### WATER SUPPLY—MELBOURNE.

Revenue .....	£ 737,365
Expenditure:—	
Working expenses.....	121,313
Debt charges .....	543,478

Percentage of working expenses on revenue.....	16.45
Percentage of debt charges on revenue	73.6

### SEWERAGE—MELBOURNE

Revenue.....	£ 879,396
Expenditure:—	
Working expenses.....	137,422
Debt charges.....	677,480

Percentage of working expenses on revenue.....	15.63
Percentage of debt charges on revenue	77.02

### WATER AND SEWERAGE WORKS—BRISBANE

Net revenue from rates.....	£ 626,423
Expenditure:—	
Management and working expenses.....	137,924
Debt charges.....	628,144

Percentage of debt charges on revenue	100.27
---------------------------------------	--------

The South Australian waterworks are controlled by the Public Works department. It is difficult, in that State, to separate debt charges upon sewerage and drainage utilities from the major governmental interest payments, but the following figures are enlightening:

### ADELAIDE WATERWORKS.

Revenue .....	£ 414,592
Expenses (engineering and collections) 91,649	

Percentage of working expenses upon revenue.....	22.57
--	-------

### ADELAIDE SEWERAGE.

Revenue .....	£ 193,574
Working expenses ..	37,099

Percentage of working expenses upon revenue.....	19.06
--	-------

The working expenses in these cases account for less than one quarter of the revenue, and we may safely assume that the remaining three-quarters, having been absorbed into general revenue, is allocated directly or indirectly to interest payments.

The water supply and sewerage systems of Western Australia are under the management of Government departments and as is also the case in Tasmania, the accounts are not published in sufficient detail to permit of similar examination.

Upon the evidence before us we are forced to the conclusion that waterworks throughout the Com-

monwealth have little chance of liquidating their liabilities.

### RUN TO SUIT THE BANKS.

The Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works, like many other public departments, has given excellent service. Endeavours to place its affairs upon a businesslike basis have been repeatedly frustrated. The beef-measles scare, as an example, was instigated by those who had little concern for public health. From the viewpoint of "sound finance" it was expedient, until recently, that the business of public bodies should be conducted at a nominal loss. The consequent need to borrow furnished valuable facilities to the banking system, which operates in Australia.

Credits accruing from Australian public borrowings overseas were utilised by the associated banks to remit the profits from foreign investments, which would otherwise have stagnated in Australia. The lack of demand for Australian securities upon the London money market has destroyed this system of finance. Local governing authorities will not, henceforward, find themselves embarrassed by riches in the form of frequent offers to negotiate overseas loans.

A new system of financing undertakings must be evolved. The task of devising ways and means may lead to an investigation of the methods by which public utilities have been imposed upon. Members of the M. & M.B.W. and their fel-

lows throughout Australia are bound by chartered restrictions. In their official capacity they can do nothing towards the financial salvation of the bodies, which they serve. In their private lives, however, they are regarded as influential and competent citizens. Their obligation will be to force members of the Commonwealth Parliament to investigate and evolve a really sound Australian financial system. It can be done; but it will never be started if each one leaves it to his neighbour to make the first move.

It is not my function at the present time, nor is space available, to trace our financial catastrophe from its misdirected starting point. A valuable lead can be taken from the remarks of Mr. A. C. Davidson, general manager of the Bank of New South Wales:

"Whether we agree or disagree with the policy of the Commonwealth Bank, we must see that the central bank is well conducted to fill national needs, and we must fight to our utmost to maintain its absolute independence at all times." — (Address to Institute of Chartered Accountants, Queensland. — Brisbane "Courier", August 9, 1933.)

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board and its constituent councillors have an opportunity to render invaluable service. The essential beginning is to make a personal, first-hand investigation of genuine plans for financial reform.

## AMONG THE NEWS

(Short paragraphs from our readers suitable for insertion under this heading will be welcomed. —Ed., N.T.)

### THE WEEK'S GEM!

Mr. McConnan said he did not want to claim too large a share of the credit for all the good things that were done to tide over those days, but it was clear that Australia had indeed been fortunate in the strength of its banking system. —Evidence before Royal Commission, Feb. 14.  
Australia Felix!

### "Troubles of a Social Credit Premier."

Under the above heading the Melbourne "Herald" ran a four-column spread last Saturday devoted to Alberta's Premier. Contents: The usual lying rubbish and cheap gibes—not that one would expect a Fink newspaper to display any other attitude towards a man who is anathema to the Jewish financiers.

The "article", however, had one bright spot. Its writer suggested that the Social Credit victory in Alberta's provincial elections was due to the citizens' being "too busily idle at their summer resorts to bother to vote!" Has Mr. Fink's "special correspondent" yet heard that there were Federal elections later in the year, when Alberta's citizens gave a similar verdict?

\* \* \* — C.P.

### Dangerous Fish in Australia

"Why not make fishing a really sporting game, and end these futile controversies? What we would like to see is a new technique in fishing, where the fish could occasionally win. After all, in the thousands of Zane Grey's encounters with big fish, not one fish has ever caught Zane Grey. If such an exigency could be provided for, every objection by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ought to be quieted."—New York "Evening Post," Feb. 11.

Easily done. Introduce Zane Grey to one or two of our Australian land sharks.

—J.A.B.

### Wool Slump Every Four or Five Years

Returning thanks for his election as president of the British Wool Federation, Mr. H. N. Pickles said: "It is interesting to note with what

frequency slumps have taken place in recent years. There were bad slumps in 1920, 1925, 1929 and 1934. If precedent counts, it would appear that we are fairly safe for another year or two, as slumps have occurred at intervals of four or five years."—Daily press report, Feb. 17.

The phenomenon should be more than "interesting" to wool-growers. A little study would show them that the causes of "slumps" are far more easily controllable than sunspots.

—S.S.

\* \* \*

### Position of Adelaide Wharf Workers

After directing attention to what he called the unsatisfactory and dangerous position

### NOW WHAT DID HE MEAN?

Evidence of W. A. Leitch, general manager of Union Bank:—  
The Chairman: As "honesty is the best policy," your bank would study the welfare of the community?  
Leitch: I never look upon honesty as a policy.

on the Adelaide waterfront, on which few, if any, waterside workers were earning the basic wage, Judge Beeby said that the remedy did not lie in an increase of pay. Some form of amalgamation among the unions was necessary, as well as a reduction of the number of applicants among whom the work was shared. Employers must recognise that a system, which produced such conditions as prevailed could not be allowed to continue. —Report of last week's Arbitration Court proceedings in Adelaide.

Wise words, these latter, from a Judge. But they would be wiser were he to indicate what is to become of the men who are to constitute the reduction. Had he qualified "system" with "monetary," he might have given a lead.

—K.C.D.

"British Capital" In Palestine. In the course of an address (reported in Melbourne "Herald" of 12<sup>th</sup> inst.) the general man-

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ager of Barclays Bank in Palestine, said:—

"The place taken by British insurance companies in the credit structure of Palestine is a worthy one . . . British finance has permeated into every branch of the economic life of the country . . . Three of the four leading banks in the country are British. The greater part of the banking deposits of the country are under their control . . . Our currency, as you know, is based on the English pound, which completes my picture of British financial influence." National anthem of "British" Financiers in Palestine: Home, Sweet Home.

—Y.I.D.

\* \* \*

### "Other Lenders."

"There are other lenders just as important as the banks—big financial institutions and pastoral companies. We have no agreement with them and they are as free lenders as the banks."

—W. A. Leitch, general manager of Union Bank, to Royal Commission, Feb. 19.

For instance, Dalgety and Co., of which the chairman is also chairman of the Union Bank. Do you need to make an agreement with yourself?

—B.O.

(For further instances, see "New Times" of January 24, page 1. —Ed. "N.T.")

## Insurance and Security

In our last issue (page 1) we gave some figures of profits made by overseas insurance companies trading in Australia.

We add the following paragraph to hand in *Social Credit* of January 10:

"The phenomenal success of insurance is a sinister symptom when it is remembered that insurance companies make their living out of selling financial security to a financially insecure public. The more insecure the public, the better the prospects for insurance."

"Out of thirty-one Insurance Companies reported in the *Financial Times*, fifteen had record years in 1935, most having had previous records in 1934. Only one company made a smaller net profit than the year before."

### NOW WE KNOW.

"It is probably fairly well agreed that the world depression was the natural aftermath of the post war period of economic activity in almost every country."

—L. J. McConnan chief manager of National Bank, in evidence before the Royal Commission.

**ROUTINE SCHOOL TEACHING OR EDUCATION?**

(Continued from page 3.)

together the proper view that it is not the substance of the coin that matters, but the authorisation of the figure imprinted on it. This authorisation is just as effective whether it be on gold, silver, bronze, or bits of paper. And how pleased the youngsters must feel when told how the Government "assists us" in declaring that silver coins are legal tender for £2 and bronze for 1/-! The simple-minded youngsters would never think, of course, that this keeps the function of the coinage (legal money) limited, and extends the function of the cheque—that other sort of bank-created money, which, though not legal tender, nevertheless represents the absolute bulk of our money in use!

**BIRTH CONTROL OR CREDIT CONTROL?**

Unfortunately, this ignorance about money is not confined to our educational authorities and University lecturers. We see the same thing in other professions, even in the highest medical assemblies. A country doctor has sent me a copy of the "British Medical Journal" of November 23 last, giving the report of a debate at the Hunterian Society in London on the subject of "Birth Control in Modern Life." The Hunterian Society takes its name from the famous John Hunter, who infected himself with disease and sacrificed his life to medicine in the cause of humanity. Not one of the speakers in the debate said anything about Credit Control, the exercise of which as at present organised is mostly responsible for the practice of Birth Control. Here was a body of learned men (including an Anglican Bishop) discussing the wisdom or propriety of the use of contraceptives—i.e., the necessity or the wish for such by women—without first giving women full economic security with ample access to goods for themselves and their children. After that had been done the women could well be left to decide for themselves whether they want children or not. The fear of economic stress is the compelling reason, which turns the people's minds towards birth control and the destruction and eviction of the yet unborn. Like the schoolmasters, these medicos were concentrating on an effect instead of on the cause. Credit control is more important than birth control, for under the existing arrangements mere symbols have a greater place than life itself.

And now we are told that a great medical authority is coming out from England to talk about National Insurance and a Health Scheme. What is it that

all these insurance advocates are seeking to insure? Is it the seasons? Is it the growing of food in future years? Is it the availability of medical knowledge and medical practitioners in the future? Or is it merely to save up a few money tickets in case all our printing machinery should fail? Insurance as we have it is the setting aside of money symbols we should be using today for the goods available today with the idea of having them for use at some future time! Fancy brilliant medicos falling for that sort of thing.

**SIGNS OF SENSE**

Fortunately there are signs of dawning sense in some quarters. News has come to hand that St. Patrick's College at Ottawa has included the money business as one of the regular courses in eco-

**TEN WEST AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS PLEDGED TO ABOLISH POVERTY.**

We are informed by the Secretary of the Abolition of Poverty Campaign in Perth that the following members of the new West Australian Parliament are pledged to the abolition of poverty:—Nationalists: Norbert Keenan, K.C.; C. F. J. North, Ross McDonald, Mrs. Car-dell-Oliver, H. V. Shearn. Country Party: T. G. Boyle, D. D. Ferguson, H. S. Seward. Independent: C. I. Doust, T. J. Hughes.

nomics. That is a healthy sign of the times, and we predict that pressure of enlightened public opinion will force a similar development in other colleges and universities throughout the British Empire. A proper understanding of money, and a determination to make it the people's servant instead of their master, will give us true education and transform the world from a place of misery for millions of human beings to a place reflecting general happiness with universal peace and goodwill. We would not have the absurd spectacle of Australian Cabinet Ministers frequently going to London to try to persuade starving people to eat Australian foodstuffs when they have insufficient money to secure them. Sir John Orr asserts that 4½ million persons in England have only 4/- each weekly to spend on food, and on the very same date that this was reported we were told by the Prime Minister that "the forthcoming visit of Mr. Menzies and Dr. Page will be of value not only to the meat industry, but to all the exporting trades." And yet these public men, presumably because of the serious lack of true education, never say a word about the money aspect of the situation!

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

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**A CHRISTIAN'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 1936**

By the Very Reverend HEWLETT JOHNSON, B.Sc., D.D.,  
DEAN OF CANTERBURY, in the London *Daily Mirror* of  
December 31, 1935.

*The first words on Christian lips in 1936 will be the Lord's Prayer. And when we say "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven," we utter the most appropriate Christian resolve for 1936.*

*Our job is to work for God's Kingdom.*

That means war against poverty, insecurity and the soul-destroying indigent idleness, which we call unemployment.

It means much more than that, of course; but that, at least, and that first.

Let us get some principles clear, and then we shall be compelled to say some plain things.

Christ, who started the Kingdom, had much to teach, but if people were hungry He began by saying, "Give them to eat"; if sick, "Arise, take up thy bed and walk."

And He bids us do the same.

*He is especially severe on religious folk who neglect these things; on priest and levite who intent on "religious" duties and observances, pass the wounded man by "on the other side." He commends the religious "outsider" the Samaritan, who does the needed job.*

He pities the unemployed, the insecure, the harassed. In the Parable of the Vineyard, He causes the unemployed labourers, who had done only one hour's work because no one had employed them, to be paid first, and paid as fully as the rest.

No begrudged dole and no stinted dole. They had sweated more in mind if the others had sweated more in body. A living wage for every man is the principle of the Kingdom of God, work or no work, providing they were willing to do their share...

If machines oust men, men have a claim to maintenance out of the increased product of the machine.

These are the principles.

Now the plain speaking.

In Britain alone some 2,000,000 are still unemployed. These numbers, it is officially calculated, will increase.

Six millions suffer poverty.

Millions more are harassed by insecurity.

Three major evils these; breeding nervous ills, family strife, suicides and war.

*Husbands lose their jobs, conceal the fact from their wives, and after a pathetic pretence for months, commit suicide. Babies pine for lack of milk. Parents stint themselves to save their children. Four hundred thousand families live in disgracefully, bad houses.*

Add to this the dread of losing job and livelihood. It touches all alike. Taxes increase. Rich and poor grow poorer together. None can say his position is secure. Automatic looms; automatic cafes, sweetshops, and newspaper stalls; mechanical music and calculating machines, mean labour displaced and jobs lost.

A leading daily this month informs me that a Russian woman, being put in charge of 210 looms, succeeded in producing 3000 yards of faultless cloth in seven hours.

Place beside this picture of poverty and insecurity another picture, that of restriction of production and wanton destruction of commodities.

For the world destroys literally mountains of food.

A Christian's primary duty today is first of all to get his thinking clear. Then to act with all his might.

There is no need for poverty; no need for indigent idleness and want.

Fewer people can make more things.

Yesterday, real scarcity reigned. Then a Christian had to tighten his belt and share his "bit." Today plenty reigns. And a Christian's duty is to secure its distribution and hinder its destruction.

Men and machines stand idle. Goods are destroyed, and their production is restricted. Coffee and oranges are flung in the sea and pigs and cows burned. This destruction need not be.

Commonsense says that the goods are there, and can be increased in any required quantity, while common morality says the need is also there and must be met.

*Quite obviously, in the very nature of things, those goods can be produced, and means can be found to distribute them without a farthing added to taxes, or a cent put on prices, and without the raiding of the pocket of one to fill the pocket of the other.*

It's up to us to make the experts do it. We need not argue or dictate methods; that is not our province. It is our duty to demand results.

If every British voter spoke as follows to his Member of Parliament the thing would soon be done:—

*"I want poverty abolished."*

*"I want goods which are now destroyed or restricted to be distributed."*

*"I want a national dividend, to be distributed, irrespective of work, to every man or woman willing to do their share of the world's necessary work when it is offered to them."*

Just as you and I need not be experts, so neither need our M.P. be an expert. Nor need the Government be experts. Railway shareholders are not experts, neither are railway directors. They engage experts and demand results.

So must we.

\* \* \*

To invite you, and thousands of others like you, to join with me in making this grand demand—you may write to me about it if you feel keenly, my name is sufficient address—is my resolve for 1936, and I do it in the name of those hopeless millions of unemployed, insecure, or poverty-stricken Britons.

**The Abolition of Poverty Campaign in Queensland**

**URGENT APPEAL.**

The plan of campaign and the details for the launching of it are being carefully assembled into one great concrete driving force.

The Campaign Director is working day and night marshalling his forces for the greatest offensive for social reform ever attempted in this State.

Assistance is forthcoming from most unexpected quarters and progress, so far, is decidedly encouraging. One thing is lacking only—money.

The method of launching this Campaign depends entirely on the amount of money forthcoming within the next six weeks.

We require, and must have immediately, thirty (30) subscribers who will donate or be responsible for the donation of twenty-five (25) shillings each to the launching of the campaign fund, so that the job can be done well, and in a way worthy of this great movement. We must launch this Campaign in the City Hall Brisbane—hence this urgent S-O-S for money. Get busy.

Please send your donation, or

your guarantee for same, to:—  
The Campaign Director.

or  
The Hon. Treasurer, "The Abolition of Poverty Campaign," Room 14, Second Floor, 142 Adelaide Street, Brisbane We have pleasure in acknowledging subscription from "S."

**FROTTI FOR BEDLAM!**

("Frotti," whose contributions in *Social Credit* have been reprinted in these pages before, announces his candidature for a vacant seat in North-east Bedlam, and asks your vote and influence.)

**LOVERLY ELECTORS AND ELECTRIXES:**

Frotti (that is Me) asks your supportings for his candidatureships in the Election, brought about by the unfortunate death of the sitting member through a surfeit of paltries (Over-production). I am standing as Labour-Conservative Candidate for North-East Bedlam, on a truthfully constructive programme. My sponsors include Sir Jossier Stump and Sir Willy Beverage, both barrenits with real titles (and no mistake). Sir Jossier says downright that the Fact of Plenty is not in fact a Fact, but only Because there is Too Much. Sir Willy ("Bill" to Me) states frank that we must not Simplify too Carefully, or the problem is in Danger of being Solved. Such opinions must carry wait, I think.

Let us look around us. Take Shipping. In what a bad way is she? It has been found not enough to subsidy shipbuilders for building one ton and scrapping two. We must scrap three or four—make it a dozen, dear old chappies, I implore you, by returning me to the House of Lords. Has not your great Maritime Pote, W. Henley-Marlow, sung, in access of patriotic yearnings,

"The Stately Ships go on— Break! Break! Break!"

Now, the ideas, which marks me out as easily distinguished from all other modern thinking-blokes is that we ought to apply those doctrines to the Unemployed. So far no one else has had the courageous notion of standing up to asseverate candidly that this must be done. There are too many people by far—too much food and necessities, too many ships and machinery, far too many people doing nothing. Not Plenty But Too Much. That is my slogans, Friends.

We ought, I say it without fears or fevers, to scrap three Unemployed Baby born! On that, Sirs, I stand pats.

At the present moments H.M. the King gives Bounty to all parents of Triples, Quadruples and Octaroons. This is not right, with all due respectings to H.M. These peoples should be fined heavily; and it should be by Law established that every Unemployed Man who has a Baby must go out and shoot two other Unemployed Men and then Commit Suicide Himself. This entitles his Wife-Widow to a Subsidy of Five Pounds per Baby.

Electorial Fellows! Here is the solutions you are researching for so long. (See Financial Supplement for simple explications of how money could be raised for Bounty-gifts by simple issues of Funding Loans negotiated by Bank of England.) This is the Fresh Deal, the Raw Deal of your dreamings! Have More Babies. Shoot More Grown-Ups!

And don't get mixed upwards. Just because Bill Beverage, Joss Stump and Clarence Skinner have so much times for making speeches, travelling incogitato, and so forth, does not mean they are Unemployed too. Skinner's Baby does not apply here. These Pillows of Industry must not be Scrapped, please.

AND VOTE FOR FROTTI  
\*Early have I learnt that the boat-life to Englishmens is a woman.

## WHY WOMEN SHOULD SUPPORT THE DOUGLAS PROPOSALS

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

The position of women in the economic sphere is entirely different from that of man in every country in the world except Russia, where it is exactly the same. A curious reason is given for this in *Humanity Uprooted*, by Maurice Hindus. He says that chivalry, as we know it, was never known to the Russian people, so the complete emancipation of women came with remarkable quickness and no fuss at all. Reflect upon that, my sisters, and ask yourselves whether you have not been presented with the gaudy wrapping while the chocolate was withheld! It is worthy of note that those countries that are most generous in attributing to woman—not to women, and herein lies all the difference—qualities most angelic, and almost superhuman are most determined to see that she does not get a fair cut of the national loaf.

As "Woman" (not forgetting the capital letter) she is enthroned and adored, but as "women" she is either just a handy thing to have about the house or a grossly underpaid worker. That this is a fact we find by referring to those poems and songs most treasured in our national literature. A) popular song of the writer's girlhood was "Queen of the Earth," in which these beautiful lines occur:—"An angel in all but name is she,  
O'er earth her vigil keeping,  
Her wings are spread o'er each cradle bed,  
Where the hopes of earth are sleeping."

We were further assured that "wide as the world is her kingdom of power," and that as "Queen of the earth she reigneth alone." It is a sad reflection that when I quoted these lines at a women's dinner recently they were greeted with derisive laughter, because every one of those women, as is the case with most women in Australia, had gone down into the market-place to barter her time and talents with a heavy handicap against her, merely because of her sex.

### SPREAD WINGS—OVER CRADLES ONLY.

Now, this spread-wings business—doesn't it draw tears from your eyes?—has by no means a universal application. For instance, I have never heard of women's wings having been spread over a typewriter or a stethoscope (though that last would have some justification), or a mangle or a washtub. The most humourless would laugh at that. Why? Isn't it because woman can only be an angel when she is economically dependent, and that as wife and mother, when she has no money at all, she is a complete candidate for angelhood?

It is true that some married women have money of their own—very few in Australia, I should imagine—and that since the passing of the Married Women's Property Act they are supposed to have full control of it; but we are not dealing with exceptions now. More often than not, a woman leaves a job that, however inadequately remunerated, at least gave her that which all self-respecting persons desire—the right to spend one's money as one pleases—to enter a state in which she is entirely dependent on another human being for the most trifling necessities. Even if she is not grudging her participation in her husband's earnings, it is not the same thing as her own money, as any man would see at once if the positions were reversed, for whether she is dealt with generously or not depends on the whim or the character of her husband.

### WHY WE OBJECT TO SLAVERY

In our zeal for humanity, especially when it is geograph-

ically distant) we have vigorously opposed slavery, and we become all "het-up" when we hear of it in Arabia or Abyssinia. No doubt, we still shed tears over "Uncle Tom's Cabin." But do we ever ask ourselves what slavery really is? Boiled down, is it not just economic dependence? Was it because the owners sometimes ill-treated their slaves that the rising tide of public opinion swept slavery away? Not at all, because there were probably more St. Clairs than Legrees among those gentlemen of the Southern States of America, just as there are far more good husbands than bad in Australia. It is the underlying principle in both cases—that human freedom and human dignity demand economic independence for all—that brought emancipation to the Negroes.

If I were writing this from the man's point of view, I could point out how adversely women's pitiful dependence reacts on him, beating him in the labour market by cheapness and in marriage strangling him by its dead weight, to say nothing of the loss to his self-esteem in being regarded in the main as a "good provider" or the reverse. But this is for women, and I am asking them whether emancipation means getting a vote in a world where not the politician, but the financier, rules us, or whether it means being adequately paid for services rendered. To work incessantly without definite hours or the protection of a trades

### THE "COMPETITIVE" BANKS

L. J. McConnan (chief manager of the National Bank), in evidence before the Banking Commission:

His bank would view with disfavour the formation of new banks, or of branches of foreign banks, in Australia. About 13 years ago the American Express Company, which was a banking concern, opened an office in Sydney, but pressure was brought to bear, and the bank was closed within a few months.

The Chairman: By whom was this pressure brought to bear?

McConnan: I do not know! The fact was, however, that the position was made intolerable for the company, which withdrew.

\* \* \*

McConnan: I would be sorry to see another bank start, for the simple reason that its chances for success would be negligible. There are difficulties, which it would not overcome, and it might adversely affect the banking system.

The Chairman: What actions would the trading banks take to prevent the entry of a new bank?

McConnan: They might have to seek Government assistance. We could also refuse the bank clearing facilities, which would be embarrassing.

\* \* \*

Discussing the competition between banks, McConnan said that there was a "general understanding" among the Associated Banks not to compete with one another on questions of rate, exchange, and other services.

\* \* \*

Evidence of Percy Gordon (general manager of the Commercial Bank):—

If the customer of another bank approached his bank for a loan, his bank would regard it as a violation of the "gentlemen's agreement" to quote a lower rate of interest than the other bank had quoted.

Mr. J. B. Chiffley: Do not these "gentlemen's agreements" tend to reduce competition?

Gordon: No.

You do not suggest that "gentlemen's agreements" would do anything but harm to competition in ordinary business?

I am not able to express an opinion on ordinary business.

If you regarded the other bank's rate as extravagant, would you not take the business?

Perhaps; the other bank, having more knowledge of the customer and his security, might have good reason to charge its own higher rate.

The Chairman: If his security were first class, would you reject him merely because you knew some other bank was charging him more than that?

Gordon: Knowing him to be a customer of the other bank, I would not quote him a lower rate.

Even though the rate of the other bank was extravagant and unfair? The other bank must decide what is fair for its customer.

union or a wages board, merely for clothes, food and shelter—for the present we leave out the emotional appeal—what can we call it but a name we have been taught to abhor? To know the truth that "it is better to give than to receive," but never to know the happiness of giving, but only the humiliation of receiving; to be subject to the constant question, "What did you do with that money I gave you?" for at best she is but a steward, although health, comfort, life itself depends on the service she renders—what should we call this if we were honest? But we have been taught to be dishonest.

### "UNWOMANLY."

We are kept at a low wage in order that we may not be independent enough to refuse marriage, and while we are not only taught, but almost forced, to build and hope for marriage, we must pretend that we have no such thought. That would be "unwomanly."

Many other things are unwomanly—all the well paid jobs, for instance. Lady doctors are called "unsexed" because they learn about the human body, but lady nurses, who also acquire that guilty knowledge, are "womanly," because they are sweated while doctors make money. If we drop our hypocrisy and make it too plain that we seek a breadwinner, seeing that we are not allowed to be full breadwinners ourselves that is very unwomanly. Why not face facts and admit that under modern conditions, and even more under earlier ones, women have had to chase husbands for the same reason as primitive peoples had to chase the deer—for food?

Many futile struggles have been made by women to alter this state of things. A woman M.P. in West Australia tried to bring in a Bill for Wages for Wives, with the only result that she lost her seat at the next election.

No, my sisters, there is only one way out of it, and Douglas has found it. The National Dividend for every citizen, regardless of age or sex, will allow the housewife to pass on the domestic tasks, if she has no talent or inclination for them, and set her free to express herself or to earn, if she so desires, in a more congenial sphere. If she still prefers the house duties, she will have her own money to spend as she pleases, apart from the housekeeping allowance. Are we out for self-respect and independence? Then we are all out for Douglas.

## The Importance of the Cinema

The enormous influence of the cinema was indicated in a paper entitled, "A Statistical Survey of the Cinema Industry in Great Britain in 1934," which was read before the Royal Statistical Society of England in December. The total number of paid admissions in 1934 to cinemas in Great Britain was 957,000,000, or nearly 22 visits for every man, woman and child. About 42 per cent, of these were at prices of 6cl. or under, and the average price was 10.3d, including tax. Lancashire and Scotland each had one seat to every nine inhabitants; London one to every 14; the Eastern Counties one to every 19.

The cinema industry, in fact, like the newspaper industry, has now become a very effective weapon, in the right hands, for animalising, debasing and distracting the people. And, like the press, it is duly being used for those purposes.

THE "NEW TIMES" IS OBTAINABLE AT ALL AUTHORISED NEWSAGENTS

## WAR—HOW, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY?

By H.W.L.

We are told, firstly, that "War clouds are looming in the East"; that there are "Ominous signs in the West"; that "The North is fearing the worst"; that "The South is hoping for the best"; that in the Centre the balloon is likely to go up at any moment, or words to that effect. From which we gather that there is a distinct probability of war. But will someone (his Excellency the

ing that our young manhood is being urged to learn its part, it seems only reasonable that they should be given a glimpse at the scenario.

If this cannot be produced we will have to be excused for our doubts as to the genuineness of the show, and for looking for the real reason for the hullabaloo in the following extract from the "Argus" cables of 17th inst.:

"A particularly heavy week on the Stock Exchange provided further evidence of the buoyancy of the markets, although price movements are small, with the exception of rail, steel, and armament shares. The general firmness is gratifying, because it shows that there is still plenty of investors ready to take immediate advantage of any reactions. Armament shares are naturally strong, especially aircraft, which showed substantial rises on late dealings on Friday, as a result of the House of Commons debate. Record steel figures for January gave an added impetus to heavy investments in investments, Harland Wolff preference shares touching the highest level in six years. British rail dividends confirmed the best expectations, and substantial rises were recorded. All stocks affected by copper made the best showing in the mining market, because of a heavy European demand for copper for rearmament purposes."

### BANK REFUSAL TO DISCLOSE LONDON FUNDS

Asked by Mr. Justice Napier whether he would have any objection to the publication of the figures of his bank's funds in London in aggregation with those of the other banks, Percy Gordon (general manager of the Commercial Bank) said that such publication "might lead to undesirable speculation in London exchange."

**DEFLATION "NOT UNDESIRABLE."**  
He considered that steps should be taken to fund portion of the existing issue of Treasury bills. . . . The funding of Treasury bills might cause a slight deflation or limitation of credit. It might not be undesirable to a limited extent.  
—Evidence of Percy Gordon, general manager of Commercial Bank, before Banking Commission.

Governor-General in extension of his Goulburn speech, for preference) tell us clearly how, when, where and why? If a doctor decides to gouge out your appendix he tells you straight that he is going to remove the troublesome organ by surgical operation on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock in the X hospital, so as to postpone for a while the moment of your demise. Now, if war is going to take place, some persons somewhere on this earth must be arranging the delightful entertainment for us. It won't "just happen" (as, for instance, do depressions!), and, as this precious war (that's not a bad adjective, "precious", when you come to think of it) is imminent, it seems reasonable to conclude that those persons would not be so unbusinesslike as to make the announcement without having first settled such simple, but important preliminaries as the method, the time, the venue and the reason. Well, see-

**AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARE GOOD COOKS SAY MANY VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS**



—and some are better than others, of course. You will find that most of the best cooks give credit for their success to the ingredients they use. If you could take a peep into thousands of kitchens whilst cakes were being made or dinners being prepared, you would find PINK PACKETS on the majority of tables—the sign of good cooks.

In these PINK PACKETS is Australia's choicest Maize product—KREAM BRAND CORNFLOUR. That is the open secret of success in making many soups, stews, sauces, cakes, puddings and blanc-manges so delicious.

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Maize has arranged a Book of 93 Tested Recipes, covering a wonderful variety of dishes. Send 2d. in stamps and we will gladly post it to you. . . . Listen to the Lee Murray Players, 3AW, Sunday, 7.30 p.m.

**In the Pink Packet**

## SHOT AND SHELL

(With acknowledgments to *Social Credit*.)

Danish Board of Agriculture is issuing instructions for the slaughter of 40,000 sows, to reduce number of pigs produced. —*Sunday Express*, December 1, 1935.

Combined Egyptian Mills, controlling thirty-five cotton spinning mills, reports loss on last year's working of £118,128. Only sixty-seven percent, of spindles were employed during the year. Loans outstanding now total £4,729,679. —*Daily Express*, December 7, 1935.

A new cloth, made from flax and cotton, has been made possible by the invention of a machine which will do a fortnight's work in a day. —*Daily Despatch*, November 29, 1935.

One ton of coal, the product of one miner's day's work, when converted into mechanical energy,

### OUR "AUSTRALIAN" BANKS

Percy Gordon (general manager of the Commercial Bank of Australia) told the Banking Commission that there were 4,156 shareholders on the London register of his company, representing £1,368,285 capital.

will do as much work as one man working for six years.—Mr. Grenfell, M.P., *Daily Express*, December 7, 1935.

Present Argentine wheat crop is smallest for fifteen years, yet Government insists that area sown must not be increased, but kept to "normal limits." —*The Times*, December 16, 1935.

New mechanical letter sorter at Brighton post office can handle 24,000 letters an hour, to any one of 325 destinations. Sorting by hand, besides being much slower, covers only forty-eight boxes, necessitating a further operation. —*The Times*, November 6, 1935.

Female labour increasing in banks, owing to introduction of machines. Since 1929, female staff has increased by over 2000, whilst the male staff has decreased by 4000 in the same period. —*Financial News*, December 5, 1935.

Welsh tinplate works are to produce rolled sheet steel for motorcar bodies by a new American process, at a considerably lower cost. —*Financial Times*, December 21, 1935.

Unemployed schoolmaster, summoned for debt, told court that he maintained a wife and three chil-

dren on £1/15/6 unemployment pay, less 17/6 a week rent.—*Isle of Thanet Gazette*, November 15, 1935.

Still less cotton! American officials are completing plans to reduce acreage by thirty to forty per cent, as against twenty-five to thirty-five per cent, last year, in order to restrict yield still further. The official estimate of stocks at the end of the season is about eight million bales (or one million less than last year), but it is intended to eventually reduce this figure to about five million bales. —*Sunday Chronicle*, December 1, 1935.

"At present, more than sixteen per cent, of the children entering school at five years old are impaired by physical defects non-existent at birth." —*Daily Express*, December 12, 1935.

Official figures of British coal output, and total employed at mines are as follow:—

Week ending	Tons	Persons employed
Dec. 1, 1934	4,588,400	766,300
Nov. 30, 1935	4,949,400	751,800

an increase in production of 361,000 tons, whilst employment has dropped 14,500. —*Board of Trade Journal*, December 12, 1935.

In spite of the fact that the United States have found (or made) work for about 5,000,000 unemployed in the last two years, the total unemployed still remains just under 11,000,000. —*The Times*, December 5, 1935.

In Great Britain, sixty-nine percent, of the shipbuilding berths are still idle. —*Financial News*, December 6, 1935.

## A Crusader for Victoria

What Douglasite has not heard of John Hogan? This brilliant young orator, who for the last few years has been touring N.S.W. and Queensland spreading the knowledge of Douglas, intends to make a tour of Victoria. On his other tours John Hogan has managed to pay his own way by means of collections, etc., at meetings, and by being boarded by Douglas enthusiasts. It is felt, however, that he should not start a tour of Victoria without some financial backing, and so all friends of the movement are appealed to for assistance in this popular cause. Offers of accommodation and help in arranging meetings in country towns will also be welcomed. Send your donations and suggestions to the Hon. Secretary, Douglas Credit Movement, Block Arcade, Melbourne, marked "John Hogan Appeal."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PROTESTING AGAINST TAXATION.

I am afraid your Mr. Bruce Brown has only wasted energy in protesting to the Commissioner of Taxes (*New Times*, Feb. 7). He evidently does not realise that to "head slaves" slavery as an institution is a good thing. While I quite realise that he is right in protesting, and that taxation is merely the measure of our enslavement to the thieving financial swindle, I don't think that Mr. Chenoweth will be much concerned, as he has a cushy job in the extortion part of the Finance-Banking mechanism. If the Taxpayers' Association want taxation lessened, make the Government transfer the costs for salaries, etc., of all taxing bodies to the banking system—part of which they really are, and so for the present lighten the people's burden. No relief can really come until the gutless and brain-befogged people think it worthwhile to move as a mass.

EUGENE TAYLOR.

Spring Street, Melbourne.

### PLENTY OF MONEY FOR WAR

Can anybody, student, professor, politician, or just the man in the street, balance, up the news in the *Age* of February 10, page 9, and get a different result from me?

It starts with a small patch, stating that our Government wants two highly qualified men for positions in the new External Affairs Department and practically admits a very poor remuneration. As one of the public it represents, I object to underpaying men in responsible positions. We have too much graft as it is without laying ourselves out to encourage it deliberately. But, of course, we can't afford to pay more.

But England is spending three to four hundred million pounds for killing machinery and Germany is providing 46 new vessels to the fleet. America has 11½ millions out of work and England a couple more. England thinks about spending 2½ to 3 millions on a sugar subsidy (like us). Who pays for all this? And the Migration Scheme is more hopeful under the suggestion that Labor and Capital both come out in the same boat.

The handful of overlords who rule the world are getting away with it as easily as winking. And if it is so easy for them to lead the world into a hell on earth, as they are about to do, how much easier for the people to send them to the same destination (without a definite locality)?

To the Social Credit man, how futile it all seems! How can we teach our fellows to save themselves before it is too late? For I begin to fear. I think our overlords see the writing on the wall and what would be left of us after the world war they are engineering.

"F.M."

### THREE DEATHS TO SAVE A WATER BILL

Many a reader must have read with dismay the report of the evidence given at the coroner's inquest on 11th inst. into the deaths of three unfortunates who lost their lives when an explosion occurred while they were working on the construction of a new petrol tank at Newport a few weeks ago. This accident is another example of the present criminal economic system, where employers and employees alike are scrambling for their share of the diminishing purchasing power (money).

The company's engineer was apparently insufficiently experienced to realise the danger of transferring water from one tank to another through a pipe line that contained petrol, instead of filling the new tank direct from the Yan Yean main—which would have been an extra cost to the firm of £67—and tried to save this amount. The result has been the deaths of two family

breadwinners and a good son, their dependants now losing their economic security—robbed from them by the present economic system. How long will it be before employers and employees alike unite to abolish this nightmare?

A. J. AMESS.

### ADVICE TO STRIKERS

I am an interested reader of your paper, but I cannot understand the advice given to the workers in the article, "To the Strikers of Australia" (*New Times*, Feb. 14).

The strikers of Australia are fighting a life and death struggle with the same financial gang as your paper so fearlessly exposes; yet we have the workers receiving such defeatist advice as, "Strikes certainly get you nowhere." I think that an appeal to other unions for active support, such as refusing to unload or repair scab ships, would be much more welcome to the strikers. If such a policy were advocated and followed financial gangsters would certainly do some hard thinking before making fresh attacks on the workers' conditions.

In the same article the strikers are told that increases in wages mean increases in the prices of goods they buy. I don't think that the sustenance workers, who won increases in pay by striking, would agree with this.

It must be apparent that the attacks of the financial monopolists are directed at the workers, farmers and small business people. These sections of the people must unite and take up the immediate challenge, and support the strikers of Australia, as well as combining their forces for the future.

"FORWARD."

(We suggest to our correspondent that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. What percentage of strikes, here or abroad, have ever won their objective? A general strike, to be effective, must command the active support of practically all the industrial workers and the passive support of potential strike-breakers—don't overlook the latter—including the forces of the Crown. Even if it were successful, or partly so, the sufferers during the upheaval would be the rank and file of the community, and especially the strikers themselves; rarely or never the financiers who are the real enemy. Our contention is that the objective of the general strike—better conditions for all—could be won without any suffering, with very little organisation, and with far lesser numbers than the strike would require, through a united demand for results by a simple majority of voters, in or out of "work," in a majority of electorates.

As for the "victory" of sustenance workers, who pays? Any increases they get must come out of taxation or out of loans (which comes to the same thing). And is not taxation passed on in the price of goods? Admittedly sectional increases of pay (or of doles) may bring a momentary relief to a favoured few until there is a general levelling down; but even these gains are at the expense of their fellow workers and not at that of the financiers. —Ed. "N.T.")

### GOOD NEWS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Evidence at Banking Commission: Percy Gordon (general manager of the Commercial Bank) said that the reduction of interest rates was not as great a factor in the recovery of Australia as was popularly imagined. The effect had been LARGELY PSYCHOLOGICAL.

## HOSPITAL FINANCE

By J. K. LONG.

The Queen Victoria Hospital being "anxious now to pay off an overdraft of £25,000, the interest on which is £1250 a year, it is making, over a period of three months, a canvass of the city and suburbs in an endeavour to raise the amount of the principal." —*Argus*, 15th inst.

We have grown used to such appeals. We have, in fact, grown rather tired of being continually appealed to for this or that hospital or charitable institution. Almost as tired as the people who wait their turn for admission to, or in queues for treatment at the same overcrowded and inadequate institutions.

Our charitable instincts have not died within us. We are still as charitably disposed as ever we were, but we cannot give what we have not got. Our all too meagre incomes are already so whittled down by this tax and that, that we simply cannot afford to give as we would like. And, when one realises that a considerable proportion of such gifts goes to pay interest, some reluctance and perhaps a passing reference to a certain Venetian gentleman, on the part of the giver, is, I think, excusable.

For far too long have we allowed our hospitals to struggle under conditions which make it impossible for them to give that degree of service which is the aim of their administrations.

Lack of accommodation, lack of equipment, and inadequate and under-paid staffing are only a few items which make the achievement of those aims impossible and cause the sick untold and unnecessary suffering.

The hospital authorities dare not incur further debt to carry out extensions or improvements because of their—in almost every case—precarious financial position neither do they dare default in their interest payments. Already we have been told at different times that certain of our hospitals would have to close their doors unless sufficient financial help was forthcoming.

### COMMONSENSE FINANCE.

When are we going to display some common sense and real concern for the sick by putting one of our most vital community undertakings on a sound foundation? The old question again: "Where is the money to come from?"

From precisely the same source as that which I suggested for the railways in last week's issue—an issue of interest-free credit by the Commonwealth against the real wealth of the nation—Social Credit—issued in exactly the same way as credit is issued at the present time, but NOT bearing interest.

"Inflation!" Certainly not. By such a process you would merely make up some of the leeway between purchasing power and the collective price of goods and services, which are for sale. That deficiency which causes us to keep our belts taut while we watch goods being destroyed, or restricted in their production. Little wonder our own kookaburras laugh at us.

Some millions of pounds could be spent in paying off the interest-bearing debts of the hospitals of Australia; in extending their accommodation to full requirements; in providing all equipment desirable, and in providing adequate and properly paid staffs.

There is only one section of the community, which will oppose such action—the very small section that continues to draw its interest on hospital overdrafts from Government Charity Grants and donations given for the relief of the sick.

Printed by H. E. Kuntzen, 309-319 Lonsdale Place, Melbourne for the New Times Pty. Ltd. Elizabeth House, Melbourne.

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