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Vol. 11. No. 37.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1936.

Every Friday, 3d

# Australian M.P.'s Declare Fascism

## Minister For Customs White And Mr. Hutchinson, M.H.R., Will Give Us What They Think Is Good For Us

In the last two issues of the *New Times* a good deal has been written on the subject of the red herring. A further species of the same family now being zigzagged across the trail is that pet of Mr. R. G. Menzies—democracy. Democracy (always in the abstract) is the favourite theme of our Attorney General these days, and especially as depicted in contrast with the terrible conditions abroad, where his twin devils of dictatorship, Fascism and Communism, are held up as horrible examples. Thus, in accordance with the good old principle of turning the eyes of the fool towards the ends of the earth, the horrible example of Spain, and particularly in its Fascist rather than its Communist prospects, is being paraded before us at the moment in order that we may be duly grateful for the benefits of democracy.

It is not proposed here to add anything to the welter of discussion on the Spanish war. There is one opinion only that we should like to venture about Spain, which is that when the unfortunate Spaniards have finished slaughtering one another, whichever side appears to win (or to provide any survivors) will have the task of imposing bigger and better taxation or of handing over further Spanish assets to "pay" for that war which is today being paid for so fully and so tragically. Spain, in all human probability, will have less liberty and less economic security than ever. This, however, is by the way—the point we wish to make being that Australians, far from exercising vigilance to preserve their democracy, should wake up and fight tooth and claw to regain it. For there is precious little democracy in Australia today.

### ELECTIONS TO RE-PRESENT OUR VIEWS

You may say that such a statement is absurd. If you do, you will proceed to prove its absurdity by adducing our elective parliamentary system. But what does that prove? Don't they have elections in Germany? Does not the new Russian constitution provide for universal suffrage? To be sure they do, you will say, but such elections are a farce, since in Germany only Hitler, and in Russia only a Communist may be a candidate.

Well, what better choice have you in Australia as things are today—as you have allowed things to be?

The essence of democratic government is not the marking of a cross on a ballot paper, but the election of real representatives. The word "representatives" indicates men who will re-present, men who will carry out in Parliament the wishes and the instructions of those who send them there. And you don't get this in Australia—or at least only in a dwindling number of instances. To prove the point let us quote the written and considered views of presents M.P.'s.

### HITLER HUTCHINSON, M.H.R.

Readers of the *New Times* are constantly forwarding to us letters, which they receive in reply to correspondence entered into by them in accordance with our advice, "Don't blame your M.P.—tell him." (In passing, we are grateful for such illuminating letters—and we would ask our readers, when forwarding to us any

letters they receive, to send us, please, the originals and not copies, in order that there may be no possibility of inadvertent misquotations.)

Two such letters will serve to illustrate our case. The first is from Mr. W. J. Hutchinson, member for Indi in the Federal House; the second from Mr. T. W. White, the Minister for Trade and Customs.

Mr. Hutchinson's letter contained his general views on the relationship between a member of Parliament and those who made him a member, as follows:—

"As regards your last point and the attitude of a Member to his electors, let me briefly say that in my opinion a Member should, always endeavour to give leadership. This is his first and real function. He is placed in a position where he has every information, and by concentrating all the time on political problems should be in a better position to judge than a great number of his constituents. By coming into contact with Members from all over the continent he should be able to see matters from the Australian point of view—this I think

you will agree is vitally necessary. In a nutshell, he is a person elected by a section of the people of a nation to represent a nation and not a section."

Now, before you democrats who have read that start hunting up your most ancient eggs for Mr.

### DEAR FRIENDS.

"Sun" headlines, Sept 2: —  
"Poland Turns To France."  
"Move To Restore Old  
Friendship."

In the next news item on the same page:—"According to the Paris correspondent of the 'News-Chronicle' General Rydz-Smigly is discussing a French loan of 48,000,000 francs to finance Polish rearmament. It is proposed that 80 per cent, be spent on armament contracts in France and the balance on the construction of armament factories."

Hutchinson, M.H.R. for the nation, just see for yourselves to what heights of wisdom "every information," "concentrating all the time on political problems," and "coming in contact with members from all over the continent" have elevated the gentleman. Mr. Hutchinson's

letter was dated August 7, and in the course of the paragraph preceding the one we have quoted he wrote: "I might mention that as a woolgrower myself I am looking forward to an excellent wool season. . . . The position of wheat is as you know eminently satisfactory."

One wonders does Mr. Hutchinson still find the position and prospects of wheat eminently satisfactory? And as a woolgrower how does he like this from last Saturday night's *Herald*: "In Sydney on Monday the percentage of sales to offerings was 87, and on Thursday it had fallen to 66 p.c.?" Or this: "Although the average price a lb. for the wool was 12.8d as against 12.9d for the corresponding week last season, last year's average covered 94 p.c. of the offerings, whereas the average for the week under review covered only 78 p.c.?"—meaning that had the wool passed in (mostly of inferior grades) also been sold the average price would have come tumbling down.

The concluding sentence of Mr. Hutchinson's views on the position of an M.P. reads: "As regards the wishes of the majority of his

*His Excellency Lord Gowrie, Governor-General of Australia.*

*Your Excellency,*

*By virtue of your office any public utterance of yours is widely read and widely discussed. What a pity, therefore, that it should not first be carefully considered.*

*Had the speech you delivered at the Adelaide Show on Monday come from one in a less exalted position we should have felt justified in calling it sheer bunk. Seeing you are what you are, may we be privileged to point out just a few of its inaccuracies?*

*In the first place, you said: "The question of markets is the crux of the situation. If we are going to have more producers on the land we must have more consumers, and we must never forget that the city, swallows what the country produces." That's just the trouble, your Excellency—the city is not swallowing what the country is producing, any more than the country is consuming what the city is making or prepared to make. If, as you say, "it is vitally, important to increase this home market by every means in our power, to bring to this market more mouths to eat our wheat, more bodies to wear our wool, more people to be housed, warmed and transported" (please don't use that word again) "and to share our overhead expenses; in other words, a larger population is essential to the progress of this country"—if all this be true, if it is only a matter of mouths and bellies, then why is not India, for instance, the most prosperous country in the world? Mere numbers, your Excellency, do not make a market. That requires something else. It requires numbers WITH CASH. But you were as shy on this aspect as any bank director or University economist.*

*You went on to say: "On a larger population this country's very existence will depend. The most prevalent disease and the root of most of the troubles of the world today is land hunger... Greedy eyes and hungry eyes are turned on this great undeveloped country of Australia." Does your Excellency really believe this tale of a cross-eyed world? And, if so,*

*would you mind explaining why, except for officials, the European Powers have hardly attempted to colonise the fertile lands in their recently acquired and sparsely settled African possessions, whether pre-war or post-war; why the Japanese have not been pouring in their millions into Manchukuo. In 1914 Italy's colonies in Africa contained only about 8000 Italians; New York had nearly half a million—land hunger? In all of Germany's pre-war colonies there were only about 25,000 Germans; Manhattan contained many times more—land hunger? Japan lost over a quarter of a million men to win South Manchuria from Russia; a quarter of a century later the living Japanese in that country had not equalled the dead—land hunger? And what about stout little Britain herself? In all her Dominions, Crown Colonies, Protectorates, Mandates, and what not put together, will you find as many Englishmen today as there are in London?*

*No your Excellency, Australia's first problem is to fill the mouths, to clothe properly the bodies and to house decently the people who already live in Australia. And we would remind you, in your own words, "This is a market which we can control ourselves." As for the hungry-eyed foreigner, if you mean Japan, all she wants of us is the opportunity to give us a generous measure of her goods in return for some of our surplus raw materials.*

*You confessed in Adelaide that you could not suggest a solution of our difficulties, cruxes or problems, that this would require the best brains of Britain and the Dominions.*

*Don't be so modest, your Excellency. You'll probably be opening the Melbourne Show directly. Just you get up there and suggest that our internal economic problems could readily be solved, and overseas friendships be assured by giving to the people of Australia enough money to buy the whole of their own production, and thus enabling them to exchange exports for imports. If you do, you'll be surprised at the reception you will receive.*

THE NEW TIMES

people, this can only be accurately gauged at election time."

We very earnestly recommend the majority of Mr. Hutchinson's constituents to keep the above well in mind when he again seeks accurately to gauge their wishes.

### WHITE FOR THE CONSOLIDATED EMPIRE.

Mr. White's letter, dated August 25, and likewise dealing with the anti-Japanese tariff, also adopted the "nation" attitude. "I note," he wrote to his constituent, "that you request that I do as you wish in a matter that concerns yourself otherwise you will use every endeavour to persuade fellow electors in my constituency to put my name at the bottom of the list as you intend to do." (Mr. White, who was apparently rather hot and bothered, poured it all out like that, without pausing for as much as a comma.) "Your attitude is regrettable, but nevertheless I will always prefer to do what is right for the nation rather than heed the threats of individuals actuated by their own self-interest."

Isn't he a brave little man? But do you notice the same impudent attempt to draw across the trail the abstract herring of "the nation" against the individuals who comprise the nation—and particularly those individuals within it whose views Mr. T. W. White is allegedly representing?

Mr. White also expressed his opinion—or is it "the nation's"?—on the Australian-Japanese trade position. "I think," he wrote, "the Prime Minister's broadcast and the statements by the Minister for Trade Treaties and myself from time to time have made it abundantly clear that a consolidation of Empire trade is to the interest not only of the Empire generally but of ourselves in particular. Undoubtedly personal inconveniences and some trade dislocation must be suffered in changes from time to time; but trade is never static and there must be alterations in our tariff to respond to world changes."

These sentiments are purely and simply Imperialist-Fascist. Because J. A. Lyons, Henry Gullet, T. W. White and Co. say so, the people of Australia, whose servants they are, should be prepared to put up with "personal inconveniences and some trade dislocation," as Mr. White so happily puts it. In other words the electors of Australia are not to be the judges of their own affairs. They are to be given "leadership." What is good for them is to be made "abundantly clear" by political mountebanks of the White variety. And the same T. W. White, as you will remember, when the anti-Japanese tariff was first imposed, ran for his life to rusticate amongst the pearl divers off North Queensland while Henry Gullett was left to do the dirty work. So our pocket Fascist has not even the courage of Fascism.

You will notice, too, T. W. White's order of precedence. For him "the Empire generally" comes before "ourselves in particular." Mr. Hutchinson is M.P. for Australia; Mr. White is M.P. for the Empire. The eyes of the fool—

One would like to get Mr. White's concrete definition of the abstraction, "Empire." By Empire does he mean the South Africans who are now very sensibly trying to get for themselves the trade which he and his fellow

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(Continued on page 3)

conspirators (we use that word deliberately) are so busily throwing away from Australia? Or does he refer to the people of Britain who are now so consolidated that exactly one half of them are suffering from insufficient food, due to poverty, while their Government is fining farmers who produce more than their quota? Or is it that the Empire which Mr. White represents is the one envisaged by a member of the *Argus* staff who wrote a fortnight ago: "It was the series of similar actions taken successively by the Dominions embraced in the British Empire that impressed upon Japan that Australia's action was but one phase of Great Britain's far-flung policy to obstruct Japan's expansion of foreign trade through artificial means?" Whatever be Mr. White's definition, events are now making it "abundantly clear" that "ourselves in particular" have everything to lose and nothing to gain from the dictatorship over us which is being exercised by himself and the other agents for the bankers' consolidation.

Had these men the least spark of democracy they would never have embarked upon a trade war in the name of the Australian people without consulting the electors. They have proclaimed themselves ready to hold a referendum, at a cost to taxpayers of £100,000, upon a marketing issue from which they may hope to gain added powers. This Japanese issue transcends the other, since not only does it affect prices; upon it depends whether or not sales will be made at any price, and it is, in addition, a direct step on the way to the one military war which the so-called British financiers seek—the war to crush Japan. Yet there is no talk of a referendum on this. On the contrary there has been a deliberate flouting of the people, a deliberate avoidance of any form of consultation with them, and even a deliberate withholding from them of all material information. Over and over again this little gang of Fascist politicians has made a show of having certain mysterious information, which, if divulged, would allegedly cause the people to concur with the action taken. Over and over again Henry Gullet has served out blanks about his alleged negotiations with Japan. And the people of Australia know no more today than they knew nearly four months ago—except that they are being deliberately robbed in the sacred name of Empire. Empire is the right word, for the legal fiction of a British Commonwealth of Nations has no existence in fact, as far as Australia is concerned. Hitler's Nordic Empire has nothing on the British Fascist Empire, which overrides our parliamentary institutions, just as the traitorous King Montagu Norman overrides our constitutional King Edward.

### COMPEL M.P.s TO SHOW THEIR HANDS.

But the position, though desperate, can yet be retrieved. It is still possible to reinstate democracy by returning to Parliament men (or women) who are pledged to carry out the electors' wishes. And a very useful step in that direction is to draw from present members of Parliament, through direct questioning, a statement as to where they stand. We now know that Mr. Hutchinson does not consider himself the servant of his constituency, but rather the judge of what is good for his constituents; and we know how sound his judgment has proved. Likewise we know where Mr. White stands—what *he* thinks is right for the nation (and the Empire) is to be supreme over personal inconvenience and trade dislocation. That such statements and others of similar import should be obtained is all to the good. They are useful at any time; and

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## CASES FROM THE DING BAT COURTS

From Our Foreign Correspondent, WILLIAM BLACKSTONE

### The King v. Schweinhundwascher

In the Criminal Court at Ding Bat yesterday, before Mr. Justice Doggbiskit, the hearing of the case of *The King v. Schweinhundwascher* was proceeded with. The accused is charged with obtaining money under false pretences in that he obtained from John Nitwitt the sum of £500 on the pretence that he was negotiating for the purchase of a turtle farm in Fiji.

The accused in evidence stated that he had no intention of purchasing a turtle farm in Fiji or anywhere else, but in view of the fact that he had done nothing whatever he was justified in stating that he was negotiating.

Mr. Dimwit, K.C., who appeared for the accused, then asked his Honor, Mr. Justice Doggbiskit, for an adjournment until tomorrow so that witnesses might be called to support the statement of the accused.

His Honor. —"Who are these witnesses, Mr. Dimwit, and how can they support such rubbish?"

Mr. Dimwit. —"The witnesses, Your Honor, are Sir Henry Wind-

### PEACE GUARANTEES.

From "Argus" report of peace meeting in Melbourne Town Hall on September 7:

Archbishop Head expressed his sympathy with the meeting, but stated that the best guarantee of world peace was a strong British empire, for the defence of which Christian citizens must be prepared to make sacrifices.

"Argus," September 8.

A message from Jerusalem says that British troops travelling in a lorry were fired on by Arabs three miles from Nablus, which is 30 miles north of Jerusalem. It is reported that several soldiers were wounded, three Royal Air Force machines, in response to a wireless call, pursued the raiders, who escaped and sought refuge in caves.

—Same paper, same day.

The Karachi correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says that concentrations of Mohammeds and other tribesmen are reported to have taken place on the North-West Frontier, where recently there was considerable propaganda concerning events in Palestine. It is stated that all strategic points round Peshawar have been occupied by British and Indian troops, and that additional bombers have been sent to Royal Air Force stations on the frontier.

—Same paper, same day.

pipe, a member of the Cabinet of Dire Straits, and Mr. Tigers, the Prime Minister of our glorious Dominion. Your Honor will doubtless remember that recently the Cabinet (in the absence of Parliament) imposed a savage tariff upon the imports from the Melanesian Empire. Since then, negotiations have been proceeding, as Your Honor may well know after perusing the columns of the *Ding Bat Cerberus*, and, actually, nothing has been done, but from day to day the *Cerberus* has reported that negotiations have been proceeding. We feel in the circumstances that the evidence of Sir Henry and Mr. Tigers would clearly show that the word "negotiation" must be deemed to have acquired a new connotation and must be deemed to include nothing or anything.

His Honor. —"Why is he not here—this man Windbag?"

they will be very useful indeed when the next election campaign begins. Technical issues are the bankers' device for confusing and dividing the people. But even the simplest and most unlettered elector should not be hard to convince that the Member of Parliament exists to carry out his wishes, and not *he* to carry out the member's wishes.

There is no good in talking about abolishing either poverty or war until this point is decided. And in order to give sitting members the benefit of any doubt, their views should be ascertained—and *at once*.

Mr. Dimwit. —"Windpipe, Your Honor."

His Honor. —"Of course—I regret the error, if any."

Mr. Dimwit. —"He will be here tomorrow, Your Honor. The reason he is not here today is that he has to travel through an area populated by the farmers and sheep men on whose behalf he has been negotiating. As the populace is not yet fully disarmed it was thought advisable that Sir Henry should travel under the cover of night."

His Honor. —"Quite so, Mr. Dimwit. But what of this man Tigers—why is he not here?"

Mr. Dimwit. —"I am unable at present to tell Your Honor. The subpoena was properly served, but the gentlemen instructing, who have listened to the statesmanlike utterances of Mr. Tigers, have expressed to me some doubt as to his ability to read or understand a written document. It is possible that Mr. Tigers mistook the subpoena for his annual testimonial from the Usurers' Protection League. We shall make enquiries overnight and advise Your Honor in the morning."

His Honor. —"Very well, Mr. Dimwit. The Court will adjourn until 10.30 tomorrow morning."

(The case stands part heard.)

### Sikes v. Lagg

In the Practice Court at Ding Bat this morning Mr. Justice Whydoncherknow gave the following judgment:—

"In this case the plaintiff claims an interlocutory injunction to restrain the defendant from repeating a slander. It appears, and, in fact, on the affidavits is proved to demonstration, that the defendant has wilfully and maliciously spoken and published of the plaintiff the words, 'He is a politician.' The plaintiff seeks to restrain the defendant from the repetition of the slander.

"The plaintiff and the defendant both follow on the common and necessary profession of burglary and housebreaking. I use the word, necessary, advisedly, because without burglars where would the community be? What says the great

Hokus, C. J.? If there were no criminals there would be no lawyers—a condition as contrary to commonsense as it is revolting to the judicial mind. What would the community do without lawyers? Who would then by diligent statement of the recondite intricacies of scientific jurisprudence obscure what might otherwise be intelligible to the layman's mind? It is unnecessary to refer to the monumental statements on this subject promulgated by Half-Witte, J. and Hogwash, P. M.

"It appears that the plaintiff and the defendant quarrelled over a division of the loot obtained or the last job, and the defendant, being disappointed with his share spoke and published to some of his colleagues the words complained of.

"It has been argued before me that the words are not slanderous I myself consider they are grossly

### "FOOD FOR REFLECTION."

The London Chamber of Commerce Journal for August reports that nearly 1300 business men attended a meeting organised by the Chamber to hear an address on air raid precautions by an official of the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office. The speaker urged business men to prepare their own air raid precaution schemes, and, if they wished, to submit them to the Department for criticism. It was essential, he said, that everyone should be prepared. The air bombing of the future would be very different from anything that took place in the last war, but there were reasonable precautions that could be taken, and although the cost of affording complete protection against direct hits and certain types of high explosive was considerable, much could be done to provide protection against splinters, blast and gas.

At the close of the address, Sir Stephen Demetriadi, president of the Chamber, said that the meeting had been given "much food for reflection."

and offensively slanderous. I come to this conclusion on twenty-four grounds, which it is unnecessary for me to set out in detail.

"On the question as to whether an injunction should be granted I have more doubt. I consider the slander so horrible and revolting that I doubt whether the defendant would ever be inclined to repeat it.

"However I should like to hear further argument on this point. The case will be adjourned until Thursday next."

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## THE RESULT OF WORK-AND THE RESULT OF BUNK

(From the "West Australian Wheatgrower.")

Here we are at the homestead of Mr. John Ordinary Farmer; without waste of time we catch him at home and ask him to tell us in a few words the story of his farm. He tells us this story: Selected the property over twenty years ago; it was then virgin bush and had never produced an ear of wheat. He built a shack, cleared and fenced big areas and soon had his first crop planted. Almost without exception every year since then he has produced sufficient wheat—real wealth—to feed hundreds of people. He has literally carved a highly valuable farm from the raw bush. In addition, he has stocked his farm with sheep, each year he has added to the world's supply of wool and thus provided material for clothing for hundreds of people. From every point of view John has delivered the goods. Please don't forget that our old friend, the great god Bunk, comes into this—he is just about to enter. We now say to John, "We take it that it must give you a nice comfortable feeling inside to know that after your years of labour and sacrifice you own all this." As we say it we let our arm make a sweeping gesture covering the whole farm. John looks at us—then he replies. I wish the Editor would let me print the reply, but Editors are very touchy gentlemen and our Editor suggests that a reply which could anyway only be printed on asbestos—it would burn anything else—must be cooled down a bit. So here is what John said in effect: "Own all this? Good heavens, man, I don't own the flaming place! The deeds of this property are being held by that beautiful bank in town!"

You have just heard John tell you the result of hard work. Now get ready to have a good hearty laugh when I tell you a funny story—so funny that a lot of people can't see the joke. After leaving Mr. J. Ordinary Farmer we return to the town and interview the bank manager. He receives us kindly, offers us a cigar and a "spot." We say to him: "Mr. Manager, is it true that you are holding the deeds of Mr. J. Ordinary Farmer's farm

and therefore virtually own the property?" The manager chuckles and we chuckle—chuckling is like yawning; it's catching. "Do we hold the deeds and do we virtually own the farm? Man alive, we hold the deeds and virtually own nearly all the farms in Australia. I see you look surprised, but let me tell you a secret. All these farmers are worshippers of the great god Bunk. I'm a priest, you know, and by cripes, it's easy. You see, it's like this: The only darn thing I ever produce is a column of figures,

### Canadian M.P. Inquires for Australian Correspondent

(The letter below is printed in the hope that it will meet the notice of the correspondent named.—Ed. N.T.)

House of Commons,  
Canada,  
August 6, 1936.

The Editor,  
The New Times,  
Melbourne, Australia. Dear Sir,  
Recently I received a very kind and interesting letter, also copies of your most excellent paper, from Mr. Dodds. Unfortunately, I have lost his letter and address, so am writing to your paper in the hope that you will print it and that Mr. Dodds will accept my sincere apologies and regrets for failure to answer him. If he cares to write again I will appreciate it and answer him with the greatest pleasure. With every wish for your continued and increased success,  
Yours sincerely,  
NORMAN JAQUES.  
Mirror, Alberta.

and we have succeeded in getting all these poor mug farmers, and mug workers in the cities, to believe the bunk that the job of producing figures is more important than growing wheat, raising sheep, and producing secondary products. Good joke, don't you think? Have another 'spot'!  
Do you think it is time we formed a Debunking Association?

## The Two Lees on Money

The Hobart *Examiner* of September 2 contains a report of the presidential address at the annual conference of State schoolteachers. The president stated that as a teacher of many years standing he had come to realise that much of his work had been futile because it had lacked completeness. Every teacher could give numerous instances of boys and girls leaving school having reached a standard expected of children of nine or ten years of age. Yet around them were to be seen great numbers of men with enforced leisure, but spending their time uselessly. This was most marked in the case of adolescents who since leaving school had obtained little or no work. "Our leaders," continued the president, "are quite aware of this canker, yet we see little attempt to deal with it. Hundreds of young men of a good type are wandering around looking for work. A system, which produces such things, should be scrapped. The excuse given is finance—but money to put the defences of Australia in order was immediately forthcoming."

The above criticism of the financial system was spoken by Mr. Robert Lee, a headmaster of considerable standing. Compare his remarks with those of another Lee—Sir Robert, one time blacksmith—in an address to the Women's National League (Lord save the nation!):—

"He warned his audience not to listen to the claims which had been put forward for monetary reform and the use of social credit. Was it possible that poverty could be abolished this side of the millennium? Where was the national dividend to come from? It must come from somewhere. . . . He wanted to warn them when Mr. Ogilvie and Mr. Carruthers, the Social Credit member, came along, to take little heed of their wild, new-fangled ideas on credit control."

What does old Walter mean by "new fangled"?

## What the Unemployed Get

A Melbourne correspondent writes to ask what exactly do the metropolitan unemployed get including all allowances.

We append the answer, as taken from *Hansard* of August 26:—  
UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.  
Sustenance, Rent, and Other Allowances

Mr. DIFFEY (*Wangaratta*) asked the Minister of Labour—

1. Whether the Government is paying rent for unemployed men on sustenance in the metropolis, and also providing them with free milk, firewood, and clothing?

2. If so, what amount is being paid weekly to a married sustenance worker with five children for himself, his wife, and five children—(a) for sustenance; (b) for rent; (c) for milk; (d) for firewood; and (e) for clothing?

MR. MACKRELL (Minister of Labour).—The answers are—

1. With the exception of free milk, yes. Rental assistance, however, is subject to certain prescribed conditions, which include, *inter alia*, a Court order of eviction.

2. (a) Where not working in return for sustenance—17s per week, and for each male unemployed dependant under 21 years of age, and for each unemployed female dependant irrespective of age, 3s. 6d per week; 5s per week for each unemployed employable male dependant over 21 years of age. Provided in any instance the total value of sustenance

does not exceed 45s per week. Where working in return for sustenance—28s per week and for each unemployed dependant residing with the applicant—(a) 3s. 6d per week for each dependant under 16 years of age; (b) 5s per week for each male 16 years of age and under 21 years of age; (c) 5s per week for each female 16 years of age or over; (d) 10s per week for each unemployed employable male dependant over 21 years of age. Provided in any instance the total value of sustenance does not exceed 58s. 6d per week.

(b) At present, of 8100 families in receipt of sustenance in the metropolitan area, 750 families are being assisted to a maximum of 8s per week.

(c) There is no free distribution of milk to recipients of sustenance. From an annual grant of £2413, head teachers of schools, however, distribute milk to all children who, in their opinion, are undernourished.

(d) Summer issue, 1 cwt. Per family per week; winter issue, 1½ cwt. per family per week.

(c) There is no defined allocation for families in receipt of sustenance. All necessitous cases, both in the metropolitan and country areas, are provided with boots and clothing in so far as funds made available for that purpose will permit.

## Living Standards

We must keep out the products of sweated labour and protect Australia's high standard of living.

—The Prime Minister, at any time since he imposed the overseas bankers' tariff against Japanese goods.

\* \* \*

### JAPAN:

No one will deny that, in some Eastern countries, abominably low standards of living do exist. But this term, with its new implications of servitude, starvation wages and downright want, can hardly be applicable to Japan. We do not see how "low standard of living" fits a people who take two baths a day, keep their houses spotlessly clean, wear silk, and have enough soul left after a hard day's work to write a poem and hang it on a cherry tree.

—From an article in the Melbourne *Herald* of September 5, by the Australian, P. V. Russo, a professor in the Imperial University of Commerce, Tokio.

\* \* \*

### AUSTRALIA:—

No figures showing the actual cost of food a head of Australian families have yet been prepared by the Federal Nutrition Inquiry, but the figures published in the *Herald* recently showing that the food expenditure by Australian families ranges between 6/- and 7/- a head are correct . . .

—Melbourne *Herald*, September 7.

If the wage received by the Australian people was less than would provide milk and a reasonable standard of living, it should be altered.

—W. M. Hughes, September 5. There is no doubt, from the evidence before the Royal Commission on wheat, flour and bread that malnutrition exists in Australia.

—Sir Herbert Gepp, September 5.

## READ "SOCIAL CREDIT"

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT SECRETARIAT, LTD. 163a Strand, London (Chairman, Major C. H. Douglas)

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Money wanted as usual. Box at Kellett's Newsagency, Murray St. but more money is wanted than usual. Mow what about it? Do you want this job to go on or don't you?

## British Statistical Summary

	Jan.-June, 1936.	or— compared with corresponding period, 1935.
<b>OVERSEA TRADE:</b>		
Imports .....	£402,801, 348	.. +£43,430,034
Exports .....	£207,890,449	.. +£1,415,258
Re-exports .....	£32,406,959	.. +£3,563,185
<b>EMPLOYMENT:</b>		
Numbers in Employment	10,832,0001 At	+441,000
Registered as Unemployed	1,702,676 June 22	.. -297,434
<b>BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS</b>		
(London, to July 1)	£19,631,454,000	.. +1.1 per cent.
<b>COST OF LIVING:</b>		
Ministry of Labor Index	46 per cent.	.. +3
at July 1, 1936 . . .	above Jul., 1914	(cp. Jul. 1, 1935.)
<b>WHOLESALE PRICES :</b>		
Board of Trade Index	(1930 = 100) for June,	
1936 .....	92.6	.. +4.6 per cent. (cp. June, 1935.)

We publish the above official figures in response to requests from a number of readers. From them will be noted the extent of the "recovery" that has taken place in Britain during the last twelve months, and about which Mr. Munchausen Menzies and others who have tripped abroad at the taxpayers' expense have waxed so eloquent. With bankers' clearing house returns showing only a one per cent. increase, against a wholesale price rise of nearly five per cent, and a general cost of living increase of three per cent, it is hard to see much recovery. The rise in the cost of living—that is, in prices—is largely accounted for by the rearmament activities, resulting in the circulation of more money amongst the people without any increase in goods on the market. The same cause helps to explain the stationary position of exports, much of the output of heavy industries, which was formerly exported, together with increased production being now locally absorbed in munition works for land, sea and air. The same factor is likewise operating in the decreased numbers of registered unemployed. All these things signify the flush of blood pressure rather than the glow of health. More literally, they denote bloody pressure—as Fenner Brockway puts it, the bloody traffic.

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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WATCHMAKER and Jeweller. M. Chapman. CAPITOL HSE. 6 yrs.

Hardy Bros, in charge Repair Dept.

#### DARLING.

ESTATE AGENT, J. White, 1 Illowa St. UY 6521.

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H. L. SERCOMBE, Pty. Ltd., 70 Glenhully Rd. Dairy Produce

Specialists.

RADIO & ELECTRICAL SERVICES.

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THE DUCHEY LIBRARY, 3 Ormond road. New Books Weekly.

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#### GLENFERRIE.

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CHEMIST, Rod Burgess. 156A Hampton St. XW 2424.

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\* \* \*

#### IVANHOE.

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UPHOLSTERER. Blinds & Bedding. Duke's, 111 Heidelberg Rd. Ivan. 626.

#### KEW.

ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.

BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction. Service.

C. KENNEDY. Grocer. Haw. 229.

Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd.

DRY CLEANING, Depot & Library. A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. Haw. 3733.

E. WHITE. 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.

FLORIST, "Mayfair," Haw. 1452 Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd.

GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons.

LADIES' Hairdressing, Hats, etc. Burnie Salon, cr. Cotham Rd. and Mary St.

M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

#### KEW EAST.

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS. I. Pink, 16 Oswin Street.

WICKER & Pram Repairs. L. Pavitt, 2 Hale St. Pick up and Deliver.

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FROCKS & KNITWEAR To Order. L. M. Fairbrother, 241 High St. (And 55 Koornang Rd., Carnegie.)

#### MENTONE

RADIO Repairs and Sales. C. Barnett, 24 Marina Rd. XW2031.

#### MORELAND

BOOT REPAIRS. J. T. Nolan, Holmes St. 4 drs. Moreland Rd.

(Continued on page 7.)





## THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1936.

### "Wiping Out" Victoria's Railway Debt

The Bill now being brought forward by the Dunstan Ministry in Victoria to write off £30 millions of the loan liabilities of the State railways by the simple process of transferring it to Victoria's general loan liability account is at once a practical proof of what monetary reformers have long been contending and an illustration of the futilities practised by politicians who are either ignorant or dishonest.

The Bill is utterly futile because it will give absolutely no relief to the citizens of the State. Instead of being saddled with a railway deficit to be met by taxation they will be saddled with a general deficit to be met by taxation—or to be "squared" by further loans. Certainly, when the transaction has been forgotten after a year or two, "sane" financiers may be able to point with pride to a balanced railway budget as a further proof of "prosperity"; but even this is doubtful, since the railways will find that depreciation is taking place against the £43 millions still entered up in their capital account, and that depreciation charges are just as hard to recover against £43 millions as they were against £73 millions.

For the whole point is that you cannot collect from the public that which the public have not got. As the figures show, the construction of the railways was originally financed, not by the issue of new national money, but by money provided through loans. Part of this money presumably represented genuine savings, such as insurance companies' holdings of government securities bought out of premiums received from the pub-

lic; part represented new money issued by the banks.

The money, which represented savings, would have its physical counterpart in unsold goods on the market, and its financial offset in the bank loans, which had financed the production of the same goods. In due course, as the railways were built, the money distributed in payments for wages and materials would have been used to buy the goods abstained from by those who had invested in the railway loans. On the sale of those goods it would have travelled back to extinction through the repayment of the bank loans. The position would then be that the new railway assets would have no corresponding sum of money in existence—hence the physical impossibility of the Railways Commissioners' being able to collect their depreciation charges.

In the case of the loan money which at the time of the railway construction was an addition to the community's supply, and which came from that part of the government loans taken up by the banks directly or by individuals or companies through bank overdrafts granted for the purpose, this, if left in the community, would provide a fund from which depreciation could be collected. So, in theory, a certain amount could be withdrawn through the annual charges of the railways, and used to liquidate the loans as the physical assets lost their value. In practice, however, all such moneys have gone back to cancellation long since, having been used to fill up similar gaps elsewhere. Apart from which, it is hard to see how the principal of the loan, even if distributed and available, could suffice to pay both principal and annual interest—particularly interest of which a large portion is not again distributed in dividends.

So it is that the history of government borrowing everywhere is a history of unrepayable and constantly amounting debt, of interest-bearing debt which, however juggled from one department to another, lives and flourishes even when the asset has long since disappeared and been forgotten. For bankers' book-entry money, needing only paper columns for its soil and ink for its stimulant, has the secret of perennial fertility and perpetual motion. Crops may fail and stock may die, rolling stock wears out and tracks rust away, but the loans increase and multiply till they fill the earth.

### Money Doesn't Grow on Apple Trees

A leading Australian fruit exporter who has returned from Europe said in a press statement on Tuesday that Australia has now practically lost her German market for fruit. Germany, he said, was importing large quantities of apples from Chile, and these were selling to more than £1 a case in Australian currency. In answer to his inquiries German importers had said: "We want Australian fruit; in fact, we much prefer it because of its quality. We are anxious to do business with Australia, but you are not prepared to enter into any trade agreement with us, and Chile does this. This market is capable of selling to advantage up to 1,000,000 cases annually of Australian fruit." A similar position existed in Denmark and Sweden, both of which we're asking for trade agreements or barter deals to enable them to buy more Australian fruit.

There is only one difficulty in arranging the trade treaties asked for. Apple growers can produce apples all right, but, as we have often been truly told, money does not grow on trees. *Wealth* grows on trees. *Money* grows only in bankers' ledgers since their blight has descended upon the national source of money. Even Sir Henry Gullett, Minister-in Charge of No Treaties and Trade Diversions, recognised this when he said last January: "No treaty arrangement can be made for the sale of Australian wool for the purchase of manufactured goods from any foreign country on a £ for £ basis. . . . Obviously, Australia has not enough purchasing power to buy overseas manufactured goods on such a scale as to take them in payment for its great wool clip." Or its great fruit crop—obviously. But Sir Henry and his co-Ministers, instead of attending to the increase of this purchasing power—which incidentally would cause a great deal more Australian fruit to be consumed locally by those who need it—are more actively engaged in ruining that part of our overseas trade which is still left. Why?

### Does Japan Export Woollens?

Last year Japan's imports of raw wool were valued at 191 million yen, and her exports of manufactured wool at only 34 million yen. That is to say, her wool exports were in value only 17 per cent, of her imports; in quantity, naturally, since the finished article is more highly priced than the raw material, they would be considerably less.

We give these figures (published by the London Chamber of Commerce) on account of the stories now being circulated that Japan has been buying, manufacturing and exporting Australian-grown raw wool for the purpose of damaging Britain's export trade. The truth is that Japan has been using our wool almost entirely to clothe her own people. Hence, if the Japanese are patriotic enough (as they are) to discard their comparatively new fashion of wearing wool, they can do without our wool altogether. It will not be a case of trade diversion, but of trade extinction.

Last year Japan's purchases from us amounted to £17,650,000. In the opening years of this century her annual purchases averaged £200,000. Last year Japan bought from us in the vicinity of three-quarters of a million bales of wool. In the 1900-1901 season she bought 8,000 bales.

In the tariff instance, therefore the objective of the Lyons Ministry id not Back to 1929, but Back to 1901.

### The "Catholic Worker" Declares for Consumer Credit

On two recent occasions the *New Times* has criticised adversely articles which have appeared in the widely read *Catholic Worker*. We hope we made it clear that what was then said was not directed against the motives of those responsible for the production of our contemporary—which we believe to be identical in essentials with our own objective, which is social justice—but only against methods proposed in the articles in question, and which we considered unsound.

It is with far more satisfaction, therefore, that we desire to draw attention to an editorial article, which appears in the issue of the *Catholic Worker* published during the past week. The article bears the double headlines, "Forty Hour Week Nearer" and "Fight For Consumers' Credit," and its kernel is contained in the following paragraph: "Those who look on the Forty-Hour Week as the cure for every industrial evil are certain to be disappointed. *Unless*—the emphasis is in the original—"it is accompanied by some system of consumers' credit, which the displacement of human labour by machinery has made indispensable, it is futile to expect any permanent reform to result from a mere reduction of working hours."

The article concludes: "We can be sure that until the twin reforms of a reduction of working hours and the granting of consumers' credit are secured, we will not even have made a beginning on the task of clearing away Australia's economic mess." Precisely. And we congratulate the *Catholic Worker* on the downright way in which it says so (not that we ever doubted its outspokenness) and, still more, on its getting right down to remedies rather than palliatives.

Consumer credit—or, to use the more common Social Credit term, the National Dividend—is the only just and sensible way by which the gap between our physically productive and our financially consumptive powers may be permanently bridged. It provides a complete and satisfactory way out of our economic mess. And it does more. By recognising the natural rights of our citizens, by making available to them the fruits of their God-given

### ARMAMENT KINGS AT WORK

The Comite des Forges, the great French armament ring, recently met representatives of the German Steel Manufacturers in Paris (says *Why*, N.Z.). The meeting was a "secret" one, but the matters discussed were too vital for certain details not to leak out.

The purpose of this coming together of the armament kings of the two rival powers was to discuss the extent to which they could "co-operate" in meeting the dangers to their business, which might result from the rise to power of the present radical government in France.

One of the two German representatives closed his speech with the following words:

" . . . yet, our naturally patriotic regard for the interests of our countries notwithstanding, *the interests of our common business must not be left wholly out of account.*"

In plain language, the object of the meeting was to form a pact between the German armament ring and those members of the French ring who were willing to "sell" France rather than see France governed by radicals who might encourage disarmament.

The decisions reached were not final. But the French representatives received an assurance as to the provision by the Germans of certain sums of money, to be put at the disposal of pro-German propaganda newspapers and other organisations in France.

A number of Paris newspapers have already received donations from this fund. And Paris has been flooded with copies of a new paper devoted to attacking the Franco-Soviet Pact and supporting the policy of the Nazi Government. To save the faces of the French partners in the conspiracy, it is being dressed up as an attack on the forces of the Left in France.

It may be noted, in passing, that two days after the meeting, the Paris radical newspaper, *Republique*, turned in its tracks and opened a campaign for the breaking up of the "People's Front"—the combination of Left elements, which has existed for some time, for the defence of the country against War and Fascism.

Such are the methods of the international armamenters.

intelligence, it raises them from the level of machine slaves or machine discards and restores them to their status as sons of God. That is to say, this is not merely an economic fight; it is a fight to re-establish the basis of all true religion, to give religion the chance to be heard and believed which the un-Christian, if not anti-Christian credit monopolists have been rapidly wresting from it.

### A REMINDER!

#### Social Credit Speakers from Overseas

In addition to the invitation extended to the Dean of Canterbury (Dr. Hewlett Johnson), it has been decided to invite the Earl of Tankerville, one of the most prominent Social Credit speakers in Britain, to give a series of public addresses in Australia. The Earl of Tankerville is expected to arrive in February next, and Victoria's quota towards the expenses will be £240. One-third of this will be required immediately, and one-third upon the Earl's arrival in Australia. Guarantors may expect to be reimbursed out of the net proceeds of the tour.

Guarantors are requested to fill in and post the form below. Cash need not be sent until requested.

GUARANTEE FORM.

The Earl of Tankerville's Lecturing Tour

The State Secretary,  
Douglas Credit Movement of Victoria, Room 8,  
Block Arcade, Melbourne

I, the undersigned will, if called upon, subscribe £.....to the above fund.

Signed.....

Address.....

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## NO HAWKERS

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

On the gates or pillars of many dignified residences of Toorak or South Yarra one reads the firm and neat warning, "No Hawkers or Canvassers." This clearly and decisively puts these excrescences where they belong—rank outsiders whose shabby boots must not be permitted to pollute the gravelled walks or crazy pavements of the socially elect. Barred thus from those places where a little cash would hardly be missed, these outcasts of the economic system take their unwanted footsteps towards the lower-income homes to add one more burden to the harassed housewife in those regions.

Imagination plays with the question, Who inhabits the stately homes on whose massive gates is the legend, "All hope abandon, but keep out of here"? A company director, who so casually pockets his couple of guineas for the arduous task of sitting for an hour or two at a Board meeting; a banker, perchance, or an orthodox Professor of Economics; a Cabinet Minister or a Big Business magnate who himself sends hawkers out to country centres to snatch all the available cash from the local store-keeper's customers? More than likely, some firm upholder of Sound Finance who rigidly supports the system that makes the hawker and canvasser inevitable. They bless the system, but excommunicate its victims and refuse to hold themselves responsible for them.

### THE STORY.

So the hawkers open the less pretentious gates of people like you and me. Called from the innumerable tasks and their fight with the clock, it is difficult not to put some curtness into the, "I do not want anything, thank you." Of course that merely opens the campaign, and you know it. The story differs in details, but springs from the same root. Desperate need hardens his resistance to refusals, and improves the itinerant technique. He has the most wonderful line of silk hose at an incredibly low price; he doesn't mind telling you, in confidence, that he gets them direct from his brother-in-law, who is an importer in Sydney. "Just look at them, Madam! Only 15/-." As hose at 15/- have vanished from your ken since 1931, you stand firm. He then tells you just how he came to be doing this, and you are sympathetic, but helpless. He grasps his bag, turns on you a look of malevolent loathing, and assures you that if no one will help him to earn an honest living, there is nothing for him but suicide, since he has an invalid wife at home entirely dependent on what he earns.

The next one comes to the front door, either because he has not yet learnt fully that he is an outcast and a worm, or because he might deceive the householder for a moment into believing that he is an ordinary caller and giving him time to get his story in. He is thin and shabby and his eyes have a flame in them. He tells you before you have time to shut the door after the usual formula, "Nothing today, thank you," that he has been a journalist for all his adult years. His paper closed down, and he could get nothing to do since. "I do not want charity," he says fiercely. "I am a good journalist, and know my work. I am selling this pamphlet to raise funds to publish a book I have written. I have called

on all the prominent men who are likely to be interested, but they have either just been going out to dinner or are about to go to the theatre. But I will succeed. I must." And his eyes flame feverishly with hope deferred.

This hurts more than the other, who was a victim of a warehouse reducing its hands during the depression, and who had consequently been jobless for six years.

The next is a back door one. He is selling cakes. "We had a nice little shop on the Parade," he says wistfully, "but we slipped behind when things got bad, and now I just take the cakes from door to door." This is something you can deal with, and you tell him he may call every week, and he brightens up!

Then there is an ex-"Digger" selling haberdashery lines and keeping up that cheerful insouciance supposed to be inseparable from the genuine "Dig.," although he was wounded twice and has a small motherless son at home whom he has to pay his sister to look after. You are so ashamed of the sorry swindle that put him where he is, and so moved by his forced cheerfulness and his determination not to use persuasion that you buy a few things at twice the price you could get them for in the ordinary way, and off he goes.

### THE LEGION OF THE HOPELESS.

Some of the hawkers are women, who use all the persuasive wiles of their sex, but no kind of

## SIXTY PER CENT OF BRITAIN'S INCOMES ARE UNDER £2/10/- PER WEEK

Discussing the future of the car industry in Britain, a writer in the "Autocar" (July 3) comes to the conclusion that "saturation point looks as though it had nearly been reached." He bases this chiefly on the purchasing power of the British public, and adds: "On this point it will probably come as a shock to many readers to learn that nearly sixty per cent, of all incomes today are less than £130 per annum. From this it is clear that, even if cars were given away, more than three-fifths of the income-earning, or receiving, population could not afford to run them. That fundamental fact must remain an axiom as long as car taxation, fuel taxation, compulsory insurance and garage charges continue. And that means, in effect, permanently."

The writer has not yet realised that in Britain, as in Australia, the major portion of all taxation goes to pay interest to the bankers for stealing the national right to issue money. Nor has it occurred to him that it is far more difficult to produce cars than to distribute incomes sufficient to enable them to be bought. Yet, seeing no difficulty in the real feat, he is mesmerised by the symbols. "Where is the money to come from?"

The classification of individual incomes in Great Britain is as follows:

	Number	Percentage of Total Number of Incomes
£130 and less .....	11,250,300	59.006
£130 to £160 .....	3,490,000	18.305
£160 to £200 .....	2,031,400	10.654
£200 to £250 .....	751,700	3.942
£250 to £300 .....	411,000	2.155
£300 to £400 .....	372,900	1.956
£400 to £500 .....	180,000	.944
£500 to £600 .....	108,700	.570
£600 to £700 .....	74,850	.393
£700 to £800 .....	60,400	.317
£800 to £900 .....	47,640	.250
£900 to £1000 .....	38,920	.204
£1000 to £1500 .....	98,430	.516
£1500 to £2000 .....	44,440	.234
£2000 to £5000 .....	76,445	.401
£5000 to £10,000 .....	19,415	.102
£10,000 to £20,000 .....	6,791	.036
£20,000 upwards .....	2,866	.015
	19,066,197	100.000%

approach and no hard-luck story can stretch your income to meet these demands. Sometimes you temper your refusal by explaining that the very same condition that brought them to your door has put it out of your power to help them. That does no good. Nor does your attempt to introduce the light of Social Credit to their darkness. They are bitter, bewildered and furiously resentful, and since they are unaware of the underlying cause of their frustration, they blame it on the householder who will not buy from them, "Gawd, Missus, I gotter live", or, "I trust, Madam, that you will never need a shilling as badly as I do. Good-morning." The legion of the hopeless! Tramping Heaven knows how many weary miles of pavement, opening how many hundred gates, putting up the same frayed formula, turning away with the same sick heart. Not the least of their troubles is to be harried by the police to show their licences—in one case, a walk in the pouring rain had ungummed the licence label, and the unfortunate man had to pay a fine of 25/-. How sore must the hands be that carry that shabby stuffed case all day! How calloused the tired feet! One has been for three

### A "GOOD" REASON FOR A REFERENDUM

"It is being suggested that it would be a good move for Federal Ministers to favour a referendum, because it might have the effect of splitting the Labor movement throughout the Commonwealth on this issue and emphasise the difficulty of obtaining Labor unity on a fundamental matter like the amendment of the Constitution." — The "Argus," September 8.

And immediately below the above gem the "Argus" reported how in the Young Nationalist organisation (the "United" Party) on the previous evening half the members voted for an amendment of the Constitution on the marketing issue, and half against.

Meantime, while this jockeying for position goes on, the farmer, presumably, does not matter.

weeks trying to introduce a vacuum cleaner. As he is working on commission only, at the end of that time, having failed to sell even one machine, his shoes need resoling, and the cost of his lunches put him well on the wrong side of the ledger. The firm that employed him have the advantage of having their vacuum cleaner introduced to hundreds of householders, without one penny of expense to themselves.

Well, owing to these constant interruptions, the clock has gained on you, the dinner is behind, you have spent the milkman's money on two hanks of mending-wool of the wrong colours, some superfluous darning-needles, a packet of flimsy envelopes, and an apron that won't wash either, and you have to go to town.

When you return from the city, you get the screwdriver and four screws, and affix a neat enameled plate to the back gate, bearing the legend, "No Hawkers." Your neighbour, more diplomatic, shows a warning, "Beware of the Dog." But there is no dog, except the mad dog of finance, which forces even the most humane of us to treat our dispossessed brother thus.

## RATS IN THE BELFRY

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

When I invented my germ-proof spat, the newspapers took no notice of it.

When I proved, by sticking pins into barn owls, that children with bunions should not be put into tight boots; my pamphlet was not mentioned in a single weekly review.

When I—but I will not weary you by multiplying instances. The point I wish to make is this: That the greatest discoveries—those which are destined to change the whole trend of human thought, invariably pass almost unnoticed at the time. I often weep about this.

Let me give you an example. Last week the Press gave prominence to the Report of the Industrial Health Research Board, one of the functions of which is to make bored workers think that dull jobs are frightfully interesting.

Another of its functions is to find out, by what is called Industrial Psychology, which kind of workers are able to carry on which kind of footling occupations without running amok and beaming their bosses with a brick.

Now, I am not saying that the Press has ignored all the important findings of the Board.

### THE PROVISION OF INCENTIVES

For instance, there is the great discovery that "one of the most important factors in determining efficiency and pleasure in work is the inclination or will to work, and this, in turn, is largely dependent on the provision of effective incentives."

This discovery alone, I admit, raises Industrial Psychologists to the biscuit-worthy or bun-deserving class.

Till then, of course, Science had been under the impression that an incentive tended rather to put a man off his work. They imagined the child of a worker going to the foreman and saying, "Father can't come to work today. He's got an incentive."

But the psychologists did not stop there. Inspired by their discovery, they probed more deeply into the mysteries of the human mind, and set the following startling fact on record in their Report: —

*Of these incentives the most potent is probably the weekly wage.*

That men cannot develop such powers of deduction without at least one meal a day, consisting exclusively of spinach, will be readily conceded.

Nevertheless, the idea that workers go into industry mainly to get wages was too startling and revolutionary for the scientific mind to accept without exhaustive ex-

periments to test its validity.

Perhaps they lined all the workers up and offered them wages to test their reactions, noting carefully how many accepted them without surprise, and how many refused them with an exclamation of repugnance, such as, "Sir, you insult me."

Suffice is to say that the discovery has given psychologists a new insight into the mind of the worker, and has refuted their former theory that the main reason why a worker goes into a factory is to get away from his wife.

### IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS.

All this the Press has noted. Yet the most important experiments of all were hidden away obscurely in a single newspaper. Let me give them to the world: —

On behalf of the Industrial Research Board, Prof. Bartlett, Director of the Cambridge University Psychological Laboratory, is conducting experiments on incentive with a colony of rats.

Before the rats can reach their food they have to pass through an area where they are subjected to an electric shock.

"We have discovered," said Prof. Bartlett, "that the animals, knowing that they have to face this deterrent, become all the keener on their food."

*"From the knowledge we are gaining we may be able to ascertain what are the best forms of incentive for the ordinary worker, and what lies behind human motives of effort."*

I need not point out why it is necessary to give a rat an electric shock before you know whether workers want wages or not. The logic of the process is apparent. It bears out what I have always said—that we cannot over-estimate the scientific value of the Rat.

In our steady, upward climb to Knowledge, the Rat leads the way, shining before us like a beacon on our path. As a great scientist once said, "What we do to rats today, we will do to you tomorrow."

The Rat is the Test of modern research. No university ever thinks of buying a new professor before it has asked, "Is he a good Ratter?"

I can only hope that, in order that our Industrial Psychologists may gain sufficient incentive to further triumphs of deduction, someone will find a way of making them pass through an area where they will be subjected to a shock before they can reach their laboratory.

One question remains: "Is there a limit to the pursuit of knowledge, or will the Industrial Psychologists some day discover the difference between a man and a rat?"

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## A CRITICISM OF PROFESSOR COPLAND

(And a Couple of Others)

By BRUCE H BROWN

(Continued from our last issue.)  
VI.

Today throughout the world people are suffering destitution, disease, and death for the want of money, not because money itself could do anything to prevent those afflictions, but because it gives individuals access to food, clothing, and shelter, which are so vital to life. Only a liar would claim that there is not an actual abundance of these needful material things, and that we are not capable of producing them in even greater quantities, but the "recognised" economists, who still occupy unmerited prominence on the public stage, have combined to keep their audiences in ignorance regarding the true explanation of the miserable failure of our arrangements for the distribution of the material things.

Professor Copland is one of these "recognised" economists. He has taken a prominent part in disseminating a lot of hocus pocus to divert attention from the true cause of the chaos and is now on his second tour of the world since he joined forces with the bankers against the people. In fact, he went so far as to write an essay of apology for the fraudulent financial system, which is crucifying humanity, and sought to excuse the private interests which are responsible for the chaos and the needless suffering it entails. This essay was described as "An Essay on Banking Policy" and thus openly acknowledged that the author was a mouthpiece for the private bankers.

### THE SOUTHAMPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

People are short of money only because of the manipulations of the private banking system, which definitely regulates the quantity in existence. Even the Chambers of Commerce in some parts of the world have come to realise this, and have had the courage and good sense to say so. The Southampton Chamber, for example, has officially declared that "the fault in the economic system lies in the machinery responsible for the transfer of goods from productive industry to individuals of the community," and points out that "this link between production and consumption is money." Therefore, those who control money control the link between the producer and the consumer, and this is the only weak link in the chain of our national economy. What a pity the Chambers of Commerce in Australia do not show equal intelligence and courage! Perhaps the ordinary members are aware of the truth but if they are it is time they said so and terminated the arrangement under which banking beneficiaries are their official spokesmen. The difficulties of the ordinary businessman arise from the failure of this self-same money link, but he either does not realise it or is so much under the thumb of the bankers that he dare not say anything about it. And Professor Copland has done nothing to help him out of that unsatisfactory position.

The Southampton Chamber of Commerce not only pointed to the source of the trouble, but also indicated the remedy. It said: "... the quantity of money should always be sufficient to provide the community with purchasing power to have access to the goods available," and that "as the creation of money by the banking system can be effected as and for any purpose they consider desirable, it would seem that a power nothing less than the control of the entire economic activity of the nation is vested in a private monopoly." Obviously the controllers of our economic system must be held responsible for the failure of that system. How is it that a Professor whose job it is to ascertain and endeavour to understand the forces at work, and who has publicly pleaded "for accuracy in all things," has not yet discovered these important truths?

Is it that he has not been able to see the forest because of the trees, or has his course of action and general attitude been dictated by personal interests? Whatever the explanation, the Finance Monopoly gets no public criticism at his hands and he dodges discussion of that aspect as though it were poison.

DR. SCHACHT.

It has already been shown that our Laughing Cavalier of Carlton (as he is called by "Aquarius") has had personal contact with Montagu Norman of the Bank of England, and Dr. Schacht of the German Reichsbank, and apparently is now on his way to see them again. The former is the dictator of England and the Empire, and the latter is the dictator of Germany. Strangely enough, while Montagu Norman is in the United States "holidaying" at the same time and place as President Roosevelt, his co-conspirator in the person of Dr. Schacht is attending a bankers' dinner in Paris in company with the Socialist Prime

#### WELCOME TO RAMSGATE— "FOR THAT REASON."

"I am one of those people who think trippers have as much right to the sea as anyone, else," said the Mayor. "I do not forget that these men from the East End of London and other places were ready when the call came in 1914, and were amongst the first who were prepared to give their lives for their country. If that call comes again, they will again respond. We want them to be in good health, so that when the time comes again they are ready to answer the call. For that reason I welcome them."

—The Mayor of Ramsgate, as reported in "Advertiser" and "Echo," London.

Minister of France. The report of this function, sent from London (*Argus*, 28/8/36), tells us that Dr. Schacht was visiting Paris for "financial, economic and other discussions," and that he is trying to persuade France that in order to avoid war the Powers should open their frontiers, to goods produced by Germany. Side by side with that, in the very next column, we also saw this, sent from Berlin: "Dr. Schacht pointed out that the importation of foreign grain would mean that there would be less currency available for the purchase of raw materials." Can you detect the similarity of this with the policy of the Bank of England and with what we have been hearing from Professor Copland? You will recall how the Professor prophesied "unparalleled disaster" if we reduced our export production, and here is one of his "bankers of international reputation" openly bringing Germany into the trade war on the same theory. She too, is demanding an entrance for her goods into other countries, and before openly making the demand has fortified herself with armaments on an enormous scale as a sort of persuading agent. This Germany, bear in mind, is the country which was said to have been crushed financially and economically by the war; which suffered all the horrors of a terrible inflation; which up to recent years was reported to be bankrupt; but which since then has not only built marvellous roads throughout the country (Vide the *Melbourne Herald*), but has also been spending hundreds of millions annually on armaments. Wherever did the money come from? And why is it now so limited as to preclude the importation of grain? The explanation is that both the quantity of currency and the direction in which it may be used are controlled in all countries by the private money monopoly, to whose schemes everything else takes second place. We do not have to go far, you see, for confirmation of the statement of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce that "a power nothing less than the control of the entire economic

activity of the nation" is vested in the hands of a few comparatively unknown men operating on a world-wide basis.

#### WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM?

These "recognised" economists also assured us that Italy could not go on with her Abyssinian campaign because she was on the verge of a financial crash. Only last week, however, Mussolini boasted that Italy can put eight million soldiers into the field at a moment's notice! Where is he getting the money from? Is it that the "bankers of international reputation" are not living up to their reputations, or have they led the "recognised" economists up a lane? The sham, the hypocrisy, the tragi-comedy of it all! And what gullible mutts we have been to swallow their jargon! They have cried and cried: Where is the money to come from? They never say: Where is the food, or the clothes, or the shelter, or the materials to come from? There is never any difficulty about the real things. We come into the atmosphere of mystery, difficulty and uncertainty only when we mention the figure and ticket part of the system, that is to say, the part under which the movements of the real things are accounted for.

Where is the money coming from in Italy, which was supposedly so bankrupt that it had to default? Where is it coming from in Germany, which lost the war but by a scheme of manipulation beat its creditors for millions? Where is it coming from in Russia, which in 1918 told Britain to whistle for the hundreds of millions owing to her? Where is it coming from in Japan, which can afford to sell its goods all over the world at less than cost? (Mr. Lyons has publicly admitted that it is Japan's ability in this latter respect that really troubles him!) But when Australia, which won the war (or at any rate is supposed to have been in the winning team) and has met her obligations in full, inquires why she lacks hospital accommodation, why her nurses are treated as slaves, why her gallant returned soldiers are destitute, and why the inmates of our asylums are turned out in to the yards like sheep because of lack of proper provision for them, the matter is airily and completely disposed of by the reply: But where is the money to come from? (Note carefully that this money is nothing more than a set of figures with corresponding tickets or tokens.)

#### THE BLACK FOREST.

When we suggest that the figure and ticket system should be operated to fully meet the needs of the entire community we are dubbed cranks, but the men who engineer the system to prevent the meeting of these needs are referred to as having "international reputation" and as the only persons for whose opinions we should have respect. In the same way, the professional economists who play the phonograph records for these figure and ticket manipulators are said to have performed "notable work for their country." Search as you may, you will find no attempts on the part of these fellows to expose the financial trickery through which the public is hoodwinked, robbed, and enslaved. We have the suspicion that that is why they are known as "recognised" economists. Were it otherwise, it is probable they would be recognised no longer and might be looking for "employment."

Early this year we were informed that "all moves made at Geneva, or by Governments, are conditioned by plans laid beforehand by the banks in secret conclave," and even while that was being written in London, Montagu Norman, Dr. Schacht, M. Jaffery of Paris, and several other members of the Bank for International Settlements were at that very moment meeting in secret conclave in the Black Forest of Germany. What an appropriate place to select for the purpose! There they decided matters of high policy affecting Britain, Europe, and the League of Nations without reference at all to the Governments concerned or to the interest of the people in general. Now we see Dr. Schacht,

who so recently had a long "conversation" with Mr. Stevens, the Premier of New South Wales, rubbing shoulders with the Socialist Prime Minister of the French Republic, while Montagu Norman almost simultaneously does the same with the President of the American Republic. Very shortly we may see these gentlemen doing the same again with our very own Professor Copland, to say nothing of the circumstance that both the chairman and Governor of the Commonwealth Bank are also abroad on a mission touching the desires of the two dictators mentioned.

#### THE SIDE TRACKERS

It is also worth noticing that all these "bankers of international replication" make a point of diverting the minds of the people from the real issue. Before leaving Paris on August 28 Dr. Schacht gave the following message to the press:—

"The greatest disturbing factor today is the violent Bolshevist propaganda. The Bolshevising of Russia would require little attention if it had not developed an international tendency."

It is, of course, quite a wrong thing for the workers of the world to unite, if that is what is meant by "bolshevising," but quite a natural thing for a few financiers to weave a worldwide web in which all workers have been caught.

#### PACIFICATION.

A column of Eritrean and Abyssinian troops left Addis Ababa today on a campaign of pacification in the parts of Abyssinia not already under Italian domination. The native troops, who left in motor lorries, were commanded by white officers, and accompanied by white mechanics. All were equipped with modern weapons, but most of the Abyssinians insisted on carrying their traditional weapon—the knife.

—"Herald," September 7.

That is the last thing we should be encouraged to think about!

It is fitting at this point to recall a little of what happened following the war. In 1920 (the year in which Montagu Norman took charge and became Great Britain's permanent Prime Minister) the Bank of England, in league with American financiers, inaugurated a policy of deflation to render the production of the people (goods) less valuable, and the production of the banking system (figures and tickets) more valuable. This policy meant the withdrawal of credit money from circulation. Two years later, the International Economic Conference of bankers and bankers' nominees recommended a return to the gold standard by all countries, and as the result of this the conditions of millions of people became economic hell. Instead of making for economic salvation, as promised by these "bankers of international reputation," it led to economic damnation. Unemployment, poverty, stagnation, the bankruptcy of industry, and general

economic insecurity became widespread.

We have told you before of the declaration of the chairman of the Midland Bank, London, that the Bank of England alone "and no other power in heaven above or earth beneath" determines the quantity of money that the British people shall be allowed to have, and now we ask you to note confirmation of this, taken from evidence given before the Macmillan Committee in 1930 as follows:—

"In order to fix responsibility for this financial policy, it is perhaps only necessary to quote a recent speech by Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, as reported in the *Times* of March 21, 1930. A previous speaker, Mr. Hargraves, had said: 'They held the hegemony, so far as this country was concerned, in finance, and he thought he might say, considering the way they were regarded in foreign countries, that they also held the hegemony of the world.' Mr. Montagu Norman commented: He was glad to note what Mr. Hargraves said about the hegemony in one place and another. He believed it was largely true . . . and it was the result of the work which the Bank of England had devoted . . . to the relationships between the Central Banks which were originally advocated at Genoa."

An indication of the practical effects of this admitted hegemony of finance and the methods of its operation may be seen from the fact that the deflationary policy inaugurated in 1920 was immediately reflected in a rise during that year of bankruptcies from 700 to 1500, and that during the ten years from 1920 to 1930 bankruptcies per annum have increased in England by 600 per cent, and suicides by nearly 100 per cent. Was this financial hegemony only one more of the important things not discovered by Professor Copland in his search for truth? An exposure in 1931 of the crime of the policy of that gang of international crooks would probably have made it much more difficult for him to favourably impress ignorant politicians and spurious businessmen, but, at least, he would have helped to save his own compatriots and would have contributed something really worthwhile to the salvation of the race from financial thralldom.

But he chose otherwise, and openly became a disciple of the "iniquitous Power of Finance, before which faiths, beliefs, morals, ethical standards, and almost life itself are being forced to capitulate." Notwithstanding the appalling results which have followed the imposition of his 1931 ideas, we are still enjoined to pursue the path to prosperity that lies through sacrifice and starvation, even though it is as plain as the nose on our face that the further we go along that path the greater the destitution and degradation.

(To be continued.)

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## THE CAVALCADE OF GREED IN THE U.S.A.

(From Fr. Coughlin's Paper, "Social Justice.")

1780. — Alexander Hamilton, accused of being a British sympathiser because of his friendship with the private moneychangers of the Bank of England, blooms as a financial figure.

He proposes the establishment of a central federal bank, in the control of private interests, to be endowed with 12 million dollars of capital—2 million to be guaranteed by the United States Government; 10 million to be supplied by private foreign sources.

The cavalcade of greed has begun in the United States.

1781. — Hamilton and Robert Morris launch plan for bank, which would seize from the people's government the control of national money.

Morris uses his foreign connections to solicit funds. He appeals to others (in on the deal): "I am determined that the bank shall be well supported until it can support itself, and then it will support us." 1782. — Morris, acting in capacity of Superintendent of Finance for the Continental Congress, but "with no clear warrant," subscribes all remaining money in the war-scarred Treasury—about 254,000 dollars—to the capital stock of the bank.

The Bank of North America, first temple of the moneychangers, is formed.

1786. — Hamilton, after four years, is unsuccessful in persuading a majority of the States to recognise the bank and its founders. Most States refuse to grant the bank a charter on the ground that no private group should have the exclusive right of creating and regulating the people's money.

1789. — Hamilton becomes Secretary of the Treasury in the first Cabinet after Morris declines the post. Together with Morris, he announces plan for a second central bank—the Bank of the United States—even stronger than the Bank of North America.

Benjamin Franklin, outstanding crusader for an honest money system, vigorously opposes the Hamilton-Morris bank combine. Thomas Jefferson also jumps into the battle, calling the proposed bank a "prostitution" of law.

1790. — Benjamin Franklin dies. Hamilton, despite the opposition of Jefferson and others, begins to get results on his central-private bank scheme.

1791. — Hamilton gets exclusive charter for his bank from Congress over the protests of Jefferson, James Madison, John Adams and others. It was the first violation of the Federal Constitution.

Pres. Washington asks James Madison to prepare a veto of the Bill that passed Congress.

Washington finally accedes to the blandishments of Hamilton—a Tugwell 145 years before his time—and signs the Bill.

1795. — His job completed, the single design that had motivated him from the start achieved,

Alexander Hamilton resigns as Secretary of the Treasury.

His bank, mis-named the Bank of the United States, fattens on the life-blood and wealth of America by "fountain-penning" credit money into existence.

Ninety State charter banks spring up.

1811. — The 20-year charter of the Bank of the United States expires. The Coughlins of that day rise up to expose its perfidy. They succeed in blocking a renewal of the bank's charter.

1812. — War with England. Debts. 1816. — America, due to its debts, becomes firmly enmeshed in the net of foreign entanglements, so deplored by George Washington.

Industry, sorely burdened by taxation and weakened business, is at a standstill. Bank failures loom. The moneychangers of Europe, acting through their American agents, joyously capitalise on the crisis. Knowing the great-untouched wealth resources of America, and wanting to grasp control of it, they fall like hawks on the United States Government with the promise of money to finance a second Bank of the United States.

Congress submits to the private, foreign money encroachment and grants a second charter to the bank. The Second Bank of the United States, in a bold violation of the Constitution, also is given the power to issue paper money.

The bank is chartered for 20 years. Foreign bankers control 28 million dollars of its 35 million dollars capital. The bank operates in the same way as the private Federal Reserve Bank of 1935, creating credit money to 10 and 20 times the amount of actual money on deposit and suckling on the financial transactions of the Government.

1828. — Andrew Jackson, brilliant champion of the people, is elected to the presidency on a plank promising to oppose rechartering of the bank.

1830. — By this year, 37 member branches of the central bank are established.

1832. — Jackson vetoes the Bill, which would have renewed the charter of the Bank of the United States. From this time until 1863 the Rothschild brothers and their colleagues in Europe and America wage a furious struggle to regain control of American money and wealth through another central bank.

1863. — The door is again thrown open to the moneychangers with the enactment of the National Banking Act. Under it, national banks are empowered to issue the people's money and to create "fountain-pen" currency.

1873. — Private bankers gain another victory by inducing Congress to demonetise silver. It was a fatal blow to America inasmuch as our country had huge deposits of silver. Silver demonetisation causes scarcity of money and a

disastrous depression follows (the panic of 1873).

1878. — Popular demand causes Congress to reinstate silver as a money base by passing the Bland-Allison Act.

1892. — Pres. Cleveland appoints J. P. Morgan as an agent of the Government to buy gold in Europe. Morgan forces Government to accept his own terms and reaps an estimated profit of two million dollars on the deal.

1893. — Proof that depressions are in all cases caused by bankers is shown in confidential circular issued by a bank combine prior to the Panic of 1893. Circular reads: "We authorise our loan agents in the Western States to loan funds on real estate to fall due on September 1, 1894, and at no time thereafter. On September 1, 1894, we will not renew our loans under any consideration. We will foreclose and become mortgagees in possession. We can take two-thirds of the farms west of the Mississippi, and thousands of others, at our own price. Then the farmers will become tenants as in England."

1900. — Congress passes the Gold Standard Bill, which sets the convertible gold value of a dollar at 25.8 (.9 fine) grains. Under it, bankers are allowed to take gold out of, or bring gold into the United States, and thus, at their will, change the volume of gold in the country. By manipulating the volume of "fountain-pen" money,

Of the wool offered at Adelaide last week, 5740 bales, or 18 per cent of the total, were passed in.

Of the wool offered at Sydney, 9608 bales, or 22 per cent., were passed in.

Do you remember what N.S.W. Premier Stevens said—"Bradford won't let us down"?

the bankers can change the purchasing power of the dollar.

1913. — Federal Reserve Act passes, giving international bankers complete authority over American banking, centralising credit, and concentrating our wealth in the hands of a few individuals.

Under this unconstitutional system, bankers are required to keep only 13 per cent, reserve against demand deposits and only 3 per cent, against time deposits. Thus, for every dollar accepted by a member bank as a demand deposit, seven more dollars can be manufactured; for every dollar of a time deposit, 33 more can be created.

Paul M. Warburg, international banker, and Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, are given chief credit for "putting over" the Federal Reserve System.

1933. — Banking Act of 1933 passes, providing that all earnings of Federal Reserve Banks must accrue, to banks themselves. Previously the Government was supposed to participate in "distribution" of the banks' earnings.

1934. — Infamous Gold Bill of 1934 passes, requiring the people to turn over to the Federal Reserve Banks all gold, under the pretence of giving the gold to the Government. Under the Bill, President Roosevelt has power to make silver a money base but he refuses to take such patriotic action.

1935. — Banking Act of 1935 passes. It deprives Federal Reserve member banks of all voice in management and places dictatorial powers in a Wall Street-controlled board appointed by the President. This unconstitutional act is similar to the inflationary laws, which caused a money collapse in Germany, and it makes the Federal Reserve Board more powerful than the United States Government itself.

1936. — Wall Street "sews up" both Democratic and Republican parties by dictating the platform plank that is all-important to economic recovery—the money plank. Barney Baruch sails for Europe to report the "good" news to Montague Norman, governor of the Bank of England and current chief monger changer of the world. There is no food for hungry mouths, no clothing for a destitute people. The Cavalcade of Greed rushes on!

## "CONSOLIDATING EMPIRE TRADE"

### South Africa Another Pawn in the Financiers' Game

At the annual meeting of the South African section of the London Chamber of Commerce, held in London in July and reported in the London Chamber of Commerce Journal for August, the chairman gave an outline of the "progressive prosperity" of the Union. Almost the whole of this prosperity, he pointed out, had for its basis the Rand gold mining industry—a new lease of life having been given to the gold industry by the abandonment of the gold standard!

Discussing trade relationships between the Union and the United Kingdom, the chairman pointed out that South Africa had purchased from Britain in 1935 goods to the value of £34.2 millions, against which, exclusive of gold shipments, Britain had reciprocated only to the extent of buying £13.6 millions' worth of South African commodities. This seemed to him to be a poor recompense for the ever-increasing purchases made in this country (Britain) by the Union since 1932.

He believed that in 1935 Britain purchased from Russia goods to more than twice the extent of her sales to Russia, and that her imports from the Argentine amounted to £43 millions, against exports of £15 millions. Moreover, when people mentioned British investments in the Argentine, as they frequently did, it was pertinent to remark that, on the £450 millions sterling invested there, no dividend was available in 1935 on more than half of that sum.

(The above paragraph is particularly commended to Minister for Customs White, consolidator of Empire trade—see our article on page 1.—Ed.)

### "POVERTY AMIDST PLENTY."

There was another reason, proceeded the chairman, why it behove us to buy more South African produce. We heard a good deal nowadays about "Poverty in the midst of plenty." Unfortunately, South Africa with all its apparent prosperity was a land to which that phrase could be applied.

Taking into consideration the fact that South Africa's exports, with gold at present value, were much more than sufficient to pay for all her oversea purchases, there was a definite opinion growing that the protective policy should be diminished, and that it was altogether wrong to subsidise the export of foodstuffs when large numbers of the people were undersupplied with the necessities of life, and that subsidies, if any, should be given for the benefit of the home, that is, the South African, consumer. This seemed to him to be moving in the right direction.

### TO OUR READERS—

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### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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## "CAN GIFT MONEY BE CANCELLED?"

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## GOVERNMENTS ARE BANKERS' INSTRUMENTS, Says Victorian Railways Journal Government Should Create and Distribute Money

In its current issue the *Recorder*, the journal of the Federation of Salaried Officers of the Victorian Railways, publishes an editorial which indicates how rapidly a true understanding of economics and finance is being arrived at by the Civil Service, and which shows how the demand for Social Credit is now coming from all classes in the community. Taking for its theme the recent salary restorations in the Service, the editorial is as follows:—

"The action of the Government in making a total restoration of the salaries of Public Servants, though belated, is welcome, and will not be begrudged by anyone, even though in the Railway Service it applies in its totality only to those officers above the first class. All other classes find themselves still some £60 per annum below their original figure—due, of course, to the cost of living adjustments, which have been applied, plus the loss of the Powers' 3/- per week.

"The action of the Government is evidence of its sincerity, and demonstrates an earnest desire to deal as equitably as possible with all sections of the community, at least in so far as lies within its limited power.

"It must by now be apparent to all that Governments, and all those other institutions which emanate from Governments, such as the Arbitration Court, Wages Boards, etc., are merely instruments for registering Bankers' inflation and deflation. Despite this fact, the Government is to be complimented upon having taken

its courage in both hands and performed an act which, if only the barest justice, is more than could have been hoped for from other quarters.

"The Federation of Crown Employees, to which this Union belongs, is also to be congratulated upon the success which has attended its persistent efforts to secure restoration.

"The determination of those members who organised the movement has received well-merited recognition, and deserves the heartiest applause of all those who will participate in the result of their labours.

### WHAT NEXT?

"The restoration of Public Service salaries having been decided upon, the question might now well be asked: 'What next?' To the lower-paid members of the Railway Staff, the 'total restoration' has brought cold comfort. They realise very fully that their position today is such as to cause little enthusiasm, and, indeed, they have every reason to be considerably disheartened.

"The reductions in the basic wage consequent upon the fall in the cost of living are giving them food for serious thought, and many are beginning to realise how futile it is to endeavour to measure the needs of a human being by judging his standard of living from the point of view of the barest necessities of life. This standard becomes all the more farcical when it is realised that the 'necessities of life,' and the luxuries too, are so abundant in

the midst of the people that there is no need for any regulation save the devising of means for distributing the goods. This objective can be attained by one means only—viz., by distributing to the people sufficient purchasing power (money) to enable them to purchase the goods and services, which abound on every hand. The basic wage principle will never accomplish this. The 'bare necessities of life' are no man's proper portion in a country surfeited with real wealth, and so it becomes ever more apparent that the basic wage principle is a delusion and a snare.

"However, we have to deal with things as they are, and under our existing system of national eco-

### DETERMINATION!

"Herald" headlines, September 8: Determined to put an end to the Arab disaffection, the British Government is sending an additional division of troops to enforce law and order.

Determined that "more rapid and effective action must now be taken to bring the present state of disorder to an end with the least possible delay," the British Government is sending an additional division of troops to enforce law and order.

nomy we find our present human needs assessed on a basic wage system, fixed according to certain cost of living figures.

"The hopeless inadequacy of that basic wage is evidenced by the fact that those who have to exist upon it find it impossible to provide food, clothing, and shelter to so maintain themselves and their dependents as to give them sufficient nourishment to ensure health and happiness. Any standard of living, which fails to do this, is inadequate.

"GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE."

"In the matter of deciding whether the existing basic wage is

adequate or otherwise, the only people who matter and who are capable of expressing an authoritative opinion are those who have to endeavour to meet their daily requirements on it. They know by bitter experience. No one else matters. No judge on the Arbitration Court Bench knows. He could not live on that amount of money, and is never likely to attempt to prove the justice of his learned and considered judgment by demonstrating its adequacy in relation to his own 'bare necessities of life.' No Prime Minister, State Premier, Railway Commissioner, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce or Stock Exchange, Director of our Banking Institutions, or University Professor of Economics could live upon such a sum, and if it should be suggested that they could, we invite them to put the suggestion into practice, and conscientiously register the result. The only person who can speak with any authority on the subject is the person whose necessity compels him to endeavour to keep body and soul in their correct relationship on so meagre a remuneration.

"What, then, can be done to remove an evil which so vitally affects the community? The struggle for existence under the present rate is too exacting, and the time seems overdue for a demand for revision.

"We realise that the fixing of a basic wage is but paltering with the economic question; but, unfortunately, the great body of opinion is not yet sufficiently informed on the question of monetary reform to give hope for the possibility of an early change in this direction, although there is ample evidence of a considerable awakening of public conscience on the subject.

"There seems left, then, nothing but an agitation for a full enquiry into the whole question of cost of living, and the method of arriving at the basic wage. Un-

till this is done, pressure should be brought to bear by all unions concerned for some provision—such as allowed by the late Mr. Justice Powers—to be made to provide a margin above the basic wage in favour of the employee for fluctuations. The lower salaries and wages are far too low, and do not give the man 'down under' a chance or encouragement.

### SUPPLEMENT THE WAGE.

"The Government has restored salaries, and in the Railway Department the restoration has advantaged the man at the top—the nearer the top the greater the advantage. Let attention now be turned to the 'bottom dog.' A lift at the base must raise the superstructure. There is no rhyme or reason in officers being compelled to spend their lives in the lower classes in the Department because the exigencies of the Service provide no outlet. Automatic progression to a reasonable remuneration after a period of years of service is no less justice in the Railway Service than it is in any other Service—banks, insurance companies, or elsewhere—and it is to this end attention must be turned. All officers are concerned in this, both in their own interests and those of their fellow-workers, and every assistance should be given to achieve this end.

"In the meantime, we would urge Railwaymen and Public Servants in general to realise that only by making the full production of real wealth available to the whole of the community can this question of insufficiency of purchasing power be scientifically solved. The means of achieving this is by giving the people money to spend—make it a supplementary wage if you will—and this money must be created by Government for the purpose.

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