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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1936.

Every Friday, 3d

Forgan Smith on Social Credit

Now that he has temporarily settled down from his last trip to London, W. F. Smith, Queensland's Premier, has again found a little time to continue his attacks on Social Credit. Mr. Smith's latest effort appears in the Brisbane *Telegraph* of September 23, and takes the guise of an alleged review of some articles recently written in a Canadian paper by Sir Norman Angell.

If you ask why Mr. Smith went so far afield for his copy, there would seem to be two obvious answers: First, this great fighter for the "working classes" in Australia appears of recent years to be far more at home outside Australia than within it; and, secondly, as hardly anyone in Australia will have read the *Toronto Post*, Mr. Smith's job as a "reviewer" of anything in that paper will be far less exacting.

Properly speaking, the "review" is not a review at all, but merely an excuse to enable the Smith to rush in where even the Angell might fear to tread. Mr. Smith has very little to say about Sir Norman; he is far more concerned with vilifying Social Credit—though, like most men of his type, he advances no argument against it.

MR. SMITH'S CAREER

For the benefit of those of our readers who, in view of his constantly professed antagonism to Social Credit and his open hostility to Douglas, may be curious as to the Queensland Premier's qualifications as an economic critic, we set out a brief outline of his career.

William Forgan Smith (he likes his second name) was born in Perthshire, Scotland; son of George Smith; came to Queensland three years before the war; a painter by trade; was aged 27 years and three months when war was declared; while Douglas was getting into the army Smith was getting into Parliament; he won the Mackay seat in 1915 and has held it since; has been leader of the Queensland Labor party since 1929 and Premier since 1932; hobbies: golf, reading (Sir N. Angell, etc.), gardening (seems to have dropped painting), trips overseas, and hostility to J. T. Lang (the latter generally ascribed to his reputed desire to be Labor Prime Minister).

"USELESS TO THE AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL."

The quality of the painter-politician's reasoning soon becomes apparent. After a paragraph devoted to the hoary chestnut about the man who offered to sell a system to break the bank at Monte Carlo for a mere hundred francs, Mr. Smith essays his conclusion: "Just as that system was considered useless and not worth 100 francs, so a Social Credit system, which gives everybody plenty of money and sets out that nobody need be poor, is useless to the average individual, even though the cost be nothing." You don't see the connection? Neither do we. Mr. Smith's logic escapes us - though we note he won't have it that nobody need be poor.

William Forgan goes on to draw upon his knowledge of history and to tell us that "ever since money began" - he doesn't say

"No Magical Plan To Abolish Poverty"

Not Merely Economic, Says Painter-Politician, But Political and Psychological

who "began" it, or how or why it began—"Governments turned to the manufacture of money in one form or another as the easiest way out of their financial difficulties." (He doesn't explain, either, why sovereign Governments should have financial difficulties.) Then, surprisingly enough, this deep student of history does not slap us in the face with a bundle of assignats or billion-mark German notes. No, he flies to the Spanish Main. "The country," he says, "which pursued this policy effectively was Spain, which was able by her early conquests of South and Central America to draw upon vast resources of precious metals. Yet speaking broadly, the more gold she got, the poorer she became."

So there you have it all nicely set out: (1) Spain was in financial difficulties; (2) she turned to the manufacture of money; (3) she seized vast resources of gold for the raw material (money to Mr. Smith is apparently a commodity—has he ever heard of bank credit?); (4) "the more gold she got the poorer she became." Nevertheless, and in spite of "she" becoming poor, we venture to suggest to Mr. Smith that whoever actually got their hands on that gold became horribly rich. For though gold is indigestible as meat or drink, both before and after the days of Christopher Columbus you could generally (and still can) exchange it freely for most of the amenities of life.

In any case we are not too sure that Mr. Smith's historical knowledge is any deeper than the profundity of his economics. Weseem to remember tales of Spain in those days---But what

has Spanish gold to do with the errors of Social Credit, anyway?

THE ORTHODOX ECONOMISTS.

Mr. Smith leaves his original notions for the moment to come back to the rut of the stock arguments. "No duly qualified economist," he says, "can be found either to accept the promises or to support the practicability of the plans produced." In the first place, this is a falsehood—as Professor Irvine, of Sydney, for instance, would soon tell Mr. Smith. And in the second, Mr. Smith's definition of "qualified" is childlike and touching in the traditional veneration of the working painter for the white collar and cuffs—"no economist, that is," he defines them, "who has been qualified in the sense in which we talk of a doctor being qualified, by a systematic study at the appropriate institution of learning." God bless the squire and his relations...Touch the forelock, Mr. Smith, but would you trust yourself to a surgeon who had merely studied theory and never walked the hospitals? Or to an air pilot who had pored over blue prints at "the appropriate institution of learning," but had never handled a joystick?

To cap it all, W. F. a little later quotes Keynes, "one of the greatest of the modern Cambridge economists," as admitting that though "we do badly, we do not know how to do better!"

OPPOSITION OF SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM

Mr. Smith also adduces against Social Credit "the opposition of organised Socialism, of members of the British Labor party, of

Communists, even, to the Douglas plan." Just why this should disprove either the desirability or the feasibility of Social Credit is obscure. The central thread of Douglas's ideas is democracy, economic democracy. Communism is avowedly anti-democratic—the dictatorship of the proletariat, the negation of freedom of choice. And does it matter much whether the Czar or Stalin turns you over to the firing squad? While "organised" Labor—as distinct from Labor voters—is just as full of would-be autocrats as any other party, as anyone who has had practical experience of the rule of Queensland Labor knows. (Should Mr. William Forgan Smith challenge this, we are prepared to give chapter and verse.)

Besides, it is not correct to imply that even political Labor is hostile to Social Credit. Has Mr. Smith ever heard of G. D. H. Cole, best known of all English Socialist writers, who has now definitely proclaimed himself in favour of national dividends (he calls them social dividends, to save his face)? Or, coming nearer home, has he followed the recent progress of Tasmanian Labor, with its social credit and consumer credit ideas? Intelligent Labor men, as distinct from those who want to scrap the machines to provide WORK, are more and more coming into line with Social Credit.

This exhausts Mr. Smith's "proof" that Social Credit is unworkable. He then proceeds, with equal clarity, to set out his own positive ideas (if any). And in so doing he seems to indicate that he has made an intensive study of Professor Copland's masterpieces.

"PSYCHOLOGICAL."

"Plainly," Mr. Smith discovers, "the dislocations are economic, just as much as monetary, and not merely economic, but political and psychological. The science of society is the most difficult of all sciences, and the monetary side of economics seems to lend itself particularly to confusion."

Now, isn't a paragraph like that wasted in the Brisbane *Telegraph*? With Professor Copland away electrifying Harvard, surely some reader will send a marked copy to Mr. Fink for the Melbourne *Herald*. We badly need such a writer to discuss lucidly the re-valuation of the franc.

"The dislocations are economic, just as much as monetary," and then, "the monetary side of economics"—which one is Mr. Smith backing? He puts us to absolute rout when he proceeds: "Monetary reform may not of itself be able to cure all the economic ills; but it may nevertheless remain true that the worst of the economic ills can never be cured unless we get monetary reform."

Just as we are trying to get our scattered wits together before this kaleidoscope of thought, we get the final crushing words: "The point, however, is that there is no single magical 'plan' which will abolish poverty and give everybody a large income by purely monetary devices. The truth is that the monetary factor is important; indeed, its proper control is indispensable to prosperity; but it is not all-sufficient."

So now we know at last where William Forgan Smith stands. Monetary reform is necessary. Social Credit, however, is not the plan because (a) it is opposed by the economists of the appropriate institutions, by "organised" Socialism, and by Communists; and (b) no single "magical" plan will suffice—what is required is something of sufficient difficulty to befit the abstruse science of society. And all because Mr. Smith says so; not a hint as to where, why or how Social Credit has shortcomings.

WHY?

What conclusion is to be drawn from all this? It furnishes an interesting field for speculation. Unless the Queensland Premier is writing with the deliberate purpose of making himself look silly (which is unthinkable in the Forgan branch of the Smiths), he knows precious little about economics, and still less about Social Credit. Why, then, his hostility? Dismissing (at once) any thought of his being inspired from outside sources, one inclines to the belief that he dislikes that well-known Social Credit slogan, "Your M.P. is your servant—use him." For W. F. Smith, like R. G. Menzies, aspires to be a national leader, and he probably senses that under a democratic economy which provided security and liberty for everyone even a Premier would exercise very little power, and that honour would come to him rather from the services he could render than from the favours he could bestow or the commands he could give. In fact, it is quite open to question whether W. Forgan Smith, the Premier, would necessarily be held in much greater esteem than plain Bill Smith, the painter - if he was a good painter.

Senator Macartney
Abbot, Canberra.

Dear Senator,

So you also have a brain wave to bring about the cessation of wars, and you believe "that in order to encourage the breaking down of barriers and in the interests of mutual understanding and peace among the nations of the world, and to permit full use of the inventions of wireless and enable the foundation of an international public opinion and literature, it is imperative that a means of international thought exchange be established by a common language agreed upon in conference of the nations," etc., etc. What is more, last week you prevailed upon 19 out of 24 Senators present to adopt a resolution in the above terms, the same to be conveyed to the Governor-General for submission to the King "with the humble prayer of the Senate that action be taken accordingly."

And still, Senator, you wonder that so many people are in favour of the abolition of the Senate!

There is no need to remind you—as this was already done in the debate on your motion—that there have been such happenings as civil wars, and that, if any credence at all can be placed in our cables, one of the bloodiest and cruellest wars of all time is taking place at this moment between people who use the same medium of "thought exchange." But we would remind you that probably the reason why there are not more

civil wars among people who speak the same language is because the oppressed sections in most countries have by now been effectively disarmed and rendered powerless.

We know of only two methods, Senator, which will ensure peace among the nations of the world. The one is a slight extension of the existing power of the international financiers, resulting in a complete world monopoly, and operating either through subject Parliaments (as in Australia and Britain) or through equally subject Fascist or Communist "dictatorships."

The other is to permit full use, not only of the inventions of wireless, but of all those other inventions by which it is now easily possible to give every family on earth a good home, plenty of food and clothing, and ample time even to learn various languages, if they so wish. This latter method, Senator, would surely be more satisfactory than the former. It is certainly attainable here in Australia, and forthwith, without the need of any cumbersome international conferences. All that is necessary is to put our distributive, or money system into proper working order, since we have both the goods and the people.

Perhaps you have not noticed this, Senator? Perhaps you don't want to notice it. Money? Anything but!

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Logic from Gullett

The working up of the popular campaign in opposition to the swindle perpetrated against the Australian people by the Lyons Ministry's anti-Japanese tariff provides an excellent example of pressure politics.

It will be remembered that when Sir H. Gullett contemptuously flung the tariff in the face of Parliament as it was going into recess the three major parties accepted it without protest. This was to be expected from the U.A.P., but the Federal Country members and Labor provided a pitiful spectacle of abject obedience. Due to the misalliance between Earle Page and the bankers' party, Country members generally were then constrained to bolster up the Ministry's case and, when storms of protest began to come in from their constituents, obediently circulated stereotyped and misleading statements obviously prepared for them by the Government's publicity officer.

Except for this journal—and we do not claim to be very influential—there was not a solitary newspaper in Australia, as far as we are aware, which fought this unjust and insane tax from the beginning. The first to join forces with us was the *Countryman*, the organ of the Victorian Country party, which has since come out with splendid courage and outspokenness.

But, generally speaking it may be said that Parliament and press were practically unanimous in uniting to deal a savage blow against justice and the true interests of Australia. In spite of this the people have asserted themselves, and gradually the Parliamentarians are being forced to bow to their will.

Mr. Curtin, the Labor leader, after a period of timorous or bewildered rustication in Western

Australia, has actually screwed up his courage to the point of asking awkward questions in the House. Once he is convinced that people will not accuse him of being pro-Japanese, he may even go to the length of launching a censure motion. The rank and file of well-regimented Labor will take their places, as usual, behind the Curtin. The Federal Country members are still, for the most part, obstinate, but pressure is being exerted upon them from irate farmers and through the columns of the *Countryman*, and it seems a safe bet that most of those who do not come to heel pretty soon will lose the numbers of their mess at the next election.

The U.A.P. is still the U.A.P., though there are well-grounded rumours that all is not well within the fold, particularly where those members are concerned who represent rural constituencies. However, the party is still officially as one, and still—anything that after-dinner Menzies may say about democracy notwithstanding—officially Fascist. The Ministry refuses to tell the House or the people what it is doing (or not doing); it still refuses to permit any debate or discussion; it still declares, in the words of the Prime Minister a couple of days ago, that "the tariff policy must stand."

Meantime, in his scanty statements in Parliament, Sir H. Gullett persists, all unconsciously, in making still more clear the case for monetary reform. Thus he told the House on Tuesday "we aim at ensuring a well-balanced share of imports from good-customer foreign countries, including Japan. At present Japan's balance of trade is incomparably better than that enjoyed by other good customer countries who buy Australian wool."

As Japan's balance is about two to five, and as Japan, or any other country, can permanently buy from us only on the basis of equality between sales and purchases, Sir Henry is thus once again exposing the vital flaw in our trading relations, which is that it is impossible to effect trade treaties until the Australian people are given enough money to buy the whole of their own annual production—or its equivalent in imports for exports. We have all along contended that the economic war with Japan provides the best weapon that Australian Social Crediters have yet had to propagate their beliefs and to demonstrate their truths. In the desperate attempt to defend its actions the Ministry has over and over again been compelled to admit that Australia's purchasing power is not sufficient to buy its own production. That is the kernel of the case for reform and the mechanical justification for the issue of the National Dividend as new money.

Unless the Government retreats it will be thrown out. It will prob-

ably be thrown out anyway. But the main task of those who think with us is not the mere upsetting of this Ministry—circumstances will do that themselves. Our task is to show those who will follow Mr. Lyons how to handle the crisis correctly.

Get in touch with your member. And keep in touch.

He Went to London to See the King

We commend to the particular notice of our readers three paragraphs in this issue, which give the expenses incurred by taxpayers in connection with recent trips abroad sanctioned by the Lyons Ministry.

One is concerned with Mr. Menzies' outlay (apart from his 2000 guinea brief on the side) for losing the Dried Fruits case, and amounts to £1559, plus "minor" items still to come. We are not aware of any other useful services to Australia performed by Mr. Menzies while abroad. The cables did report if we remember aright, a flying visit to Holland, without saying whether this was to see his late clients, the Royal Dutch Co., or to pave the way for another non-existent trade treaty. And there were sundry dinners in London and weekends in the country; but as these furnished the material for newspaper articles, for which presumably Mr. Menzies was privately paid, there seems no good reason why the Australian public should be mulcted of £1559.

Then there was the jaunt of Earle Christmas Page to attend the sugar conference which did not eventuate, and which developed into something of a leisurely world tour, finishing up with a spectacular dash back by special aeroplane. For this we are billed with £4297 6/10—again with "minor" items to come. It may seriously be questioned whether the total value to Australia of Dr. Page's services abroad would exceed the odd shillings and pence; whether, in fact, anything useful occurred during the Minister's meanderings which would not have happened just the same had he remained in Australia.

Finally there is the charge for Sir Isaac Isaacs' report to the King. Just what Sir I. Isaacs reported we are not told—perhaps that 'prosperity has returned to Australia, and that the children of the unemployed are now paid a total living allowance for food, clothes, shelter, amusements, etc., of sixpence per day. Anyway, whatever this old gentleman reported, he sent in to the taxpayers a bill for it of £4271!

Between these three travelling gentlemen, therefore, an expense account has been debited of £10,127—so far. If the Ministry responsible for this handout treated its poorer citizens with some measure of justice we should not cavil over the largesse to Menzies, Page and Isaacs. When all is said and done, £10,000 worth of real wealth is easily produced in this country. But it must be remembered that the same little coterie which is so generous to its own friends is the one which takes for its slogan, "Where is the money to come from?" It must be borne in mind that, under the financial regime which Messrs. Lyons and Co. are so anxious to uphold (and which is responsible for making these trips so ineffective), the Menzies

THE TRUTH ABOUT SPAIN

(From "Social Credit.")

Spain has gone mad, just as, at almost any moment, the world may go mad. And to what end? That a policy of compulsory work for all may be imposed.

This is the truth behind the struggle: that whichever side wins, the people of Spain will lose such vestiges of freedom as they enjoyed before, for *the policy of Fascism, like that of Socialism and Communism, is—WORK FOR ALL.*

Only the personnel of the dictatorship and, to some extent, the methods will differ; the results will be much the same for the majority of the Spanish people.

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE WANT?

If it were possible to make each individual Spaniard forget the struggle for one moment, and ask him or her—"What is it that you want more than anything? Is it not individual freedom and security?"—who can doubt that the overwhelming majority would answer: "Yes, that is what I want!"

But they have been led to believe that they can obtain their desires only at the expense of some at least of their fellows, and by some particular mechanism, which few, if any, understand.

SATISFYING OUR NEEDS.

The Government had no intention of abandoning the Royal Commission on Banking after recent allegations that evidence for the inquiry had been doctored, said the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) in reply to Mr. Garden (Lab., N.S.W.) in the House of Representatives on Sept. 24.

Mr. Garden asked whether the Government would take immediate steps to stop expenditure of public money on the inquiry.

"The Royal Commission is satisfying a long-felt need, was set up in answer to general demand throughout Australia, and has the approval of a large majority of the members of the House," said Mr. Lyons.

The lie at the heart of the party system of government—that one side can benefit only at the expense of another, when really there is plenty for all—that lie has precipitated civil war in Spain.

DOOMED TO DICTATORSHIP.

The false democracy, which requires people to vote for programmes they do not understand, instead of demanding results, which they do, has made it quite certain that, whatever else happens, Spain is doomed to dictatorship.

SHARING AN INSUFFICIENCY.

How long will it be before similar things happen here? How long will people consent to live half-starved?

Or will history repeat itself, and the question of who should govern Spain lead to a European war for yet a third time?

These are questions time alone can answer; but should war come between the Fascist and the so-called democratic States, let us be sure of one thing: it will be a war over who should have the larger share of an insufficiency, *although there is plenty for all.*

ATROCITIES.

Since the outbreak of the Spanish civil war the people of all countries have been subjected to a flood of propaganda, the like of which has hardly been seen since

-Page-Isaacs jaunts represent the equivalent of what is grudgingly handed out to keep 205 old age pensioners or 1113 children of the unemployed for a whole year. Under such circumstances, the granting of these extravagant expenses is to be regarded as nothing short of a scandal and a grave misuse of public money.

the lie factories of the opposing nations in the great war closed down.

All the old atrocity stories of the last war have been dug up, and to them have been added new ones. These atrocities, one paper tells us, are being committed by the Fascist rebels, and those—often strikingly similar—another paper says, are the work of the red supporters of the Republican Government.

The truth is that war itself is an atrocity, and "atrocities" are an integral part of it.

RUMOURS.

We are told that if the rebels win, Spain will become a Fascist State, and, by agreement with Italy and Germany, will close the Mediterranean to us, thus cutting off our ships from Irak oil, Egypt and the short route to India—the Suez Canal.

Again, other papers tell us that the success of the Republican Government in suppressing the rebellion means the spread of Bolshevik infection through Europe. Yet other papers warn us that, at all costs, Great Britain must take no part in the dispute that a policy of splendid isolation is the only one to pursue in a world in which isolation becomes increasingly difficult.

FACTS.

In this welter of latrine rumours, propaganda stories, and inspired suggestions as to the policy that should be adopted, certain facts stand out clear and undeniable.

Towns, which are famous for their artistic treasures, are, or may be at any time, in ruins. In town and country, north and south, the bodies of those who a few days ago were men and women and children lie about—dead.

Attack and counter-attack, and a town changes hands, a victory is acclaimed or bewailed—but always bewailed, whichever side wins, by fatherless children and the widows.

Above all, the warring factions and suffering civilians, the constant threat of air bombardment, and the dread that, sooner or later, one side or the other will sink to using that most tempting of all Weapons, because most deadly—poison gas.

Such is the state of Spain today, and such may be the state of this country tomorrow if we do not act, for 13½ million people will not be content to suffer slow starvation in silence—indeinitely.

When people have nothing to lose except a degraded existence they are ripe for any madness; and every man and woman in that 13½ millions, and many more besides, are in that condition today.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

We can bring to these people, and, by doing so, to the world, a message of hope.

We can show them how to make their will—that these conditions be abolished—prevail.

Not by bloody revolution nor by voting for a party label, but by uniting in demanding through their representatives in Parliament—irrespective of party—the results they want.

This is our opportunity to bring harmony to a distracted world. This is our responsibility as intelligent men and women.

Should we fail to act, and act now, we must accept a share of responsibility for the catastrophe we thus make inevitable.

THE—"Queensland Social Credit News"

Edited by HALL THOMPSON.

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"THE DOUGLAS CREDIT MIRAGE"

"Truth's" Tirade of Trash

By F. P. C.

Mixed amongst the weekly wallow of domestic dirt and gutter gleanings produced by Melbourne "Truth" under last Saturday's date was an article headed, "The Douglas Credit Mirage."

The occasion it purported to report was the recent Social Credit demonstration that overflowed the Melbourne Town Hall and was addressed by John Hogan.

"Truth" claims that for as long as five or six years it has been aware that there exists the paradox of Poverty amidst Plenty, and then goes on to say: "We have all known for many years past that mechanical aid has stimulated production to the extent that it has overtaken consumption. The first manifestation of that discovery was made many decades before young Hogan was born—when the first

posals of its own. Here they are:—

"TRUTH'S" PROPOSALS

- 1.—An increase in the basic wage of at least 10/- a week all round.
- 2.—The adoption throughout Australia of a 40-hour week.
- 3.—National insurance against unemployment.
- 4.—National organisation of the means of acquiring and furnishing decent homes.
- 5.—National organisation for the protection and maintenance of the good health of the people.

The idea being to enable consumption to catch up to production (see above re T.P.), we presume that under "Truth's" No. 1 idea, any producer including this rise in wages in the price of his article will be disqualified for not playing fair. If he disqualifies himself by going broke through not including the extra cost that, apparently, would be just too bad.

No. 2 must reduce the already slender purchasing power of the weekly envelope, even if wages are not reduced, unless monetary reform precedes this proposal. This point was dealt with at some length in last week's "New Times." The disqualification penalties of No. 1 would also have to apply to this.

That No. 3 appears in the same column, as the bit about T.P. is something at which the littlest Audrey could be excused for laughing.

Just how the incomes, which even with the aid of the unprecedented development of the time-payment system cannot buy the goods are going to provide the premiums, "Truth" does not explain.

One would have thought that the "means" referred to in "practical and direct" proposal No. 4 would be the money to pay the rent. One fails to see how any amount of Fascist or Socialist organisation can make people any less dependent on the need for the augmenting T.P. system, and much the same applies to the very worthy objective of No. 5, unless, as in the case of the farmers'

debt adjustments (over which "Truth" crows like a rooster when a hen lays an egg), it is to be "ticked up to the kids" via the National Debt.

"TRUTH" ON MONEY.

"Truth" gives its considered judgment about money: "The only money is goods—useable goods—in the form of foodstuffs, wearing apparel, dwelling-houses, essential buildings, and so on. Everything that can be consumed or used by man is money."

If by any chance anyone should desire to buy a copy of "Truth," we suggest taking this enlightened journal at its word, and advise any such person to run round to "Truth" with three penny worth of potatoes. After all, fair is fair, and "Truth" has been around the potatoes for a long, long time.

FUNDAMENTALS.

"Truth" prates of fundamentals, but studiously avoids them itself. It concludes its tirade by specifically confessing its lack of understanding of the subject it set out to criticise—the National Dividend. By this dividend alone can the leeway between

EARL PAGE'S JAUNT (HIS SECOND NAME IS CHRISTMAS)

From Hansard:—Mr. Curtin asked the Prime Minister, upon notice—

1. What were the names of the whole party, including departmental officers, who accompanied the Minister for Commerce during his recent visit abroad?
2. How long was the Minister absent from Australia?
3. What countries did he visit?
4. What were the total expenses to the Commonwealth incurred by the Minister and the whole of his party?

Mr. Lyons.—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:—

1. The Right Honorable E. C. G. Page, M.P., Minister for Commerce, and Mrs. Page; Mr. J. F. Murphy, Secretary, Department of Commerce; Mr. A. R. Townsend, Department of Trade and Customs; Mr. F. J. Marcusson, Department of Trade and Customs; Mr. U. R. Ellis, private secretary to the Minister for Commerce.
2. Six months.
3. India, Egypt, the United Kingdom, Irish Free State, France, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, British Malaya, Netherlands East Indies.
4. £4297/6/10. There may be a few minor accounts yet to come but the expenditure will not be greatly increased.

WHY THEY HAD A SURPLUS.

The Federal Government had been unjustly criticised for having had a surplus in recent financial years, Mr. Hutchinson, M.H.R., told Heidelberg branch of the Australian Women's National League on Tuesday.

He said the difficulty was that, because of the country's rapid return to prosperity, the Federal Treasurer had been unable to compute accurately the country's probable revenue.

time - payment business was opened. The time-payment system of purchase was an effort by business to keep consumption abreast of production. But in all countries of the world production continued at such a rate that even the unprecedented development of the time-payment system could not keep pace with it. Markets became glutted, prices fell, and values based upon those prices collapsed."

Let not our readers form a hurried opinion from the above that "Truth" was capable of assimilating anything at this meeting, for this mighty wonder of public thought will have none of these "upstart reform movements." It has "practical and direct" pro-

duction and consumption be made up, for by no other method can the necessary money be distributed without it being added to prices.

With its tongue in its cheek, "Truth" has criticised a subject, which on its own words it does not understand. We challenge "Truth" to prove that this is not also the case with all its financial writings by inviting it to answer the following questions:

- 1.—How does money, as distinct from the goods it is meant to represent, come into existence?
- 2.—Does the production of real wealth automatically bring into existence an amount of money equal to the price at which such wealth must be sold to ensure a reasonable return to the producer?
- 3.—Does the sale of these goods cancel any amount of money, and, if so, what amount? When "Truth" answers these questions satisfactorily, it will be entitled to discuss fundamentals and mirages. If it is to make any pretensions of catering for members of the reading public other than perverted morons, anaemic adolescents and racecourse urgers, "Truth" will not sidestep this issue.

RECREATION HALL, KEW.

Sunday, October 4.
At 3 p.m.

REV. J. T. Lawton,

"THE NEW WORLD AND ITS DEMANDS."
Musical Program

BOOK REVIEWS

Life and Money. By Eimar O'Duffy. Putnam, cheap edition, 2/6 English price. Obtainable from Douglas Credit Bookshop, 166 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, at 3/9 (posted 4/-).

The appearance of this book in a cheap edition is most welcome. Its title is a complete description of its contents. Those who have been privileged to read "Asses in Clover," by the same author, will not need to be told that Mr. O'Duffy's philosophy of life is enormously sound.

According to Mr. O'Duffy, the first principles of a sound economic system are as follows:

The purpose of man is to serve God (or in secular terms, to grow in wisdom and knowledge).

The purpose of industry is to produce goods for the sustenance and enjoyment of man.

The purpose of machinery is to produce those goods in abundance and to save human labour.

The purpose of money is to enable those goods to be distributed.

But when he comes to deal with the present system he finds it full of fundamental absurdities, and is driven to regret that when we grow up we drop a very salutary custom of our childhood in asking the simple question, "Why?" The *reductio ad absurdum* of the present system is either that there is plenty, and therefore man must starve; or, that there is scarcity, and therefore man must not produce.

We are afflicted with a philosophy of Sisyphism and Procrusteanism. The Sisyphist looks at a teeming population and says: "How awful! What a lot of hands to find work for." The Procrustean looks at them and says: "How terrible! What a lot of mouths to be filled." Both only look at part of a man. It never occurs to them to think of him as a whole and to see that if he has a mouth to fill he has a brain and hands to do it with. A man in their eyes is not an asset, but a liability; he is no longer the heir of the ages, but a foundling on the doorstep of an engine-house. The basic idea of Sisyphism is that the purpose of a machine is to give work to a man. The basic idea of Procrusteanism is that the purpose of man is to work a machine. The reason why the truths underlying a practicable economic system are not recognised is that the utterances of Sisyphism and Procrusteanism are half-truths, which are notoriously plausible and readily grasped by untrained minds.

Part II. of Mr. O'Duffy's book is devoted to the exposition of an economic plan or scheme based on sensible principles, and here a word of warning is necessary to readers. The Author himself confesses that the purely technical side of matters is not within his province, and says that the scheme he is putting forward is not advanced as a rival to any scheme propounded by Major Douglas. Readers are, of course,

aware that many different schemes can be advanced embodying Social Credit principles, and we will say definitely that the scheme propounded by Mr. O'Duffy bases money on real wealth, makes provision for payment of a dividend, and has provision for price regulation. Compared with a scheme such as the Scheme for Scotland propounded by Major Douglas it, however, appears to be somewhat artificial. We should say the difference between the two schemes is that Major Douglas has actually been engaged in industrial production, and has perhaps a wider knowledge of the actual financing of industrial processes than has Mr. O'Duffy. However this may be, the scheme is most interesting, and will provide good mental exercise to readers.

In the third part of the book the author returns to the ground where he has no superior. That is, the matter of general prin-

"I believe that what is learnt easily is often easily forgotten," said Victorian Minister for Education Harris last week, in complaining that nowadays children are taught too easily. "In my day," he added, "we had to acquire knowledge by learning and by individual investigation."

One thing which Dr. Harris himself has never forgotten (and never learnt) is—Where does money come from?

ciples and the philosophy underlying the present system. He deals with the sabotage of plenty and of civilisation, and if readers wish to obtain suitable ammunition to fire at those who allege that we are a poor nation because of the war that we must all pull together, that the problem is one big world problem, and that contraction is a public duty, they should turn to this book.

The author's conclusion is that financial stringency is narrowing and impoverishing the whole of our civilisation, and is also vulgarising and cheapening it. He regards leisure and economic security as the only alternatives to retrogression, and hopes that some day it may come about that we are not educated to be priests or politicians or businessmen, but just to be "fine good men."

AQUARIUS.

READ

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Few people can any longer pretend that, except by such devices as increasing the national debt, any community is able to buy the whole, of what it produces.

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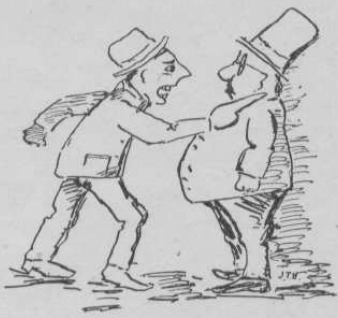
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MOTHERS, NURSES, AND HOUSEWIVES

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM BRUCE H BROWN

Sir. —Our representative womenfolk have been very much engaged lately with conferences, congresses and conventions, but a review of the reports in the press suggests that to a large extent they have only been beating the air. According to these reports not one of the gatherings gave attention to the only thing that is preventing the achievement of their objectives, and that one thing is *money*. If the ladies continue to go on in that way they will quickly show us that they talk even more and accomplish even less than the men who up to now have betrayed the trust reposed in them.

As giving some idea of the power of *money* and those who control it, the words of Arthur Kitson, which were published in last week's *New Era*, should be broadcast and re-broadcast to every responsible person in the community. "There is no branch of human activity," he said, "which is not dependent . . . upon the use of money or credit. The control of these tools of exchange gives power to control all trade and industry. It permits the control of elections, the power to appoint Cabinet Ministers, the dictation of national, trade, financial and foreign policies, the power to create both employment and unemployment, to make wars and to dictate terms of peace, and the manipulation of public opinion through the control of the press. It can overthrow and set up empires. It gives control of the drama, music, art, literature and science; the raising and lowering of the world's moral status, and of the public health; the power to raise or lower the death-rate and the birth-rate; power to aid or destroy the churches, hospitals, and, in fact, any organisations; in short, *power to control money involves the power to control civilisation.*" Unfortunately, very few women yet realise it.

With this in mind, now let us review what our womenfolk have been doing at these public gatherings and see whether it is at all likely they will ever be able to achieve anything worth while along present lines.

THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF NURSING
First, take the Royal Victorian

College of Nursing. At its annual meeting on August 27 it was admitted that the establishment of a superannuation scheme for nurses was impracticable because "it would not be possible to have premiums sufficiently low to allow the average nurse to contribute regularly." The nurses, you see, are even now getting too little *money*, and their fear is that without superannuation they will get insufficient in their old age. They are not worried about the production of food, clothes and shelter when they are old, but only about their supply of money to obtain the share they will need. Yet money is merely a set of tickets or tokens representing figures, which have been written in bank ledgers! If more figures were written in the books the nurses could get better pay *now*. As an alternative to superannuation, the council stated that it looked forward to the institution of a national insurance scheme; but obviously it said that without having investigated the true implications and the injurious effects of such a scheme on the living standards and general progress of society. Insurance is a deflationary business, and even Professor Copland has warned us "*at all costs to avoid the curse of deflation!*"

The report also included reference to a deputation which had asked the Minister for Labour to provide a wages board to control hours and pay for nurses. The fact that similar tribunals for other occupations have been almost worse than useless was entirely disregarded, despite the fact that the standards today are actually lower than in 1907, notwithstanding the remarkable improvements in productive processes. Arbitration tribunals have limited their awards to the money available, and have never denounced the fraud by which the quantity of money has been kept short of the community's needs. But the officials who spoke for the nurses said nothing at all about the money part, although it is this, alone which prevents the attainment of their aims.

THE A.W.N.L.

Then, on September 1, there was the annual meeting of the Australian Women's National League.

The report said that the league had interested itself in the following subjects: Wool industry, Marketing of Primary Products Bill, motor transport, women and peace, women on housing committees, nationality of married women, food values of primary products, site for memorial to King George V., location of Auditor-General's Department, removal of sales tax, bush fires, Sunday thieving in orchards, apples for school children in Great Britain, appointment of justices of the peace, treatment of sex perverts and slum clearance. All of these are, of course, important subjects, but in practically every instance the success of the effort is governed by finance, yet that all-important aspect was evidently lost sight of. As a matter of fact, the very necessity for the ladies even to discuss the items arose from financial limitations arbitrarily imposed by a private monopoly, in

SIR I. ISAACS.

Mr. Nairn asked the Prime Minister, upon notice—

1. Whether the Commonwealth has paid £4271 as the cost of a visit of Sir Isaac Isaacs to present himself to His Majesty the King on retirement from the office of Governor-General?

2. Whether the visit was made at the instance of the Government or of Sir Isaac Isaacs?

3. In what way, if any, is the visit deemed to have been made in public interest?

4. Is there any precedent for a payment of this character?

Mr. Lyons: The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:—

1. Yes.

2 and 3. The visit to Great Britain of Sir Isaac Isaacs on his retirement from the office of Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia was made at the instance of the Government. As the honorable member is doubtless aware, an appointment to the office of Governor-General is made personally by His Majesty the King, and the holder of this office reports to His Majesty on retirement. Previous Governors-General had been appointed from Great Britain, and opportunity of reporting personally to His Majesty was available on their return home. This feature was absent in the case of Sir Isaac Isaacs, whose home is in Australia. The expenditure has been incurred in order that the usual procedure might be observed.

4. No precedent exists as no previous Governor-General was residing in Australia prior to his appointment.

—Hansard, Sept. 24.

which some of the selfsame ladies have a beneficial interest!

A few days later, the president of the A.W.N.L. said "women should enter municipal councils, where they could do a considerable amount of good work." She did not indicate what sort of work or whether the mere presence of women would make the councils less hard up for money. The *men* on the councils could also do a considerable amount of good work if they could get money promptly from all ratepayers or if they could write their own as the banks do.

THE HOUSEWIVES' ASSOCIATION

Following this, the housewives, like so many of the other women, had a conference at Adelaide, and if we may judge from the agenda we can regard the Housewives' Association as merely a branch of the A.W.N.L. This conference asked for considerable reductions in the "cost" of government; reduction of wireless fees for country listeners, penny postage, the setting up of a public works committee to govern expenditure on public works, the abolition of the sales tax, an increased staff of policewomen, equal pay for equal work, a reduction in the price of bread, and the appointment of an Australian woman at Australia House "to encourage British women to use Australian products!"

You can see the hand of the Chamber of Commerce in some of the items, and also that the poor housewives have been tricked into supporting proposals that would only increase their difficulties as housewives. Although they may be well-meaning, they have asked in one breath for the

government to spend less and in another breath for it to spend more, but have entirely overlooked the fact that government is a "cost" in the sense they mean only because, our financial system is controlled by a private monopoly instead of by a statutory authority deriving its power and the direction of its policy from the Commonwealth Parliament. Under the latter sensible arrangement, government works and pension requirements would be financed out of national credit (the same as bank credit but brought into existence as the property of the government, instead of the property of the banks), and there would be no occasion to steal from the pockets of the people under the guise of taxation. The bogus "housewives" who wished these resolutions on to the *real* housewives showed no sympathy for the hundreds of thousands of women whose husbands are inadequately paid or are receiving no wages at all. They said *nothing* about the urgent need for increasing the community's *income* so that all the people may have access to the goods, which are now being destroyed, or which could be produced in greater quantities. Money, the only obstacle to the fulfilment of their desires, was left severely out of the discussions.

TOWN HALL PEACE DEMONSTRATION

Mrs. I. H. Moss, president of the National Council of Women, and Mrs. Angela Booth represented the women at the Town Hall Peace demonstration on September 7. The names of both these ladies figure prominently in other organisations as well. Mrs. Moss said that women were aware of the horrors of war, and Mrs. Booth spoke of Hitler and Mussolini. It is no use being "aware" of the horrors of war or of denouncing dictatorships if we do nothing practical to prevent the repetition of such horrors or the establishment of similar dictatorships. Unless we put the money part of our organisation right all our talk of peace is so much hot air. Wars arise mainly from unsatisfactory economic conditions, and unsatisfactory economic conditions arise from unsatisfactory financial conditions, but not any of the speakers appear to have touched upon that controlling phase of the situation. Mrs. Moss and Mrs. Booth would be doing far more practical good for their country and its women if they devoted some of their undoubted ability to the task of enlightening their fellow members on the true facts of finance. Wars and poverty are inevitable so long as private interests, are allowed to dictate our national policy, and unless the representative women are honest enough and courageous enough to acknowledge this fact and face right up to it they will continue to be talkers only.

WOMEN'S VIGILANT SOCIETY

Another body, calling itself the "Women's Vigilant Society," showed great alarm at the Town Hall on September 10 because women employees at a rope factory had been required to wear trouser overalls. One of the members indignantly declared "if one firm is allowed to do this, it will lead to other factories following suit until all the girls are in trousers." Most people will agree that if girls are to continue work in factories where skirts would be dangerous, then it is only commonsense that the employees should be required to wear garments suitable to the circumstances. We have heard no outcry against the ladies of Toorak wearing trousers when riding their hacks on the tan!

But the striking thing about these "vigilant" women is that not one of them protested against the scandal that, in these days of machinery and the use of solar energy, girls are required to work in factories at all. It is no place for them, as these vigilant women should well know, and only stern economic necessity on their own

or their parents' part sends them there. This stern economic necessity is simply lack of money to get the necessities of life, and yet in the face of this, all these vigilant women could do was to protest against the girls being asked to wear trousers! They should be demanding, even more vehemently than men, a rearrangement of the money System so that the necessity for girls and boys to seek employment in such places will be removed forever. But, no; the indignity of trousers is to them much more important than the prevailing conditions of soul-searing poverty and insecurity in this land of sunshine and plenty.

THE A.W.N.L. AGAIN

Next, we saw the A.W.N.L. on the job again at its conference in Melbourne on September 23, when resolutions were passed calling for the raising of the school-leaving age by one year; for all young people over school age to have some form of technical education provided for them, for lower telephone rents in country areas, and for a reduction in the price of fish "to benefit the children of families of low income" It would be a shame, of course, to speak of increasing the *income* so that the parents could buy the existing supplies of fish at a fair price. If the school-leaving age is raised and technical education provided as proposed, it will increase considerably the "cost" of education and add financial burdens to parents. To ask governments and parents to accept extra burdens of this kind without reforming the money system is lunacy, whereas if we changed the money system first these

INTEREST PAYMENTS ON TREASURY BILLS

Mr. Curtin asked the Treasurer, upon notice—

1. What is the total amount of interest paid to private banks in respect of Treasury bills for the financial year 1935-36?

2. What is the present rate of interest charged by private banks on Treasury bills?

Mr. Casey:—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:—

- £424,000 approximately.
- 1½ per cent, per annum.

—Hansard.

* * *
Every penny of this money is sheer robbing of the Australian people. The backing of Treasury bills is the real credit of the Australian people; the money issued against them is of the nature of a lien against goods and services, to be exercised through the Government's authority to tax; and the part played by the private banks (for £424,000 a year) is the mere making of a few book entries.

desirable things would follow as a natural consequence.

What an influence for everlasting good these women could exercise if only they would take the trouble to find out the truth about *money*. They can easily do so by purchasing a copy of "The Story of Money" from the *New Time* Office. After that we would quickly hear the women from one end of Australia to the other demanding to have money made servant instead of master. Dr. Watson Munro has said that "the value of a mother transcends and defeats the science of the statistician," but the mothers themselves are taking no practical steps to assert their transcendence over mere figures and tickets. These figures and tickets are so manipulated that they determine and control all our social activities and preclude us from making the wonderful bounty of God available to our womenfolk and children. When the women of Australia realise how they have been robbed and swindled by the money system, and duped by those who have been defending it, they will demand the dismissal of the medicine men and witch doctors and insist that Parliament shall see that whatever is physically possible shall be made financially possible. When they do that, they will really commence to live. — Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

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THE POWER AGE

An American Statement of What Technological Development Has Done

Technology means the study of ways to do things and especially the systematic knowledge or science of the industrial arts, the more important manufactures.

Technology made the movies talk. It has made possible a road-making machine, which in sixty seconds lays as much hard surface roads as formerly took a crew of men many hours. It is responsible for a brick-making machine, which will cut 400,000 bricks per man per day, whereas the former rate of production was around 1000. It has created in the United States machine power equal to the possession by every person in the country of one hundred slaves to do his bidding.

The prefabricated house is an excellent example of one instance of technological development. One of the reasons why it has not already become a familiar feature of our landscape is the powerful opposition put up against it by the manufacturers of building materials and the various unions of the building trades. If the prefabricated house catches the public fancy, as it seems bound to do for reasons of economy, convenience and style, a lot of lumber mills and brick kilns and thousands of carpenters and masons are going to have even less to do than at present. So much for the effect of technology on one industrial field of major importance.

INDUSTRY CANNOT ABSORB UNEMPLOYED.

If a boom similar to the one that preceded the 1929 debacle comes, will the 13,000,000 or even 10,000,000 unemployed, allowing 3,000,000 for normal unemployment, although one doesn't know what's normal about it, be absorbed by private industry? Technology answers no.

Why? For these reasons:—

Industry, during the depression, has become more efficient. Forced to co-operate with a reduced staff, many businesses found they could get along as well or better with fewer men handled in a more efficient manner.

Technological development and scientific discovery have gone on throughout the depression. At present there is a rayon factory in New Jersey, which operates without a single man on the floor of the factory. Automatic machinery operated from a central control room does the work.

The old argument that technological unemployment always solves itself by the happy circumstances of new industries starting up when old ones have reached a point where they can discard much of their manpower is no longer valid.

It is no longer valid because the rate of the establishment of new industries decreases as a nation becomes pretty thoroughly industrialised as in the United States, and because even in new industries the rate of technological development has increased so that they are able to discard manpower faster than formerly. And there are no more frontiers for men to

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go to whom industry can no longer use.

A PERMANENT PAUPER CLASS?

What is the conclusion to be drawn from all this? It is that we are faced under our present economic system with a permanent class of unemployed who either will have to be supported eternally by the government or liquidated in some manner such as allowing them to starve, or, more humanely, placing them all in a large lethal chamber and turning on the gas.

Disregarding the last measure as unthinkable except by certain savages, we are faced with the alternatives of having a permanent pauper class thinly disguised as government employees, or changing our economic system in some manner so that these people can work, live comfortably and in security, and pursue happiness to the extent of their capabilities for capturing that elusive blue bird.

WE HAVE LEFT THE MACHINE AGE.

Why has our present system, which has worked after a fashion for 150 years, broken down? Why has the purchasing power of the consumer decreased to the place where industry is at a standstill? Because of technological development. Because we no longer live in the machine age, but in the power age. Because, to use a much battered term, we now live in an economy of abundance instead of an economy of scarcity.

The problem is no longer one of production but of distribution. That it is an extremely thorny problem which is yet to be solved is evidenced by the efforts of the New Dealers to restore mass purchasing power by regulation of business, new taxation, work projects.

SHALL WE RETROGRESS?

If we do not keep pace with our technological development, our new economists have warned us, and establish a real economy of abundance, we shall return to the old economy of scarcity, pain and blundering.

Perhaps we shall not merely return but retrogress. Fascism is a cloud on the horizon of every civilised country. —"Pulse of the Nation," N.Y., quoted in the "News Digest," September 23-29, 1935.

MINISTER FOR CUSTOMS OR MINISTER FOR MORALS?

PROFESSOR MURDOCH'S QUERY

"A good many of the books I do not know; those I do know it seems right to ban if the Literary Institute is a library for children and not a library for grown-up people," said Professor Murdoch, commenting on the confiscation of 17 books from the Perth Institute by the Customs Department.

"One book, which, by some oversight, has not been banned, is Mills's book on liberty, which they should certainly consider because it contains an annihilating attack on the kind of censorship that the Minister for Customs is inflicting on a long-suffering public.

"One or two of the works banned are, as far as I remember, very tenth-rate literature," he continued, "and if they were banned for that reason there might be something to be said for the action of the Customs Department, but the question is whether clerks in the Customs Department are good judges of literary merit.

"Which leads to a further question, whether the Minister for Customs, who is responsible for this, should be the man to look after our morals."

NEW ZEALAND APPEALS FOR YOUR HELP

From the director of the Electoral Campaign in New Zealand we have received an appeal, which we publish below, for funds to assist the campaign in demanding results from the members of New Zealand's Parliament. The first blow for the Dominion's economic and financial liberty has already been struck. Whether or not it will prove a knockout blow will largely depend upon continuous pressure being exerted upon the New Zealand Government. Already there are signs of crisis. Already some members of the Ministry are showing indications of weakness, are equivocating on their pre-election promises, are leaning towards orthodox loan finance.

Today New Zealand is the greatest hope of the world. If the Dominion misses its opportunity, its failure may be a world tragedy, just as its success may lead to a world victory over the monopoly of finance.

We therefore commend earnestly to our readers the subjoined appeal for funds to enable that constant pressure which alone will bring victory.

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"The Public Credit should be the means used to establish a money system which would equate buying power with production."

The Money Power realises that its power throughout the world will be broken when New Zealand succeeds.

You can imagine what forces will be directed against our Government and us.

We are launching that wonderful campaign outlined by our

"For New Zealand," and he will forward it to Mr. Sexton.

The result of this battle will decide whether the world shall be ruled by God or Mammon.

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Marsden Dunningham, Director of Electoral Campaign, 157 Walmer-road, Point Chevalier, Auckland, New Zealand.

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On more than one occasion we have pointed out that the figures constantly quoted by way of "proof of the importance of the English market for our wool are grossly misleading, since they completely ignore the considerable quantities which are shipped to English auction rooms to be sold to other overseas customers, or which merely go to England for treatment and re-export.

Figures given in the House of Representatives by the Prime Minister in reply to a question some days ago provide some idea of the extent to which statistics of the destination of our exports should be modified.

In 1935, the Prime Minister disclosed, exports of wool (excluding apparel) from the United Kingdom to the United States, Germany and Italy alone were valued at no less a sum than £12,460,046 sterling. Just what part of this comprised Australian wool re-exported is not ascertainable, nor what was the total value of Australian wool re-shipped from Britain to all countries, but it is certain that such returns, if available, would make interesting reading—especially in view of the fact that Japan consumes locally nearly the whole of the Australian wool she purchases (or used to purchase before May 22).

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TOWN HALL MEETING

The undersigned will be glad to receive as soon as possible any unsold reserved seat tickets or cash proceeds from sales which members of the Movement may have on hand, in order that the financial statements may be finalised.

G. R. TRENOWETH, Organising Secretary.

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