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# THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1936.

# Another M.H.R. Goes Fascist

threats of withdrawal of same"

Mr. J. V. Fairbairn Scorns Electors

# "A WAR OFFICE OPPORTUNITY"

Palestine as an experimental testing ground for the British War Office is thus illustrated in *Reynolds News* of September 13: —

"By the end of this week the whole of the 10,000 troops under orders will have left for Palestine. They form the most mechanised army that has ever left these shores.

"They carry hush-hush arms, claimed to be more deadly than any yet invented. These arms will now be tried out under 'real' war conditions.

"This Palestine army will use, for the first time, the new light machine-guns on which elaborate experiments have been made for some time.

"So recently have they been perfected that they have not yet become an official 'issue.'

"Another part of the equipment is the semi-automatic rifle, which also has just passed the experimental stage.

"Armoured cars are already in service in Palestine. The War

#### "THE WATCHMAN" ON THE AIR. For a long time I was unaware of his identity, but upon inquiry I discovered that "The Watchman" is Mr. E. A. Mann, a former Nationalist member of the House of Representatives for Perth, and I no longer wondered why he spoke so strongly in support of the United Australia

party. —Mr. Mahoney, M.H.R., in the House of Representatives.

Office, however, is holding in reserve a number of super-tanks, the existence of which has been kept a close secret.

"Only a few highly placed officers know of these tanks. They were not even on show at the recent manoeuvres. But their capabilities have been tried out in jealously guarded tests, and handpicked crews are in readiness to man them.

"At present, the tanks are on the waiting list. They will not be despatched to Palestine until the G.O.C., Lieutenant-General J. G, Dill, has decided whether their services will be required.

"The task of mobilising this highly trained technical force has given the War Office the opportunity of testing, under active service conditions, the plans drawn up by the staff for general mobilisation. "The result is claimed to have been well-nigh perfect."

The New Times continues to receive correspondence from readers who have followed its suggestion of finding out the views held by members of Parliament on their position and responsibilities. Such letters are very welcome, and we trust that they will continue until the ground has been cleared by having every member declare whether he is prepared to represent his constituents, or whether he arrogates to himself the right to give electors whatever brand of castor oil he deems good for them.

Amongst our mail this week is a letter to an elector from Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, Federal member for Flinders, the constituency that once gave Stanley Melbourne Bruce the shock of his life. Judging by the tone of Mr. Fairbairn's letter it would not be surprising if a similar shock were in store for him—in spite of a reconstitution of the electorate's boundaries, and in spite of Mr. Fairbairn's self-advertised campaign of wooing the electorate by distributing restorations of his parliamentary salary as largesse amongst local hospitals (on the well-known U.A.P, "principle" of giving a dole instead of justice).

Mr. Fairbairn is well in the limelight as an amateur aviator, and his dimpled knees have also been well publicised of late in his capacity of an earnest addict of squash rackets. But he has more serious interests, not merely as a woolgrower but as a man of finance. He is a Victorian director of the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, a concern inti-mately connected through its directorate with the great Colonial Sugar Refining Co.'s monopoly, and is also on the board of Union Trustees. In this latter company he has all the pleasures of association with Sir James Elder, chairman of the National Bank, and with Mr. A. F. Bell, formerly

The Right Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia Dear Mr. Lyons, Here we are again.

Some days ago Sir Frederick Stewart asked

of the National Bank and now of the Commonwealth Bank Board. Through these and other co-directors Mr. Fairbairn is right in the swim with the little group of men who control finance and who, naturally and consequently, control also our insurance, trustee and pastoral companies and great industrial monopolies. He

#### EMPTY PURSES MAKE EMPTY CRADLES.

So long as a system under which the necessities of life were monopolised and the majority of people lived at the sufferance of those who had the monopoly of money, so long would the birth-rate continue to decline, the Rev. W. Bottomley said at the Unitarian Church last night, preaching on Australia's empty cradles.

To say that the cause of the decline was the discovery of the means of birth control and to stop at that was completely futile. The real reason was economic and not moral. Normally people wished to have children, but they did not have them because of the increasing difficulty of maintaining them. —Melbourne "Sun," Oct. 19.

is, as would be expected, a member of the Melbourne Club.

How does this gentleman regard his duties as a Member of Parliament?

#### ADMITS GRAVITY OF JAPANESE POSITION—

In the letter to his constituent, dated October 15, Mr. Fairbairn says: —

"I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 27th August, which, owing to my absence abroad, only just reached me.

"I can assure you that as a wool-grower I am well aware of the dangerous position of our trade with Japan and the consequent danger to the whole of our economic system and can be de-

> nored. We can recall your action in starting a trade war with Japan, of which no one can yet forecast how disastrous may be its ultimate results. We can recall your willingness to plunge the people into further debt at home and abroad, while ignoring the sufferings of the unemployed to such an extent that you have just refused even to make a paltry appropriation for some little spark of Christmas comforts for them—because, forsooth, their "percentage" is decreasing. We can recall how you sidestepped the question of a shorter week, and unjustly attempted to foist the responsibility on to the unions. We can recall how you first raised false hopes by national insurance projects, and how you are now deferring this to make another election cry. We can recall....

# MONEY, WAR AND THE BISHOP

Every Friday

In the course of an address last week Bishop Booth of Geelong said: "It appears sheer folly that the question of production and distribution should not be handled with the requisite wisdom, when the world can supply all our material needs. God has made the world capable of supplying every need, but it requires a Christian spirit to minister to those needs. For instance, if the money wasted on war were used to supply our human requirements all would be well."

pended upon to do everything in

my power to see that a satisfactory compromise is effected."

-BUT WON'T TAKE

ACTION.

admits "the consequent danger

to the whole of our economic

system"-a point of view radi-

cally different from the pose

adopted by the Federal Ministry

One reads on hopefully, expect-

ing that he will throw his weight

on the side of immediate action.

But the paragraph fizzles out with this: "On the other hand, I

would like to point out that, dur-

ing negotiations, it would be dis-

service to this country to embar-

rass the Government in any way

and thereby strengthen Japan's

There is the party politician for

you. Apparently it matters no-

thing to Mr. Fairbairn how the

Australian people may be em-

barrassed. It matters nothing

that a case, which he acknow-

ledges to be endangering the

whole of our economic system,

rests upon a mathematical ab-

surdity (that Japan can buy our

goods without selling hers), upon

injustice to Japan, and upon the

deliberate attempt of the Fede-

ral Ministry to make the Austra-

lian people get less imports for more money. None of these con-

siderations seems to have any weight in Mr. Fairbairn's mind.

All that counts with him is that the Government must not be em-

barrassed and that Japan's just

claims must not be strengthened

by being publicly recognised. Is this honesty?

**ATTITUDE TO ELECTORS** 

state his general conception of

"I can assure you," he writes,

"that I am always very pleased

indeed to hear the opinions of

residents in my electorate on any

(Continued on next page.)

his parliamentary position.

Mr. Fairbairn then proceeds to

Embarrass the Government!

position during the negotiations."

So far, so good. Mr. Fairbairn

Clearly his Lordship's intentions were of the best—though, in passing, we don't accept his Socialistic inference that there is anything wrong with production, as such. But what a woeful lack of knowledge of the very elements of our monetary mechanism his last sentence indicates. As a matter of cold fact, the money "wasted" on war *is* used to supply our human requirements.

If Bishop Booth would look into the methods by which the last war was financed, say, in Britain, he would find something like the following: —

The thousands of millions of pounds which represented the financial cost of the war consisted mainly of new money created by the banks in England and issued to the people as interest-bearing national debt—either through the banks directly taking up war loans, or through their granting overdrafts to individuals and corporations to enable them to do the same.

This money was then paid out by the Government to the people, partly through munition works and the like, partly for other material, partly to soldiers and their dependents, and so on. In the hands of these people the money was not used to buy back what they produced for war purposes. Munitions were not sold to the British people; they were donated to the enemy from guns and aeroplanes. Stores and equipment, for the most part, were not sold to the troops, but issued to them. The money that came into the hands of the English people for producing these things was used to "supply their human requirements," to eke out the insufficiency of money for food, clothing and shelter otherwise have existed And so, in spite of blockades, submarines, and all sorts of war regulations, the rank and file of the people o f England were nearer to prosperity in the war years than in the years of peace which followed. This happened for two reasons. One was that after the armistice war-time expenditure was cut down: the other was that interest charges on that expenditure kept recurring as a perpetual debt. We recommend Dr. Booth to follow this line of thought, and to investigate why it is that the people of England, now that war expenditure is being resumed on the grand scale, are again - for the moment -becoming more prosperous (or less destitute) than they have been for nearly two decades.

#### "THE SOCIAL CREDIT QUESTIONNAIRE."

"New Times" readers who wish to obtain a copy of "The Social Credit Questionnaire" may do so by enclosing a cutting of this advertisement with their letters. Inclusive fee, including personal services in relation to the "Questionnaire," 2/-, post-free

IAN M cDONALD Dept. T, Box 1913KK, G.P.O. Sydney. you in the House whether your Government concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr. Bruce as Australia's representative at Geneva, that "it was the supreme duty of statesmen to see that the masses shared in the benefits of scientific achievement", and, if so, what you proposed to do about it.

To this you replied: I think that the sentiments expressed by Mr. Bruce will be accepted by every honourable member of this House. Anything which the Government can do to give effect to the principles enunciated will be done as readily by the Government as even the honourable member could wish."

Anything, which the Government can do! What has your Government actually done, Sir? We can readily recall Jubilee and other trips abroad, past and projected. We can recall the appointment of17 Royal Commissions and inquiries since the beginning of 1932, at an estimated cost to the taxpayers of £108,123, but with negligible results – most of their findings having been shelved or igBut need we go on? We can NOT recall one single act of your Government that would give even the colour or semblance of truth to your reply to Sir Frederick. The way your Government is heading, it seems that the first "benefits" of scientific achievement to be shared by the masses will be in the nature of poison gases and other of science's diabolical inventions for wholesale destruction.

THE NEW TIMES

(Continued from page 1.) political

problems, whether these opinions

happen to coincide with mine or

not." Again, so far so good. But

once more he brings in the

ambidextrous touch, and proceeds: "On the other hand I

would like to say that I refuse

to be influenced in any way by

promises of support or threats of

withdrawal of same. If the day

should arrive when promises and

threats should influence me in

any way, I shall retire from poli-

The aviator-M.P. for Flinders

apparently envisages himself as

upon some high and detached

plane like that of the Melbourne

Argus (perhaps because of the

Fairbairn connection with that

IS EVERYBODY WRONG BUT

US?

From the Eastern Importers' As-

The four months' hush-hush policy of the Government regarding

the proposed Japanese Trade Agree-

ment is not fair to Australia, and

must create suspicion in the public

mind, whilst the fact that we

have disagreed with— SOUTH AFRICA over maize

NEW ZEALAND over potatoes

IS EVERYBODY WRONG BUT

US?

organ) where he must obey the

dictates of his own judgment, im-

pugn it whoso list-even if the

whoso happens to be one of those

who put him in Parliament to re-

Mr. Fairbairn's attitude, like

that of others to whom attention

has previously been called in

these columns, is a flagrant de-

nial of the first principles of de-

mocracy. He is not in Parliament to do what he thinks best

for the people-even though, as

is quite conceivable, his judg-

ment on any particular issue

might happen to be superior to

that of his constituents. Such an

attitude indicates a dictatorship

or despotism — whether benevo-

lent or malevolent is beside the

point. In a democracy the clear duty of a Member of Parliament

is to carry out the policy of the

majority of those who sent him

there and whose representative he

is. If a Member of Parliament will

not do this he is a dishonest

servant; if he feels he cannot do

it without violating his own con-

Fairbairn may not at the mo-

ment be doing what the majority

of Flinders electors want-

though it is hard to believe any

electorate could want inaction in

Parliament interspersed with

aviation trips abroad. But we

do emphatically suggest that he

is away up in the air in not

worrying whether his electors

opinions "happen to coincide

with mine or not", and that pres-

sure should be brought upon him

We do not suggest that Mr.

victions he should resign.

A DENIAL OF DEMOCRACY

over bananas

over perfumery

over motor cars

over soft goods

over glass

over hats

sociation of N.S.W.: -

Mr. Mussolini Fairbairn!

tics."

FLII

BELGIUM

ITALY

FRANCE

JAPAN

AMERICA

prompts the question

present them.

# **New Times** SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

Page Two.

#### PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

Their advertisement helps your paper. Say you saw it in the "New Times."

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# As One Ass to Others

#### **By AQUARIUS**

Speaking at a luncheon of the University Commerce Graduates' Association (to an audience from which ribald brayings might not be expected even in response to the most professorial exposition of the dismal science), Professor G. L. Wood, of the Melbourne Univerdelivered himself sitv. as follows:

"The fixing of the exchange rates of the main world currencies is a very important step, and a far-reaching one in itself, but it can only be regarded as the first step in a return to normalcy. There are many other steps, which are required to restore world prosperity, and the two main objectives must be the revival of world trade and of long term international investment.

These two things are really complementary aspects of one great economic movement throughout the world. It must also be accepted now. I think, that the only method which will restore that measure of security which will assist both trade and investment, is a return to the gold standard.

"Not, of course, the gold stan-dard of pre-depression days, but a new standard operated in a new way which will economise gold, and give a far greater measure of control over fluctuations of credit and movements of capital.

That large objective was at the present moment one which was merely peeping over the distant horizon, continued Professor Wood. Between the present position and the new normalcy there were half a dozen adjustments to be made which were at least as important as the harmony that had been achieved on the exchange question.

Further agreements to cooperate were necessary:

(1) For the regulation of international indebtedness, and all those problems inconvenient of debts outstanding between nations, which had only been postponed would have to be faced anew.

(2) The gradual abolition of import quotas. This would have greater immediate effects on world trade than even the next step, which was-

(3) Mutual progressive reductions in tariffs. After that we should look to-

(4) The resumption of foreign lending, which was dependent on removing the political and trading risks from the world, as it now existed. After that there would naturally follow-

(5) The resumption of migration.

The last step would be-(6) The restatement of the open door principle in regard to world trade generally.

The Professor's statement lends considerable support to two propositions advanced by the late Eimar O'Duffy—viz.:

(a) That economists may propound any number of mutually irreconcilable ideas and yet be regarded as orthodox so long as they do not question the supremacy of mankind.

We suggest to the Professor that

no cure for the mess lies in stabil-

isation of currencies, a return to

any so-called gold standard, or an

extension of long-term interna-

tional investment (i.e., debt to the

conformity with the following prin-

prices

cash

finance production shall be sup-

collective

consumption.

(b) That a professional econoist is a learned fool who declare a National Dividend by solemnly proves that the way to regulation under Section 30 (a), get out of a mess is to stick to the (b) and (c). way that led into it.

# ALBERTA'S RECENT LEGISLATION

## What Mr. Aberhart Is Doing

ing reports of recent legislation in Alberta we publish for the information of our readers a summary of recent legislation in that Province. For this digest we are indebted to the Social Credit Secretariat of South Australia, for whom it was prepared by that body's Director of External Relations.

The legislation is as follows: -No. 5 of 1936: "The Provincial Securities Interest Act.'

This Act provides that, from 1st June 1936, the interest payable on all the provincial debts of the Province shall be reduced by 50 per cent. Minimum rate 2 per cent. Only exception the 7,400,000 dollar 5 percent, deben-tures of the Alberta and Great Adjustment Act." Gives a special Board power to prevent foreclosures upon pro-Waterways Railway Co.

#### No. 7 of 1936: "Department of Trade and Industry Act Amendment Act.'

Arranges for a Board called The Price Spreads Board" to be appointed to control prices. Penalty for any breach of its decisions 1000 dollars and costs per day.

#### No. 11 of 1936: "The Alberta Credit House Act."

Provides for a Credit House to handle and allot Albertan Credit in competition with private banks. It may establish branches in such places as are approved by the Lieutenant - Governor - in -Council, but shall only commence operations with his approval, and he may, by orders in Council, vary, add to and supplement the Act. Albertan credit is transferable, but it is not convertible into Canadian convertible currency upon demand. It is issued as a loan to persons agriculture, engaged in manufacture or industry, and to defray the cost of building a home or the establishment of a person in any business, vocation, or calling. These loans are said to be interest-free, but carry a charge of 2 per cent, per annum, payable when the advance is made. Any money, in excess of the loans, standing to the borrower's credit in the Credit House becomes the property of the Credit House (presumably to be employed in the reduction of the debt) and in case of default the borrower's securities may be sold to discharge the debt.

The Provincial Treasurer is to get as much Credit as he wants, and he may make payments in it. Alberta Credit may be used to pay taxes, and anyone who wishes to be eligible to receive it must register under the Act.

No specific provision is made by the Act for financing consumption in any shape or form, but the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may provide by regulation for a discount payable to retailers selling commodities at finance over prices authorised by the Board, which are less than the ordinary price, and he may also (possibly)

In view of somewhat conflict- taxes. To remain valid they must be stamped at the end of each week with a stamp valued at 1/100th of the Certificate's face value, and at the end of two years the Provincial Treasurer will cash them. A Prosperity Certificate for 100 dollars issued on the 1st January 1936, will have on it in stamps by the 1st January 1938, 104 dollars. The then holder, on presenting it to the Provincial Treasurer, will receive for it 100 dollars out of the 104 dollars paid in purchasing stamps, the additional four dollars being the Treasurer's profit on the transaction.

#### No. 14 of 1936: "The Debt Adjustment Act.'

Gives a special Board power to perty of resident farmers and resident homeowners.

The powers granted the Board by this Act are very wide, but the Lieutenant - Governor - in -Council may repeal the Act at any time and suspend it in certain cases.

#### No. 15 of 1936: "The Reduction and Settlement of Debts Act."

This Act applies in cases not covered by the preceding one. No interest to be charged on old debts contracted prior to 1st July 1932. Interest on new debts not to exceed 5 per cent. No compound interest to be charged from 1st July 1936. Old debts may be paid off by instalments. No warrants of distress and seizure to be granted in respect of old debts. The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may declare any debt To be a debt not covered by this Act. No. 20 of 1936: "The Municipal Securities Interest Act.'

Reduces the interest payable on municipal securities to 3 per cent.

#### **Curative Treatment.**

Headed, "A Way With Road-Hogs," a press report says that in Florida four men were sentenced by a judge to sit for an hour in a badly smashed motorcar in which four persons had been killed.

In pursuance of this excellent idea, a proposal has been made to make all armaments manufacturers sit for an hour a day in the middle of a battle.

-Reynolds NewsA.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. FORMATION OF CO-OPERATIVE TRADING CO.LTD. MEETING TO ELECT DIRECTORS AND DRAW UP ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION. 1st Floor, Nicholas Building, Swanston St., Melbourne. MONDAY. NOVEMBER 9, at 8 p.m. Those Interested are Invited to bring their friends or write to CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE, C/o The New Times, Elizabeth House, Melbourne.

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(Continued on page 3.)

abandon this autocratic attitude, or, failing that, he should be dismissed at the first opportunity. And it won't be long now.

The "New Times" has started a Sales Register for the exclusive purpose of recording names and addresses of its "Sell eleven a week" Fraternal.

As soon as you are swinging along quite in step with this increased circulation plan, will you send in your name and address? There is unlimited scope in this field of service. You have always felt you ought to do something for the movement. Here is an opportunity for straight out service, in which you may perform exploits. Sell your eleven every week – and begin now. Buy from your local agent.

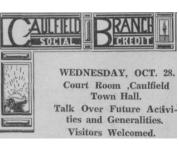
#### No. 13 of 1936: "The **Prosperity Certificates Act.'**

£400,000 worth of "Prosperity Certificates" may be issued by the Provincial Treasurer, and any person willing to receive them may be paid in them.

banking system). The problem is one, which will yield to domestic At certain dates they are received in payment of certain action in each or any country in

"(a) That the cash credits of the plied, not from savings, but by "(a) That the cash credits of the population of any country shall at any moment be collectively equal to the collective cash prices for for depreciation general to consumable goods for sale in that appreciation.

country (irrespective of the cost (c) That the distribution of cash prices of such goods), and such credits to individuals shall be progressively less dependent upon cash credits shall be cancelled or depreciated only on the purchase employment – that is to say, that the or depreciation of goods for dividend shall progressively displace the wage and salary as "(b) That the credits required to productive capacity increases per man-hour.



CHELTENHAM SOLDIERS'		
MEMORIAL HALL,		
POINT NEPEAN ROAD.		
John Hogan		
The Young Crusader,		
Speaks on		
"AM IMY BROTHERS KEEPER?" SUNDAY, OCT. 25, 3P.M.		
501120,01120,011111		

# **CENSORSHIP**—WHY?

#### By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

by former successes, and all in a glow at having put Japan in her place, the Federal Government now gives us another proof of its divine right to control our destinies according to its own pattern. What that pattern may be has not officially been disclosed, but it does not appear to be startlingly original, as it bears a strong family resemblance to that of European dictatorships.

When a list of banned books was made public about a year ago (it included a British statistical work on the housing problem), an indignant citizen wrote to the Ade-Advertiser, ironically laide suggesting that our censors had apparently forgotten Mill's "On "Areopagitica" Milton's as works containing much that must be unpalatable to the Cabinet oligarchy at Canberra. That oversight has been repaired, for "On Liberty," that Liberal classic of last century, has now joined the ranks of the condemned. Is any further proof needed of what our 'National" Government is up to? This is but an echo of the Nazi slogan. "I spit upon freedom," and Mussolini's boast of the "decaying corpse of liberty."

#### THE TIGER AT THE GATE

How is it that whole nations have allowed themselves to fall under this monstrous slavery, with pomp and banners and uniforms to chant hymns in praise of their own degradation? Surely it is because of the pain and bewilderment of economic distress, of constant frustration. The struggle, often futile, for the daily crust, closes the minds of men and women to other dangers. They are so occupied with the wolf at the door that they do not see the tiger at the gate. They do not know why they suffer in a world that has magnificently conquered scarcity: they are only conscious of the suffering, and any demagogue who promises them an ordered economy that will provide for their needs has not much trouble in enlisting them under its banner

Not long before Hitler's rise to power, a writer in Harper's prophesied that his reign would not be long, as it would be completely impossible for him to make good half his promises. We now see that in spile of that impossibility, and the

It would seem that, encouraged wretched poverty of the German people who are asked to tighten their belts while armaments pile up, Hitler still holds sway. It is quite simple, after all. Engage the services of a first-class liar, like Goebbels, and tell him to go ahead, set the uniformed bullies to smell out all who disapprove of the regime and send them to concentration camps where rubber truncheons will fully persuade them of the folly of free speech and opinion, put the more dangerous out of the way permanently, see to it that the espionage system is efficient-and there you are! "O, but it can't be done with a freespirited Anglo-Saxon race," you say. Cannot it? You are advised to read Sinclair Lewis's "It Can't Happen Here"—or even what the cables say about Sir Oswald

#### COUNTERING FREE EDUCATION.

Moseley's latest capers.

It shows its claws, this tyranny, first by censorship. Australian Governments must often have deplored the initial mistake in making education free and compulsory. If people only did not know how to read, their task would be much easier. However, as that mistake is irreparable, the next best thing to do is to keep all "dangerous" books out of the Commonwealth. At first, it was all supposed to be in the interests of morality and decency, but, once having the power, it was easy to go on. Last year 70 political works were denied admittance into the Commonwealth. So it seems that not only are we as a people infantilely susceptible in a moral sense to pernicious influences but we are not yet sufficiently adult to distinguish between bad and good in the political sense. This must be true, for we are asked to believe things that no intelligent adolescent could swallow, as, for instance, that the Russian Five Years' Plan is a dismal failure, and must be banned here as a film, lest we fall violently in love with a scheme of government that has established it. If we must not be encouraged in a desire to copy Russia, surely one of the best forms of discouragement would be to see what a failure it is! Nor must we see "Ten Days That Shook the World," nor a play that introduces features of a German concentration camp. This needs attention.

# THE NEW TIMES

We must not see the better side of Communism, nor the worst side of Nazism! That seems to make it pretty clear where our Government stands.

We are not so far, either, from the latest German slogan, "Less butter and more guns." Mr. Lyons not only asks us to give £10,000,000 for "more guns," but is sure we will do it cheerfully. The true Hitler touch! Of course, having spent so much in warlike preparation, it would be a shame not to use it, so the right sort of tactics applied to Japan should put her in an aggressive mood. It does not appear likely that any other nation casts covetous eyes on our great open spaces.

Censorship of political works, denial of free speech or free assemblage, intensive military preparation-what form of government most favours these? Not democracy, certainly

#### THE DANGER OF CENSORSHIP

Now let us ask ourselves, is censorship so very necessary, or is not its establishment more of a danger than that from which it professes to shield us?

With regard to political works, there must surely be only one answer. How can we possibly discover the ideal form of government if we have not free access to all opinions on that subject? No mind kept in swaddling clothes can ever be robust enough to tackle the problems of economic planning or the extent of government control.

indecent or immoral literature, any tion of the machine age. sane person must recognise the impossibility of saving a nation by any attempt to limit its reading matter. In the first place, it simply is not done. Floods of such literature pass by the unheeding censor; apparently it is only when the work is a classic that it is deemed to be among the unfit. When one considers that the kind of person whose mind and morals are most easily contaminated is about the last to come in contact with works of classical standard, while much poisonous stuff is ever within his reach, all this fuss about a writer like Aldous Huxley seems more than superfluous. For, of course, Aldous Huxley is neither immoral nor indecent. He has a more offending fault. He is a real-We all shrink from realism. It ist. is much nicer to pretend that things are not as he relentlessly paints them. Public schools, for instance. Our kind, paternal Government is desirous of sparing us these painful contacts with reality, for reality is coarse and brutal, and we must be gentle and refined. The ideal is a really nice infant school, where nice fairy tales and lovely bedtime stories keep us from thinking about such things every family in Australia to live as poisonous slums. the strong need of cementing the joyed. bonds of Empire by sending our choicest specimens on numerous trips to the "Motherland"; of being mindful of our London funds and their limit, so that we may not cease to be thrifty; that the British nation and its rulers are the only reliable moral force in the world today, and that British statesmen

# **Tasmanian Baptist Union Joins Fight Against Poverty**

At the annual meetings of the Baptist Union of Tasmania held last week the following public resolution was passed: "That we, the members of the Baptist Union of Tasmania in assembly, deplore the conditions of extreme poverty existing today amidst such plenty. We urge that all steps be taken to rectify this obvious fault which is depriving the men and women for whom Christ died from the food. clothing and shelter that God in His wisdom has so bountifully provided."

This motion was moved by the Rev. McIntosh Brown. In moving the resolution Mr. Brown stated that it was obvious to thinking men that poverty existed where it should not, that 60 per cent, of the wage earners in Australia were earning £2 per week or less, and it was obviously impossible for them to have any higher standard of living under the present system. Thinking men everywhere were claiming that the Church was doing nothing with reference to this vital matter, and it was the purpose of the motion to demonstrate that the members of the Baptist Church in Tasmania had a real concern with the problems, With regard to the question of which had arisen by the introduc-

In seconding the motion, Mr. Maurice Weston stated that our King had already challenged his

WHY WE FAVOUR LANCASHIRE. From the report of the Lancashire Independent Labor Party Commission: "The weavers of Lancashire are

the most poorly paid workers in this country today. They are the cheap coolie labour of Britain's greatest exporting industry." A high percentage of the weavers employed in typical cotton towns are receiving less than 30/-a week, the percentage at Preston being as high as 73.5. "THE BANK OF ENGLAND AND FIVE BIG COMMERCIAL BANKS CONTROL LANCASHIRE," WHILE HALF LANCASHIRE, WHILE HALF THE MILLS OUTSIDE THE LANCASHIRE COTTON CORPORATION "ARE SO MUCH IN DEBT THAT THE BANKS COMPLETELY CONTROL THEIR POLICY."

Empire by stating that this age had for its particular task the abolition of poverty. Mr. Weston stated that goods—food, clothing and housing—were immediately available which would permit underfed multitudes and at nearly three times the standard Such stories as of living that was at present en-

Rev. H. G. Hackworthy, M.A., M.C., in supporting the motion, stated that it was not the tinkering with or adjustment of social conditions that was required, but that it was obvious that the whole economic system itself was not carrying out the work of distribution for which it was intended, and that a definite adjust-

#### Page Three

# **New Times SHOPPING** GUIDE

and Business

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

## (Continued from page 2.)

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**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. onn. Rialto Hosiery. Underwear St., opp. Rialto Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd. 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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never, never put Imperial interests before international justice; that the banks saved Australia in the economic crisis; that the Australian Associated Press is most enlightened and impartial; and, last of all, that we are a free and happy democracy, and may continue to be so if we put all our trust in the U.A.P. -there is only one way to break through all this, and that is to form an anti-censorship league.

#### EVIL BOOKS

No matter if some evil books are circulated. They are now, anyway. The very fact that they are banned draws attention to them and arouses an unhealthy curiosity, with the result that avaricious traders will get hold of them and sell them. Move-over, where shall we stop in this censorship? A perverted mind can find evil in school textbooks, in Shakespeare, decidedly in Chaucer, in Byron, and even in the Bible. It is not better to remove all

ment was required to enable members of the community to obtain the goods which were able to be produced for their use by the scientific age God had given.

obstructions, and the very ease with which certain books may be procured will take away half their attraction? To conclude, are those who take upon themselves to restrict our intellectual adventures so pure, so noble, so advanced and so enlightened as to be trusted with this difficult task? When we consider that the resistance to this form of dictatorship has come from the most intellectual groups in Australia. one wonders

Let us not be surprised if we wake up some day to find that all Major Douglas's books have been put on the black list.

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MENTONE **RADIO** Repairs and Sales. C. Barnett, 24 Marina Rd. XW2032

MORELAND BOOT REPAIRS. J.T. Nolan, Holmes St., 4 drs, Moreland Rd. (Continued on page 7.)

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# THE NEW TIMES

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# The City of London, Mr. Savage, and **Some Others**

In contrast with the grovelling attitude usual amongst Australian politicians—and this applies particularly to the present Federal Ministry-the candour and commonsense displayed by New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr. Savage, in discussing the remarks of an overseas gentleman last Saturday were like a breath of good fresh air. This representative of overseas "capital," in the person of Lord Elibank, president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, was good enough to criticise certain of New Zealand's proposed legislation as being such as "British capital could not be expected to understand," and to suggest that it be held up until Mr. Nash, New Zealand's Finance Minister, en route to England, had "ascertained the views of the City of London."

Mr. Savage, in reply, said that his Government was not going to take its instructions from people from abroad, and that as long as the people stood behind the Government it would continue to govern the country.

Such remarks, if made by Baldwin, Blum, Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin, would be looked upon as perfectly natural and would excite little comment. But coming from a "self-governing" Dominion, they are as provocative of a hubbub as the recent indication of the Belgian King that he would no longer allow his country's military policy to be dictated by France and Britain. For it is an accepted "principle" that Dominion governments, and especially Australia and New Zealand, should carry out without argument the instructions of the "City of London"-or other-

wise of the Bank of England-as Street.

As an instance of this, one has only to compare the present humble attitude of members of the Federal Ministry with their brave words when they were in opposition. Take Sir Henry Gullet. Here is what he said in December, 1930, apropos the Scullin tariff: "I charge the party opposite with having taken violent and unscrupulous action against industry in this country, but particularly against the interests of thousands of workers . .. My charge against the Government is that it has exploited a national urgency to provide prohibitive duties for certain commodities. ... In the end we shall be faced with higher prices, increased costs, and even more unemployment than exists today." While his friend, Thomas White, now Minister for Customs, added: "I support the criticism of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition

(Mr. Gullett), but go further than he did. The Federal Government has hoisted the black flag of prohibition, and perhaps the red flag is flying beside it.'

That was six years ago. Today these two Australians, patriots while in opposition, are defending an action, which is already affecting adversely the interests of thousands of workers in Australia-primary producers in the country, suburban wage earners and their wives and children in the cities. Exports are realising lower prices (a considerable proportion being unsold at any price), while imports-of goods which are not manufactured locally at all and which are mostly used by poorer people -are entailing a far greater outlay.

Read again Henry Gullett's words: " . . . violent and unscrupulous action against industry in this country . . . against the interests of thousands of workers . . . prohibitive duties for certain commodities . . . higher prices, increased costs, and even more unemployment." Do not those words exactly fit the action of the Lyons Ministry, carried out after it had "ascertained the views of the City"?

can forget that it was a Labor Ministry (put into office on October 22, 1929, and there till January 6, 1932) which brought Niemeyer ("the views of the City") to Australia (July, 1930), sponsored the infamous Premiers' Plan (adopted June 10, 1931), and in face of an abounding production of real wealth slashed and cut at the Australian people's capacity to enjoy it. And all in the name of sound finance. all in order to suit the views of the City of London!

You may say this criticism of conveyed to them via Downing Labor is unduly harsh. But is it? The statements above are matters of fact, and the dates may serve to refresh memories which time is dimming. Anyway, at the best does it matter to the people whether they suffer through tools or through fools?

> Returning to Mr. Savage, he made it clear in telling Lord Elibank where he got off that the New Zealand people had no quarrel with the British people. New Zealand is resolved that it will no longer be dictated to by British - domiciled financiers, which is quite a different matter. If the British people would only make the same decision they would find themselves immeasurably better off, and they would certainly not have to commit themselves to hundreds of millions of pounds in taxes and debt for war materials merely to get access to bread and margarine.

# **Peace in Palestine** and Elsewhere

The British Secretary for War, Mr. Duff Cooper, has expressed his gladness that peace again reigns in Palestine-a peace imposed, not by justice, but by force. "The mere presence of the British army," he is reported to have said, "sufficed to quell the disturbances. Soldiers are the greatest upholders of peace in the world."

This is all very fine as far as it goes. It may be quite satisfactory to Mr. Cooper and to others of his temperament to envisage a peace in which a million or two Arabs are cowed by the might of the British army. Such a peace will probably be sustained as long as that army remains in residence in sufficient strength to overawe inferior forces. But whether it is a peace, which is satisfactory either to the Arabs, to the genuine Jewish settlers, to the English wives and children of the soldiers, or to the exiled troops themselves, is quite a different story. Besides, it raises another issue. Mr. Duff Cooper's gratitude was recorded in Monday's cables. The same day's cables contained the following: "It is believed that Germany is accelerating her aerial expansion with a first-line strength of 2200 planes, aiming at parity with Russia. This will necessitate Britain increasing her programme in order to maintain parity with her strongest neighbour." So Communism arms for peace, Fascism follows suit, and good old Democracy ("soldiers are the greatest upholders of peace") sets out to view with them all. And when Democracy has caught up, who will lead trumps in the next

round?

The one thing these peace-byarms merchants never by any chance discuss is why, since no peoples really desire war, peace has to be *inflicted*.

# **Air-minded Yacht** Clubs

Perhaps because of some association of ideas between sailors and whistling for a breeze, Sir Frank Clarke, vice-chairman of the National Bank and president of the Victorian Legislative Council, apparently endeavoured to put the wind up the Royal St. Kilda Yacht Club on Saturday night by addressing its members on the necessity for making Australian boys air-minded,

St. Kilda Yacht Club has pleasant social traditions, connected as much with dead marines as with living mariners, and hence many of its members and wellwishers will regret that a festive occasion like its annual smoke night should have been prostituted by a banker-politician for party purposes.

Sir F. Clarke laboriously endeavoured to give his ill-chosen theme some semblance of a link with the occasion by saying: "We of British race are driven to sea has our destiny in its grip." And then this hardy old sea dog of the British race (and the National Bank) went on to make his point, which was that the Fishermen's Bend airport was vitally necessary.

Into the merits or otherwise of the Fishermen's Bend site there is no need to enter here, nor to inquire what interests are so concerned to push it that Melbourne's daily papers have written editorials ad nauseam in lobbying its claims. What matters at the moment is that the democratically elected Government of Victoria has announced certain decisions on the matterdecisions that the Legislative Council, the anti-democratically elected mouthpiece of the super-Government, has been and is endeavouring to upset. Discussion of the airport site, when voiced by a Legislative Council politician, is therefore distinctly a party matter, and for the guest of a non-political club to bring up such a subject in his address to members was as ill-mannered as the "racy" story he told which reflected on the standard of education of Labor members of Parliament.

At last year's annual celebration the Prime Minister was the Yacht Club's guest of honour. and he also seized the occasion to make a party-political oration. If the management committee feels impelled to inflict politicians on its members, why make the club a sanctum for U.A.P.-ism? Why not be open-minded enough to bring along a Country party Premier or a Labor leader? The Social Side of Social Credit INAUGURAL BALL of the Brighton Douglas Credit Younger Set. Bright Town Hall, Cup Eve, November 2, 1936. Dancing from 8 p.m., until 2. a.m. Single Ticket, 3/3 **Tickets from Douglas Credit Rooms** Or Ring X 5750.

# NATIONALISED MUNITIONS

#### By 303

The Labor Party appears to agree with any other party on the question of whether or not we should militarise ourselves, but disagrees on the point of whether or not the production of armaments should be nationally or privately owned. This, of course, is the attitude of the Socialists in England and Europe.

In Australia, the munition industry is generally understood to be a Government monopoly. The huge factories at Footscray and Maribyrnong (Victoria) produce explosives, ammunition, guns and other military accoutrements on a grand scale, and, it is believed, they export a percentage of their products to British possessions in the neighbourhood of Australia. (N.S.W.) the At Lithgow Government Small Arms factory manufactures weapons that compare with the world's best in deathdealing capacity.

This state of affairs evidently suits the Labor Party. It certainly suits the large manufacturing groups (mostly monopolistic) who supply the raw materials which munitions from are manufactured, otherwise we should see more in the daily press on the aspect of government inefficiency in munition making. Huge quantities of material are supplied to the Defence Departthe conclusion that, whether it is ment, which, unlike a private in battleships or *seaplanes*, the manufacturer, never files its schedule. Government accounts are "class A" in the business world.

> Trade journals devote quite an amount of space to Government tenders, both "open" and "ac-cepted." A recent extract from one of these journals (Building and Construction", Oct. 13), under the "accepted" classification, gives the following particulars, and these are typical of what is going on all the time:

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

"222,000 No cartridges, .22 long, rifle, solid case, 18/8 per 1000 "in for Ammunition factorybond, Imperial Chemical Industries of Aust. &.N.Z. Ltd., Melbourne.

"Con. 3477. -15,350 No. Horseshoes, steel C.P., for Ordnance Stores-Rates as per contract-Acme Horseshoe Mfg. Co., Five Dock, N.S.W.

"270 tons steel shell rounds, 41/2 in. dia., for Ordnance Factory,  $\pm 18/5/6$  ton—Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

"Steel-410 bullets, £14/19/6 ton, 28 tons reeled rounds,  $\pounds 12/11/6$  ton, 15 tons rounds.  $\pounds 18/5/6$  ten, for Ordnance Factory-Broken Hill Pty. Ltd.. Melbourne.

'100 tons electrolytic copper wire bars, for Ammunition Factory,  $\pounds 54/1/3$  per ton, plus approx.  $\pounds 1/2/-$  ton for freight and insurance—Electrolytic Smelting efining & Co., Melbourne.

"2000 No gas masks, No. 4, Mk. 1, for Munitions Supply aboratorie eac Perdriau Rubber Co. Ltd., Melbourne.

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Nor can the pot call names at the kettle. For was ever a more shameful betrayal of the people of Australia than that perpetrated by Mr. Lyons's whilom chief, J. H. Scullin, the "friend of the workers" who cut their pay, robbed the unfortunate pensioners, and was largely responsible for Labor's present ineffectual position by his pitiful cowardice in not daring to stand up to the "ascertained views of the City"? It will be a long while before those people in Australia who are not fanatical party hacks

"Supply and fitting special bodies and auxiliary springs to Ford Utility trucks for Ordnance Stores, Melbourne, £353—Mel-ford Motors Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

"Six sets booster assisted brake equipment, for R.A.A.F., £223 -Replacement Parts Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

So the Labor Party is in the same camp as Imperial Chemical Industries. Broken Hill Proprietary, Electrolytic Refining Co., Dunlop Perdriau and The Ford Co., in approving of the nationalized manufacturing of munitions. Perhaps Labor may take a suite of offices in Collins House so that talks on war matters can be more comfortably carried on.

## THE PEACE MOVEMENT

#### By W. BROWNLEY.

Editor's Note. - This is the second of a series of articles by Mr. Brownley. The first, entitled "The Future of Sanctions and the League," appeared in our last issue.

their ideas effective not so much initiative and national expression because they have failed to present them in a reasonable light, but because they have had a wrong conception of war, an inadequate and passive conception of peace, and because they have endeavoured to stop war while retaining a form of organisation in which war is a constituent element. Instead of endeavouring to induce persons not to participate in war, the pacifist, if he wishes to be successful, must show humanity how to organise the world so that the causes of war will be abolished and peaceful co-operation will replace warring competition. Some pacifists-endeavoured to do this, but, as will be seen later, an inadequate analysis of Capitalism has prevented them from escaping from the snares which enmeshed the industrial system. But, generally speaking, the pacifist has been a person who has made little appeal to the average man because his gospel seemed not only too passive but positively cowardly. If peace is ever to replace the present lawlessness, peace must be presented as an heroic fight and it must be proved that peace will pay a bigger dividend than war.

The persons and organisations working for peace may be divided into two groups: those who believe that evil can be vanquished only by moral power, and those who believe that it can be destroyed by organisation, and these two groups belong to two broadly defined states of society absolutism and democracy.

#### NON-RESISTANCE.

There is one common factor, which unites all the chief exponents of what may be called a moral approach to peace. Jesus, Tolstoy, Gandhi, Godwin and St. Francis of Assisi all lived under autocratic governments. The times and conditions of Jesus are too well known to need much comment. An autocratic Roman peace, made possible by a military government, weighed heavily upon the world. Other forms of political government were not allowed and insurrection was certain of speedy suppression. The peace maintained between peoples was not a peace of mutual interests and toleration, but a peace imposed by an allpowerful overlord. It was Empire in the very worst meaning of that rather inclusive word.

To find anything comparable in modern times one must turn to the African Empire of France of the Indian Empire of Britain. In India a multitude of nations, castes, tongues and religions are kept in taut peace only by the superior force of a suzerain government. Pre-war Russia presented a somewhat similar

Pacifists have failed to make condition: a fair degree of local was allowed, but a central military government brooked no opposition or rebellion. Coming to English history we find a comparable condition in the England immediately succeeding the French Revolution. The seeds of self-government had been spread throughout Europe by the English Revolution of the previous century, and had finally flowered in the French Revolution and the Red Terror, which raised as much fear in the minds of the English as it did in the minds of the other European Governments. Self-government and the struggle for it could be seen only against the background of the Red Terror, and the savage treatment meted out to those who proposed even the mildest form of political reform shows how autocratic had become the Government of Britain. In the England of 1800 rebellion was unthinkable; even the advocacy of political change involved the advocate in almost certain transportation to Botany Bay. Of a similar nature was Europe of the Middle Ages, when the Pope of Rome was both spiritual and temporal overlord of the world-a monarch against whom no prince or king dared rebel.

In all these cases there is one common feature: autocratic governments which "seemed omnipotent" and against which physical rebellion was futile. As would be expected, these conditions produced similar types of men as rulers and subjects. That does not mean that they produced just standardised types, but rather that they facilitated the emergence of types, which would otherwise have remained unknown. Neither does it mean that there were no rebellions, but as the rebellions were squashed and the leaders executed, little is known of them and their influence has been negligible. But the conditions allowed the emergence of a certain type which reacted in such a manner that though their opposition to autocracy may have been of doubtful utility, they yet raised the question of liberty in such a manner that the world has been haunted by their teachings ever since.

As the evils of the world could not be righted by physical means, these men urged that justice could be attained and autocracy destroyed by a moral lever. They all taught the futility of physical resistance to evil and oppression. Collectively these teachers must be classed as anarchistic: their reaction was a natural one against autocratic government. One extreme is always countered by another. To such men, the idea of government for the uplift and betterment of mankind was a contradiction in terms. The

only governments known to them personally existed only for the governing class. Born under other forms of government, all these men would have had other ideas on the subject. Born under such conditions as those in which they lived, their ideas were inevitable. It is quite probable that their ideas were the only useful ones for their times, but it is quite impossible to imagine such ideas ever producing any great positive results. While it must be conceded that the ideals, if acted upon, would abolish military warfare, it must be insisted upon that there is nothing in the idea of non-resistance to change just absence of military warfare into positive peace.

#### INTERNATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE.

the suggestion that the Inter-national Trade Union Congress should declare an international general strike in the event of the threat of war. Well, we have had several minor and one major war since the World War, and Labor has never once breathed a word about a strike. Was it because the war increased employment in neutral countries or because Labor realised that even if an international strike prevented a war, of itself it could not do anything towards solving the troubles, which threatened to end in war?

#### LET WARMAKERS PAY FOR WAR.

A remark once frequently heard was that if those who declared war had to fight in the front trenches and pay for it, there would not be any war at all. The idea is worth considering because it was given expression to by W. E. Gladstone in his Budget speech during the Crimea War. Speaking in favour of paying for the war by current taxation, he said:

The expenses of a war are the moral check which it has pleased the Almighty to impose upon the ambition and the lust of conquest, that are inherent in so many nations. There is pomp and circumstance, there is glory and excitement about war notwithstanding which, the miseries it entails, invests it with charms in the eyes of the community, and tends to blind men to those evils to a fearful and dangerous degree. The necessity of meeting from year to year the expenditure, which it entails, is a salutary and wholesome check, making them feel what they are about, and making them measure the cost of the benefit upon which they may calculate. It is by these means that they may be led and brought to address themselves to a war policy as rational and intelligent beings, and may be induced to keep their eyes well fixed both upon the necessity of the war into which they are about to enter and their determination of availing themselves of the first and earliest prospects of concluding an honourable peace.

The speech is approvingly reproduced by Philip Snowden in his "Labor and National Finance,'

# **MOSQUITOES OF FINANCE**

#### MELBOURNE CITY HEALTH OFFICER TELLS WHY HE SUPPORTS SOCIAL CREDIT

At the Rose Hall, Essendon, on Tuesday, October 13, a large audience was privileged to hear a most thought-provoking address by Dr. John Dale, Mel-bourne City Health Officer. The lecture was arranged by the Essendon district branch of the Douglas Credit Movement of Victoria.

Dr. Dale said that all health officers, or most of them, were driven to take an interest in social reform because so much of their work brought them in contact with poverty-lack of money , which meant lack of the neces-Of a more positive nature was saries of life. If those necessaries of life were not supplied, naturally life suffered. That is to say, health suffered, and the prevention of disease consisted first and foremost in supplying the necessaries of life.

Heredity gave us in the fertilised human egg cell the complete and unique design of the finished individual. That incredibly, amazingly complicated design was contained in a tiny speck of jelly in the middle of the fertilised cell, which was about a one hundred and fiftieth part of an inch across. That cell grew by taking in food and divided into two. Each of the new cells again divided into two, and so you got growth, until finally the finished individual has millions of millions of different cells-brain cells, blood cells, muscle cells, and so on.

# DOCTORS AND ECONOMICS

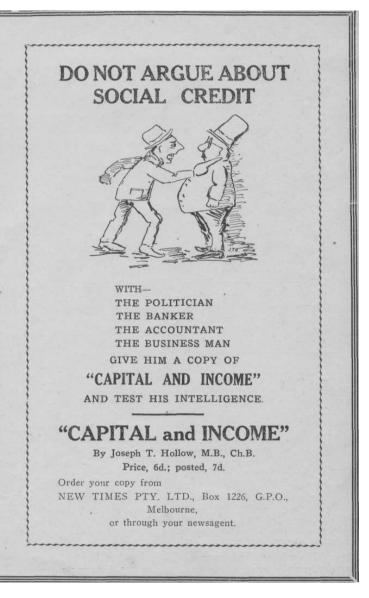
had to have your specifications, stating exactly what amounts and kinds and qualities of ma-terials were to be supplied, and how they were to be put towere followed, unless all the neath their breath. necessary materials were supplied at the right time and in the right amounts and qualities, you would not get your Melbourne Hospital, as you wanted it. It

was the same with human life. A health officer, therefore, was bound to be interested in economics, which dealt with the supply of the necessities of life. So the speaker had interested himself in various proposals for social reform, and in orthodox economics. He had read Henry George and Marx and economic textbooks. All such writers appeared to have made contributions to our knowledge of the existing state of affairs, but he believed that Douglas had taken a new and most enlightening point of view.

#### ECONOMIC MALARIA.

He compared Douglas's contribution to that of Ross in relation to malaria. It had been known for ages that malaria had something to do with swamps, and for many years that there was a parasite in the blood, but it was not until Ross showed the part the mosquito played in passing the parasite from person to person that our knowledge of the situation was sufficient to deal effectively with malaria. Douglas had shown the part played by the mosquitoes of finance. In other words, when the lecturer read the Douglas analysis he was astonished and shocked, but obviously, if that analysis were true, then it fitted the case. If Douglas was right, then of course the nations had to fight each other, however friendly they might be, and *of course* a "favourable" balance of trade meant that a nation gave away This marvellous development more than it got, and of course can take place if everything is machines were a curse instead of supplied. The lecturer compared a blessing, and *of course* depresa blessing, and of course depressions occurred. So the speaker human development to the crea- sions occurred. So the speaker tion, say, of a new Melbourne had studied it further, and done Hospital. You had to have your all he could to discover the catch complete design, and then you in it, and had asked scientists, professors of economics and leading businessmen where was the catch in Douglas, but most of them either hummed and ha-ed or said it was none of their busigether. Unless the specifications ness, with a "Thank God" be-

That was why the speaker supported the Social Credit idea, because it seemed to supply the key to the solution of a terrible and cruel situation.



# "CAN GIFT MONEY BE CANCELLED?"

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.

Hence those whose interest it is to oppose monetary reform are now contending that, if new money be issued by governments to make up the shortage, this must continue mounting up until it causes extreme inflation.

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and represents Labor's official attitude shortly after the war. As Gladstone says, it may cause statesmen to have to conclude an armistice more quickly than if war be financed by loans, but, as we have seen, the signing of an armistice is not synonymous with securing peace. Wartime taxation must therefore be written down as but a very inefficient deterrent. It certainly did not seem to hasten the end of the Crimean War.

By its nature there cannot be any vitality in a negative proposition, and it is not surprising that none of the above suggestions have ever become anything but suggestions. It remains to consider two positive propositions; the claim of Socialists that war is the outcome of capitalism and that only the institution of Socialism will put an end to war, and the League of Nations.

Sir-

# THE NEW TIMES

# "THE ARGUS" AND MAILED FISTS

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

misuse

writers"

representatives of labour, but of the community in general. Readers outside Victoria may not

#### **EXPLOITING THE** SUFFERERS

to prostitute their talents at the be-

hest of their employers and to

attainments in trying to bolster

an attitude, which is wholly

unreasonable. There is at least a

suspicion of this in the case of the

Argus staff. Consider this example:

There is no pressing need and no

passionate desire for a 40-hour

week among men whose services are

now in demand after a good deal of

slackness and positive hardship in

recent years." With these "leader-

practicability or justice, or even of

considering the claims of the thou-

sands of men whose services are

not in demand, but of exploiting

the sad position of men who have

suffered positive hardship and may

be apprehensive of suffering it

again. They appear to believe, as

Mr. Maurice Blackburn, M.P., be-

to a state of semi-starvation and

then hold the threat of *actual* star-

vation over him, he will meekly ac-

cept any conditions offered by his

slave-driving and inhuman tormen-

tors. If this is the sort of thing

that conscience demands, then it is

about time we reviewed the wisdom

of paying heed to it. Already we

see young girls and boys being

shamelessly exploited because of

economic conditions deliberately

brought about by financial mani-

pulations in 1929, and the tender

conscience of the Argus prompts it

to have the exploitation extended to

the poor fellows who have recently

obtained jobs after long periods of

unemployment. The only way to

describe this is to record it as a

barefaced effort to take advantage

of the physical suffering and mental

apprehensions of a few to avoid the

extension of benefits and bare justice

to many. Conscience, forsooth! The

paper would probably gain claim at

least to some respect if it were

THE RURAL WORKER

ments related to workers in rural

areas. This is what it said: "Rural

producers and their wage-earners

will surely support the demand for

further inquiry. They cannot enjoy

a 40-hour week, and there is no

reason why they should pay for

those who are demanding it. Men

working on the land in any capa-

city cannot demand that the land

must yield them as much for a 40-

hour week as it does for longer

hours of work. They would be

happy if they could ask politely or

demand truculently, as building

unionists are demanding, that they

should suffer no reduction in re-

ward for a shorter working week.

Those who wish to erect business-

places or dwellings may be coerced

into paying the same wages for less

work, but the soil cannot be

dragooned in that way. In the long

govern the rewards of all labour,

and if that section in the building

trade receives more and does less,

But the most absurd of its argu-

without such a thing.

it is not a question of

their

Some editorial staffs are known

educational

conservative newspaper published in Melbourne, and that it is one of the present-day representatives of the fools of old who ridiculed and persecuted the world's greatest benefactors at the time of their important discoveries. Pasteur and Lister were dubbed cranks by the "authorities" of their time, and the great newspapers also referred to them as quacks and dreamers.

be aware that the Argus is an ultra-

But the world now knows what the genius of Pasteur has meant in the alleviation of suffering to both man and beast, while the science of surgery has been revolutionised to the benefit of mankind by the methods introduced by Lister. Today the Argus ridicules an even greater genius in the person of C. H. Douglas, who has discovered the means by which poverty and material insecurity may be abolished forever. Instead of conveying this wonderful message to the people, however, it misrepresents the principles enunciated by the dislieves, that if you reduce a man coverer and shuts its columns to any corrections or explanations. But just as Pasteur and Lister confounded the know-alls of that time when their discoveries were actually tested, so will this man Douglas confound the know-alls of today when they get the sense to put his discovery to the practical test.

Besides its propensities for misrepresentation and ridicule, the Argus has two peculiarities, which make it different. One is the fact that in spite of the declaration always appearing immediately above its leading article: "I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whoso list," the leading articles themselves are generally misleading, frequently only halftrue, and sometimes actually false. The other peculiarity is that although the paper has been encountering serious financial difficulties (and rumour has it that even the recent reconstruction has not removed them), *finance*, in regard to its origin, nature, purpose and control, is the one thing it will not permit to be discussed in its columns. Any other subject is welcomed, but the master subject, which controls all others must never be mentioned.

#### MISLEADING ARTICLE ON 40 HOURS

Immediately following the decision of the building trades unions to demand the introduction of a 40hour week, this same journal came out with a leading article, under the usual assurance about truth-telling, entitled "Mailed Fists." It may claim reasonable grounds to pose as an authority on this subject, for it has been using the mailed fist for generations against all progress, which would be beneficial to the people. An example of its truth-telling may be found in the statement that "Mr. Lyons invited representatives of labour to run, production and its value join in an inquiry for a 40-hour week, but the invitation was scorn-fully, even insultingly, declined." No reference whatever was made to the reasons given by the representatives of labour for declining to participate in the supposed "inquiry," or to the fact that the proposed composition of the body to conduct the inquiry was insulting to the intelligence not only of the

governed by production and its value. 7. If workers in industry receive

more for doing less, the workers on the land must receive less and do more. 8. The farmer must pay for all

the privileges that those in the city enjoy

Why further inquiry? No one doubts that even under present conditions we could increase production enormously on a 40-hour week basis and still have thousands of workers to spare. Facts in confirmation of this have previously been quoted by the yard, and as we know that the adoption of a 40hour week is quite practicable, do we need further inquiry to re-prove

# DO RURAL WORKERS "PAY" FOR SHORTER **CITY HOURS?**

There is no truth in the second statement that rural workers cannot have a 40-hour week, or in the suggestion that these workers have to "pay" for reduced hours in other occupations.

Between 1912 and 1928, and in N.S.W. alone, the number of persons engaged in primary industries declined by more than 21,000, while the area under crop increased by 1,700,000 acres and the *volume* of production increased substantially. That being so, it would have been quite possible, and obviously sensible, to use those 21,000 persons to effect a reduction of hours for rural workers generally. Had this been done, production would have been greater still without any increase in the total number of workers employed in 1912. In any case, if farm work must go on from daylight to dark, what's wrong with having it done in two shifts as applies in so many other walks of life? The only thing that prevents it, as every farmer knows only too well, is the poor *money* returns he gets for his product, and nothing he can do under existing conditions can improve his money return. Give him adequate finance, however, and he could re-organise his working arrangements immediately.

On the third point, farmers should not and do not have to "pay" for reduced hours in other occupations, any more than other people should have to "pay" because the farmer needs assistance from the public purse. One contradicts the other, and neither the farmer nor the other workers of the community have any say at all in fixing "values" or the quantity of money. The farmer is entitled to a full return for everything he does of community value, and to the full benefits of whatever else other sections make available for his use and enjoyment. If the farmer is paid fairly for what he produces he is given a corresponding claim to the goods and services produced by other people; consequently he has full access to the benefits of science and machinery. Money is not taken from the farmer to give to labourers, as the Argus untruthfully asserts. The fact is that the producers of money (mere figures and tickets) are continuously on strike against both the farmer and the labourer.

#### LAND AND LABOUR.

Dr. still. Paul markable Spangenberg, of Germany, has discovered a process under which it is possible to grow enough food for 1200 cattle on one acre of land, and to obtain a fresh crop of fodder every day in the year! Not only so, but the cattle fed upon this feed are fatter and their milk richer. Keeping its eyes shut to these things the poor old Argus still dodders along. It is interesting to observe that at Reading, in England, where they are actually Dr. Spangenberg's testing discoveries, new crops of maize and barley are being grown and harvested every ten days. The crops are grown in chemically treated trays. No earth is used. Seeds thus germinated produce five times their normal volume! It is claimed that this method will revolutionise the existing methods of feeding livestock and make the farmer practically independent of seasonal conditions. But he must on no account get any benefit through fewer hours of personal labour!

The next claim of the Argus, i.e., that shorter hours on the land must mean less reward, is also completely disproved by the actual facts. As shown above, the number of men on the land today is many thousands fewer than was the case a few years ago, and despite the cutting of all the hours of labour thus represented the rewards in the form of additional production are far greater, both actually and relatively.

As to the coercion of the land, we have already seen that with the application of science, chemistry and mechanics, the land will give more and better returns with less effort and in less time. To use the word coercion in regard to the land and its production is altogether out of place, for the land has clearly shown its readiness to alter its habits and respond to new methods. Unfortunately the *Argus* and those who control it show less intelligence than the soil, and consequently any talk of coercion must be confined to those who, like themselves, refuse to recognise facts.

# PRODUCTION AND "VALUE."

all labour are governed by produc-tion and its value" is partly true, governed by production every family on the average could have its income increased several times immediately, for since 1907, when the basic wage was introduced, the volume of production has increased out of all proportion to the increase of population. Obviously, the matter is not governed by production at all: it is governed by the "value" of production. And that "value" is assessed in terms of money; it is determined by the private interests, which control our money supply. and it is the method whereby these interests are gradually gaining possession of all wealth.

Then we come to No. 7: "If workers in industry receive more for doing less, the workers on the land must receive less and do more." The fellow who wrote that must have the idea that there is only a fixed and limited quantity of money, and that so far as the great bulk of the people are concerned their share must be erned by the amount they do. A few privileged families do no "work" but receive a very large share of the money supply. If machines do *all* the work, then of course, according to the Argus, the individuals outside these select families should get nothing. They may gaze upon an increasing heap of desirable machine-made goods, but may never use them. Presumably it would be a sin even to covet them, and so they fade out through starvation. In New South Wales alone the value of machinery used in primary industries increased as follows: -

burden. And if this machine-work were monetised and distributed (i.e., given financial figures with corresponding tickets), what occasion would there be for some people to "work" more and receive less for doing it? Such an idea is contrary to common sense, and the statement of the Argus is simply not true.

#### THE REAL ROBBERS

Finally, we are told, "the farmer must pay for all the privileges that those in the city enjoy.' Pay what and pay whom? Like everyone else the farmer can pay his ordinary debts only with money, and the amount of money he can get does not depend on his personal industry or the size of his harvest. It is determined by the "value" placed upon if in terms of money by interests, which take no part in producing it. This manipulation of money "values" not only robs the farmer of the fruits of his labour, but enables the money manipulators to obtain possession of his assets. We have had evidence of this since 1929, when our farmers have been required to ship more and more produce for less and less money-and that was not because more money was being paid to industrial workers.

The financial wherewithal to effect "payment" is created by the controllers of the banking system, who thus write their own title to the farmers' goods and to the toil of all individuals outside their own privileged clique. This helps to explain how, for the past 25 years, they have increased their own possessions at the enormous rate of a million pounds a month! And if it is the farmer who does all the "paying," why is he so head-overheels in debt? How do debts arise if the man pays? And what about the production of coal, gold, electricity, timber, and the like? Who "pays" for them? As God, the great Giver, never sends any invoice, who does send them?

Privileges are paid for as they are provided, and the "cost" of them is represented by the materials and effort required to make them available. The question of "paying" for them as the Argus means would never arise if it were not and really it gives the whole show that the financial credit required away. If rewards for labour were for accounting purposes is permitted to be claimed and treated as the private property of the banking system. It is because of this that everything becomes a debt to the murderous and swindling money monopoly.

> The Argus, by falsehood, dissimulation, lack of sympathy, and dishonesty, is helping to create an atmosphere which is almost certain to plunge the community into a condition of serious industrial disturbance, whereas a genuine attempt on its part to expose the cause of the difficulties, and an unbiassed examination in its columns of the true implications of Social Credit would just as surely lead to the removal of poverty, to the establishment of economic security, to increasing incomes, to shortening hours of labour, and to a condition of community happiness so far thought impossible by large numbers of the more timid souls. -Yours faithfully,

#### BRUCE H BROWN

The statement that "rewards for

therefore, private

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OUR THANKS to those who DID THIS!

workers on the land will do more and receive less. Favours which all cannot enjoy fall at once on the farmer. He must pay for all the privileges that those in the city enjoy.

Let us set out these conclusions categorically, so that we may consider whether they have any actual merit. They may be summarised thus: -

1. There should be further inquiry.

2. Rural workers cannot have a 40-hour week and therefore should not have to pay for a 40-hour week for others.

3. The land cannot be made to yield as much for a 40-hour week as for longer hours of work.

4. Shorter hours on the land must mean less reward.

5. The soil cannot be coerced into producing the same quantity in a shorter period.

6. Rewards for all labor are

To suggest, as in number 4, that the land cannot produce more with less human attention, or that we cannot produce more in less time, is simply to admit that the facts have not been investigated. In the Melbourne Tribune of September 10 we were given two remarkable illustrations of what is going on in this respect.

Seventy-five years ago one man could care for 12 acres of crops; today one man can care for more than 100 acres. Modern machinery can plough 10 acres a day compared with one acre for the horse-drawn plough. In the same way, machinery can harrow 130 acres to the horse's eight or 10. But of course the possibility of relieving the farm worker of some of his long hours of toil is the last thing to be considered. We must give thousands of them the sack and require the others to keep going from daylight to dark!

On top of this, and more re-

1912	£4,600,000.
1928	£11,000,000

And there has been a corresponding decrease in "wages". If machines can do the work, then it is obviously quite unnecessary for men, women and children to continue to act the part of the beasts of

## **BOOKS ON MONETARY** REFORM

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# THE NEW TIMES

# SUMMERTIME ENDS A Review by "Aquarius "

"Summertime Ends," by John Hargrave. (Obtainable at Social Credit Book Shop, 166 Little Col-lins Street, Melbourne. Price, 11/6.)—John Hargrave was a sol-dier in the Great War (the first world war) and has since been fighting for the liberties of mankind throughout the horrors of sound financial peace. He has for years been a supporter of Social Credit. He has been gifted to understand thoroughly not only the technique and philosophy of Social Credit, but also its social implications. He has a passionate social sympathy for his fellow man, and an unequalled capacity for organisation and action has been displayed in his formation and leadership of the Green Shirt movement in England. In addition to all these qualifications, his literary genius has been well known for years. In these circumstances, when the word went round that John Hargrave was writing a novel, several dis-criminating pairs of ears were pricked up in anticipation, even so far away from England as Austra-lia. The novel, now published, exceeds all expectations.

'Summertime Ends" translates into the sphere of everyday lives, and in novel form, the statement made in 1919 by C. H. Douglas in 'Economic Democracy," that "from quarter come the every unmistakable signs of crumbling institutions and discredited formulae.

The period of action in Hargrave's book covers thirteen months, from October to October, and each chapter is prefaced by a calendar of the days of the month whose events it chronicles. As an accurate description of contemporary life and social conditions the book has no equal. It deals with the everyday lives of George and Jenny, in love on the dole; of the kindly Dr. Senlac, whose preference for life as against death is more articulate, if not more real than that of George and Jenny; of the Reverend Ditmold, who has lost his bearings ("A lump of lard. Christ knows what Christ thinks of him!"); of the big-fisted, thumping big-footed industrial and trust magnate, Sir John Jordans, whose mind is a sump, of half-baked and quarter-digested ideas, and who raises every possible red-herring pretext for the woes of industry, until finally cornered like a rat by the banks and brought to realise the identity of his true enemy; of the aged Lord Swingletree and his lovely young wife; of Harding, the inventor, and a hundred and one human beings reacting against the artificial dreadfulness of environment produced by "sound finance." Throughout the book, in the background, hovers Sir Otto Speidlehus, the high-priest of mumbo-jumbo, mesmerism - by -symbols finance, with his lick-spittle economist, Dr. Krantz, close at his heels.

The action of the novel unfolds inevitably as one after another individual is crushed and thrown aside by the financial system, just as ants may be swept from a log and mangled by a capricious and

sadistic small boy's boot. In the shadow of the approach of general internal chaos and the next world war there gradually crystallises a sense of the one big fight, which faces mankind-the fight against

finance. All in the same boat Into all this pattern of tragedy John Hargrave has woven the sillysurface froth of modern, existence, the vulgarities of advertising, the fatuousness of coupon collecting and B.B.C. wireless anwireless announcements, and all the distractions and dopes provided to a bewildered people.

The book ends on a note of rebellion by George, George of the dumb masses, against the approaching war, and a declaration of war by life against the forces of death in the birth to Jenny of a big, fine healthy baby boy. George and Jenny on the dole. "Do you think you'll ever get work?" "Oh, for Christ's sake, haven't I tried?"

John Hargrave stands emphatically for the economics of life as against the bankers' economics of degradation and death. His novel is the most profound of the century, and is epoch-making in the sphere of literature, just as "Economic Democracy" is in the sphere of political economy. There is no counterpart in literature for its style, and its consummate skill in the weaving in of themes and emotions. For a parallel we must look to the stupendous music dramas of Richard Wagner. The author's style is unorthodox, and has been specially evolved for this book. We frequently find an unfinished line instead of a full stop, followed by a capital letter. The rhythm and poetry of the book are magnificent, as will appear even from the first few pages. The reader will quickly accustom himself to novelties of construction and style. Social Crediters will not need to be told to be afraid of new ideas when they produce resuits, as they do in this case.

The reader may not, however, begin at the end of the book and read backwards, go ahead of himself and later catch up or skip even as much as half a page. He must start at the beginning and continue to the end without deviation Otherwise, he may become hopelessly boxed.

'To Hell with their—Wars They can fight their own—

Wars All these big pots What the Hell's the good of

sympathy to us

They Don't Know What To Do -Any Of Them They'll Never Shift Till We

Shift Them.'

(Editor's Note. -In connection with the above review Melbourne leaders may care to know that a talk on "Summertime Ends" will be given to the literary circle at the Unitarian Church Hall, Melbourne, on Sunday afternoon, October 25, at 3.30, by the Rev. William Bottomley.)

# TO THOSE WHO THINK AND CARE

## By REV. W. BOTTOMLEY.

I begin this confidently assuming that there are many people- far more than we know—who are seriously concerned about the state of the world. To say that we are living in difficult times is but to utter a truism, but to the thoughtful man and the thoughtful woman the times have always been "difficult"; by which I mean that life always has its problems for those who want a good life in a good world. The world as it is never can be good enough for those who have a vision of better things. This urge for the better life lies at the root of religion, and those who desire it earnestly and sincerely are the truly religious.

It will be seen that this definition allows for the inclusion of a great many people who are not primarily interested in church religion, but have we any right to assume that the churches have a monopoly of religion? I think not.

Jesus began His crusade for the Kingdom of God within the framework of the established church of His day, but He soon found Himself outside of it, for the professionally religious would have none of His teaching. So He went among the people, the poor, the disinherited, the outcast, attracting at the same time many of the better educated who experienced the spiritual hunger which so many are feeling today-because they also had been offered stones for bread. These listened to Him gladly because He gave them a vision of a new life of love and brotherhood, which He called the Kingdom of God. It was not a magical kingdom he had in mind; it was something real, practical and material.

#### MAN AND MATTER.

I make no excuse for using the word material in this connection. Religion is nothing if it does not materialise; it has no reality if it does not influence the material things of life. To say that religion has nothing to do with industry, the production and distribution of material goods; or with economics, the science of wealth; or with our civil, political and international relations, or the problem of riches and poverty, is, of course, to remove it from the sphere of practical life and of material things. You can "spiritualise" religion out of existence, and that, I am afraid, is what has happened and may easily account for the problem of our churches.

It is no degradation of man's nature to say that he is a material creature. Does he not live by the earth? Must he not eat and drink, be clothed and housed, and find his means of contact and communication through material things? This does not rule out man as a spiritual creature also. We are capable of ideals, of hopes and aspirations which transcend our present state, but what I want to make clear is that apart from this earth man has at present no existence, and that the spirit of man functions through a material environment. Here on this earth we live and, as yet, we have no knowledge of any other life—"it doth not yet appear what we shall be"-and we may assume that the Giver of life so ordained it. I am not questioning the right of anyone to speculate on the possibility or on the conditions of a life after death, but I doubt the wisdom of being dogmatic about a subject, which admits of faith but not of knowledge. On this subject I know of no lines that better express my own feelings than those of Whittier's: -

spiritually arrogant, described in the Gospels as the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees. That this hunger exists I have no doubt. am finding it among all classes of men. It reveals itself in a profound dissatisfaction with things as they are, in which must be included many forms of religious teaching. It reveals itself in a dissatisfaction with one's self also; largely, I think, because of the feeling of helplessness in face of conditions and movements which our moral instincts tell us in no mistaken terms are wrong.

People desire peace, yet the nations are preparing for war; they desire justice, yet they see men and women condemned to poverty and squalor in a world of plenty, and the best men and the best women, those who really think and care, do not want to take refuge in a merely personal kind of salvation which brings them in and leaves others out. They are not at all sure that the diagnosis of "sin" is the correct one. It is true that there is selfishness in the world, but it is equally true that there is unselfishness; it is true that there is hate, but there is also love; and it is manifestly true that not all the selfish people are outside of the Church, nor all the unselfish within it; nor are the lovers of men confined within its borders, nor those who hate without.

#### **RELIGIOUS TECHNIQUE** AND THE UNDERFED.

When I learn that there are 16,000 children in the Melbourne metropolitan area who are habitually underfed, do I need any special "technique" to learn what is God's will in this matter? Can there be any doubt that He Who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," would say, "Feed my lambs""

Nor can I believe that He would be satisfied that they should be fed by the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table. There is a kind if philanthropy which is very much akin to that of the generous card-sharper who, after fleecing his victim, takes pity on him and hands him a trifle of his winnings.

There is also a kind of philanthropy, which can only be described as ambulance work among the casualties of an economic system, which enables the fortunate minority to have much whilst the many have not enough. The churches, which have missions to the poor, dispensing the cast-off clothing of the comfortable to the ragged and miserable, giving free meals to down and outs, and engaging in various kinds of rescue work, are really the stretcher-bearers in a campaign of profit-seeking and economic exploitation, which they are doing nothing to stop.

Does it not occur to these wellmeaning but, in my judgment, misguided people that God's will is that a better way should be found, that poverty should be attacked at its source? Has God's providence failed, or is it that we have been taking the line of least resistance? something Is th not radica wrong when we can find money for the destruction of life and yet profess ourselves too poor to find money to preserve it? We can produce instruments of torture and death in the way of bombs and poison gas, but have failed, so far, to guarantee the means of life and health to thousands of children who are our immediate care and responsibility. Whatever pleas of necessity there may be for the former, there can be no question of our duty and our responsibility to the latter.

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#### THE DOUGLAS CREDIT MOVEMENT OF VICTORIA

# Saturday's Vital **OUARTERLY CONFERENCE**

# Branches of the Movement are reminded that the Quarterly Conference is to be held to-morrow (Saturday, October 24).

The sessions will be as follows: —Morning and evening sessions, at the Club Rooms, Block Arcade, City, at 11.30 and 7 p.m. respectively, and the afternoon session for all members of the Movement at the Wallflower Tea Rooms, 1 st Floor, Nicholas Buildings, Swanston-street, at 2.30 sharp. Branch officials are urged to see that their branches are fully represented at all sessions. The agenda will contain subjects that are of outstanding importance, and decisions reached will profoundly affect the future of the Movement the Movement.

the Movement. At the afternoon session the president of the Movement, Dr. J. T. Hollow, will be the principal speaker, and will place before conference matters that are vital at this juncture. Other speakers will be Mr. H.F. Coupe of the Central Executive of the New South Wales Movement, who will outline to conference what is being done by the Movement in the sister State: John Hogan, and the newly-appointed State Organiser, Mr. L. H. Hollins. Members are urged to reserve Saturday for this all important Conference.

# Conference.

G.R. TRENOWETH, Organising Secretary.

"I know not where His islands lift Their fronded palms in air; I only know I cannot drift Beyond His love and care.'

So we come back to this earth with all its human imperfections and yet with its illimitable possibilities for human life and well being, and of the great hunger and thirst for a righteousness which shall not be like that of the spiritually complacent or of the

#### "YOU COULD BE AS 'APPY."

Beverley Nichols in his book, "The Fool Hath Said," tells of a shabby little man with a Cockney accent giving his testimony at a house party of a certain religious group. The man was telling about his life, with a charming racy humour. Two rooms in a tenement. Five children; himself

unemployed. Illness. He used to drink. But he met the Group. There are still the two rooms in the same tenement. Still five children. There is still illness and he is still unemployed. But now they are sons of God." And the man who was still unemployed, still had a sick wife, still lived in an unhealthy tenement, continued: You could be as 'appy as we are if you want."

Well, you must forgive me if I dissent. It was this kind of religion that rightly earned the name of "the opium of the people." Christ's religion would include the changing of the conditions that left that man in such a state. Happiness may be desirable, but to be happy with things that are manifestly wrong is to my mind, deplorable, I would rather see that man God's rebel than a slave.

# WHY CAN A BANKRUPT NATION **PROSPER?**

#### By ARTHUR KITSON.

#### From "Army, Navy and Air Gazette" (England), of August 20.1936

I have been asked by the editor goods supplied during that of this journal to answer the above question.

To the ordinary man it must be somewhat inexplicable that countries apparently impoverished can spend huge sums in modernisation, whether of public works or armaments, while we, apparently wealthy, find such great difficulty in doing so. Germany is a case in point. Mr. Churchill, in the House of Commons last month, alleged that she was spending between £800 and £900 millions on roads and defence. Our expenditure on these matters has been raised to about £200 millions, but has involved the imposition of new taxation.

Many people have noticed that though certain foreign nations have defaulted in their payments to their creditors, they have managed to build up enormous armaments while still maintaining the standard of living for their people at a reasonable level.

The answer is fairly simple to those who really understand the true nature and functions of money

Bankruptcy means inability to settle one's debts in the instrument in which the debt has been contracted. For instance, a man agrees to pay a certain obligation in diamonds, and by his inability to procure enough to discharge the debt he becomes bankrupt - - irrespective of any other wealth he may possess.

It is not unusual to hear of some person owning large estates, houses, land, and even mines, and yet being declared a bankrupt. Our laws have made it obligatory that debts must be paid in legal tender on demand of one's creditors, including taxes. Unless otherwise specifically stated in one's agreement when creating a debt, one cannot settle a debt by the transfer of land, houses, corn, cotton or any product. And unless one can sell such wealth and realise sufficient money to discharge the debt, bankruptcy ensues. The same is true of nations. It is true that one cannot put a whole nation into legal bankruptcy, but practically speaking, one regards a nation bankrupt when it is unable to settle its foreign obligations. Since there is no such thing as "international" money, foreign debts are usually made payable in gold. Those responsible for arranging the American loans on behalf of this country made them repayable in gold, both principal and interest. Similar arrangements were made in respect of loans to other countries engaged in the Great War. But the American authorities also insisted upon payment for

period from neutral countries being made in the vellow metal. And in consequence, the bulk of the world's gold supplies were shipped to New York, so that the United States became the owner of these supplies and has retained possession of the greater portion ever since. It follows that debtor nations have been unable to get sufficient to settle their accounts. Had the creditor countries been willing to allow their debtors to pay in the products and services they were able to furnish, few nations would have defaulted. But every creditor country refused to ac cept ordinary goods and closed their ports to their entry. This hoarding of gold by America is partly responsible for such defaults in the settlement of these obligations. And England is one of the defaulting countries. Further, the debts became so enormous that the world's gold supplies were quite insufficient to meet them, even if they had been negotiable by trade. In short, gold as a means of liquidating the nations' war debts has

of its relative scarcity. Now the failure to procure gold does not necessarily mean that such a nation is poor in wealth. Gold is a certain form of wealth, and one of the least useful of all such forms in the maintenance of life. Man could more readily dispense with the use of this metal than almost any other. Its utilities in the arts are very limited, being used chiefly for jewellery and dentistry. The bulk of the whole world's gold is kept in vaults, and never appears as the basis of any manufacture. Its use in financial affairs is due entirely to legislation and superstition. It is one of the relics of barbarism! If every ounce were to be thrown into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean the world's affairs would not be impeded in the slightest degree.

been an utter failure by reason

#### MONEY IS NOT WEALTH.

The average person doubtless regards money—including gold —as the most desirable form of wealth, instead of its being merely a demand for wealth. All this is due to false teachings. for which our financial press and orthodox economists are mainly responsible. It may be remembered that at the beginning of the Great War several journalists and city editors predicted that it could not last longer than a few weeks, as the supplies of gold would not enable nations to carry on longer. When I wrote to say that wars are waged not with gold or silver bullets, but with human lives and munitions of

#### death comprising iron, steel, copper, cotton, oil and other mater ials, including certain chemicals, and so long as nations could get sufficient of these, a country could continue without gold, I was laughed at. I said that every belligerent country would print its own money regardless of gold redemption promises and carry on without any difficulty so far as money was concerned. Now the same is true of the present period.

Germany, Italy and other countries can manufacture all that they require in the way of the munitions of life and death so long as they are able to get sufficient raw materials. These things are the products of labour and material. Gold does not enter into such manufactures. Steel and copper are infinitely more important than the precious metal.

#### FINANCIAL FALLACIES.

It is a popular error to believe that production "costs money." The error is in imagining that money is consumed in the pro-The actual costs of a cess. building are the iron, wood, cement and other materials, together with the labour required in its construction. These are the actual things invested in such construction. Money is never invested in the real sense. And the monetary "costs" consist of the interest charges-if any. One can build houses, run farms and manufacture goods without money. But one cannot do any of these things without labour of some sort and materials. It is essential to clear these matters in order fully to understand why nations can and do prosper, while bankrupt in their foreign affairs.

If you remember that money -whether in the form of gold or paper—is merely a debt due to the holder redeemable in whatever goods or services he may desire to the extent of its purchasing power, very much of the mystery with which it is associated in the public mind will disappear. Money, in the form of legal tender, is goods, which the public owes to the possessor, and functions as effective demand for goods and services.

Incidentally, this throws a flood of light on the subject of government taxation. Taxes are made payable in legal tender- i.e., in an instrument which is a portion of the effective demand of the public for commodities. The ultimate object of taxation is to furnish the government's creditors with goods and services. A Budget based upon realities would specify the amount of goods of every description required—food, clothing, clothing, education, literature, amusement, etc. Requisitions for these would be readily furnished by the public without any danger of bankruptcy. But by collecting taxes in the form of money without making provision for an ample supply to enable every taxpayer to meet the demand, governments do an enormous amount of harm to trade and industry and precipitate bankruptcies throughout the whole field of industry. What can be more inequitable than the method of collecting death duties? A man dies leaving landed estate and wealth in many different forms. The government assessor writes the whole estate as worth so much in terms of money, but such estimates depend entirely upon the ability of the heirs to sell some or the whole of the property for cash or to borrow enough to pay the death duties. In many cases it is found impossible to sell, whilst to raise a loan is an expensive operation. I have known cases where the whole property has had to be sacrificed to satisfy government's claim. the Taxation to be just should be imposed by an issue of currency by the government itself, which would constitute a demand on the whole public for goods and services.

# "Abolish Poverty or It Will Abolish Us"

#### NORTH QUEENSLAND FACES UP TO THE ISSUE.

From far North Queensland comes a further budget of news indicating the activities of the campaign to abolish poverty, which is now rapidly getting into its stride all over the Commonwealth.

Cairns Public Meeting. -Sufficient ground work having been done, the big meeting in Cairns to launch the campaign publicly has been fixed for November 6 in the Hibernian Hall. Advertising on a liberal scale has already begun, and the high note of the evening will be the broadcast from 4CA. A prominent citizen has agreed to take the chair and the speakers will be representative of all sections of the community. Sympathisers with the Movement in all parts of the Kennedy are watching for this meeting.

Freshwater Group. - This group is laying a good foundation for its canvassing activities by building up its fighting fund. If all groups had as large and as keen a band of ladies, their battles would be more than half won. Freshwater ladies are holding a "Paddy's Market" on October 24, at which there will be sold beautiful needlework, home produce, sweets and refreshments; in conjunction there will be a novelty sports programme. On October 10 the ladies of the refreshment stall held a garden party at the home of one of their friends where there was a large gathering of campaigners. Another afternoon party was held on October 14.

Port Douglas and Mossman. Port Douglas notifies the arrival of its newly appointed supervisor of organisation. On the first evening of his arrival in the district he addressed the Mossman Chamber of Commerce. That body, having previously arranged a full evening's business, had indicated that it could allot only half an hour for his address, but so interested were members that the time limit was greatly exceeded.

The following evening a large meeting was addressed at Daintree, and the existing strong group greatly strengthened. Individual interviews in Mossman (where the chairman of the shire was particularly interested) and Port Douglas were brought to a successful finale for the time being by a monster public meeting in the "Triangle" in Mossman. The chair was taken by Mr. R. D. Rex, of the Douglas Shire Council, who, on rising to introduce the speaker, said that the time had arrived for the people generally to think seriously about the position of world affairs today. He referred to the last words of the late King George, when he asked, "How is the Empire?" which, Mr. Rex said, showed clearly that his late Majesty was fully cognisant of the seriousness of the situation. "This anomaly of poverty in the midst of plenty," he said, "has got to be abolished or it will abolish us.

M.P.: "Why aren't you voting

# SOCIAL CREDIT DRIVE IN VICTORIA

# L. H. HOLLINS TO PRESENT DETAILED PLAN TO SATURDAY'S CONFERENCE

A feature of the conference of Victorian Social Crediters to be held on Saturday (particulars in our advertising columns) will be the presentation of full plans for a great Social Credit drive in Victoria which will be unfolded by the new State organiser, Mr. L. H. Hollins, who will outline a proposal for financing the Movement's greatly increased activities which should be satisfactory to all and unduly burdensome to none.

Mr. Hollins has spent this week in furthering the Gippsland organisation. He addressed a successful meeting on Tuesday evening at Foster, presided over by Mr. Fraser, manager of the Great Southern Co-operative Co., and gave addresses (details of which are not yet to hand) at the Council Chambers, Leongatha, on Wednesday, and at the Korumburra Mechanics' Institute on Thursday.

# John Hogan **Returns to Victoria**

After an all-too-short holiday, spent at his parents' home in Sydney, John Hogan returned to Victoria last Tuesday. His first meeting was at Yarrawonga.

Wednesday and Thursday were spent organising for future meetings in all the principal Murray Valley towns between Yarrawonga and Echuca.

Tonight (Friday) he will speak to what is expected to be a record crowd in the Star Theatre. Shepparton, and will return to Melbourne for the quarterly conference of the Movement tomorrow. Saturday, 24th inst.

The following is John's itinerary for the next fortnight: -

Sunday, Oct. 25: P.S.A. Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Cheltenham.

Monday, Oct. 26: Blackburn Hall, Blackburn, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27: Holy Trinity

Parish Hall, Oakleigh, 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29: Town Hall,

Dandenong, 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 30: Croydon Me-chanics' Institute, 8,15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 1: Ricketts Point, Black Rock, 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2: Rochester, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3: Kyabram. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4: Nathalia (to

be confirmed). Thursday, Nov. 5: Tongala, 8 p.m. To be Confirmed: -

Friday, Nov. 6: Echuca, 8 p.m.

Saturday. Nov. 7: Lockington, 8 p.m.

### Where Will It Lead?

On his return from England on Monday last Mr. Norton Grimwade made reference to the disturbed state of Europe, and the comparative prosperity of England consequent on the re-armament campaign. He went on to say that where it would all lead to he was not sure

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This currency could be collected a year after its issue in the form of taxes when it had fulfilled its function, and would thus avoid denuding the channels of trade of the necessary money to carry on, as happens in our present treasury methods. In conclusion, it is evident that since wealth is a product of labour and material, any nation possessing ample supplies of these can create wealth, whether in the form of munitions of life or of death, to the ultimate of these factors.

I include in the term "labor" all machinery operated by labor. A nation may therefore hopelessly bankrupt so far as foreign obligations are concerned and still maintain a high degree of economic prosperity.

The answer, Mr. Grimwade, to this crossword puzzle is simple-a word in three letters-what happened in 1914-W-A-R.

The estimated final cost of the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, according to the Prime Minister (Hansard, Oct. 14), is £14,379.

#### **BE YOUR AGENT'S BIG BROTHER.**

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