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Every Friday, 3d

The Soul Of Archbishop Head -And Some Others

MR. FAIRBAIRN
 LEARNS

With A Few Words About The Adelaide Catholic Congress

"I do not mean that those countries (Italy, Germany and Japan) should be given territory or colonies at the expense of other countries, but unless there is a change in economic systems to allow them to buy raw materials and sell manufactured goods, a world war is inevitable within a measurable period of years."

-Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, M.H.R., at Wesley Church, Melbourne, Nov. 15.

* * *

We congratulate Mr. Fairbairn on publicly expressing these opinions. But we would remind him

1. That the Government, which he supports in the House, is deliberately preventing these countries from buying raw materials from Australia.

2. That the same Government or any other government must act similarly until the control of money is taken from the private bankers' monopoly and its supply is so regulated that our people can buy the whole of their own production—and, therefore, imports up to the full value of their exports.

Mr. Fairbairn, as well as being a member of the Federal Parliament, is also a bank director.

What is he going to do about it?

Affairs Abroad

Jottings from the weekly report of Mr. D. J. Amos, Director for External Affairs to Social Credit Secretariat, Adelaide:—

The blind get special favours in Italy—free cars, free theatres, and, in special cases, free service. We also treat politicians fairly well in Australia.

The people of the United States have to pay 12,000 million dollars interest on debt of various kinds each year—a greater amount than the total net income of the United States. Actual number of suicides is 20,000 per annum, but 40,000 more or less meritorious attempts at it are also reported yearly. Between 1931 and 1934 the total number of successful candidates was 79,836.

Destruction of coffee in Brazil, as at 1/7/36, totalled 37 million bags (about 2,176,470 tons). By the time Brazil has completed her quota of destruction she will have destroyed about 57 million bags.

We are told that the total cost of four years of war would have built a new villa for every family in France, England, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Canada and the U.S.A., and also a university, library and public hospital for every town there over 20,000 inhabitants. If that is so, will some statistician calculate how much the last five years of peace has cost us, and compare the figures.

In Kenya Colony, East Africa, 9000 natives are in gaol for unpaid taxes, as they are not able to grow money as well as mealies. The people who could grow what money is required there are still at large.

There have been occasions when the *New Times* has been taken to task by correspondents for being allegedly anti-religious. The reason, presumably, is the criticism of certain churchmen (but *not*, please note, of their churches) that has occasionally appeared in its columns. We do not think that churchmen or what are called religious-minded people have come in for more criticism than any other section of those to whom the community looks for leadership; but, even if they had, is not the present state of affairs, based on the most appalling conditions of social injustice, more of a reproach to the professed or professionally religious than to any other section—provided, that is, they are failing in their duty? And is not the pointing out of such failures on the part of religious leaders just as much a service to true religion as criticism of the shortcomings of particular politicians is a service to the parliamentary system and to democracy? Is not the failure to distinguish between men of religion and religion itself just as much a contributory cause to Communism as a similar failure to distinguish between parliamentarians and Parliament is to Fascism?

With this preamble let us introduce Archbishop Head. On Sunday evening the Archbishop conducted a particularly impressive service in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne. The ceremony marked the annual official visit of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City, and this year it was extended to include the Mayors and councillors of all suburban municipalities.

"BURNED INTO MY SOUL"

Addressing this distinguished body in a crowded Cathedral the Archbishop made the substance of his sermon a plea to the municipal leaders for the preservation of moral standards. In the course of his address the daily press reports him to have singled out four evils for attack. These were:—

1. A growing tendency to the loss of the Christian Sunday.

2. "The standard of luxury developing in the matter of eating and drinking at social functions"—the emphasis being on the drinking.

3. Lack of modesty on the beaches.

4. Gambling—"the greatest evil in Australia."

In his peroration—again assuming the daily press to have reported him accurately—the Archbishop appears to have been quite—or almost—carried away by emotion. "I wonder should I have spoken to you like this?"

These things are burned into my soul sometimes."

In examining a speaker's occasional address one naturally looks first to the nature of his audience, secondly to what he did say, and finally to what he might have said but did not.

This particular audience, as already noted, consisted of those immediately responsible for the local government of Melbourne and suburbs. Not being a State legislature or the police, it seems therefore a little extraneous that the Archbishop should "ask you to help in controlling liquor traffic hours," or that he should have lamented before municipal councillors how "gambling has reared its head not only on racecourses but in shops and offices, and in cricket and football." Even supposing that Dr. Head were for the moment appealing to the Corporation and councillors as exemplars rather than as regulators, why did he not advert to the liquor traffic in clubs which abounds all over Melbourne long after the hotels are closed, or to the Stock Exchange gambling in which Melbourne's city councillors are far more likely to participate seriously than in the mild office "flutter" on the races or cricket results?

On the Archbishop's four counts, councillors have some power to co-operate with him in (Continued on page 2, column 2.)

AUSTRALIA'S £100,000,000 TAXI

To the Lyons Ministry goes the signal distinction that its name will be recorded in history as that of the Government under which Australia's annual taxation for the first time topped the £100,000,000 mark—£63.6 millions having been extracted from us by the Federal Government and £36.4 millions by the States during the financial year 1935-6.

Of this total, almost one-half goes to pay interest on the national debt, and, as the national debt continues to grow, so clearly must taxation do likewise. In the last four years the Lyons Government has increased the national debt by loans amounting to £86 millions. The rate of interest on these loans is steadily mounting. The £7½ millions now to be "floated" will cost £300,000 a year interest—which means fresh taxation of £300,000 a year.

And there is no possible prospect of the process stopping or even slowing down, as long as you permit the present bankers' control of finance to continue.

Whatever we may say about the other fellow, there is one point on which every individual in Australia would probably be in agreement. That is that the direct and indirect taxes he or she pays are too high.

Another point of which all businessmen are aware is that while governments are spending

BANK OF ENGLAND FOUNDED BY A BUCCANEER.

From an article in the Melbourne "Age" (Nov. 14), entitled, "Founder of the Bank of England—The Story of William Paterson":—

"Paterson, a typical product of his age, was fired with the prevailing spirit of restlessness and enterprise, and adopted at first a roving career, which took him to the West Indies, Darien and the Isthmus of Panama. In fact, he became a buccaneer for a time."

We always suspected it. And the Bank stands as his enduring monument.

loan money business is better. If there were no taxation for interest to follow it would be better still.

A third point which no reasonable person will deny is that the incomes of civil servants, pensioners, relief workers and others who receive government moneys are, to say the least, not too high.

With these points in common why not insist that government expenditure be financed from some source other than exorbitant taxation and interest-bearing loans?

Governments are justified in ISSUING money up to the full value of goods, which sellers offer, and buyers desire.

The national debt (money BORROWED by governments to help make up shortages) was £200 millions in 1901, £300 millions in 1913, £700 millions in 1919, and today, in terms of the Australian pound and including the "floating" debt. IT IS ALMOST £1500 MILLIONS.

If you don't destroy this debt system it will destroy you.

The Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C.,
 Attorney General for Australia

Dear Mr. Menzies,

The Melbourne toast list being exhausted for the time being, you're giving Sydney the benefit of your bright ideas on democracy, as we note from your luncheon address to the Millions Club in that city on Monday.

We are at one with you in your plea that "men of sound business capacity, fortitude and high reputation should take a greater share in the parliamentary system", and we entirely agree with the inference that Parliament is singularly lacking in this respect at present. How lacking it is was well illustrated by some of your other remarks—assuming always that a friendly press reports you accurately. Take this, for instance (from the "Argus" of Tuesday): "The only people entitled to the benefits of good government in any country, are those who are prepared to contribute to it. In a community such as this there are two classes of people - contributories and beneficiaries. The people who pay their way are always in a minority. The people who say they want less taxes, larger pensions, more pay, drought and bush fire relief, and who want their troubles taken from their shoulders, represent the majority, of the community."

That a senior Minister of the people should be allowed to pass such insults and to get away with them—and in the name of DEMOCRACY!—fully bears out the contention that men of capacity, fortitude and reputation don't treat Parliament very seriously. It may also help to explain why such men have of recent years shown little desire to associate themselves with those who now sit in Parliament.

We don't propose to take notice of your assertion that only those prepared to contribute to good government should share its benefits—though, in passing, this may be the reason why Australian governments allow the infant children of the unemployed only sixpence a day for food, clothing, shelter, amusements, etc. Nor is there need to reply to your suggestion that the majority of the Australian people are leasers rather than lifters. One has only to look at what our people have DONE for your statement to be shown up in all its childish and malevolent absurdity. But your attitude impels us to ask, what have you yourself done by way, as you said, of putting more into the pool than you take out of it?

We are not going back into ancient history (the days when you were eligible for the war to save your favourite democracy, and all that). Just look at your present position. Did you put more into the pool than you took out of it when, as Attorney General, you presumably advised Cabinet on the constitutional aspects of the dried fruits case? Or in your four-figure expense account to appear before the Privy Council and be told that you did not know the Constitution? Or in your acceptance of the 2000 guinea brief from another source in connection therewith? Or in your touring the country making speeches about democracy while the Cabinet of which you are a member is tearing from us its last vestiges? People who live in glass houses, Mr. Menzies—

PS.—On the subject of pools, what about that oil pool? It's a long, long time since the report was submitted by the Royal Commission on Mineral Oils and Petrol, before which you appeared as an oil company advocate. In the Federal House on November 5 the Minister in charge of the House give an undertaking that Parliament would be allowed the opportunity to discuss the report before the next general election. Why?

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(Continued on page 3.)

(Continued from page 1.)
two. They have the authority in council reserves to lock up (as they do in some places) children's swings and see-saws on Sundays, and to prohibit the playing of organised games; the seaside municipalities may also define the geographical measurements of bathing costumes and appoint beach inspectors to enforce their ideas of morality. In this latter case there are, of course, the ordinary laws on decency, which the Melbourne police (if not engaged in catching motorists who cross tram lines without first coming to a dead stop) may be relied upon to enforce.

So it seems that the technically applicable part of Dr. Head's discourse boils down to urging councillors to deal with the grave social evil of cricket or golf on Sundays, or to restrain wayward youth from sliding to perdition down the park slippery dip on the Sabbath. Did somebody say something about a mountain and a mouse?

WHAT THE ARCHBISHOP OMITTED

There was one most striking omission on Dr. Head's part. Municipal bodies, as everyone knows, are elected mainly to deal with local property administration. They derive their revenue chiefly from property rates, and they spend it—or such part of it as is not used to pay interest to banks on long-spent loans—in improving local property. It is over property that they have almost their sole real powers. And they are powers that are very real. They may define minimum building areas and frontages. They may regulate the cost, materials, location and nature of buildings. *And they may condemn places as unsuitable for habitation and order their demolition.*

It is not within the power of councils to give the people incomes that will permit them to be decently housed, but it is definitely within their power to force dilatory or cowardly legislators to take action in this regard by condemning out of hand every slum hovel within their areas. If they cannot rebuild, they can at least abolish—and it might be noted that, even within the limits of "sane" finance, councils could do a great deal more towards rehousing than they have done.

But Archbishop Head, it seems, has nothing whatever to say to councillors upon this subject. He is more concerned that "young people do not want to get unpopular, so they are drinking a little more than their fathers did," and in worrying about the bare backs of our daughters on the beaches.

Far be it from us to assert that our young people are everything that is perfect, though we do believe that most of the sun-tanned backs and legs on the beaches house healthier and cleaner minds than the majority of their critics, and also that, as a general rule, the younger generation is not less temperate than the older—or at least among us common folk; we have no intimate knowledge of the Archbishop's circle. We believe his Grace would be a far better man of religion and far more loyal to his Church if for a season he were to forget those who discard clothes and remember those who cannot afford enough to cover themselves decently; if he were to cease worrying about those who allegedly drink to excess and remember the thousands of children under his spiritual jurisdiction who hardly know the taste of milk; if he were to eschew drink, gambling and immodesty as subjects for sermons until everyone in this community is assured of decent food, clothing and shelter. If Dr. Head will examine his conscience a little will he not find that he is constantly railing against the sins of the poor? He does not appear to have had much success either. Then why not for a change adopt different tactics, and concentrate his attack on poverty itself?

Poverty in this country could be abolished almost overnight, and with it, we believe, would go a very high percentage of our present sin and crime.

We recommend his Grace to think over these things and to act on them. If he will not, we find it hard to believe his soul is quite so burned as he says. We fancy it is only scorched—with his own aridity.

A CATHOLIC TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Speaking of Dr. Head's lack of success brings to mind another religious ceremony of last week—the Catholic demonstration at Adelaide. Again, we have no wish to be offensive to any religious body, as such, or to the sincere practice of any form of religion. In this case the point at issue is the demand of denominational schools (of which the Catholic schools constitute the overwhelming proportion) for State aid in the teaching of secular subjects. Many papers round about the subject were read at the Adelaide conference, and Archbishops and leading members of the Catholic section of the community made pronouncements. Finally on Sunday, the press reports, a meeting of 10,000 people adopted a resolution emphasising "the seriously unjust manner in which supporters of denominational schools, Catholic and non-Catholic, are handicapped in the matter of financial support for their schools." Following on this it was decided to form a Catholic Taxpayers' Association.

And what then?

WHY NOT INQUIRE INTO FINANCE ITSELF?

Archbishop Mannix of Melbourne has been in the forefront of this fight for over 20 years, and several times recently he has said that he appears to be no further forward than when he started. Nor do we think the Catholic Taxpayers' Association will do any better (taxpayers' associations have not a very brilliant record anywhere, except as observers of the balloon going up).

Supporters of denominational education, like municipal bodies, have a very potent weapon in their hands if they only had the pluck to use it. Just as councils can condemn slum houses and pass the housing of the evicted on to the legislature, so can the denominations close their schools, or make it clear that they intend to do so, and thus force the government to sit up and take notice. Otherwise all their resolutions are little but words, and they have hardly more of substance in them than Archbishop Head's sermon at St. Paul's.

For both of these have this in common—they will not face up to the money issue. Archbishop Head never by any chance directs his remarks against the money controllers who must bear the major responsibility for the shocking, sin-breeding conditions of today. Neither do the Catholics as a body take their fight into its proper realm, which is also finance. What is the main reason why governments will not agree to subsidise all schools, which are efficient in their teaching of secular subjects? It is not denominational prejudice against Catholics—Prime Minister Scullin was a Catholic, so is Prime Minister Lyons, so have been many Premiers and members of Ministries. It is mainly a question of government revenue. Even if the present position is unjust, Ministers probably say, to remedy it would mean more taxation. And we dare not increase taxation by further millions a year. So we're sorry, but—

And so the position drags on. So, incidentally, does the under staffed, under paid, under built and under equipped position of the Government's own State schools.

And so it must drag on, with inefficient education, hospitals, social services; with

THE INTERNATIONALE OF CANNON

"A Dozen Rascals With Bankers For Sleeping Partners"

Before the war, writes George Hoog in the *Living Age*, the great munition makers of the world formed four principal dynasties; Vickers and Armstrong, in England; Schneider, in France; Krupp and Stumm, in Germany, and Putilov, in Russia.

Following the example of national dynasties, these cannon merchants made international connections. This they did long before the War; they have been doing it ever since; and they even kept it up during the conflict, strange as that may seem. For one might suppose that the German Krupp would sell his materials only to Germany and her allies. One might suppose that the Frenchman, Schneider, would patriotically reserve his products for France and her friends. One might imagine that each would guard his manufacturing secrets jealously, since these secrets are supposed to be of the highest importance to the defence of the nation.

But not at all. Most of the national war industries had international connections. Their interests were linked together, even their personnel overlapped, and they snared their manufacturing secrets. There existed and there still exists a real capitalist internationale of cannon. When fighting breaks out anywhere we see the cannon merchants rushing to the scene of the action to sell their merchandise, which means arming one of the belligerents and often both without regard to nationality.

PERMITS? "OF COURSE."

Is Japan planning to invade China? Again the cannon merchants are lying in wait, and here is some quite suggestive information. On November 19, 1931, a question was asked in the British House of Commons: "Is it true that, during these last six months, permits were issued authorising the export of arms to the Chinese and Japanese Governments?" "Of course," replied Major Colville, secretary for overseas trade. It seems that the reply aroused a certain amount of emotion. We quite understand.

And American industry has not been disinterested. A dispatch from Washington, dated February

slums, doles, and all the rest of our abominations until this money question is fairly faced and properly answered.

This is the burden of our charge against most of Australia's religious leaders today. They will not—there are exceptions, but not many—fairly and squarely face up to the kernel of an issue, which is just as much, if not more, spiritual than material.

If those behind the denominational finance question want a jumping off ground, let them start with this: Let them ask why it is that *sovereign* governments have to tax the people to the tune of £50 millions a year (a fraction of which would meet the schools' claims) to pay interest on the loan of *privately created* money. When they have answered that they will see the solution, not only of their grievance, but of many others.

* * *

To round this off, and show there is no discrimination, we had (also on Sunday) the Moderator of the Sydney Presbytery crusading for the King's English and telling a congregation at Paddington that he heard from old and young such "murdering" expressions as "I get you, Steve," and "Oh yea." While General Drake-Brockman, at St. John Church, Toorak, announced on the same day that "the only way to preserve peace was to follow the teachings of Christ and remain true to the British Empire." Oh yeah?

24, 1932, stated that Paul Linebarger, "a general legal adviser to the Chinese National Government," had appeared before the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and "accused the American bankers and munition makers" of delivering munitions to Japan amounting to 181 million dollars.

But it seems that Europe provided the Far Eastern belligerents more abundantly. The *Populaire* for March 5, 1932, listed a certain number of shipments destined for Japan that left Hamburg between the fourth and the seventh of February. Germany was the chief provider of chemical products, France of Hotchkiss machine guns and Creusot tanks, Czechoslovakia of grenades and cartridges, and England of general war materials. Certain crates containing acids for the manufacture of explosives were labelled "pianos."

For years before China was ravaged by foreign war, it was cruelly torn asunder by civil war. It was this civil war that gave the Japanese a pretext to attack Manchuria. But was China alone responsible for this civil war?

CHANGING PARTNERS FOR THE DANCE OF DEATH.

In his pamphlet entitled, "Industries of War and Industries of Peace," Francis Delaisi has answered this question: "For 20 years this immense country has been the prey of a dozen rascals, real fomenters of war who raise mercenary armies. These armies have European equipment, and if anyone wants to know where the equipment comes from he has only to follow in the newspapers the visits of their officers to Creusot, Krupp and Vickers. The big armament firms provide them abundantly with cannon, machine guns and munitions and are paid with the proceeds of the pillage of the provinces. Every general has his sleeping partner, whose name can be found in the banks of Hong Kong, Paris, New York or Yokohama. Simple shifts of capital determine the separation or fusion of armies. The sleeping partners change generals or the generals change sleeping partners. This system has unleashed all the horrors of the Thirty Years' War on this unfortunate country."

SOCIAL CREDIT SOCIAL CLUB

It has been decided by a few enthusiastic young members of the Douglas Credit Movement to form a Social Club. Hitherto there has been practically nothing of this kind to attract young people, and this activity will supply a long-felt want. All those who are interested are invited to attend a meeting at Douglas Credit headquarters, The Block, Melbourne, on Monday next, November 23, at 8 p.m.

The first function of the Douglas Club is to be a picture night on December 9 at the Regent Theatre, with "The Show Boat" as the main attraction. Tickets (2/-) are obtainable from headquarters.

"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 McDONALD
Dept. T., Box 1913KK,
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Sydney.

THE STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

Following the announcement by the Minister for External Affairs (Nov. 13) that a Bill to ratify the Statute of Westminster will be introduced into Federal Parliament this session, numbers of readers have inquired just what this Statute provides. As it is a short Act we reprint it here in full for reference.

The Statute, which was enacted by the British Parliament in 1931, is a declaratory Act to place on record an existing status, and sets out that the association of the Dominions with the "Mother Country" in the so-called Empire is the free association of a Commonwealth of Nations; that United Kingdom laws cannot be imposed on the Dominions; that the Dominions may enact legislation repugnant to existing English statutes, and that such legislation cannot be over-riden by future English statutes; that the Dominions have power to make laws affecting their own citizens even beyond their actual territories; and that the very title and succession of the common Sovereign cannot be altered without the unanimous consent of all the Dominions.

The Statute is as follows:—

TEXT OF THE STATUTE

An Act to give effect to certain resolutions passed by Imperial Conferences held in the years 1926 and 1930.

Whereas the delegates of His Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland, at Imperial Conferences holden at Westminster in the years of Our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty-six and nineteen hundred and thirty did concur in making the declarations and resolutions set forth in the Reports of the said Conferences:

And where as it is meet and proper to set out by way of preamble to this Act that, inasmuch as the Crown is the symbol of the free association of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and as they are united by a common allegiance to the Crown, it would be in accord with the established constitutional position of all the members of the Commonwealth in relation to one another that any alteration in the law touching the Succession to the Throne or the Royal Style and Titles shall hereafter require the assent as well of the Parliaments of all the Dominions as of the Parliament of the United Kingdom:

And whereas it is in accord with the established constitutional position that no law hereafter made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom shall extend to any of the said Dominions' as part of the law of that Dominion otherwise than at the request and with the consent of that Dominion:

And whereas it is necessary for the ratifying, confirming and establishing of certain of the said declarations and resolutions of the said Conferences that a law be made and enacted in due form by authority of the Parliament of the United Kingdom:

And whereas the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of

Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland have severally requested and consented to the submission of a measure to the Parliament of the United Kingdom for making such provision with regard to the matters aforesaid as is hereafter in this Act contained:

Now, therefore, be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. In this Act the expression "Dominion" means any of the following Dominions, that is to say, the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland.

2. (1) The Colonial Laws Validity Act, 1865, shall not apply to any law made after the commencement of this Act by the Parliament of a Dominion.

(2) No law and no provision of any law made after the commencement of this Act by the Parliament of a Dominion shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the law of England, or to the provisions of any existing or future Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom, or to any order, rule or regulation made under any such Act, and the powers of the Parliament of a Dominion shall include the power to repeal or amend any such Act, order, rule, or regulation in so far as the same, is part of the law of the Dominion.

3. It is hereby declared and enacted that the Parliament of a Dominion has full power to make laws having extra-territorial operation.

4. No Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to a Dominion as part of the law of that Dominion, unless it is expressly declared in that Act that that Dominion has requested and consented to the enactment thereof.

5. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Act, sections seven hundred and thirty-five and seven hundred and thirty-six of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, shall be construed as though reference therein to the Legislature of a British possession did not include reference to the Parliament of a Dominion.

6. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Act, section four of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890 (which requires certain laws to be reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure or to contain a suspending clause), and so much of section seven of that Act as requires the approval of His Majesty in Council to any rules of Court for regulating the practice and procedure of a Colonial Court of Admiralty, shall cease to have effect in any Dominion as from the commencement of this Act.

7. (1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to apply to the repeal, amendment or alteration of the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1930, or any order, rule or regulation made there under.

(2) The provisions of section two of this Act shall extend to laws made by any of the Provinces of Canada and to the powers of the legislatures of such Provinces.

(3) The powers conferred by this Act upon the Parliament of Canada or of any of the legislatures of the Provinces shall be restricted to the enactment of laws in relation to matters within the competence of the Parliament

of Canada or of any of the legislatures of the Provinces respectively.

8. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to confer any power to repeal or alter the Constitution or the Constitution Act of the Commonwealth of Australia or the Constitution Act of the Dominion of New Zealand other wise than in accordance with the law existing before the commencement of this Act.

9. (1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to authorise the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia to make laws on any matter within the authority of the States of Australia, not being a matter within the authority of the Parliament or Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to require the concurrence of the Parliament or Government of the Commonwealth of Australia in any law made by the Parliament of the United Kingdom with respect to any matter within the authority of the States of Australia, not being a matter within the authority of the Parliament or Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, in any case where it would have been in accordance with the constitutional practice existing before the commencement of this Act that the Parliament of the United Kingdom should make that law without such concurrence.

(3) In the application of this Act to the Commonwealth of Australia the request and consent referred to in section four

shall mean the request and consent of the Parliament and Government of the Commonwealth.

10. (1) None of the following sections of this Act, that is to say, sections two, three, four, five, and six, shall extend to a Dominion to which this section applies as part of the law of that Dominion unless that section is adopted by the Parliament of the Dominion, and any Act of that Parliament adopting any section of this Act may provide that the adoption shall have effect either from the commencement of this Act or from such later date as is specified in the adopting Act.

(2) The Parliament of any such Dominion as aforesaid may at any time revoke the adoption of any section referred to in sub section (1) of this section.

(3) The Dominions to which this section applies are the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand and Newfoundland.

11. Notwithstanding anything in the Interpretation Act, 1889, the expression "Colony" shall not, in any Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed after the commencement of this Act, include a Dominion or any Province or State forming part of a Dominion.

12. This Act may be cited as the Statute of Westminster, 1931.

JOHN HOGAN IN THE NORTH

The attendances at John's initial meetings in the Mallee this past week have been somewhat disappointing. This may be attributed to the fact that not only is he there pioneering a new area, with very little advance organisation or publicity, but that unseasonable weather conditions plus the commencement of harvesting have militated against any large representation of the farming community who generally constitute a large percentage of the audience, and who in the Mallee especially have every reason to desire a decent monetary system.

The type of the crowds has been very satisfactory, however, and the Young Crusader is used to occasional periods of apparent discouragement, realising that invariably—and certainly in this case—his return visit under more favourable conditions will more than repay the rigours of pioneering.

His meetings this week have been at Barham (N.S.W.), but including Koondrook, (Vic.), Swan Hill, Merbein, Wentworth (N.S.W.), Mildura and Ouyen. In addition he has delivered two well-received broadcasts over station 3MA (Mildura), the first on "Our Real Problem," and the second, "The Truth About Alberta and New Zealand." This latter has been published as an article in the *Sunraysia Daily*. The press throughout has been generous and sympathetic, ensuring that those who did not attend had their interest stimulated, and stirring up a warm reception for him later, probably in April.

At all centres the nucleus of groups have been established, and a strong branch is being formed at Mildura, where a number of new supporters were enrolled. Contacts have been made in many smaller centres through which John passed en route, and propaganda distributed as usual.

Owing to harvesting being in progress, day meetings were impossible at many centres where they would otherwise have been most successful, and even enthusiastic Social Crediters have had to keep their noses to the grindstone, so that no opportunity to beat the attempts of "Sound Finance" to drive them off their properties will be missed.

John's programme now includes the following meetings. If you can get 3MA, listen in to his broadcast, "The Layman Asks Questions," at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25. Friday, 20.—Warracknabeal, 8 p.m. Sunday, 22.—Dimboola, 3 p.m. Monday, 23.—Donald 8 p.m. Tuesday, 24.—Sea Lake, 8 p.m. Wednesday, 25. -- MILDURA TOWN HALL, Return meeting, 8 p.m. Thursday, 26.—Cross the South Australia border, Berri, 8 p.m. Through to Adelaide about November 3.

PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASS

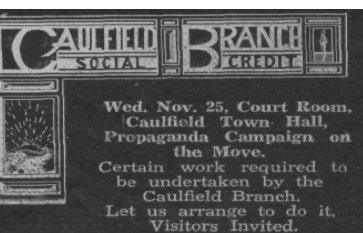
The Speakers' Class next week will be held on Monday night (23rd inst.), instead of Tuesday night (24th inst.). Time: 8 p.m. Place: 1st Floor, "The Block," Elizabeth St. New Pupils Welcome.

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)



THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1936.

Appropriation or Misappropriation?

In the House of Representatives last Friday a measure called the Defence Equipment Bill was passed through all stages without amendment. Its purpose, as announced by Federal Treasurer Casey, was to appropriate £2 millions from the excess revenue of last financial year for defence expenditure of a capital nature. This sum, added to what is left of £4,160,000 similarly appropriated from excess receipts of past years, is to be spent during the present and/or future financial years.

In referring to the Bill as an appropriation, R. G. Casey omitted one syllable. He should have called it a misappropriation. The money involved was exacted from the public by taxation and is the result of incompetent or dishonest budget estimates for which Mr. Casey himself, as the responsible Minister, is entitled to take the blame. Noting how year after year Mr. Casey's "estimates" are regularly millions below actual tax collections and never above them, the public can scarcely be chided if they say that the Treasurer's department is deliberately dishonest in the figures it submits to Parliament.

This excess revenue is simply an overcharge collected from taxpayers, and it should either be returned to them via the following year's accounts or else used to liquidate some of the £17 millions of interest-bearing Federal deficits, which preceded the spectacular Lyons surpluses. To collect taxation one year for expenditure in following years is grossly at variance with the principle of annual budgets, and is just another instance of the manner in which the present

highly moral Federal Ministry is flouting our parliamentary institutions.

To be fair, the Labor Opposition, by its subservience, is just as much to blame as the Government. It was a Government member, Mr. McCall, who first challenged the castor oil tactics of Minister for Morals Paterson over the Mrs. Freer case; and this is not the only occasion during this Parliament when private members on the Government side have been the first to voice protests against Ministerial autocracy.

On the subject of so-called defence expenditure Labor is particularly pitiful. Terrified, "it would seem, of the very shadow of a charge of "disloyalty," Mr. Curtin is so sweetly reasonable to the whole defence hocus pocus that he will not even inquire who is the enemy against whom we are supposed to be preparing. On October 29 Minister for Defence Parkhill told Labor M.P. Drakeford in the House that the Government intends to manufacture armoured cars at its Maribymong munitions establishment early next year. As member for Maribymong Mr. Drakeford would probably be pleased—more work, and all that. But not one member of the Opposition appeared to be interested enough to ask why we must have armoured cars at all. Are they to defend us against Japanese bombers? Or is it proposed to drive them through the tropical undergrowth and across the unbridged rivers of our Northern coastline to do battle with an invader? Are they to be sent overseas as a contribution to the defence of the national debt? Or are they merely to be held in reserve as another strike-breaking weapon?

Surely the people of Australia, even if they paid last year the taxes, which will build these weapons next year, are entitled to some enlightenment. But both the bureaucrats on the Treasury benches and the Labor bureaucrats who hope to get there are united in the view that it is not in the public interest for the public to be told anything.

In the Public Interest

This suppression of all material facts "in the public interest" has now reached such a stage that it is reducing the proceedings of Parliament to a tragic farce. Keep-out-of-the-ring Lyons, having once sampled the elixir, comes back to it like the drunkard to the bottle. And all his lesser satellites have taken their cue from him. Perhaps the most ridiculous exhibition of it, which we have yet had, is that supplied by the Minister for the

Interior and Morals, Mr. Paterson, in dealing with Mrs. Freer. The actual case has been so well ventilated in the daily newspapers that there is no need to repeat the details here. But readers of those papers may have noticed that the matter has mostly been argued from the point of view of Mrs. Freer, whether she should or should not be allowed to land, whether the reports which the Minister is said to have received contain evidence or allegations of subversive domestic acts or intentions on the lady's part, and so on. From the point of view of the Australian people, interesting as these triangle affairs may be to the gutter press and its readers, there is a far deeper issue involved. That issue is not the arbitrary action of the Minister. It is his refusal to account for it.

Under any well-ordered system of government individual Ministers must frequently have to make decisions. That is what is called individual responsibility, and it is the only practical way to get things done. But if the word responsibility means anything, then Ministers should be prepared to account for what they do. And Mr. Paterson has thus far refused to account for his actions even to Parliament. When the case was first raised in the Federal House on November 4 by Mr. McCall, and it was suggested that the Minister had used the powers of the Commonwealth "in a private and personal squabble rather than for the furtherance of national policy," Mr. Paterson replied: "The Immigration Act empowers the Minister in charge of immigration to exercise his discretion, on certain specified grounds, in the matter of excluding from Australia persons whose entry he has reason to believe would not be in the best interests of the Commonwealth. Acting under that authority, and from information received, I have excluded the person referred to."

From that position he would not budge, and when he was finally asked by another Government supporter whether he would lay the papers in the case on the parliamentary library table, he answered tersely: "I do not regard it as being in the public interest to do so."

It is not suggested here that the Minister may not have the letter of the law with him—in which case it is time the law was changed. It is quite all right for the Minister to use his discretion, but it is all wrong to place any Minister's discretion beyond the control of Parliament, and the grounds of his discretion beyond even the knowledge of Parliament. This is Fascism, sheer and undiluted.

The latest development as we go to press is that the Minister has conceded that "in future, in the event of circumstances arising involving the exclusion of a British subject, a decision should be made and approval given by Cabinet before action is taken by the Minister." This apparent retreat is really no retreat at all as was made plain when Mr. Peterson added: "It is needless to say that in this particular instance the Cabinet gave its entire approval to the action I took."

Unexplained decisions, whether by one Minister or by a Cabinet

MONTAGU NORMAN CLAIMS SUPREMACY OVER PARLIAMENT

Impudent Assertion of Bank of England Governor at Lord Mayor's Dinner

(From "Social Credit" of October 9.)

"Those for whom I speak welcome the freedom which we have in comparison with those in many other markets, but we wish to use that freedom in the only proper way it can be used, and that is in harmony with the Government's policy. I assure the Ministers that if they will make known through the appropriate channels what they wish us to do in the furtherance of their policies they will at all times find us as willing with good will and loyalty to do what they direct as though we were under legal compulsion."

Thus spoke Montagu Collet Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, at the Lord Mayor's dinner on Tuesday.

And he was greeted with cheers!

UNLESS YOU ACT—

Electors, arise. Make him eat his insolent words. Do not let this arrogant defiance of your will and of the King in Parliament go by default.

See that his haughty claim is repudiated as we repudiate it now.

Ponder his words closely and then act and get others to act with you—or you accept bond slavery.

For this is what it means:—I, Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, do claim equal sovereignty with Parliament—and I hold the purse strings.

While it suits me to do so I will fall in with the policy of Ministers—but please observe for this and future occasions that I do what I please. For the present I will act agreeably to you just as if you had legal power to make me. But you have not that legal power—now cheer, you lickspittles.

And they cheered.

Will YOU sit down under that?

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN ACT.

"Instead of electing representatives to inform bankers and industrialists (who understand the technique of their jobs perfectly) how to do them . . . the business of democracy is to elect representatives who will insist upon results, and will, if necessary, pillory the actual individuals who are responsible either for the attainment of results or their non-attainment.

"It is not the business of the Parliamentary machine to reform, for instance, the financial system. It is the business of the Parliamentary machine to transmit the desires of the people for results (which at present the financial system is not producing) out of the financial system . . . This amounts to bringing

junta, are the antithesis of freedom and are repugnant to every principle of democratic law. When our judges give their decisions do they refuse, "in the public interest," to state their reasons, or do they go to great pains and detail to sum up all the evidence and to set out their reasons? Why make an exception of Cabinet Ministers, who not only lack the technical knowledge of judges, but, what is more important, are frankly representing party interests? As long as it is conceived to be in the public interest that the public should not know what their own servants are doing, then it is just moonshine to pretend that we are any different from Germany or Italy.

pressure to bear upon the individual member of Parliament and he is interested only in two things: the first is in keeping his job, and the second is in knowing how much voting power is behind any demands made upon him.

"One by one the voters should be asked whether they are in favour of a larger personal income with absolute security, via the National Dividend; and sufficient information should be placed before them to show that that is possible . . . The electors should then definitely be asked for a pledge to vote for no candidate who is not prepared to ask for that dividend. Every sitting member of Parliament should be notified at a suitable time of the number of individuals whose support has been obtained, and should be asked whether he is prepared to proceed along certain lines which will be explained to him, and informed that he will not be supported unless he is." (From Major C. H. Douglas's famous speech at Buxton, "The Nature of Democracy.")

TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE

Asked what were the relations of the Bank of England and the Treasury, Montagu Norman once said, "They are the relations of Tweedledum and Tweedledee." But he now claims

"NEW TIMES" EXPANSION

With every mail letters are coming in from all States of the Commonwealth promising financial support to the suggested expansion of the "New Times."

A definite announcement and invitation to prospective shareholders will be made in these columns shortly. Meanwhile all those readers who have intended to reply to our invitation but have not yet done so are asked to communicate with us as soon as possible.

that while the Treasury is responsible to Parliament, the Bank is not.

Will you sit down under that? At a previous Lord Mayor's banquet Montagu Norman said of the clamour against banks and banking, "The dogs bark, but the caravan passes on."

Will you sit down under that? NOW is the time for ACTION.

"I cannot see, short of the intervention of a higher power, and human possibility of avoiding another great world conflagration. Whether any considerable proportion of civilisation will survive only time will show, but I am confident of this, that what survives of the world after the next war, will reach a state either in which there will be no monetary system at all, or one that has been radically reformed in our favour.

"That is the highest note of hope I can end upon. We have done our best in the past twenty years to warn the world not only of what was coming, but how the mechanism works that makes it come. I do not believe that that work will be lost whatever happens. I would ask you to realise that the only thing that would have prevented this war, could it have been produced, was action. And it is even now action that is our only hope."

(From Major Douglas's speech, "The Approach to Reality.")

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THE ECONOMIC URGE TO WAR

By W BROWNLEY

Editor's Note — This is the sixth of a series of articles by Mr. Brownley. The earlier articles appeared in our last five issues.

If wars are not caused by either human nature or human culture, it remains to consider whether they are caused by trade. Readers will probably remember the indignation with which the idea that the last war was being fought for "trade" was received or rather rejected by the community. To be fighting for anything less than God, King and Country seemed not only unworthy of the Allies, but positively disgusting. Rather than the belief that death was reaping a harvest of millions of slain in the interests of trade, most people preferred the faith that the war was being fought only for the highest motives.

Some of them were able to retain this idealistic conception for years after the war had closed, but most people realised that whatever were the alleged reasons for waging the war, the peace settlement declared them. One of the few praiseworthy things about the Peace of Versailles was the fact that its framers had sufficient decency not to mention the Almighty in its preamble. Instead they got down to what they vainly imagined to be "brass tacks" and compiled a veritable volume about iron, machinery, oil, coal, colonies, navies, arms, cattle and corn.

IS TRADE WARLIKE?

But how can trade cause war? Is not the interest of a producer best served by a peaceful market? Do two travellers offering their goods necessarily fall out between themselves? And if they don't do it here, why should they do it in China, or rather why should they call in the armed support of their governments to help them sell their wares? Surely peace is an essential condition of trade.

And raw materials. Is there any material obstacle to any country purchasing all the wealth it needs abroad? Can it secure its raw materials more cheaply when it "owns" a colony than when it does not? Or does a country want colonies for other reasons?

These and similar questions beset the person whose observations led him to conclude that trade rivalry was the basic cause of the World War, but whose emotions rebelled against such a conception.

COLONIES AND MARKETS

As was seen before, the Socialist presents a case, which in many ways seems to unlock the mystery. Colonies are wanted not so much for the raw materials they possess, but for the potential market they present for the Imperialist country's goods. Incidentally they are also a territory in which the sons of the wealthy may find honourable employment. As an illustration, India has been retained not so much to import its wealth into England (in fact, the Indian hemp industry was hampered in favour of Dundee), but because it was a profitable country in which to dump surplus British production. It is estimated that over £1,000,000,000 worth of wealth has been poured into India in the form of irrigation and railway materials, etc. And it has solved the problem of finding employment for many middle-class families. Their sons went into the Indian Army and the I.C.S. Had India not been available this wealth would either have been wasted, or not produced, or another market would have had to be found for it.

We saw reasons to doubt the adequacy of the Socialist reason for this forced export of wealth, but regarding its necessity there can be no doubt.

MONEY SHORTAGE.

If only all the wealth produced in a nation could be bought by the people of that nation, there would not be any need to find foreign markets in which to dump more than is taken as imports in return. But nations can't buy their own production, and in endeavouring to export it to other countries come up against competitors in a similar predicament to their own. To help these competing industrialists nations build armies and navies, create tariff barriers, negotiate treaties, call Ottawa Conferences, depreciate currencies and do a thousand and one other things which succeed only in sacrificing the interest of the majority of the peoples in the home countries and generating general mistrust and ill-will between the peoples of the world. One of the main causes of the bitterness felt by the Serbians for the Austrians was the discriminating tariff against Serbia imposed by Austria in the in-

terests of Hungarian cattle-raisers.

ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM.

Regarding the manner in which markets are found, the following story, told by Leonard Woolfe in "Economic Imperialism," cannot be bettered:

The Chinese Government had given a railway contract to a Belgian syndicate. British financial interests desired the contract for themselves and sought diplomatic support with the following result: Lord Salisbury informed the British representative in China that "You should inform the Chinese Government that H.M. Government cannot possibly continue to co-operate in a friendly manner in matters of interest to China, if, while preferential advantages are conceded to Russia in Manchuria and to Germany in Shantung, these or other foreign powers should also be offered special openings or privileges in the region of the Yangtze. Satisfactory proposals will be forthcoming if the Chinese Government will invite the employment of British capital in the development of these provinces."

China continued to favour the Belgian syndicate. To this the British replied demanding the right to construct six railways. "Unless they agree at once, we will consider their breach of faith concerning the Pekin-Hankow railway as an act of deliberate hostility against this country and shall act accordingly. You can give them the number of days or

"Mr. Roosevelt is a radical. The Bible commands 'increase and multiply,' but Mr. Roosevelt says to destroy and devastate. Therefore I call him an anti-God radical."

—Fr. Chas. E. Coughlin.

hours you think proper within which to send their reply."

The Chinese Government "being aware of the concentration of the fleet" granted everything.

Here the connection of arms, war and trade is unmistakable.

The incident is useful also as indicating the futility of the claim that wars are caused by arms. Armament and war have a similar origin—the necessity for foreign markets. Once the community has enough money to buy all their goods, there will not be any necessity to call disarmament conferences or to outlaw war. These things will pass out of existence along with the other obsolescent aids to salesmanship. Incidentally, the present feverish arms production is staving off war, by putting an increasing amount of money into the pockets of the people and allowing trade to lift up its head.

UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION?

If the reason, as alleged by Socialists for this money shortage, be the unequal distribution of money income at home, the problem should be solved by taxation. But increased taxation has only destroyed business and made workers workless. In any case, it provides no solution for the problem of technological unemployment caused by machinery. The excess of prices and costs over the total income of both capitalists and workers can never be made less by simply paying the workers all the wages and the capitalists none.

The distribution is unequal, probably grossly unfair, but merely redistributing a shortage won't make it a surplus. The money shortage is caused primarily by a faulty pricing-system, in its turn caused by an unscientific rate of credit recall. But before dealing with these things, it will be necessary to investigate how a money shortage causes not only wards, armaments, tariffs and economic nationalism, but how it also perverts both the economic and social systems and human thought.

(To be continued)

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAT?

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

"The season is notable for the return of the dress cloak. It should receive a warm welcome. The cloak is lined with scarlet . . . a decidedly aristocratic affair."—Tailor's announcement.

It will certainly receive a warm welcome from me. I rejoice in this first sign of a return to distinctive dress by Englishmen.

It is of the highest importance to the cause of democracy.

There is a general impression in this country that being democratic means making oneself look like something that fell off a dustcart.

This profound error has done a great deal of harm. For it is a fundamental principle of democracy that every man is worthy of notice and every citizen of equal and inestimable importance.

But the citizen cannot assert his importance while he is disguised as a piece of alluvial deposit.

The democrat cannot effectively ask England to arise (on the grounds that the long, long night is over) while he himself is dressed to look like a foggy morning.

The soul of the English democrat has been subdued and his courage dissipated by the rule that "the well-dressed man is never conspicuous." This has made the once free and independent citizen afraid of drawing attention to himself, and has brought the country to the verge of a dangerous political situation.

Such an attitude of mind paves the way for dictatorship; for a man cannot defy a tyrant while he is afraid of being seen. He cannot be the champion of democracy while he is also trying to be the Invisible Man.

I protest against the adoption of protective colouring on the part of the males of my species. It is discouraging to a democrat to have to move continually in the society of mud-worms.

While a man is trying to camouflage himself so as to be indistinguishable from his background he encourages those political tendencies which aim at making the individual indistinguishable from the mass.

WOMEN AND FASHION

It is often said that women are slaves to fashion. On the contrary, it is men. Women use fashions for the sound democratic purpose of making themselves conspicuous because they think they are worth it.

They know that it does not matter how funny they look so long as they can be spotted. And the proof of this is that, in spite of the unrelieved grotesqueness of female fashions, from Elizabeth to Victoria (inclusive), the population went on increasing.

Nevertheless, though women may frequently make themselves look like nothing on earth, that is a far, far better thing than trying to look like a piece of it, as men do.

Men are so enslaved by fashion that they allow it to mould them each and all into the likeness of a wet Sunday. The most they ask of the tailor is to be camouflaged as part of the middle-distance.

Further, they are too slavish to indulge their secret inclinations. Many a man who appears in public only as a section of a gloomy bas-relief, retires at night to the secrecy of his bedroom and puts on scarlet silk pyjamas.

If fashion had not reduced him to abject slavishness he would go out to lunch in them.

THE BIPED IN SPATS

I have heard of men who died of shock on discovering that they had come out with on one spat on. But a democrat — or a woman — or anyone else who appreciated free and independent citizenship, would have

pretended they had done it on purpose.

Further, they would have utilised the occasion to endorse the democratic principle that if man is more important than his background he must stand out from it. And he would have turned up next day in a pink one.

But most of you would rather die than be seen in spats at all. That is because you are not democratic. The purpose of spats is to emphasise the fact that the wearer is a biped. And that is a fact you wish to hide. You have been to the ant and considered her ways, and decided that as a servant of a totalitarian state you ought to have six legs.

OUT OF THE DUSTBIN

And then, final crown of shame, there is that drab, misshapen thing, your hat. Democracy cannot raise its head while it is crowned by something obviously chosen to resemble dust and ashes.

Gazing upon it, I know at last the answer to the old question, "Where did you get that hat?" Clearly, out of the dustbin.

It is the symbol of obscurity. "Regard me not," its wearer seems to say. "But if you must, behold me but a tame taxpayer, passing inoffensively on his way to dusty death."

Friends, this drabness will not do at all. We must arrest this gradual decline of man into shameful obscurity. If we are the heirs of the ages, we must clothe ourselves accordingly. And the least a man can do to show he is a democrat is to wear a feather in his hat. Send for illustrated list.

Oscar Wilde is reported to have said that true democracy is a state in which every man is an aristocrat. That being so, I propose to take the first step towards the assertion of democratic principles by turning up at the office tomorrow evening in a cloak lined with scarlet silk.

And in case the worst comes to the worst, I will take this opportunity of observing that I died for the Cause.

PRIZE ESSAY.

HOW TO KEEP DEMOCRACY

We have been advised that the Tooronga Progress League invites members of the Douglas Credit Movement of Victoria to enter an essay competition for a prize of £10. The subject is, "How to Keep Democracy in Australia," the essay not to exceed 2000 words, to be written on foolscap, on one side only, and to be submitted on or before December 31 next to the secretary, Mrs. F. Martin, 31 Cressy Street, Malvern, S.E.4, Victoria, with an entrance fee of 1/-.

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THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS NEEDS

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—

If there is such a thing as poetic justice, surely we see it in the financial embarrassment, of the Melbourne University.

Dr. Priestley, its vice-chancellor, has given publicity to a scheme of reform he would have the University undertake, and which he considers the absolute minimum for securing effective results. He told the Bendigo Commerce Club on October 19 that "the Melbourne University is very poverty-stricken" and that "if given the power and money the normal teaching programme could be halved, the staff doubled, and the University made worthy of the name, turning out well-balanced men and women who knew how to think and did not take an extreme view." This must mean that, through the lack of power and money, the University is now turning out men and women who are not well balanced, who do not know how to think, and who do take extreme views. What a commentary that is on the leaders of such an institution, particularly when we recall that its financial difficulties are due to the application of their own ideas! Could justice be more just?

The Governor also referred to the University's poverty. In laying the foundation stone of the Union House on October 24, "at a ceremony made impressive by the colour and dignity of academic robes," he said, "the Melbourne University has been left behind in some necessary requirements. All that is needed is money." What a wonderful thing this "money" must be, and what an extraordinary thing that Governors, vice-chancellors, and lovers of "the colour and dignity of academic robes" seem to know so little about it! What sort of dignity is it that allows the personal representative of his Majesty the King to say we cannot have necessary community services because we have no money? When he speaks in that way he is placing money above everything in the world and simply saying either that the King has surrendered his sovereignty to a private monopoly, or that he does not know what money really is, how it comes into existence, how it goes out of existence, or how the quantity available to the community is controlled.

And what sort of dignity is it that allows a vice-chancellor to tour the country making out that the unsatisfactory position of the University is due to neglect on the part of individual citizens and lack of sympathy on the part of the Government? The members of the community are themselves short of money, but have had no say at all in the production of it. The Government is in a similar position. Money is produced by a private monopoly known as the banking system, and it is because University agents have intrigued with this monopoly to keep the public ignorant concerning money production and its manipulation that we are in such a mess. If the public knew the facts our financial "authorities" would soon get their marching orders.

THE FRUITS OF UNIVERSITY ADVICE

The vice-chancellor of the Melbourne University is fully aware

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FITZROY GARDENS

(main lawn)

on

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 5

that leading members of his professorial staff actually allied themselves with the plot of the bankers in 1930-31 to impose a policy of severe deflation on this community, and that the inevitable result of this was to reduce the quantity of money at a time when the production of actual wealth was increasing. In these circumstances, how was it possible for people with decreasing incomes to make increasing payments or contributions to the University? In the same way, how could governments possibly maintain payments on the scale applying before their revenues were so foolishly depleted at the direction of bank controllers and on the advice of University professors? It was inevitable, and entirely fitting, that the University of Melbourne should suffer from the effects of this betrayal. What is more, so long as it retains men like Professor Copland, Professor Giblin and Dr. Wood to "teach" students that the community's money can come into existence only as debt to the private banking monopoly, it will continue to turn out men and women "Who are not well-balanced, who do not know how to think, and who take extreme views."

THE "HERALD" ARTICLES

Following the campaign of Dr. Priestley and the remarks of Lord Huntingfield, the Melbourne "Herald" as usual came out with a series of articles on "The University's Needs." There were three of these articles, and the first chided the students for not having made a better contribution to the new Union building. "Of £60,000 required for buildings and equipment," it said, "£18,000 is still wanting, and of the money in hand, £20,000 has been raised by loan . . . Some graduates have responded well, but not the main body." If graduates have their own private mints, then their failure to respond is reprehensible, but it seems to me that in most cases they are obliged to call upon parents already almost beside themselves with financial worries—worries brought about by the activities of the private money monopoly traitorously supported by the false teachings of University professors. The "Herald" did not refer to this aspect at all, and evidently gives no thought to the fact that contributions for any purpose are governed by the income of the contributor. The University is deservedly short of money because it lent itself to action, which seriously reduced the incomes of the people.

"BEG, BORROW OR BLUFF."

In this connection, I have in my possession a circular letter sent out by the Students' Representative Council of the University dealing with the above appeal. Of the £18,000 referred to by the "Herald" it says that £8000 can be raised by issuing debentures, and then goes on to make this plea for the remaining £10,000: "This letter has been sent to 3500 of your fellow-students, and if each of you will go to three friends or relatives and 'beg, borrow or bluff' from each just one guinea . . . we can raise the necessary £10,000 in a very short time."

Beg, borrow or bluff! Is comment necessary?

NOT ENOUGH SEATS, SHELVES, BOOKS.

The second "Herald" article tells us "an adequate library is the University's most urgent unsatisfied need; yet to finance it there is no hope at present but in some private benefaction . . . Two thousand students cannot be expected to read regularly in a library with only 200 seats, with not even enough shelving for half the books they ought to read. Even if the books were provided."

The physical requirements

for the library are therefore seats, shelving, and books, and no one would say there is any shortage of these. The only shortage is of a money symbol representing figures entered in bank ledgers, and yet the University, supposed to be the seat of learning, not only allows itself to be mesmerised into believing that these figures and symbols are greater than the country's wealth, but actually helps to extend the mesmerism to the community at large. Not a word comes from the University about the need for more sensible control of the figures, or of the need for having them regulated to community requirements instead of allowing the requirements to be controlled by the figures.

THE WEALTHY BENEFACTOR

Speaking of the great necessity for "overseas leave for members of the University staff and of visits to Melbourne from overseas lecturers," Dr. Priestley said there could be no more useful gift to the University than a large sum for this purpose. "Unfortunately," he said, "this is the sort of benefaction which least appeals to wealthy men, for there is no building with which to associate a name, no chair which through the distinction of its occupants may become known to the academic world." What an amazing admission that is, and what an outlook it connotes! Here we have a great University depending for its development not on the desires, abilities and physical resources of the people and the country, but on the opportunities it can provide for the gratification of the inordinate vanity of individuals whose only claim to notice is that they have been able to gather symbols called money: individuals who in their lives crawled on the backs of the really useful members of society, and who in death (with money that probably did not really belong to them) purchase the right to have their names immorally and undeservedly coupled for all time with men of genuine ability. A University, which perpetuates the lie that money is the greatest of all commodities when in fact it is not a commodity at all but only a symbol, and which sumpily surrenders to the private money monopoly instead of leading the community in the fight against it.

In the third article, Dr. Priestley asks "to be supplied with the means to do work of true University calibre," pointing out that "in 1925, when the University had 2000 students, its grant was £45,000, but in 1935, with 33 per cent, more students, the grant is 20 per cent less." What is the use, or where is the propriety in moaning about that to the general public when their very own Professor Copland was the chairman of the committee, appointed at the behest of the money monopoly, which evolved the "plan" imposing the cut in the grant? He is the man to tackle, not the public. Professor Copland knew quite well that the only thing we were suffering from was a shortage of money, and he also knew quite well that all money used in Australia is made in Australia. Instead of demanding the rectification of that shortage, however, he deliberately joined with the bankers in shortening everything else. Professor Giblin, another University representative, assisted in the betrayal, and still helps to impose conditions designed to cause further financial stringency. These facts suggest that the first practical step to genuine University progress is to require these two men to teach students the truth about the money swindle or make room for others who will. A straight warning should also be given to Dr. Wood that he, too, must face up to the realities of the situation or be replaced.

"CHEAPEST IN THE EMPIRE"!

We are also told in the article that Mr. Alfred Hart, "a graduate

of the University," has put the case for reform of University finance in a little book recently issued by the University Press, in which he says that, for its size, the University of Melbourne "is the cheapest in the British Empire." Imagine it - - a university graduate putting forward "cheapness" as a virtue! What precisely does he mean by "cheapest"? He means that the University has been cheap only in the financial sense—i.e., that in the matter of accounting, the Melbourne University has used fewer financial figures and money tokens than have been used by Universities of a comparable character in other parts. In every other sense the Melbourne University has been very "dear." Dr. Priestley himself admits that "maintenance has been dangerously stinted, development hampered, and salaries held at an unreasonably low level." Has he brought this home to the Hon. J. P. Jones, a member of the University Council, who is equally guilty of the cruelty and robbery imposed by the Premiers' Plan, and who actually thought that purchasing power would be increased by reducing it? So far as the salaries are concerned, it is not unfair to suggest that while members of the staff are willing not only to allow themselves to be swindled by the private monopoly controlling our money supplies, but actually to assist that monopoly to continue swindling the community, then the salaries they now receive are much greater than they deserve.

Mr. Hart, in his "case" for reform, gives as one of the reasons for sympathetic consideration the fact that "in 1931, as part of the economies under the Premiers' Plan, the grant was reduced to £36,000." What Mr. Hart should explain is why "economies" were necessary at all when every physical thing was being made available in increasing quantities and was being produced for the express purpose of being used? Why did not the University fight against a shortage of symbols instead of allowing the symbols to dictate a shortage of the real things?

The whole of Mr. Hart's publication is a reflection on himself and everyone else connected with the management of the Melbourne University, for it provides the clearest evidence that the whole

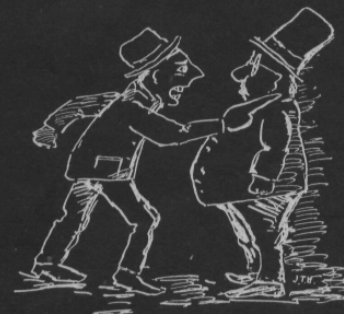
lot of them are money-mesmerised. If they were not so mesmerised they would insist that it be made servant instead of master, and that it should come into existence only on Government authority as the property of the people, in which case the Government could never refuse to meet any legitimate community need on the ground that it had no money. At present it can and does do so, simply because the quantity of money it can get is determined arbitrarily by the banking system without any regard to the wealth of the country or the needs of its inhabitants. Up to now, to its everlasting disgrace, the Melbourne University has used its full resources to keep itself and the community subservient to that private monopoly, and this explains why, as Mr. John Foster told the Constitutional Club, "the future prospect has been made melancholy."

SIR JAS. BARRETT AND "MENTALITY."

Even Sir James Barrett, the Chancellor of the University, is not blameless. On November 7 the "Argus" published a letter from him pointing out that peace will not be obtained until the nations can freely trade with one another, and pleading for "the abolition of embargoes and prohibitions and excessive tariffs to remove the chief primary cause of a mentality which may end in a colossal explosion." Sir James has overlooked that the abolition of these things is dependent on our financial arrangements, and unless he is prepared to face that issue straightforwardly he is wasting his time and frittering away his exceptional opportunities for serving humanity. When we unitedly demand the adoption of a financial policy which will ensure that the community will at all times have enough money to buy the maximum output of goods from industry, and at the same time enable industry to recover its full costs of production, there will be no difficulty whatever in removing those barriers to trade and in meeting every need of the University. But until then we can only get ready for the otherwise inevitable "colossal explosion" to which Sir James has made reference.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

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LET US KEEP AUSTRALIA PURE!

The Case of Mrs. Freer

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

Once more we have cause to be grateful to our paternal Government for its tender care of our moral welfare. We must ever keep this in mind, as it may occur to some of the more material-minded that it would be just fine if it would show the same sympathy with our physical well-being, as most of its acts tend to reduce our incomes. But perhaps even that may be intended as a disciplinary measure for the good of our souls. It would be just terrible if we grew so prosperous as to become careless about the higher things. Only members of Parliament can stand the demoralising effects of high living and foreign travel.

Well, it appears that not only persons with the wrong political views (pacifists and such like) but those whose views and practice are not strictly monogamistic must not be allowed to place their sinful footsteps on this holy land. What country in the world can show an equal regard for its national purity? None—not even Germany.

Mr. Paterson has nobly determined that no Australian home shall be broken if he can help it—that is, no home of social standing whose relatives are so highly-placed as to be able to dictate to Governments. Some over-critical objectors might say, of course, that this particular home is already broken, and that this drastic measure of shooing the home-breaker away from our shores cannot mend it, but is that a moral way to talk? No, fellow-Australians; straying affections must be dealt with, and straying husbands forced back to their lawful partners, no matter what the consequences. Anyway, it is highly advisable for lovers, whether they be lovers of liberty or of persons not lawfully joined to them, to become expert linguists before attempting to defile these shores with their presence.

WHY NOT HOMING M.P.'S?

As a gesture of good faith in the validity of the Immigration Act, members of our legislature on returning from one of their numerous trips abroad might offer to submit to a dictation test in some European language—and we might then at least make sure that such trips were not all in vain.

Fortunate are we indeed in being governed by those whose intellectual infallibility is only equalled by their moral impeccability. Can we not follow them in thought through the wicked capitals of Europe when abroad on national business, and shedding sweetness and light wherever they go in their chaste progress through all sorts of evil example!

And why, since free assemblage, free speech, free choice of literature, free

currency are not permitted, should free love be? No, let us be consistent, and go the whole hog while we are about it. It is evident that we have been too lax in the past. It is terrible to reflect that formerly many, many persons of both sexes may have been allowed to land without a single inquiry as to how many husbands or wives they had, legal or otherwise. Or whether, even if so far innocent, they were harbouring designs on some Australian home. It is time that this is put a stop to, and Mr. Paterson is clearly the man to be entrusted with the job. It is true that our country might thus be out of the running as a tourist resort, and somewhat unpopular as a port of call, but what is that when compared with the importance of fixing a moral tone? Did we not unhesitatingly risk many millions of pounds of Japanese trade because we objected to the alleged conditions of Japanese workers? We did not even wait to see if the said allegations were true; we only knew that cheapness is all wrong, anyway, and the real path to progress is to make everything as dear as possible to the home consumer. Indeed, sound economics make it imperative.

Beware of Dictatorship.

Now Mr. Menzies is warning us that we are threatened with a dictatorship. Only threatened—and we had been imagining that we had one already. And we had been under the impression that it was just gentlemen like Mr. Menzies that were instrumental in establishing it. It has even been suggested that when that power was vested in a single individual. Mr. Menzies would be the chosen one. After all, it was he who prevented us from being polluted by the pacifist doctrines of Mr. Griffin and Herr Kisch. I do not recall that the Australian democracy had "much say in that matter.

On the contrary, one Michael Sawtell, who mildly demonstrated on the rough handling of Kisch, was arrested and severely fined, although he did not raise a finger in his defence. It sounds just a little Nazi-ish. But, of course, we know it is all benevolence in the interests of a community not capable of judging for itself. Away back in the reign of King John they had other ideas. Oh that sunny day at Runnymede, a strong stand was taken by the barons representing the people, when even a hereditary monarch was put smartly in his place, and among other things was told that any British subject must be free to travel in any part of the British Dominions without let or hindrance from any authority. Not even a passport. But we have travelled far since then.

"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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VICTORIAN SOCIAL CREDIT ORGANISER IN FULL HARNESS

Many Meetings Addressed by Mr. Hollins

BROADCASTING.

During the two weeks following the last Conference of the Social Credit Movement of Victoria, Mr. L. H. Hollins, the State Organiser, concentrated on the financial side of the programme then adopted, and quickly demonstrated that the first step, a £20 a week increase in the regular income of the Movement, was readily attainable.

He then turned his attention to the making of arrangements for a weekly broadcast session over one of the B class stations. Here he met with considerable setbacks, owing not only to the difficulty of arranging a suitable time, but chiefly to the disinclination of the managements concerned to permit the spoken word to occupy more than a small percentage of any sponsored session. As the Movement does not feel the urge to introduce further crooners or the like, this difficulty is a serious one. It is, however, hoped that negotiations will be concluded satisfactorily at an early date.

ELAINE.

Due to the splendid efforts of Mr. J. Phillips, who for 40 years has been carrying on a lone fight for a just social order, a meeting was arranged in the Elaine Hall for Saturday evening, November 7.

A representative gathering, presided over by Mr. Austin, popular manager of a large sheep station in the district, gave Mr. Hollins a very attentive hearing and, judging from the many intelligent questions asked and the number who joined up, he was greatly impressed by the address.

CHELLENHAM.

On Sunday afternoon, November 8 Mr. Hollins addressed a large and enthusiastic gathering in the Charman Road Presbyterian Church Hall, the choir being taken by the Rev. A. J. Porter.

BOX HILL.

Members of the Box Hill branch turned out in force on Tuesday evening, November 10, to hear the State Organiser outline his plans for a statewide organisation. After a short address in which he stressed the need for immediate action and for the complete co-operation of every member and branch, an appeal was made for the active financial support of the branch. Mr. Hollins asked that the immediate objective be 1/- per week to be contributed or raised by each member for the State organising fund, to make possible a State-wide campaign of publicity such as had never before been attempted.

After expressing general approval of the plan the branch unanimously moved, "That the Box Hill branch give its unqualified support to Mr. Hollins." Mr. Les. Mills was elected district director of finance and in his capable hands the success of the drive in this centre is assured.

CAULFIELD.

On Wednesday evening, November 11, a representative gathering of the Caulfield branch met in the Lodge Room at the Caulfield Town Hall to discuss the attitude of the branch to the new scheme of organisation. Prior to Mr. Hollins's arrival, which was delayed owing to his having attended a dinner to Captain Rushworth, M.P., President of the Movement in New Zealand, the branch members unanimously decided to throw their whole weight behind the new State Organiser. Arriving at 9 p.m. Mr. Hollins outlined his plans, which were received with enthusiasm. As in the case of Box Hill, it was moved unanimously that the branch

throw its whole weight behind the new campaign. Before the meeting closed Mr. R. F. Gilbert was elected district director of finance. The choice of such a capable and enthusiastic member is a guarantee of results.

SURREY HILLS.

Following arrangements by Mr. L. R. Cale, Mr. Hollins addressed a group of prominent business men at the home of Mr. A. F. Parkin, 42 Winsor Crescent, Surrey Hills, on Thursday, November 12. These gentlemen, members of a club meeting regularly to discuss matters of national importance were, as might be imagined, well informed on most matters. They admitted, however, that they knew little of Social Credit. After an address lasting 1½ hours, Mr. Hollins was asked many searching questions and from the general attitude of those present his answers gave general satisfaction.

POOWONG.

Accompanied by Mr. Les. Mills, of Blackburn, Mr. Hollins set out on Saturday afternoon for Poowong, where a meeting had been arranged by Mr. Winston Burchett, secretary of the Poowong Discussion Club. Each member of this group is a keen student, and the question time following the address was of great value to all present. Several members of the group joined the Movement.

AN APPEAL.

As there is almost an unlimited scope for work of this nature, especially in the country, Mr. Hollins is extremely anxious to put the State organising fund on a sound basis as soon as possible. Until this can be done it will not be possible for him to devote much time to country organising.

Will the branches that have not already been visited by Mr. Hollins please make every endeavour to call all their members together without delay so that the proposals may be fully explained to them. This is a matter of real urgency, as the success of the whole scheme depends on the willing co-operation of every member. Will branch secretaries please communicate with Mr. Hollins direct before fixing the date for such meetings?

Broadcasting, Statewide publicity through the press and effective country organising will only be possible when the State organising fund has been properly established.

STATE ORGANISER'S PROGRAMME

Thursday, Nov. 19.—Mentone Branch.
Saturday, Nov. 21.—Town Hall, Daylesford.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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Tuesday, November 24.—Brighton Branch.

Probable Programme:

Saturday, Nov. 28.—Yarram.
Monday, Nov. 30.—Welshpool.
Tuesday, Dec. 1.—Foster.
Wednesday, Dec. 2.—Leongatha.
Thursday, Dec. 3.—Korumburra.

TO EVERY ELECTOR

In a Democracy like Australia Parliament exists to make the Will of the People Prevail

DEMAND YOUR NATIONAL DIVIDENDS!

"Australia needs migrants who are experienced in farm work. It is useless bringing out men who have had no training and selling land at high prices, as they cannot be successful. Unless we accept more of the world's population we cannot make any progress."

The above statement was made on Monday by the Victorian manager of the Australian Mercantile, Land and Finance Co., just returned from a trip abroad. It is a typical example of how men, successful in their own business affairs, talk utter nonsense on national matters.

The clear implication of the statement is that success is a matter of money. But the very people who hold this view most strongly display entire ignorance of what money is, who literally makes it, where it goes to, how and by whom it is destroyed, and how its supply should be regulated.

Actually, of course, true success and true progress should be judged by what is produced. If a country produces wealth it should be rich. If it produces wealth with very little effort it should be still more rich. Money—pieces of paper, metal tokens, entries in bank ledgers—should simply record the facts of real wealth and provide for its distribution.

The first thing Australia needs is NOT migrants to go on the land. People go on the land to produce wealth. The land of Australia today is already producing enormous wealth, and it could MULTIPLY that production without the addition of one single migrant, IF—

Farmers were assured of markets.

Markets mean people who want to buy and who have the money to buy. Farmers produce wealth; they don't produce money.

Within Australia we already have so many people who want to buy, and who would buy if they had the money, that we should have no marketing problem at all. With such few of our products as we genuinely over-produce for our local needs—principally wool—there is again no real marketing problem. People abroad are anxious to buy our wool, and to pay for it with their own products. It is only because we have not the MONEY to buy the whole of what we produce that we cannot buy imports up to the full value of our exports.

Australia's first problem, and the only bar to further progress is TO FINANCE THE CONSUMPTION OF WHAT IS ALREADY PRODUCED. This can be done without further taxation, without robbing Peter to pay Paul. It can be done by distributing to every man, woman and child in Australia a National Dividend—money to buy the goods which are now unsaleable, sold at a loss, restricted or destroyed because they have no monetary equivalent. Until we distribute properly our existing production it is foolish to talk of bringing in migrants to PRODUCE more."

We have only one real problem in Australia—a money shortage. This has arisen because we have allowed the bankers to usurp the control of the nation's money supply.

**DOWN WITH THE PRIVATE CREATION OF MONEY!
DEMAND YOUR RIGHTS.
DEMAND THE NATIONAL DIVIDEND.**

ABOLISH BANKERS' RULE

**MAKE PARLIAMENT
SUPREME**

**KICK OUT POLITICIANS
WHO CRINGE TO
BANKERS**

**AUSTRALIA MUST HAVE
STATESMEN**

NATIONAL DIVIDENDS

ARE MONEY TO BUY

GOODS THAT ARE NOW

DESTROYED AND

PRODUCTION THAT IS

NOW RESTRICTED

**There is no power on Earth that can withstand the Force of an enlightened public opinion. In Australia there is Plenty for All.
In the name of Common Sense and Justice DEMAND YOUR DIVIDEND**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"IT'S A FACT."

The Melbourne "Sun" (11th inst.) published the following: "It's A Fact—That the sum of one farthing placed at 5 per cent, compound interest at the beginning of the Christian era, and continued until the year 1800, would amount to 1,473, 908 million, million, million, million, million pounds sterling! All the wealth of the world would not pay the interest on this debt for the millionth-part of a second." In spite of this fact our leading public men and especially our bankers seem to be of the opinion that this interest-paying business can be carried on forever. Surely they must realise that the time has come when the paying of interest as a whole is a mathematical impossibility.

A. M. KOBIALKE.

THE DOXOLOGY.

Your readers are indebted to you for the publication of Mr. Bruce Brown's letter re the Doxology ("New Times," Nov. 13). Surely it will rouse some complacent churchmen to a sense of the futility of the average clergyman's attitude towards social problems. The whole trend of sociology today is to get down to causes: and, anyway, the science involves ethics. Many clergymen glibly excuse their lack of interest in Social Credit and other progressive sociological movements by saying that the Church cannot concern itself

with affairs of a "political or semi-political" nature. But these same gentlemen record their votes and receive their salaries. Surely it is shameful for any professed Christian to stand aloof from the vital issue of justice versus injustice for all, which is rocking this Christian civilisation to its foundations. Christianity is being tested out as never before, and if the Church is eventually eliminated from the scheme of things social whose fault will it be?

Frustrated young people are in revolt against established ideas, and they won't be put off by sophistry. "What is sin, anyway?" one asked me. That was a challenging question. I have my own personal definition, born of thought and experience, but if clergymen as a class would cease their "You can't do that there here" attitude to the masses, and, instead would concentrate their theme song upon the real sinners, the Money Monopolists who are sapping the moral fibre of our people at the root, then soon the Church would become a power for good, and empty pews—silent, accusing witnesses as they are—would disappear. Clergymen, generally speaking, are really anxious for the good of the people but only a few of them dare to trust the God of Righteousness in Whom all profess belief—the line of least resistance is so much "safer" for the others. But there is not time for rail sitting; the call comes clear and definite "Who's on the Lord's side?" Christianity will fail unless it is

used constructively as a progressive medium for the divine urge towards a more complete and harmonious state of individual and social fulfilment. "The Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world" cannot be quenched. If it be obscured in one direction it seeks another means of manifesting itself in human consciousness. Personally I contend that the most heinous of all sins is the attitude of apathy in the presence of injustice—that silence which amounts to acquiescence in the repudiation of divine obligations to our fellow, a supine mentality, selfish and retrogressive in its influence. Let us cry with Emerson, "Oh friend! Never strike sail to a fear. Come into port greatly, or sail with God the seas."

LILLIAN LENNIE.
Windsor.

**THE ELECTORAL
CAMPAIGN AND "THE
EXPERTS."**

At a private meeting held this week, Mr. Hollins, State Organizer of the Douglas Credit Movement, explained that the Executive of that Movement proposed an immediate campaign to strengthen the organisation in Victoria and to set it working in the direction of securing the active support of sitting M.P.'s of all parties. Representations are to be made to these M.P.'s to induce them to pledge themselves to abolish poverty by the payment of a social dividend to individual citizens.

Among those present at the meeting the feeling was that M.P.'s were to be asked to pledge themselves to

perform an impossibility; that not even an Act of Parliament could ensure that the payment of a social dividend would result inevitably in the abolition of poverty.

Mr. Hollins further explained, perhaps somewhat paradoxically, that the Douglas Credit Movement had decided to advocate in its campaign no particular method of reform beyond that of appointing a number of experts to "do the job" after the electors and M.P.'s have been wooed and won. Should these experts fail, they are to be dismissed. Another set of experts would then be engaged on similar terms, and so on.

On this aspect of the proposed campaign the feelings of the meeting may be summarised as follows:—

Our present economic ills are fundamentally due to two causes, the action of banks in making merchandise of credit that belongs to the community, and the advent of what is known as the machine age. In this diagnosis, it is believed, all "Douglasites" will concur. Is it possible that these ills can be cured other than by appropriately dealing with their causes? Why, then, the silence as to method? The spectacle of a great reform movement proposing to set up experts to decide on fundamentals and suffer, the consequence of any miscalculation is surely unique.

We of the meeting take the view that we, as reformers, must take our stand on broad principles and bear our own wounds; that the functions of experts should be to apply in detail a policy of reform if and when decided on by the people.

We believe that policy should be:—

1. The full and sole control of the issue of money to be exercised by the Commonwealth Government through the Commonwealth Bank,

2. A programme of public works to be financed with "new" money, and to be developed in the light of results, with a view to the complete elimination of compulsory unemployment.

3. Such other action as may be necessary to equate production and consumption.

The intention of this letter is purely constructive. All monetary reformers realise that a concerted forward movement is overdue, and the Douglas Executive is certainly to be commended for its activity. The hope is that a slight reorganisation of the proposed campaign will greatly enhanced both its usefulness and its chances of success. Although few in numbers, we of the meeting in question believe that a little clarification of the issue would secure the active and direct co-operation of many who think as we do. —Thanking you, for the meeting,

J. PARSONS.

APPLICATIONS are hereby called for the position of Manager to a Co-operative Trading Company about to commence operations in Melbourne. Applicant to state age, experience and salary required to: "CO-OPERATIVE, Mercantile Exchange, 380 Collins St. Melbourne. Copies only of references to be enclosed with application.