

CHURCHMEN  
AND  
CHARITY.  
(See page 4)

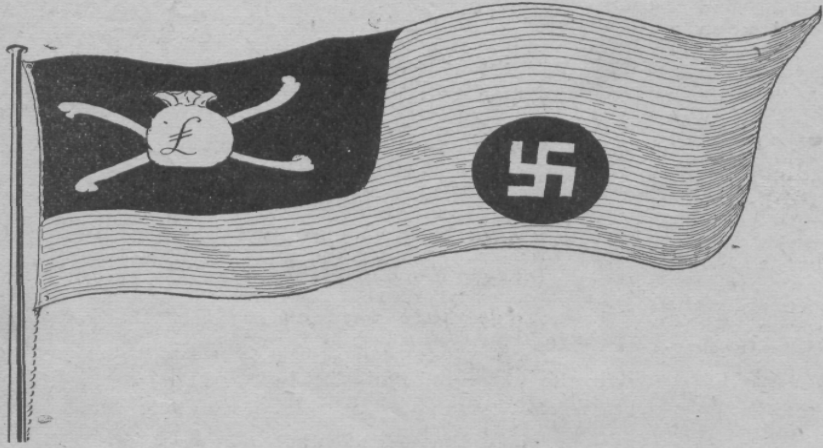
# THE NEW TIMES

THE "NEW TIMES"  
IS OBTAINABLE  
AT ALL  
AUTHORISED  
NEWSAGENTS.

Vol II. No. 51.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1936.

Every Friday, 3d



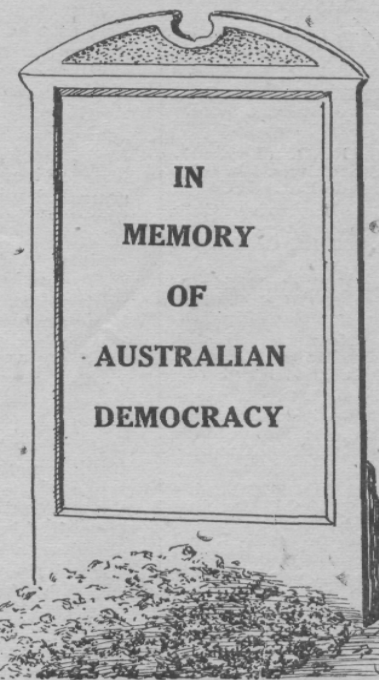
**PUBLIC ENEMY**

**Number One—**

**LYONS**

**MUST**

**GO!**



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(Continued on page 3.)

# How Lyons Betrayed Australia

## THE INFAMOUS TALE OF A MAN UNTRUE TO THE PEOPLE, UNTRUE TO THE KING, UNTRUE TO HIS OATHS

At the beginning of last week Edward VIII was King-Emperor of the widest territories, the greatest population, and the mightiest resources of wealth over which one man has ever reigned. A few days later, with his closest companion a dog (who could not tell the difference between a King and a man), he was shipped out of his country under cover of darkness to become an exile.

Last week Edward VIII was King of Australia. He was the most popular King Australia has ever known. When he ascended the throne a few months earlier he had been acclaimed, not only by those grovellers who will always pay lip service to the ascendancy, but by the people themselves—including great numbers who have not, as a rule, much respect for kings. Today Edward of Windsor, a Duke without a duchy, has in Australia hardly the status of an aborigine. Did he desire to land here it is highly probable he would be subjected to an impossible dictation test and denied even that privilege of temporary domicile accorded the banned Asiatic or the Negro pugilist.

### KING AND PEOPLE.

What happened in democratic Australia in the intervening days to bring about such a revolution? Did King Edward violate in some gross way the Australian constitution? He did not. Did the people rise against him, were there great popular demonstrations demanding that he should be deposed or compelled to resign his office? There were demonstrations, certainly, but they were uniformly those of loyalty and affection. In Melbourne, for instance, night after night saw outbursts of popular feeling. In the principal picture theatres where thousands assembled, the managements were compelled to suspend screenings and recall orchestras upon the insistent and clamorous demands of their audiences for the singing of God Save the King. The name of King Edward was the signal for deafening cheers.

There were a few negative movements against the King. There was the refusal of the traitors within the City Council to allow citizens the use of their own hall to express their loyalty; there was the refusal of the Melbourne Age proprietors to allow the citizens one line of space for advertising the substituted meeting. But as a sequel the people of Melbourne assembled at the Town Hall doors to execrate the King's enemies and to sing the National Anthem. The same people, in a scene never before witnessed in Melbourne, massed in front of the Age office, while Collins-street resounded with their cries of "God Save King Edward!" "Down with the Age!" "Down with all traitors!" "Boycott the Age!"

If you judged by what you saw and what you heard, you must have arrived at the conclusion, by Thursday night of last week, that Edward VIII was more securely entrenched than ever upon his Australian throne and in the hearts of his Australian subjects.

Two or three hours later a bewildered nation heard with consternation and with anger, from the detestable oily accents of Joseph Aloysius Lyons, that Edward was no longer their King.

Such is what passes for democracy in Australia!

### THE ARCH-CRIMINAL.

Who was the arch-criminal? There were traitors in many quarters of the British Commonwealth of Nations, traitors in many quarters of Australia. Else-

where in this issue various aspects of their treachery are discussed, but when, if ever, the history of democracy and its suppression in Australia comes to be written, the most infamous name in the rogues' gallery will be that of Joseph Aloysius Lyons, now Prime Minister of the Commonwealth.

Securing his office by his treachery to the Labor party and the people who raised him out of well-deserved obscurity. J. A. Lyons, democrat until he had a taste of power, entered upon a career, which has been fittingly crowned by his betrayal of King and people.

Aided by the constant parading of numerous offspring, and pushed forward by the scheming of a determined-to-get-on-at-all-costs wife, Prime Minister Lyons, in his capacity as "Honest Joe," the family man, succeeded for a while in hoodwinking many of the people. Feeling secure in the saddle, his real character gradually emerged. And what a character! On the one hand all the psalm-singing hypocrisy of an Archbishop Head, all the pretence of godliness combined with an utter callousness for the needless sufferings of the poor and the oppressed; on the other, the brutal trampling under of democratic rights, the destruction of liberty on all sides, the usurpation of the people's powers, not with the comparative straightforwardness of a Hitler, a Mussolini or a Stalin, but with the low pretence of delicate situations, of diplomatic secrecies—with the methods of the pickpocket and the cat burglar.

### WHAT LYONS HAS DONE

Can any friend of J. A. Lyons—if he has a friend left—point to one single action of his Prime Ministership that has benefited Australia?

Talking sane finance, he has pushed taxation to hitherto unheard-of limits. Taking as his motto "living within our means," he has kept the national debt skyrocketing. Talking trade, he has taken his wife and an attendant coterie traipsing around the world—and gained what? Talking preference to good customer countries, he has given grave offence to the best of our foreign customers, upset importers and exporters for months—and now, it seems, is being forced to give back what he took away, and is merely searching feverishly for some formula to try and save his face. And all in defiance or contempt of the people, and with every possible effort to browbeat or suppress the democratic rights of criticism.

If a man denies his mother, he will generally have at least the shame to avoid the topic. But Lyons, having betrayed Labor, is in the forefront of the attack on Labor at every U.A.P. conference. Judas at least hanged himself for shame; Lyons struts around like a pouter pigeon, jingling the pieces of silver in his pocket.

### TREASON.

And now comes his arch-betrayal in the breaking of his solemn oath to his sovereign. J. A. Lyons swore fealty to Edward VIII. And J. A. Lyons has admitted that he broke his oath.

To be sure, he has tried to disguise it, to gloss it over. Here is what he said in Parliament last Friday in trying to explain away how he plotted with Baldwin to depose King Edward:

"On November 28" — almost a week before the Australian people had their first inkling of what was afoot — "I received from the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom a personal and

secret cable informing me that he had had conversations with the King about Mrs. Simpson. . . . Mr. Baldwin informed me that he had advised his Majesty that he did not think there was any chance of such an arrangement receiving the approval of Parliament in Great Britain; also that the assent of the Dominions would be essential to the carrying out of such an arrangement. He invited my personal view. I then communicated with Mr. Baldwin, offering my personal view—since at that time the whole matter was highly secret and confidential—that the proposed marriage, if it led to Mrs. Simpson becoming Queen, would invoke widespread condemnation and that the alternative proposal or something in the nature of a specially sanctioned morganatic marriage would run counter to the best popular conception of the Royal Family."

J. A. Lyons then went on to relate how on December 5 (Saturday), at the suggestion of Baldwin, he informed "his Majesty of the views of my Government and, in particular, stating that any proposal that Mrs. Simpson should become Consort and not Queen and that her issue should be barred from succession, would not be approved by my Government nor on my advice could any Government be formed in the Commonwealth Parliament which would be prepared to sponsor legislation sanctioning such a course."

Lyons omitted to say that the Labor party, while not prepared to accept Mrs. Simpson as Consort, was quite prepared to accept her as Queen!

### MORALS AND HUSH-HUSH

If you will again look over the admissions of Lyons you will observe, as to their manner, his pose as an arbiter of morals ("best popular conception . . .") and as a hush-hush artist ("the whole matter was highly secret and confidential"). When was Lyons given a mandate to withhold from the people vital information? When was he appointed keeper of our consciences—and if so, how does he reconcile with this appointment his brutal indifference to the devilish sufferings of the innocent poor?

Turning to the facts disclosed (or what he says are facts)\* it appears he definitely indicated to King Edward that he had the support of practically the entire Australian people in opposing a course of action upon which the King's mind was set, that this support was so strong as to make it impossible to form a Government if the King persisted, and that in consequence he served upon the King an ultimatum.

\* We are not prepared to accept Lyons's word in this because, speaking in the House on December 4, he said: "In answer to the question raised by the honorable member for Reid (Mr. Gander) as to whether information has been sought from the Government, upon a certain subject, I may state definitely and emphatically that neither the British Government, nor any other authority, has asked the Government for an expression of opinion. At this stage I have no further announcement to make, but should I receive information while the House is in recess, which I am permitted to disclose, I shall make it public immediately."

Mr. Makin. —"The right honorable gentleman has not received any communication."

Mr. Lyons. —"No. As soon as I am in a position to do so I shall make a pronouncement to the public." (Hansard p.2879.)

There is the definite assertion that neither he nor his Government had received any communication. Yet in the same House a week later he convicted himself out of his own mouth by admitting that he had received a cable from Baldwin on November 28.

### BREAKING HIS OATH.

Now, if this was not a deliberate breaking of Lyons's oath of loyalty to his King, if it was not high treason to the people of Australia, we don't understand the meaning of words. Lyons had no authority whatsoever to speak for the Australian people in this matter. It was only on the evening of December 3 that the first news of anything serious began to come through the evening press. It was only in the morning papers of December 4 that most of our people began to hear of the "crisis." And on December 5 Lyons has the impudence to give King Edward, not "my personal view," but the views of the whole people of Australia! Those alleged views sent Edward off the Australian throne.

But perhaps the most hateful of all Lyons's actions in the matter was the cable he sent to the King asking him not to go—the cable sent, when it was all over, to try and save Lyons's face before a people who were beginning to wake up to his almost incredible impudence and treachery.

It is deeply unfortunate that a clear insight into the plot that drove Edward off the throne should be hindered by its being woven around a "moral" question. (We discuss this more fully in another article, "Churchmen and Charity," on page 4 of this issue.) Because Edward contemplated a course of action which is legal, but which many of us could not reconcile with our own consciences for ourselves, Lyons and his co-partners got away with one of the greatest outrages against democracy in our history. With great circumstance and panoply we are shortly to have a referendum on the manner of disposal of our currants and sultanas. This is an issue for the people. But the matter of their King—no!

And remember that there was nothing urgent about it. The marriage cannot legally take place before April 27, 1937.

If the people of Australia will stand this they will stand anything. They will certainly stand Lyons's committing them to another war—even to conscription for overseas service. And they will get it—unless they realise that

**LYONS IS AUSTRALIA'S PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE.**

**HE, AND ALL HE STANDS FOR, MUST GO!**

### AUSTRALIA'S FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Dr. Maloney asked the Treasurer, upon notice—

1. Is it a fact that the European nations, including Great Britain, are paying neither their foreign debts nor the interest thereon?

2. Is it a fact that Australia is paying both her debts and the interest thereon?

3. If the facts are as stated, will he suggest to the Government that—

(a) Australian bond-holders in Great Britain should accept the interest without the impost of 25 per cent or thereabouts being added thereto or

(b) All interest on foreign loans be paid to the credit of each bond-holder at the Commonwealth Bank, with the current interest on deposits allowed by the Commonwealth Bank added from the date of deposit?

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

1. War debt payments in respect of obligations between the governments of certain countries have been suspended. I am not in a position to advise regarding other debts.

2. Payment of Australian war debt to the Government of the United Kingdom has been suspended, but other obligations are being met.

3. Neither of the courses suggested commends itself to me. —Hansard, Dec. 3.

### J. P. Morgan in the Fight Against King Edward

From *Time*, the American weekly news magazine, at the end of a long discussion in its issue of November 2 on the suppression in the British press of all discussion of King Edward's desire to marry Mrs. Simpson:

"Morgan and King. This by no means ended the struggle being waged to prevent the British public from becoming informed. *Reynolds Illustrated News* of London meanwhile came out with a flat assertion that U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull will be asked to silence on the subject of Mrs. Simpson 'a weekly periodical with a large and influential circulation.' *Reynolds* continued: 'At the same time efforts will be made to have pressure brought on the editor of the American journal from another quarter . . . [John Pierpont] Morgan's close friends are the Duke and Duchess of York, who have several times been his guests. So Morgan will be asked to intervene.'

"At latest reports neither Statesman Hull nor Banker Morgan had attempted to influence any U.S. weekly periodical on Mrs. Simpson, but *Reynolds* had accurately reported what was in the minds of British bigwigs determined to prevent a marriage of the King and Mrs. Simpson. In this category last week were understood to be the Prime Minister and Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, the Duke of Portland, the Marquess of Salisbury, the Marquess of Londonderry, and the Earl of Derby."

J. P. Morgan, it will be remembered, was the Wall-street gentleman who arranged American finance for the British Treasury during the war. The Treasury and the Bank of England have been described by Montagu Norman as Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

In what relationship, therefore, is Morgan to Norman?

### MR. MENZIES AND AUSTRALIAN MADE

R. G. Menzies, Federal Attorney-General, said on Tuesday: "For most people Christmas is the great spending time of the year. May I express the hope that when making their purchases our people will endeavour as far as possible to buy goods made in Australia. After travelling extensively abroad, I am satisfied that the quality of Australian goods is first class. The buying of products of Australian factories by Australians will mean a merry Christmas to many more Australian workmen and their families, than would otherwise enjoy it."

All of which is true as far as it goes. But if every Australian bought only Australian-made, what would happen to our wool and wheat growers, and to exporters in general? How are overseas people to pay us for what we sell them unless they can get hold of Australian money? How are they to obtain Australian money unless they can sell us their own goods?

If money were issued to our people up to the full value of their total production, then they could buy imports against exports, as well as buying the whole output of their own factories. But until this is done either the Australian exporter or the Australian manufacturer must suffer.

Mr. Menzies must know this. **WHY DOES HE NOT SAY IT?**

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### SOCIAL CREDIT BROADCASTS

#### III.—How the Banks Create Money

This is the third of the weekly series of broadcasts sponsored by the Social Credit Movement of Victoria in its session over Station 3AW every Tuesday night at 9.30.

In the two previous broadcasts of this session listeners have been reminded that, while money and wealth are essential to each other if we are to carry on satisfactorily, there is not yet any automatic relation between the two. It is possible for money to exist without there being wealth for it to buy, and it is a commonplace that wealth today exists on all sides without there being enough money available for this wealth to be bought and distributed. This comes about because the control of our money supplies has practically passed out of the community's hands into those of the private bankers, who manipulate money to suit their own ends rather than the nation's needs.

You were shown how total deposits in the banks in Australia amount to over £550 millions while the national money—that is, Commonwealth notes and coins—held by the banks to meet depositors' claims amounts only to about £20 millions.

How did the banks create all this extra money that appears on their books?

Banks have two ways of creating money. One is by the granting of loans or overdrafts; the other is by the purchases, which they themselves make.

Most of us were brought up to believe that when a bank allows a client to have an overdraft it is permitting him to borrow money previously deposited by another client. Colour was given to this belief when we found that cheques drawn against approved overdrafts could, if desired, be cashed in notes and coin. To be sure, there was an exception in 1893 but that was before the time of this generation.

Yet a little thought will show that banks do not lend deposits at all. For in the first place the cheque-paying banks' loans by way of overdrafts in Australia amount to about £300 millions, against their total holdings of £20 millions in notes and coin. And, in the second, if you stop to think you must realise that when a bank makes a loan it does not cause anyone's deposit with it to become less.

If you as an individual have £100 in a bank, and if you decide to lend £100, your deposit will disappear from your account as soon as you make the loan. But if a bank lends £100 nobody's deposit disappears. On the contrary, what usually happens is that the borrower from the bank draws a cheque for £100, which he pays to someone else. This person in turn pays it into his own bank account as a new deposit, so that a bank loan, instead of diminishing or merely transferring deposits, actually adds to them. *In other words,*

*bank loans are the creation of new money. In a similar manner the repayment of bank loans means the destruction of money.*

Stupendous as this power is, it is accepted by bankers as quite an ordinary and desirable state of affairs. Thus Reginald McKenna chairman of the greatest trading bank in the British Commonwealth (the Midland Bank of England), told his shareholders quite casually and openly in his annual address on January 25, 1924: "Under the system which prevails in our country, there is only one method by which we can add to or diminish the aggregate amount of our money . . . The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. We know how this is affected. Every bank loan and every bank purchase of securities creates a deposit, and every repayment of a bank loan and every bank sale destroys one." You will find this statement of McKenna, and a great deal more to the same effect in his book, "Post-war Banking Policy." The quotation used appears on page 76. How money supplies are affected by bank sales and purchases will be discussed in the next broadcast of this series, which will take place at 9.30 on next Tuesday night, December 22.

### The Council for Civic Liberties—But Where?

The following letter, which is self-explanatory, has been sent to the President of the Council for Civil Liberties by the editor of the *New Times*:—

Dear Sir,

As from the receipt of this, I wish to notify you that I am resigning the office of a vice-president of your Council, nor do I wish any longer to be in any way associated with that body—at least under its present executive. Will you please see that my name is immediately excised from all stationery or other printed matter issued or held by your Council.

I have noted with considerable interest the recent activities of the Council on behalf of civil liberties in a country overseas; on behalf of a lady from overseas who desired to enter Australia; on behalf of authors overseas who desired that their books might be read in Australia; and on behalf of playwrights overseas who desired that their works might be produced in Australia. But I have noted with still more interest that when the stakes were the Australian people's own most vital liberties—their right to be consulted over the tenancy and succession to the throne, and their right to meet for the purpose of discussing these matters in a lawful and peaceful manner—your Council was conspicuously inactive.

I hope, Sir, that I shall never become a deaf mute.

Yours faithfully,  
T. J. MOORE

### Put These Men Out of Public Life

In our last issue we reproduced the letter from the Town Clerk of Melbourne in which he conveyed the refusal of the Town Hall Committee of the City Council to hire the hall to citizens who wished to rally to the support of their sovereign and to insist that no action be taken to dethrone him until his subjects had been consulted.

We insist that such an action by the Committee was treasonable to King Edward, and that it exceeded the rights and just powers of the men who are only stewards for the citizens of Melbourne.

Such men's names should be known to every citizen. They should be remembered. And at the first opportunity their bearers should be driven right out of public life. Here are the names:—

- COUNCILLOR MORTON (Chairman)
- ALDERMAN FERGUSON
- ALDERMAN LEWIS
- COUNCILLOR BEAUREPAIRE
- COUNCILLOR GARDEN
- COUNCILLOR CARTER

The Town Clerk's letter did not indicate whether or not the decision of these men was unanimous. If any member or members were in favour of granting the use of the Town Hall, we shall, on receipt of the information, be pleased to make it public.

Otherwise those who believe in democracy and in the keeping of their oaths and sacred trusts by men in public offices are advised:—

**DON'T FORGET THESE MEN. NEVER LET UP ON THEM TILL THEY ARE DRIVEN OUT OF OFFICE.**

*The Hon. E. L. Kiernan, M.L.C.,  
Parliament House, Melbourne.*

Dear Mr. Kiernan,

*Once upon a time, in the long, long ago, the New Times wrote you a letter that you may not have thought very nice. We hope you will receive this one with more pleasure.*

*We want to say how we admire and respect you for the courage you displayed in the Victorian Legislative Council on Tuesday when that House had under discussion a motion of loyalty to George VI.*

*As the New Times goes to many quarters which do not receive the Melbourne daily papers, may we place on record your reported words: "In associating myself with this expression of loyalty I think attention should be drawn to our own actions in the past week of change. I do not think it was the wish of the people of Australia that the late King should have been humiliated as he was, and that such duress should have been placed on him. Whoever was responsible for taking the initiative resulting in the abdication must have felt a deep sense of shame when his Majesty left the Throne."*

*"I hope the subject will be forgotten, but I hope the people of the Empire will not forget the politicians who acted as catspaws in bringing such humiliation to the King. I feel sure that in the near future the Prime Minister of Britain and the Prime Minister of Australia will be brought to a realisation of the way in which they betrayed the best wishes of the people of Australia."*

*In making that speech, Mr. Kiernan, and in making it in such a place, you proved yourself the only politician in either House in Victoria who had the guts to say what nearly all of them knew to be the truth.*

*It is reported that members listened to you in silence—until of course, the inevitable COHEN rushed in to defend Lyons and Baldwin. But there are more people in this community than the Cohens, and they won't forget your stand.*

THE NEW TIMES

### New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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#### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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

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

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

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**LADIES' Hairdresser**, Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd.

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**WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS**, I. Pink, 16 Oswin St.,

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Continued on page 7)





## THE NEW TIMES

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### Churchmen and Charity

Speaking in St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Monday, Archbishop Head said of King Edward: "We ask that God may guide him into a life of righteousness and peace, *although we cannot see how and when that will be carried out.*" Which seemed to be giving God a pretty broad hint that if He dared to give Edward too easy a journey, then God had better look out!

Fortunately, the attitude of Archbishop Head cannot be taken as typical of that of churchmen in general, whether in his own or in any other denomination. But, unfortunately, it seems to be the attitude of most of those bishops and lesser dignitaries who either seek or are accorded the limelight of the press. And we suggest it is in this general attitude that there can quite easily be found a fairly complete explanation of the rapid growth of the anti-clerical, anti-religious, and even anti-God spirit prevalent amongst those who have not had the good fortune to be educated to a standard which can distinguish between the man and his message, or between discipline and doctrine.

Of the reported tirades (it would be a profanation to call them sermons) delivered by most of the churchmen on the occasion of Edward's leaving the throne, the vast majority can best be summed up in the one word, abominable. Compared with the honesty, sincerity and simplicity, which came in that last broadcast from the man they seek to pillory, the bishops appear as a pack of yelping curs around a wounded stag. And one thing is certain—they could not speak more effectively if their object were to make sin attractive and virtue repulsive. Even those newspapers which joined in the hunt while Edward was still King

have been constrained to cry halt. The men behind those newspapers have two reasons. The first is that they are flooded with angry letters of protest from their readers. The second is that, having brought off their coup, they want it to be accepted and forgotten as soon as possible; the more abuse that is heaped on Edward, the greater will be the revulsion of feeling in his favour. And that is dangerous to a monarchy which now seems re-established on a rubber-stamp basis, and still more dangerous to the gentlemen who hold the rubber stamp in their hands.

The spiteful and venomous attitude of the churchmen once again draws attention to where the real need lies for that change of heart about which they are constantly preaching to us. The greatest need, if we are ever again to become a Christian community, is for these so-called men of religion to get religion themselves. During the last couple of weeks we have seen an unprecedented closing of the ranks, if not between the various Churches, at least, between their publicity-hunting members. And why? Because, forsooth, it was a "moral" issue.

#### "Moral" Issue

What is a moral issue? Judging by our observation of the churchmen concerned, it would seem to be (1) any condoning, or rather any *public* acceptance of an irregular relationship between persons of opposite sexes, or (2) any issue involving betting or drinking on the part of those *with small incomes*. To these might be added two minor issues, namely, (3) the geographical area of the body covered (or uncovered) by a bathing garment, and (4) the playing of poor men's games on Sundays.

It would seem that if a man can escape these perils, and if he can put in a perfunctory appearance at church services, he is, in the eyes of our "leading" churchmen, quite a good Christian. If he goes better, and makes substantial cash contributions, he becomes a model one. Whence he gets the cash does not seem to matter. It may be from usury; it may be from mulcting the ignorant or the unwary on the stock exchange, in shady land transactions, or in shadier mining ones. In some cases it is permissible to get it directly from selling drink or tobacco, in others it is advisable that it be one step removed, in the form of brewery or tobacco companies' shares. If it comes from rack-renting, from profiteering in the people's food or clothing, from supplying poison gases and war materials, a man may still be a perfectly respectable churchgoer. For when do you hear our leading churchmen issue tirades against these things?

God forbid that we should endeavour either to defend or to condone sin. But that does not debar us from looking twice at the sinner. In the case of King

Edward, the very worst that even a Head could say of him would be that he sinned (or intends to sin) through *love*, and through a love that is prepared to make enormous sacrifices. That is, looking at his conduct from the abstract or objective viewpoint. Considering his own circumstances and beliefs—the subjective attitude—it is highly probable, indeed almost certain, that he himself regards the legally permissible contract into which he intends to enter as being also morally permissible, and that he feels no more qualms about it than he would in eating a juicy steak on Friday.

Set against this the immaculate reputation of the man whose very financial generosity is only made possible by *cruelty or hate*—and you will find that most of our very wealthy respectables trace much of their incomes to some sort of oppression or cheating—and who is the greater sinner? Yet what a complacent silence surrounds the one while the dogs yelp at the other!

#### Things the Moralists

##### Miss

On Saturday last, in a suburb of Melbourne, three bodies were found lying side by side—a father, aged 39, and his little son and daughter. Evidence pointed to their all having been poisoned by powders taken in a soft drink, presumably the act of the father. It appeared that the unfortunate man, a fireman—who was spoken of in the highest possible terms by his superior officers, and who was extremely fond of his two children—had been involved in a traffic accident some time previously, as a result of which he had paid compensation to an injured party, since when he had suffered from *financial* troubles. On Friday he took his two children, a girl of eight and a boy of seven, to see Father Christmas. He bought them one or two cheap toys—which were found beside their little dead bodies.

Have you ever known what it is to have small children and to be poor at Christmas time? To go through the shops and see the things you would like to buy for them, but cannot? Worse still, to have them with you, and to have to refuse your own babies, for reasons they cannot understand, the things that other children all around them are gleefully carrying away?

Firemen take big risks, but they don't get big pay. Firemen who have had to pay for an accident . . . uninsured, probably because unable to afford it . . . pains in the head from own injuries not properly cared for . . . "during the past twelve months," says the newspaper report, "had changed from a jolly and popular member of the station to a morose and worried man" . . . "it is known that he was worried about his illness and his financial position" . . . *financial position* . . . Christmas . . . the kiddies . . . pains in the head . . . end it all . . .

##### FINANCE!

Things like that are happening all around us every day. Children are being murdered by finance. Other children, in their tens of thousands, are having their bodies and their souls stunted and starved and twisted by finance.

Almost in the shadows of some, and not far from any of the edifices whence the churchmen preach on the morals of the throne are to be found vast numbers who, if they have any "morality," can have it

only by a miracle, for they are compelled from birth to live lives of promiscuity, huddled together through poverty in this land of wide open spaces.

*How many clergymen in Melbourne preached last Sunday, or any Sunday, with the fireman and his children for their subject? Or on any similar text?*

Some, thank God—but how few! The rest were giving their congregations the everlasting *appeals for money*—for the church, of course, oh yes! Or else, like Archbishop Head, asking that kings across the sea might be guided into righteousness and peace (but not too soon). Do these men really stand for morality or are they blasting it?

### The Treachery of the Melbourne "Age"

When those traitors to King and people who for the moment control the letting of the Melbourne Town Hall refused last week to hire it to citizens for a demonstration on behalf of their lawful sovereign, an attempt was made to insert advertisements for the substituted meeting at Wirth's Olympia in the *Sun* and the *Age*.

After mature deliberation of the management, the meeting was advertised in the *Sun*. After still longer deliberation by the management of the *Age*, the display advertisement ordered was refused, as was also a subsequent small notice in its classified columns.

Advance announcements (however brief) of the meeting appeared in the news columns of other Melbourne dailies, even including the *Argus*; so did reports of the meeting and of the demonstration in the city streets which followed. The *Age* gave neither an advance announcement nor a report.

*The Age deliberately attempted to withhold from its readers all knowledge that there was to be a meeting or that there had been a meeting.*

The purpose of the meeting was twofold: to express the loyalty of the citizens to their reigning King, and to demand that no change in the kingship be assented to on behalf of Australia unless and until the people of Australia had been given the opportunity of expressing their views directly. The issues involved were therefore, firstly, the loyalty which is due to properly constituted authority, and secondly, the democratic rights of the people.

The attitude of the *Age* clearly shows where it stands on these matters.

There are still, unfortunately, some who look upon the *Age* as more or less democratic, or at least as the best of a not very good lot amongst Melbourne's daily papers. Surely this last incident should undeceive such people. It is in no way different to what those who have observed the *Age* in recent years would expect. The policy of the *Age* appears to be simply to "kid" to the people, and then to betray them cold-bloodedly. Can anyone forget its last inglorious exhibition over the monetary reform issue—the pretended desire for a complete and impartial investigation, the complacency with which it took to itself the credit (!) for the appointment of the Royal Commission, and

the satisfaction it expressed over one of the most unsuitable panels that even Mr. Hand-off-the-banks Lyons could have devised? But that was typical of the *Age*. Aiming to get the support of the Labor vote, of what is called the working man (and the user of the small classified advertisement in which the *Age* specialises), the Syme organ plays a doughty part in criticising U.A.P. governments—for just so long as they are safely in office. But let an election loom, and what is the attitude of the *Age*? If you don't remember, just have a look over its files. If you are interested enough to go back a little further, you might delve into the before-and-after attitude of the *Age* to Niemeyer.

The *Age* got what was coming to it on Thursday night of last week when the Melbourne police deemed it advisable to take protecting positions at its entrance lest loyal but exasperated citizens be tempted to forget the law in their indignation; when God Save the King was sung by the crowds outside *as a gesture of defiance* to its proprietors; when Collins Street echoed and re-echoed to the cry of, "Boycott the *Age*!"

Far be it from us to encourage boycotts or to do anything that is provocative or illegal. Whether one buys or does not buy a newspaper is a matter for the individual. Still, in fairness to those of our correspondents who from time to time refer us to articles or reports appearing in the *Age* we suggest that in future they spare themselves the expense involved. We shan't be interested.

### Awkward for King George?

In connection with the new King an embarrassing position has arisen. His birthday falls right in the middle of the Christmas shopping season, which is most inconvenient to the big business interests whose advertisements provide most of the newspapers' revenues. It is already being said that the celebration of the Royal birthday should in future be postponed until after Christmas.

A simpler solution, however, suggests itself. Why not make another selection for King, and pick someone who had the grace to be born at a more timely period? The events of the past fortnight have surely shown how easy it is to displace an inconvenient King!

Besides which, the popularity of the new Queen is in danger. Recent London newspapers to hand speak of growing resentment in the Master Hatters' Association because, in nearly all the photos of her daughters, she persists in having them shown bareheaded.

We may yet have another constitutional crisis before the coronation.

#### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

During the past week of crisis so many letters have been received from correspondents that it is impracticable for them to be published or answered individually. At the same time the NEW TIMES desires to thank very sincerely those who have indicated their support of the attitude adopted by it.

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## THE REPORT OF THE BRITISH ARMS COMMISSION

The article below, reprinted from the London *Economist* of November 7, gives a summary of the findings of the British Royal Commission on the Private Trade in Arms, some of the evidence before which has previously been noted in our columns. Whether anything will be done about the report (except to print it) is another matter.

On February 20, 1935, before the Government's two White Papers on National Defence of March, 1935, and March, 1936, a Royal Commission was appointed with, inter alia, the following reference:—

(1) To consider and report upon the practicability and desirability (both from the national and international point of view) of the adoption (a) by the United Kingdom alone; (b) by the United Kingdom in conjunction with the other countries of the world, of a prohibition of private manufacture of and trade in arms and munitions of war, and the institution of a State monopoly of such manufacture and trade.

The Commission was further to consider and report whether any steps might usefully be taken to remove or minimise the kinds of objections to which private manufacture is stated in Art. VIII, para. 5, of the League Covenant to be open; and, finally, to examine and report whether the present control in this country of the export trade in arms and munitions required revision, and if so in what directions.

At first sight the Report of the Commission, issued last Saturday, seems to be a victory for the anti-nationalisers and a defeat for the critics of the present system. But second thoughts leave a more mixed impression. It is unfortunately true, that many of the proposals of the Commission are vague, and in their wording show evident signs of compromise be-

tween conflicting opinions. But in spite of this defect, the Report contains a statement of principles, which, if strictly applied, would go far towards removing the evils so strongly resented by public opinion.

### UNCONVINCING ARGUMENTS.

It must be admitted that much of the argumentation of the Report is unconvincing. The Commission makes great play with the argument that whereas Great Britain ought to fall in with any international agreement whereby armaments might be reduced, and in that event should be ready to fall into line on a universal plan for abolishing their private manufacture, circumstances have for the time being ruled out of court any hope of limiting armaments by agreement; and in the present period of frenzied competition we cannot possibly contemplate national monopoly of armament production. Yet almost in the same breath the Commission observes that the armament business is wholly nationalised in Russia; except for the factor of private profit, is completely under national control in Germany and Italy; and is about to be partially nationalised in France. It is not obvious why sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander. Yet the Commission adds "none of these examples seem to us to have much value for British industry." In the light of experience elsewhere and of what the

Government is itself doing in this country, the critics will not be convinced by the assertion that since all the country's industries work directly or indirectly for armaments, nationalisation of arms manufacture could only be achieved satisfactorily by a scheme for the nationalisation of industry as a whole. This argument would apply to the London Transport Board, electricity, and a dozen other public services.

Nor is the argumentation over private profit very lucid. It is recognised that there is something revolting to the conscience of ordinary people in the idea that war and preparation for war are profitable to particular persons and that the public are doubtful of being able to remove by direct methods the evils that may arise from the existence of this incentive. The intense and genuine public feeling on this matter, says the Commission, ought not to be disregarded. Yet, they say, the complete removal of the profit motive is "neither necessary nor desirable." The outcome is a compromise suggestion that measures should be taken to restrict profits to a reasonable remuneration—a course that is justified on its merits "having regard to the fact that the private industry is in effect engaged in a public service, and is virtually of a monopolistic character."

### THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

But in spite of all these defects and compromise formulae, the Commission reaches three statements of principle which if applied would at least remove the worst objections to the present system, would relieve public anxiety and would make easy any further step that might subsequently be called for. This in itself is no small achievement, for it would be difficult to imagine circumstances more unfavourable to the calm consideration how this industry should be run than those of the last twelve months.

The first proposal of the Commission is that the Government should assume complete responsibility for the armaments industry in the United Kingdom and should organise and regulate the necessary collaboration between the Government and private industry. This should be done through what would in effect be a Ministry of Munitions, and its task should include not merely control of the industry in peace time, but the preparation of plans for the immediate expansion of armament production—the Commission uses the phrase "the conscription of industry"—in the event of war. The task of this Ministry should be facilitated by the recommendation that some specimens of all types of armament should be manufactured in the Government's own establishments. This scheme for a Ministry of Munitions, which is adumbrated in outline only, is likely to find favour in many quarters which are dissatisfied with the present lack of order and inadequate control over the private industry of armament manufacture.

Secondly, while disclaiming that it possesses the necessary technical qualifications for framing a suitable scheme, the Commission urges that a plan should be devised for limiting the profit of armament firms in peace time in the manner already referred to.

In the third place, it is proposed that a different attitude should be adopted towards the export of arms. Instead of assuming that licences should be granted unless cause were shown to the contrary, the licensing authority should satisfy itself that the export was desirable. Licences should only be granted to firms specially authorised to accept orders by the new Ministry of Munitions; they should be restricted to orders from foreign Governments; and instead of the present system of granting open licences for certain classes of arms, specific licences should be required in all cases. This view is based on the dictum - which

should dispose of much fallacious argument—that the nucleus for expansion of productive capacity provided by, the export trade is not sufficiently great to justify a policy of active encouragement of the trade by the Government. This is a highly significant conclusion.

### CONTROL OVER INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

Finally, in this matter of the arms trade, the Commission, somewhat indirectly but nevertheless clearly, states its opinion that the Government made a mistake in rejecting the proposal made in 1934 by the United States delegation for an international control of the manufacture and trade in arms. It recognises that the suggestion then made for international inspection and the disclosure of information might be distasteful to many Governments, including presumably our own; but the very suggestion "commanded a wide measure of support abroad," and "the possibility should not be missed of securing international agreement in the domain of arms control, even on a limited scale."

Subsidiary recommendations are that the private export trade in surplus and secondhand munitions of war should cease; and that public officials "should not accept appointments with armament firms except with the approval of the Minister in charge of the department in which they are serving or have served." The first of these suggestions is admirable, and if universally adopted would put an end to much possible buccaneering. The second is also perfect in theory, but in practice is one of those suggestions which changes nothing, for it is not to be supposed that permission would ever normally be withheld.

Taken as a whole, the Commission's Report is much more searching than might have been expected at a moment when rearmament is in full swing and private industry in all directions is receiving largesse from the Service departments. It takes cognisance of the fact that suspicion of the effect of the profit motive in the arms trade stirs the public more deeply perhaps than any other sentiment. At the same time, something like war mobilisation in miniature is taking place. Paradoxically it may prove that this very fact may lead even a Conservative Government to take a much firmer control of the arms industry than it could have been persuaded to do by a dozen commissions in halcyon days of peace.

## A Mistress, Yes; But a Queen, Never!

In the *New York Times* a month ago appeared the following:—

"The Queen is an experienced and understanding woman, and it is believed that she is not ungrateful to Mrs. Simpson for the stabilising influence she has exercised over the Queen's favourite son since she became his closest friend.

"The King is known to be strongly attached to Mrs. Simpson, to whom he admits he owes much. She has given him new confidence in himself, and it is said he now no longer views with aversion the idea of matrimony. But informed circles stress that if he does marry, the bride will not be Mrs. Simpson, although he will remain Mrs. Simpson's friend. . . . It is said Mrs. Simpson's sensible point of view received the approval of the Queen, who invited her to a luncheon at Marlborough House last week."

If this means anything at all, it surely means that had King Edward chosen to keep Mrs. Simpson as his mistress (in accordance with the practice of some of those earlier British monarchs so lauded by Archbishop Head a week or two ago) all would have been well. Nor would there have been any objections raised to a loveless marriage "arranged" for some European princess—even though it would be hard to distinguish this from selling the unfortunate bride into slavery and prostitution.

But such things do not appear to matter to the Bishops of the Establishment, the attitude of many, if not most of those who have had much to say on this issue being rather that of professionals fighting for their jobs than of Christian leaders defending God's laws. The Dean of Exeter, more outspoken than others, let the cat out of the bag on Monday when he said that if the King had been permitted to marry Mrs. Simpson, "it would have endangered the establishment of the Church."

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## VALE, EDWARD!

No flags are flying and no drums are beating  
For thee, once idol of a nation's heart—  
No waving hands, no shouts of farewell greeting,  
No ministers of state see thee depart.  
Where are the crowds that once proclaimed thee regnant  
Of throne and empire mightiest on this earth?  
Where are the hopes of which thy reign seemed pregnant?  
Where all the clamour that proclaimed thy worth?

One month past there were none who dared to name thee  
In any terms but loyalty and praise—  
Now any servile pressman may defame thee  
Nor set an angry empire in a blaze.  
The hearts that called thee darling of the nation,  
The feet that hastened but to see thee pass,  
The many voices hoarse with acclamation—  
Where are all those that loved thee—where, alas?

Their feet are hot with haste to greet another,  
Their voices raised to hail him Emperor-King;  
They have no time now for his exiled brother,  
With sad face set towards lonely wandering.  
In fog and mist, one servitor beside thee  
In place of cheering crowds and loving friends,  
While Churchmen and a venal press deride thee;  
"Sic transit"—thus all glory ends.

Because at homely hearths thou heard'st the story  
Of bitter poverty thy people bore,  
And deem'd it needful to thy kingly glory  
That such conditions should obtain no more—  
'Twas then the instrument of abdication  
Was slyly set to meet thy royal hand,  
Lest thou in very truth should'st free the nation,  
And liberty and life for all demand.

The High Priests who demand an offering human  
Now, as of old, demanded thy heart's blood,  
And when thou scorn'dst to sacrifice a woman,  
The scurrilous bespattered thee with mud.  
O gay young prince! O debonair Crusader!  
Thy doom was then set in the evil books  
Of England's real rulers, who have made her  
The dupe—the victim of financial crooks.

No servile laureate will in epic fashion  
Thy story of renunciation tell,  
Thy dreams, thy hopes—no sympathetic passion  
Upon such themes as these will pause to dwell.  
Yet with thee go all high romance and glory  
That for a little while lit up a throne.  
Thou lov'dst too well—that was thy simple story:  
So thou must go, an exile and alone.  
No drums, no flags, no flowers mark thy going;  
The nation now hath a new loyalty—  
Yet from one heart the tears of blood are flowing,  
Tears both for thee, loved Prince—and Liberty.

-Lenora Polkinghorne.

## THE PRESS AND THE ABDICATION

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,

It would be quite improper for me to discuss the private affairs of the King or any other person, but it is proper that every responsible citizen should carefully review what has appeared in the syndicated press and endeavour to understand the circumstances, which brought about the recent events. These events are now history, and whether we are willing to acknowledge facts or not, we are obliged to admit that unpalatable facts are not disposed of by laughing at them, as seemed to be the attitude of many members of the House of Commons when they laughed at the references to the economic situation.

A study of the sheets, which pass for "newspapers", leaves the impression that most of the reports relating to this so-called constitutional crisis were in the nature of carefully prepared propaganda coming from the same source and couched in similar terms. Even the radio references to the situation betrayed evidence of special inspiration, and these references usually had their origin in the newspaper offices also.

### WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN.

Up to the beginning of December, our newspapers were silent about the King and his affections, but almost immediately after his outspoken denunciation of the appalling and inexcusable conditions of the poor in South Wales he was made the subject of worldwide attack. Finance and the press alone could carry out such an attack on such a scale, and it seems more than a coincidence that the dictator of finance in the British Empire also exercises a leading influence in deciding the policy of the press. Moreover, finance is responsible for the conditions, which the King denounced, and finance controls the press! The King's private life, of course had nothing whatever to do with this part of the business, and it should never be forgotten that the *Times*, the mouth-piece of the financiers, editorially resented the King's "interference."

### AN EDITOR'S ADMISSIONS

Now in case readers should think these comments are far-fetched, and that our very honourable press would not stoop to anything so underhand, perhaps you will permit me to bring to their notice the remarkable admissions of John Swinton, formerly editor of the *New York Times*.

At a banquet on his retirement from office, he was called on to reply to the toast, "An Independent Press", and this is what he said: "There is no such thing in America as an Independent Press. You know it, as I know it. There is not one of you who would dare write his honest opinions, and if he did you would know beforehand it would never appear in print. I am paid 250 dollars a week to keep my honest opinions out of the paper I am connected with. Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar work. The business of the journalist is to destroy the truth, to lie outright, to pervert, to vilify, to fawn at the feet of Mammon, and to sell himself, his country, and his race for his daily bread. You know this and I know it,

and what folly is this to be toasting 'An Independent Press.' We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are jumping jacks—they pull the strings and we dance. Our talents, our possibilities, and our lives are the property of these men. We are intellectual prostitutes." Have you ever read anything stronger or seen anything more significant than the admission that it is the business of the journalist to fawn at the feet of Mammon? But Mr. Swinton was a lifelong journalist and should know.

### "EXPLANATIONS" WHICH DID NOT TALLY.

When we seek the reasons for the sudden opening of the flood-gates of publicity two weeks ago, we find that all sorts of explanations have been given, the nature of the explanation apparently varying to suit the local conditions in the country concerned. In Roumania, for example, it was given out that difficulties had arisen between the King and his Parliament owing to the development of acute unemployment problems. In England, it was said that the hand "of the Cabinet had been forced by pressure from Dominion Governments. In Canada, it was reported that the Australian Government had forced the issue because of reports in the American press. And in Australia, we were told that an attack by an obscure bishop on the laxity of the King regarding religion had brought matters to a head. Every Dominion officially denied that it had exercised any pressure at all in the matter, and the Prime Minister of England informed the House of Commons that all his conversations with the King were entirely personal and informal. In the face of these facts, where did the newspapers get their ideas from, and whose interests were they serving in whipping up a crisis when they had been so often assured there was none?

Practically every statement of this world-wide syndicate was an assumption, preceded by some such phrase as, "His Majesty is reported...", "It is understood...", "It has been revealed...", "The circumstances point...", "Unofficial information received is to the effect...", "There are significant indications...", "It has been learnt...", "It can be stated on the highest authority...", "It is thought in well-informed circles...", and so on. There was nothing definite. All of this goes to show that the syndicated press was making use of gossip and rumour to colour the picture to suit the end it had in view—viz., abdication. The more salacious the scandal, the more certain to be sought with avidity by a fickle public; and the servile press, being well versed in such matters, actually had reporters, like a flock of cormorants, chasing a woman round the continent of Europe to elaborate every movement and to give voice to every conceivable suggestion of nastiness. It was a disgusting spectacle, and showed the extent to which these fawners to Mammon will go to serve their ends.

### WHO PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS?

Frequently we saw sensational statements actually contradicted in another part of the same page. Here is an example. The Melbourne *Argus* of December 4 appeared with great headlines: "Grave Crisis Precipitated", "King Rejects Advice of Ministers." Readers could only conclude from these announcements that there was a grave crisis, and that the King himself had precipitated it. On the very same page, however there were official reports stating that nothing in the nature of a "crisis" had occurred. Four columns away, still on the same page, there was an intimation that, according to the *Times*, the

crisis was precipitated by the remarkable address of the Bishop of Bradford. Next day the Bishop explained that his remarks had nothing to do with the rumours regarding the King's private life, of which he knew nothing. In fact, his address had been written six weeks before he delivered it. Obviously, therefore, if the crisis was precipitated by the Bishop it arose out of a question of religion, and not out of a question of marriage.

And strangely enough, this hitherto obscure bishop was not the only one who had been working some weeks before the alleged crisis was precipitated. Simultaneously with the announcement of the "King's Marriage Sensation" we were given this significant piece of information: "London newspapers have already prepared and are holding in readiness proofs giving long, accounts of the King's reign, to be used in the event of his abdication."

Spread over four columns there was the following statement: "Mr. Baldwin told the King that unless he accepted the advice of the Cabinet, the Cabinet would resign. He also told him that he was in a position to inform him that if the Cabinet resigned and he called on the Socialist Opposition to form a Ministry, it would not do so." That, of course, was an ultimatum, but evidently Mr. Baldwin was not authorised to speak for the Opposition at all, for Major Atlee subsequently announced that the

### EDWARD'S LAST BROADCAST.

Little bits of truth gleam through.

It has been admitted, since Edward left the throne, that the British Ministry DID NOT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE for him to broadcast during that week while he was still King.

It was only when he had surrendered the throne that there was no opposition.

The head of the British Broadcasting Corporation is the brother of Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England!

Opposition had not entered into any such understanding. A similar statement was circulated respecting the Opposition in the Commonwealth Parliament, but this, too, was officially denied. On this basis, the King's Ministers were guilty of misrepresentation.

### ATTITUDE OF "THE EMPIRE."

This was followed by attempts to create the impression that all parts of the Empire had fallen wholeheartedly on the side against the King. In a section headed "Oversea Comment", and in the very issue which first mentioned the "sensation", there were cables from Cape Town and Calcutta. The former declared that "the direct question has arisen whether the King shall abdicate in order to carry out his own wishes, or bow to the wishes of his Ministers and subjects throughout the world;" and the message from Calcutta stated that "the news has been received with the greatest consternation throughout India." No attempt was made, of course, to explain how the wishes of the King's subjects throughout the world had been ascertained or how the views of the Indian people had received such miraculous expression. Nor did the newspapers expect the very next day to get another cable from India giving directly opposite views, the *Bombay Chronicle* declaring that its sympathies were entirely with the King. One of the Melbourne newspapers published an alleged cable from Dublin telling us that "the Irish Independent, the organ of the Government, says the situation is extremely regretted." The paper mentioned is not the

organ of the Government, but actually its bitter opponent. The following day it was announced that Canada would secede from the Empire if the King married as proposed, but that had subsequently to be dismissed as unfounded.

In the meantime the *New York Times*, Mr. John Swinton's former paper, was informing its readers that despatches from London showed that "the Dominions, through their High Commissioners, brought relentless pressure to bear on the King and made it brutally plain that they would never accept Mrs. Simpson as Queen or as a morganatic wife"; that Mrs. Simpson was "stung to anger at the newspaper innuendos upon her character"; and that "if the British Press had permitted itself discreetly to express public opinion about the proposed marriage of the King, the Court might have been better informed about the feelings of British men and women, and so have avoided pushing matters to an extreme." In the same way, the *Herald-Tribune* published a report from London that "the abdication of the King is almost inevitable", and that the King "would go abroad for the remainder of his life unless popular clamour should force Mr. Baldwin to withdraw the ultimatum..." All this had taken place before the Australian public was informed of anything, and abdication was apparently cut and dried. Popular clamour had to be avoided! Despite these things, Cabinets still went through the solemn farce of asking the King to remain where he was.

### A SOLID BACKING!

In London on December 4 the *Daily Telegraph*, with seeming innocence, announced that abdication "was a possibility now openly discussed", while the *Times*, the leader, of the attack, informed Mr. Baldwin that he "would have a solid backing if he needed it!" Immediately following this, the Melbourne *Herald* gave prominence to the statement that Mr. Baldwin had practically announced the end. These are its words: "The hushed House of Commons, packed to overflowing, heard the Prime Minister, grave-demeanoured, and facing a climax to weeks of almost intolerable strain, deliver

what was one of the most outspoken utterances pronounced in Parliament upon a British monarch. Mr. Baldwin, speaking with the utmost deliberation, proclaimed what the House began to feel was the termination of King Edward's reign." And yet, subsequent to that, Mr. Baldwin officially reasserted that his conversations with the King had been entirely personal and informal!

What a strange thing that this man, who openly visited Vienna with Mrs. Simpson even before he ascended the Throne, whose attitude to the Church had continued the same as it was at the time of his accession, and who, as late as a couple of months ago, had a really triumphal journey through Turkey as the greatest ambassador the Empire had known, should so suddenly, and without the knowledge of his subjects, be faced with a situation that permitted no alternative to abdication!

### WHO STRUCK THE IRREPARABLE BLOW?

A report from London dated December 4 declared that "... the King's prestige in the eyes of the majority of the public throughout Great Britain has suffered an irreparable blow, and abdication is now virtually unavoidable." The correspondent did not mention that that irreparable blow had been struck by the British press, but went on to say that "the Government had the masses behind it, as indicated by leaders in the *Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and other London and provincial papers." So we see again how the syndicated press, representing "rich men behind the scenes", misrepresents facts, dictates to governments, and then arrogantly describes its dictation as the voice of the masses! Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

[Editor's Note. —Mr. Brown's comments under the heading, "Nonsense in High Places", begun in our last issue, will be concluded next week.]

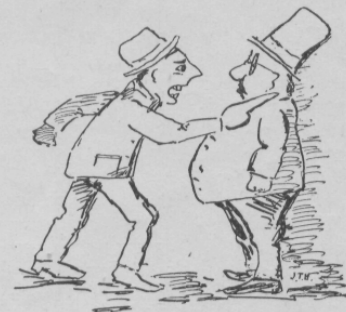
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES.

I wonder did Mr. Lyons and Sir H. Gullett notice the huge purchases of New Zealand wool made by Japan in the last few days.

The prices paid at the Christchurch sales were the highest since 1929.

Japanese buyers bought so much that no wool was left for the Bradford buyers.

Possibly the Australian wool-growers don't mind at all! On the other hand, Gullett may have at last "got the wind up" and probably the long-drawn-out treaty negotiations with Japan may come to a successful conclusion after all. "WOOL ON THEIR BACKS AND WOOL IN THEIR EYES."

FOLLOWING IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

In Tuesday's *Herald* the leading article is headed "The Need for Loans Declines." After gloating over the comparative failure of the recent £7½ millions Government loan, the article says that in Australia "the days when confidence was weak have been succeeded by a period when enterprise shows a new courage . . . Interest rates are rising . . . Government securities are not attractive . . . Private enterprise demands more capital . . . The need for Government loans (for public works) declines." In other words, the Australian banks have decided that it is time to increase interest rates and to tighten the "financial screw."

It is interesting to note how closely we keep in step with London. Only 36 hours earlier, Mr. M. D. Henderson, an economist, writing in *Lloyd's Bank* monthly review, was reported as saying: "It is now a question of major importance whether the cheap money policy should not be modified . . . Constructional activities are being over-expanded, and public works should be suspended . . . A slight increase in the British bank rate would have no great effect, but a further increase might have the desired effect."

While we deplore the results on our Australian people of the financial juggling, which originates from the money magnates in London, we must certainly admire the meticulous exactitude with which their instructions are carried out here. No doubt Mr. Lyons used their scheme of simultaneous syncopation as the basis for his recent abdication legisla-

tion. In fact, Joe was so closely in step that he had to be careful he did not get ahead!

"NEMO."

RE-LETTING SLUM HOVELS.

For years past, whenever public opinion and city surveyors have asked that slum houses should be demolished, the chorus of the councils has been, "We cannot demolish these houses because the people would have nowhere to go."

The new houses at Fishermen's Bend, Port Melbourne, have been built to accommodate present slum dwellers, so that the slum houses they vacate could be demolished. Some landlords, however, are now endeavouring to have these provisions altered in order that the houses vacated may be let to other persons.

If there are any councils which really desire to abolish slums, will they show that they are in earnest in the matter by immediately demolishing the hovels vacated by the people who are moved to Fishermen's Bend?

SLUM ABOLITION.

AWFUL CONDITIONS IN WEST MELBOURNE

In the *Herald* of 8th inst, appeared a report of the trial of two persons charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on a resident of West Melbourne. The jury added a rider to their verdict, "that the matter of people living on the 'Dudley Flats' be brought under the notice of the City Council because of the awful conditions under which the people there lived."

Might I ask has the Crown Law Department yet conveyed the jury's rider to the City Council? Has the City Council taken any action to rectify the awful conditions? Or does officialdom consider that, because the residents of "Dudley Flats" are outcasts for whom work cannot be found, they should be allowed to attempt to do each other to death with impunity?

WAILS.

(The City Council has apparently taken no action because the brawls at Dudley Flats, West Melbourne, still continue. Four more hut residents were charged at the City Court on Monday in connection with another brutal attack; the victim's condition is still critical.—Ed.)

NEEDY CASES

By CHARLES JONES, in "Social Credit."

So soft is human nature that few can contemplate the misery of others unmoved, or remain inactive in the face of appalling distress. But if you think that the commoner distresses are of the same order as those austere tragedies, which attend our human estate, consider for a moment how most of them can be dealt with. Simply and solely by raising a fund, and doing for people what they are quite capable of doing for themselves—buying food, or blankets, or medical aid.

Often it is claimed that blanket-giving and suchlike is done on behalf of God, but it is hard to imagine that God is gratified, for He is notorious for His impartiality in the matter of sunshine, and might be credited with equally lavish intentions concerning blankets. God, in His own time, gave mankind the wits to make blankets, it is true, but there is no evidence that He needs even an archangel to help to distribute them, and money is quite capable of doing it under divine orders.

Well, it all calls to mind the period of the 1926 strike. Round about Sallybridge, in the Midlands, the miners and their wives and children were right at the bottom of the well at that time—starving, cold, dying of want. As they couldn't live on spiritual consolation any more than they could by bread alone, the parsons found that their normal ministrations were directing people's attention to the delectations of another world when the flock found an absorbing interest in trying to remain in this one.

But at Sallybridge, at any rate, the parsons woke up quickly to the nature of things, and what d'you think they did?

They borrowed a brewer's dray, and forgot their differences (both thoroughly Christian acts of tolerance), and after they had called on a farmer for a horse, they drove around the countryside asking for food. The Anglican vicar drove the horse and the young Congregational minister called at the houses of non-conformists. They swapped places when a member of the Established Church was being approached, because, of course, you couldn't expect the whole jolly countryside to go plain Christian all at once.

Well, the vicar roped in bags of stuff from his lot, and took over the reins whilst the minister tackled dissenters to equally good effect. They took back a dray-load of bread, sacks of potatoes, cabbages, cheese, meat, coals, all manner of things. And some people gave them money which, looked at the right way, is also all manner of things.

Then they set up a depot near the town hall to distribute the goods. Some of the councillors who watched from the chamber windows sniffed at the idea until they found that the public approved of it. In the end the council gave the scheme a civic blessing, and wanted a finger in the pie. That's a thing you'll notice if you watch points. If the people as a whole show unmistakably what they want, their representatives begin to realise their position and fall head over heels to go and do likewise. Being a representative means saving your face as much as anything.

The depot having been established, distribution began, and as there's nothing like a full stomach to oil the countenance, a few smiles got about in the streets. And they spread. Those two priestly men went day by day on their carnival coach, gathering food farther and farther afield. In the evenings they gave it out with kind hands, which had never handled the pen of notable philanthropy. They did not consider a cheque to be their whole duty to man, and yet they didn't get a photo in one of the society papers. Perhaps it was because they didn't give blankets, for

blankets were undoubtedly the charitable fashion at the time. Later on they organised a miners' choir and sent it out. The choir brought in money just as the food stream began to dry up. Some men who were in work helped the choir, and after a long day of labour they would go off to a concert somewhere and come back late at night choked with fatigue. Even the rate collector helped.

It was a really good choir, too, especially when the vicar conducted. At weekends they got as far as the coast and sang to holidaymakers in seaside pavilions, sometimes bringing back good, fat sums.

At those times the vicar always harangued the crowds and said they were not taking sides in any dispute but just trying to save women and children from starvation. After all, he was right, and people saw the point. When you come up against a thing like poverty, which destroys people's lives, you don't want any party political nonsense. Just stand up and fight the dirty thing, all together. It has no right to a place in a rich civilisation.

At first they used the money they got to buy things for the food depot. Then the vicar (Yes, it was the vicar, I'm sure!) said, "Why not close the depot and give people money? Wives like to do their own shopping, and people will be able to get exactly what they need."

The councillors disapproved, almost to a man.

"Some of these people," they said, "don't know how to use money when they get it. It will be squandered."

They even murmured things about public houses and dog racing. But the vicar remained a Christian all through. Before any of the folk who veto these things had a chance to stop it, the suggestion got into the local paper, and soon afterwards the council passed a resolution approving of what the vicar was doing, although it was none of their business, anyway. You see, they wanted to do the right thing because of the elections. You have to stand for what people want to be absolutely sure of their votes.

Then the strike ended, with the vicar in such a state of charitable momentum that it was hard to stop him. He had learned a great deal, he said. In fact, he went on learning. Long after the strike was over he called at the minister's house and said, "There are still needy cases, I find. I come across them every day, proud old widows living at a pinch, stiff old men who can't be polite to the district visitor, although they are half-starved, unprovided spinsters, out-of-works. D'you know, old man, there are bags of needy cases, strike or no strike. By God, there are always needy cases! Something's wrong."

The vicar was right. There are always needy cases. Something is wrong, for poverty is as out of date as leg-o'-mutton sleeves. The sensible way the vicar found to help people to the plentiful food and boots and blankets they need so badly was to give them money, and no means test about it. It is the only way consistent with human dignity and ethical right. The truth comes out. PEOPLE MUST HAVE NATIONAL DIVIDENDS.

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someone else's cast-offs? Because Santa Claus only calls on those who have money. There is no shortage of toys in shop windows or in the factories, which supply them.

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But the Sun, although it will open its columns to appeals for "charity," will never say one word on behalf of justice; will do nothing to fight the swindling private bankers who are the only cause of a money shortage.

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—Melbourne Herald, Dec. 15.

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