

MARRIAGE LOANS

AND

BABIES

(See page 4)

THE NEW TIMES

THE "NEW TIMES"
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Vol. 3. No. 6.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

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(Continued on page 3.)

The Melbourne 'Herald's' Blackmail Campaign

A NEW RACKET TO KILL THE SMALL INVESTOR

In our issue of January 1 we drew attention to the highly objectionable practice of the Melbourne *Herald* with regard to the manner of publishing prosecutions for shoplifting.

A further instance of the same thing occurred in the *Herald* on Thursday of last week (Jan. 28). In this, under the headings, "Woman Sent To Gaol For Shoplifting," "Ingenious Storyteller," the *Herald* gave the name and address of a widow who "was sentenced at the City Court today to seven days' imprisonment on a charge of having stolen 3½ pairs of stockings, valued at 6/9, from a city store. She had no previous conviction."

The *Herald's* morning paper, the *Sun*, repeated the story the following day under the two-column heading, "Woman Shoplifter Gaoled For First Offence." Again the woman was reported to have stolen "from a city store."

Turning to the *Argus* of the same date as the *Sun*, one finds hidden away in small type in an obscure corner an account of the case. But the *Argus* had this further difference in its presentation—it mentioned that the defendant was charged with stealing "the property of the Myer Emporium."

THE QUALITY OF MERCY

Several things call for comment. On general lines, the first and most obvious is the severity of the police magistrate's sentence. One presumes that articles "valued" at 6/9 would not cost the Myer Emporium more than half that sum at the very outside—for Myer's have to include in their prices a terrific overhead. And for stealing this paltry bit of trash (even though described as "3½ pairs of silk stockings") a widow with no previous convictions was given seven days' gaol without the option of a fine!

But that is not the point we are immediately concerned with. What we want to know is, why did both the *Herald* and the *Sun* give altogether undue prominence to the case itself, and why did both deliberately suppress the name of the Myer Emporium while publishing the woman's name, description and address? Was it because the Myer Emporium is anxious to terrorise potential shoplifters and at the same time to dodge the odium and avoid the loss of custom, which would probably result if its name appeared every time it launches these prosecutions?

Whatever the reason, the *Herald-Sun* combination emerges from the incident, and from similar incidents, most discreditably.

"ISN'T IT A CIRCUS?"

In the same issue of the *Sun*, which we have referred to there, appeared a piece of propaganda in the form of an advertisement, which took up nearly an entire page. Let us quote: "... when we go shopping, we pay our money, make our choice and take a chance—unless we buy a well advertised brand. . . . It is an article in which the manufacturer has sufficient confidence to justify the investment of his money. . . . And yet, some people will buy unadvertised, unbranded goods without any assurance of either satisfaction or value. Isn't it a circus? Well then, let us make a habit of buying only advertised goods. . . ."

Advertised goods! Year by year the directors of the Melbourne *Herald* are drawing closer to their apparent goal of establishing a newspaper dictatorship over Australia. Year by year their tentacles grip more firmly the other States, while in Melbourne they are already supreme, holding more than half the morning sales

and the entire evening circulation—to say nothing of their efforts in the commercial broadcasting field. Hence their attempt to impose a boycott on non-advertised goods is nothing short of an impudent blackmailing racket, not one whit different in its nature from the attitude of the American gangster who exacts from shopkeepers a heavy toll in return for his "protection."

WHY SOMEDO NOT ADVERTISE.

Moreover, this buy-well-advertised-brands racket is a wicked and cruel attack upon the small manufacturer. Everyone knows that vast quantities of widely advertised lines are absolute rubbish, and that still more are absurdly overpriced. We refrain from quoting specific instances for obvious reasons, but a perusal of the *Herald's* own advertising columns will give examples in plenty. And, on the other hand, everyone knows of articles, which, although never or rarely advertised, are vastly superior to brands of which the virtues have been widely proclaimed by advertisement.

The chief reason why manufacturers who do not advertise extensively fail to do so is that they have

not bank directors or other "leading" business men on their boards, and so find themselves unable to obtain the bank overdrafts or share capital required for publicity campaigns. It is not, as suggested by the *Herald* directors, that the manufacturer has not "sufficient confidence to justify the investment of his money," but that the manufacturer has not the money to "invest" with the *Herald* and its subsidiaries.

REGIMENTING THE PUBLIC.

Besides being a blackmailing racket to force manufacturers to advertise, and a deliberate attempt to drive out of business those who cannot afford to do so, the attitude of the *Herald* is a gross insult to the public's intelligence and still another attempt to regiment the people. If this standard for measuring quality is to be accepted, then it follows that we must all buy the most loudly shrieked, standardised goods and that individual craftsmanship and personal tastes must disappear from the earth. Shortly we shall see the human robot who automatically eats, drinks and wears what the biggest advertiser (otherwise the monopolist) tells him; who

smokes only the monopolist's cigarettes, drinks only the monopolist's beer, and recovers from a hang-over only with the monopolist's pills. True, we may see a race of change-daily girls; we may forever banish B.O.—but at what a price! Instead of the consumer ordering what he wants from the producer, the consumer will have no choice but to accept what the loudest-voiced and longest-pursed producer decides in his wisdom to turn out. This is not democracy. It is dictatorship. It is the application to business of the same principle (or lack of principle) which is frustrating political democracy. In Parliament the people today are offered no chance to select what they want. They are merely offered the choice between three well-advertised brands -- three brands, incidentally, which are pretty well controlled from the same source, and of which the chief ingredients, common to all, are debt and taxation.

It is the business of the people to demand of parliament what they, as electors, want; and to demand of industry what they, as consumers, want.

The first fight is to control parliament. Once political democracy is re-asserted, we shall soon establish economic democracy.

THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN GETS RESULTS

By JOHN HOGAN

they could not decide on a scheme.

Soddy, among men of his own stamp, was bluff and informal. Yet it was necessary for him to use elaborate charts and diagrams to explain his thesis. After all, it was the result of many years' investigation and thought on his part. But they liked his reasonable attitude; they sympathised with his objective, and listened well.

POISON GAS.

They knew one of the reasons why he had become so active in the economic question. The Government, a very common thing in these days, had approached him suggesting that he conduct research into a new poison gas, and similarly assist the War Office. Soddy, in spite of the remuneration, had indignantly refused to prostitute his mind and ability in such a cause. It must have been a shock to realise that his life's work, making it easier for men to produce and live, had only resulted in a social problem which Governments lacked the courage and vision to solve by the economic reform required, and which they were trying to reduce and hide by planned sabotage of men and materials, calling it necessary armament. But he saw that at least it was useless to continue his real work, which had not perhaps been consciously humanitarian, until that problem had been dealt with and wiped out." And he thought, as most of us thought, that to simply state the obvious fact that there was something radically, unnecessarily wrong with the administration of the country's resources was rather presumptuous unless he could point a specific way to remedy the defect. Hence his plan.

"YOU DO NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND."

Then, towards the end of the meeting, yet rather quizzically,

he dropped a bombshell. "You do not really understand or agree with me, gentlemen," he said. "Eminent scientists though you are, you are little more capable of making a decision on a matter of economics than any layman. You would give far more lengthy and exhaustive consideration to any proposal in your own line than most of you are either able or prepared to give to this question. You may agree with me, but if my friend, Major Douglas, the engineer, were to address you tomorrow on his scheme, very different to mine, although similar in purpose, you would probably agree with him to the same extent. The Engineers' Study Group, sponsored by the British Science Guild, is examining twenty-four plans and proposed reforms of varying degrees of radicalism, which all, broadly, are designed to correct the same wrong. None of you would care to investigate them all and decide which was right, in opposition to men of equal calibre, but not necessarily more experience in economics. I believe that my own plan will do all that is necessary. Douglas believes the same of his. Both of us, however, I hope, would be quite satisfied if the other's plan were introduced and obtained the desired result successfully. In a sentence, we are only really concerned with results. We know that something should be done which is not being done. We want it to be done. That is all. And the same applies to most of you.

"Now, if you did examine as a group all those schemes, it is

(Continued on page 7.)

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WHAT IS BEHIND THE REFERENDUM ISSUE?

This is the tenth of the weekly series of broadcasts being delivered from Station 3AW every Tuesday night at 9.30.

In recent broadcasts it has been shown how all our dealings with customers overseas have been hampered by the necessity to provide interest for bondholders in London. This need for what is called a favourable balance has been one of the chief causes behind our trade difficulties with Japan, with Belgium, with Germany, with Italy, and with other countries.

In its turn, the falling off of our trade with these countries is now causing the clamour in certain quarters for more London investment in Australia. This so-called investment, as you have been told, simply means that unpaid interest will be compounded by being added to the principal.

It is proposed now to show you that the marketing referendum to be held next month is nothing more than another episode in this same swindle.

You are being told by those who want a "Yes" vote that the main object of the referendum is to give decent living conditions to Australian producers. We all want these conditions, but we don't want to improve the lot of a section of our producers by making worse the lot of consumers in general. That is the old device of cutting a piece off one end of a blanket to sew it on the other—for it must not be overlooked that our producers' troubles are not concerned with production. They are concerned with markets. "Markets" is only another word for consumers, and if we made it possible for consumers either to buy more goods or, for what they do buy, to pay such prices as give a fair return to producers, we should reach the end of our present marketing troubles.

The purpose behind the referendum is not to add one penny to the money, which consumers can outlay either on dried fruits or on anything else. It is just a stupid attempt to reshuffle incomes, which are already known to be insufficient.

If the referendum results in a "Yes" majority, it is proposed to continue dumping one portion of our produce abroad at any old price in order to accumulate interest in London for bondholders. The other portion, or the part which we are to be allowed to use ourselves, is to be limited in quantity and controlled in price. That is to say, Australian prices are to be forced upwards either by creating an artificial scarcity or by a concealed tax called a home consumption price.

Supposing that we continue this method of subsidising producers by taxing consumers, what then? We have seen how industry after industry in Australia has literally poured out its

products for consumers—that means that industry has essentially done its job. We have also seen how industry after industry, in spite of improving its farms, its factories and its processes, has been threatened with financial bankruptcy unless the government came to its assistance either with a direct subsidy or bounty or with an indirect subsidy such as that now envisaged. Continue the process, and we shall soon reach a position where every industry will have to be subsidised. This will mean more taxation, more national debt, still more taxation. The history of the present Federal Government is that it has broken all taxation records. The threat of the Opposition is that, if returned to office, it will add Labor scorpions to Nationalist whips.

There is one issue, and only one basic issue, underlying the whole problem, whether you call it a problem of marketing, of taxation, or of public or private debt. That issue is that producers as a body cannot today get fair prices from consumers, simply because consumers have

SIR ALEX.

In our issue of June 12 last, prior to the announcement of the last King's Birthday "honours," the "New Times" gave a strong tip that the name of Mr. Alexander Stewart would be included in the Knighthoods. Momentarily the tip went astray, but our forecast has now been realised.

The naming of Sir Alexander almost completes the process of knighting that small and select group of gentlemen who, from Collins House, Melbourne, play a far bigger part in ruling our destinies than is at present occupied by the puppets in Parliament.

not the money to pay those prices. Hence governments are forced to fall back on subsidies, taxes and debts.

We thoroughly believe in the idea of subsidies, whether that idea be applied by giving direct bounties to producers to recompense them for selling below cost, or by adding to consumers' incomes, or by a combination of both. What we insist upon, however, and what is not yet being done, is that these subsidies should not be the proceeds of taxation or of increased interest-bearing debt, both of which are self-defeating. The subsidies should represent moneys issued by the Government free of interest, and sufficient in quantity to take up the slack between producers' costs and consumers' incomes. In this, and not in any orderly marketing or other device, lies the only real remedy.

WHAT EARLE PAGE ADMITTED IN 1924

Mr. Frank Rendal writes:—In your issue of the *New Times* of January 8, Mr. D. J. Amos subscribed a very fine article entitled, "The Banking System in Australia." Reference was made to the Commonwealth Bank and the service it rendered to Australia during the war period by financing wheat pools, etc., until the slimy hands of the credit monopolists seized it and converted it to their own service. For the benefit of *New Times* readers, I submit several extracts having reference to the above institution, wartime finance, and creation of credit. The following are taken from the speech of Dr. Earle Page when introducing the Commonwealth Bank Bill of June 13 1924, recorded in Volume 106 of the Parliamentary Debates.

FINANCING THE BANKS

(Hansard, page 1268):—At this early stage of war finance, a step was taken which never has been explained fully. I refer to the fact that the Government gave to the banks the right to get three (3) pounds in notes for every sovereign presented by the banks to the Treasury. Two out of every three pounds of notes so issued were treated as a loan to the banks, which were required to pay interest at the rate of four per cent, per annum, and to pay the principal not later than twelve months after the war. The reasons for granting these rights to the banks are not recorded. And no good purpose would now be served by surmising what those reasons were. Without being unduly critical of action taken during a period of great anxiety, however, I am permitted to say that this three to one arrangement was more doubtful in character than any other act of war finance grant by banks of accommodation by way of overdrafts or otherwise makes money available for credit to current accounts and fixed deposits in banks. That is to say, increase in advances entails increase in liabilities. Banks usually keep on lending money until their liabilities are four or five times as much as their cash reserves. But here we see that the banks were given power, first, to multiply their gold reserves by three, and then to keep on lending until their multiplied reserves formed the base of liabilities equal to twelve or fifteen times as much as their original holdings in gold.

WAR LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS

(Hansard, page 1269):—"The assistance of the banks, according to a new plan, was invoked in connection with the Sixth War Loan. The banks, to enable their customers to subscribe to the War Loan, agreed to offer overdrafts up to 90 per cent of the subscriptions,

the rate of interest on overdrafts to be four per cent, per annum. As the War Loan carried interest at 4½ or 5 per cent, the acceptance of the overdraft proposals proved attractive, and the War Loan proved most successful. On its part the Treasury undertook to make to any bank a loan of notes, if needed, up to the amount of overdrafts granted to customers and still outstanding. The interest to be paid by the bank for these loans was fixed at three per cent. Any bank making a direct investment in the War Loan also acquired the right to notes up to the full amount of its subscriptions, the rate of interest to be paid for this accommodation being the same as that payable on the War Loan.

INFLATION.

(Hansard, page 1269):—The floatation of big War Loans in Australia, as in other countries, was rendered possible by the continued inflation of our note issue from £9,600,000 to £59,000,000. With inflation price levels rose, as was to be expected, from 100 in 1913 to 247 in 1920. Inflation was spasmodic without any definite plan, simply being prompted by the exigencies of the moment.

"A VERY GREAT POWER."

(Hansard, page 1270):—A very great power is exercised by the banks in the creation of credit, in their control over business, in their effect upon wages, as well as other conditions. Changes in banking policy disturb the whole community and, under the divided control of banking which exists now, changes may be made which are not in the best interests of the community.

DRAWING PRIZE.

The judges in this competition have unanimously decided that the most meritorious entry was that submitted by X. Miles.

THE—

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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KEW EAST

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

(Continued on page 7.)

Mr. G. Dalziel Kelly, Chairman, Australian Woolgrowers' Council

Dear Sir, —

Discussing in Sydney on Wednesday the future of Australia's overseas wool trade, you are reported to have said: "The stabilisation of finance recently by Britain, France and America has facilitated French buying here, which has increased since then." Do you really believe that any fiddling about with European and American currencies is going to restore Australia's international trade?

The only basis of trade between any two countries is a mutual interchange of products—irrespective of what relative "values" may, by agreement between international bankers, be placed upon the dollar, the franc, and the pound sterling (and therefore upon the Australian pound, which obligingly trails along behind sterling.) Would you, as a grazier be prepared to exchange your wool for francs, or do you want Australian pounds?

If we are to have real trade treaties with countries overseas, we must make it possible for merchants in those countries to buy Australian pounds, and to buy Australian pounds up to the full price which we expect to receive from them for our wool or other exports. These merchants in turn can buy Australian pounds only by selling their goods to Australian people.

From this it follows that if overseas people really want our wool, etc.—as they do—the genuine solution of our marketing problem lies in Australia itself. If the people of Australia are given sufficient Australian pounds to buy the whole of their own output of goods, including that portion which they propose to export, then they will be able to buy imports up to the full value of their exports.

Unless and until this is done we cannot hope to see anything but a continuance of the wrangle between exporting primary producers and Australian manufacturers, between Free Traders and Protectionists, between our British customers and our foreign customers. And the end will be, as at present, dissatisfaction all round—only more so.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1937.

Marriage Loans and Babies

A cable from Berlin on Monday advised that remarkable results have followed the system introduced by Hitler of making loans to young couples to enable them to marry. The German Under Secretary for Finance now reports that the total of loans to date is £35 millions, but the percentage of children born to "loan" couples is twice as high as the average in other cases. The cable added, "In cases where births resulted from marriages, 25 per cent, of the loan was immediately remitted."

It is hardly necessary to stress the obvious, or it should not be were not all our Ministers, from W. M. Hughes up, deliberately dodging the obvious in all their speeches and baby-kissing ceremonies. There is one major cause, which prevents young couples in Australia, as in Germany and elsewhere, from marrying and having children at the normal time and in the normal manner. That cause is lack of *money*—not lack of the *things* they need, of which there is (to Governments) an embarrassing plenty. Give the people access to the goods they require; give them a security of obtaining future goods which corresponds with our physical security of producing them—and you will hear little more of declining birth rates.

There is no earthly reason, except bookkeeping one, why every young Australian man and woman should not receive an adequate marriage endowment—not as a loan, but as theirs of right. It is, or should be, part of their inheritance as citizens. The only difficulty standing in the way is the alleged impossibility of adjusting our financial book entries (witness the present hullabaloo about Treasury bills) in a satis-

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factory manner. The problem is—bookkeeping or babies?

Champion Milk Drinkers

A novel competition has just been concluded in Melbourne, where a suburban dairyman offered a weekly seat at the pictures for a year to the youngster who should drink the most milk. The milk was supplied free.

The winner, a lad of 12, who in the drink-off performed prodigious feats, is reported to have put on 7 lbs. in weight since the competition started. It is also reported that he drank the milk, not for the prospect of becoming a film fan, but because it was free and he liked it, and that previous to entering the contest his average consumption was only about half a cupful a day.

Without suggesting that every Australian boy and girl should aspire to such Herculean feats, there are doubtless tens of thousands of them who now drink only half a cupful a day, who would like to drink far more, and who in consequence would also become more robust in body and mind. What is stopping them? It is not that Australia's dairymen could not supply all the milk required. It is another example of bookkeeping difficulties, and another case where the electors of Australia should demand results—results in this case being plenty of milk for every child. If this demand is made strong enough, Parliament will be able to put its hand on bookkeepers to adjust the ledgers. Parliament has undertaken far harder jobs than that—when it knew it *had* to.

3000 Farmers Owe £12,000,000

Typical of the conditions of farmers throughout Australia, the Victorian Farmers' Debts Adjustment Board reports having gone into the affairs of 3,012 farmers, whose financial position shows liabilities of £12,797,000 and assets of £10,688,000. This means that the net position of 3000 men and their families, after in many cases a lifetime of hard work, shows them to be bankrupt and owing, on the average, nearly £700 apiece.

Amongst these men there may be occasional instances of lack of energy or lack of skill, but it is safe to say that the vast majority, in addition to producing wealth from the land year after year, have lived frugally and have improved the real capital value of their properties out of all sight. Now, when they should be looking forward to comfort, security and even luxury, they find themselves worse than penniless. Why?

"The farmers," said an official

NOE£, NOE£

By YAFFLE, in Reynolds News, of December 20, 1936

It is a sad thing, in an enlightened Protestant country, to see—Pardon? Thanks. Bung-ho! Same to you.

As I was saying, it is sad to see the people of this country still celebrating that combination of Catholic and pagan superstition known as—What? Thanks old boy. Here's the skin off your nose. Known, I say, as Christmas.

I often weep about this. Was it, I ask myself, as I sit sadly down to dinner, for this our fathers fought and died? If so, I hope they had a fine day for it. Pass the salt.

I would not mind if the occasion were observed with becoming reverence and solemnity. But, as I look round the table—I mean, as I look round the world—it is clear that the festival has degenerated into a merely unseemly binge, providing the grosser minds among you with an excuse for immoderate browsing and sluicing.

It is true that I do not entirely exclude myself from the ritual. It were churlish to abstain completely, while all around me are going full bore, with heads down and forefeet in the trough.

So I trifle patiently with some comestible—say, here a nut and there a prune—until my fellow-citizens, reaching the limit of expansion with their back teeth under, see fit to remove the nose-bag.

Many years ago, shocked at the gross materialism of the age and the brutishness of this annual orgy, I made a vow never again to over-eat at Christmas: I called upon those present to witness my solemn resolve, and my mother said, "Don't speak with your mouth full, dear."

I renew that vow every year, after dinner. But this year it is going to be very hard to keep, for I am continually seeing this sort of headline in the papers:—

"MONEY IS PLENTIFUL THIS CHRISTMAS."

To many of you, engrossed in worldly affairs, and with eyes bent, so to speak, upon the clod, this news will come as glad tidings-over.

Hitherto, everything has been plentiful at Christmas except money. Every year shopkeepers have complained that when Christmas was over they had large stocks of nice things left on their hands, not because people didn't want them, but because money wasn't sufficiently plentiful.

Our great inventions have all been directed towards the production of things to eat, to use, to wear, and to play with. None have been designed for the production of things to buy with.

statement, "had, in many cases, not only lost all their equity in their purchases, but had become faced with the position that their land was not now worth the money borrowed on it."

Not now worth the money! The real value has gone up, while the money value has gone down. The money value has been juggled in such a way as to make outcasts of those who should be owners.

A good season to a farmer is not always that in which he has a heavy crop or clip Everything depends on price, over which neither he, nor at present the community, has any real control. Farmers will never have security or permanent prosperity until they join in demanding that the people be given the means to buy, at fair prices, everything that is produced up to the limits of their needs or desires.

A strange oversight, and one, which has caused visitors from other planets to return home quickly with the report that the Earth has two Poles and the inhabitants are up both of them.

This year, however, there will be no such complaint. At 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve all the shops will be half-empty, because

"MONEY WILL BE PLENTIFUL THIS YEAR."

Among doubting Thomases and sceptical Sydnie the question will arise: "Plentiful for whom and for what?"

Now, I am sure the word would not have been mentioned unless it meant plenty for everybody to purchase all they require. For, obviously, if anyone lacks anything, the money will not have been plentiful; it will have been insufficient. And, I am sure, the British Press, of which such high praise appeared last week in the British Press, would not be guilty of such a careless financial estimate.

We may assume, then, that the supply of money will be sufficient to meet the retail price of all the seasonable gifts at pre-



sent stored in the shops and warehouses of the country. A Wow. Yes, indubitably a Wow.

I do not know the nature of the stocks the country holds. I cannot say whether there are enough toys to go round, nor whether I shall be able, as I should like, to present all my friends and relations with a portrait of the King and Queen done in wool.

I have read that if all the looms of Lancashire were to work full time for one week, they would provide all the cotton requirements of the whole nation for a year. So we're all right for hanks, shirts, sheets, collars, cuffs, dickeys, and the less irritating species of au dessous (French for beneaths).

WEAPONS FOR ALL

But, if all else fails, the armaments industry will not. The roughest estimate shows that, in the absence of other gifts, there will be a weapon for everyone—bayonets for every Christmas tree and a Mills bomb for every stocking.

The example has already been set. I read that this year, instead of Christmas boxes, Hungarian municipal employees will receive presents of gas masks.

A seasonable thought. Is not Christmas the time to think of peace on earth, and are we not told that Preparedness is the only way to Peace? Well, that settles that. All good Christians will salute the happy morn with gas masks on. One question remains. Through what channels will this abundance of money come?

Tread softly here, for we approach the Occult. The money cannot come through ordinary channels. Our economic and political order does not provide the means of adding one single brace of smackers to the usual shortage. Thrones

have tottered and Governments have fallen for lack of any method of finding the money to pay for things that already exist. Therefore, it can only come through some supernatural agency beyond the control of man.

This, I know, raises a delicate religious question. Many of my readers, brought up in the darkness of Unbelief, do not believe in Santa Claus.

There were times when, in the early stages of my spiritual development, I, too, sought a materialist explanation of every phenomenon, even a chocolate bust of the Queen.

But whatever doubts I have had in the past are now dispelled. The fact that, for the first time in history, the financial resources of the nation will approach adequacy is, to me, sufficient proof that supernatural powers are at work. My faith is restored. Santa Claus will bring the money. The situation, I think, calls for something brief and bracing. Here's luck.

MAGNIFICENT MENZIES IN ADELAIDE

A Report by "DYNAMICS."

One needed to be in the audience to realise the speciousness of the speech on "Self Government and Change" as delivered by Mr. R. G. Menzies, M.H.R., etc., etc., at the Adelaide Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, January 31, under the auspices of the Adelaide City Mission.

His political colleague, Mr. Hawker, introduced the speaker, and indicated how, "without any special influence" to back him, this brilliant scholar and morally excellent exponent of politics had come to his place of eminence, and ("just as it should be") displayed throughout a wonderful sense of humour.

Mr. Hawker spoke of the characteristic that British people displayed in being so pleased with themselves and showed that this complacency had its dangers, thought it seemed to make for stability.

He mentioned some of the steps by which we had gained our present measure of self-government, and in quite acceptable terms warned his hearers against dictatorships either of the one strong man, or of the mob.

Mr. Menzies recounted his own political experience and admitted that the party leaders had always to be thinking how any suggested activity would be reacted to by the crowd, and he gave the palm for wisdom to the man who could invent a good slogan.

In his summing up, two of his phrases were: "No man can escape individual responsibility," and "Each must know what he is doing, and so put the slogan writer out of a job."

THE SNAGS.

Now, as far as an onlooker could judge, very few in the audience would be critical enough to notice the snags in what can in many ways be acclaimed as a very fine effort.

One looks in vain through one's notes for any mention of concrete facts. "Self-government," "democracy," "great privileges," and "grave responsibilities" resound repeatedly, but no mention of the half-starving people, the armament manufacture, the debt which threatens to overwhelm us.

Again, the false assumption is made that a democracy can and should function as guided by the *opinions* of the people in the electorates.

We as a people can combine and say simply what it is we want. If we merely demand from Governments that certain results should be achieved then we can judge whether Parliament is strong to accomplish the task set them or strong to thwart us.

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA (Non-Party)

The outstanding feature of reports from four States and of the stream of individual communications received during the week has been the unbounded enthusiasm waiting to throw itself into the national campaign to abolish poverty. Signed Elector's Demand forms accompanied by offers to assist in taking this, the greatest national referendum ever conducted, are flowing in at such a rate as promises well for the speedy organisation and carrying out of the work in the various electorates. If the enthusiasm continues to grow at the rate indicated, the year 1937 will be the greatest date in Australia's history.

Electors in the under mentioned States are asked to note the following advice:—

VICTORIA.

The public launching of the Victorian campaign will take place at a meeting to be held in Scots Church Hall, Russell-street, Melbourne, on next Monday evening, February 8, at 8 o'clock, at which the chair will be taken by the Health Officer of the City of Melbourne, Dr. John Dale. All those who are prepared to assist actively in the campaign, whether the activity be personal or financial, are asked to be present. Those who are unable to attend in person, but who wish to co-operate in either of the above ways, are requested to communicate with the United Electors of Australia (Non-Party), Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

NEW SOUTH WALES

It is expected that the public launching of the campaign in Sydney will take place towards the end of the month. The date will be advised as soon as it has been definitely fixed.

Mr. P. A. Minahan, of Sydney, who attended the initial discussions in Melbourne, which resulted in the formation of the U.E.A., has spent the week in Melbourne conferring with members of the Victorian section. His visit has been greatly appreciated, and should result in still closer co-operation between the New South Wales and Victorian sections in conducting the campaign.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The activities in this State, already in full swing, are being prosecuted with a vigour, which indicates that South Australians are determined to keep their lead. Truly amazing results are being achieved by individuals making the house-to-house calls. The analysis of calls made by one worker during the week discloses the following results:—

No. of houses visited .. .	117
No. of houses where signatures refused.....	14
Possible signatures	239
Signatures obtained.....	220

All canvassers are asked, if possible, to dissect the results of their work in the above manner;

also to sort out their signatures into streets to facilitate checking, and to forward them at regular fortnightly intervals to headquarters so that progress reports may be kept up to date.

Divisional organisers are asked to submit a brief but informative report to headquarters, 17 Waymouth-street, Adelaide, each week, so that their reports may be included in these columns.

Workers' Rally

The most enthusiastic and successful meeting yet held by the workers of the Campaign in South Australia took place at the Builders and Contractors Hall, 17 Waymouth-street, Adelaide, at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26. The hall was packed to capacity and the attendance, interest and results were a complete confirmation of the adoption of the policy of the Electoral Campaign, which was commenced during John Hogan's visit of December last year.

The meeting was opened by personal messages from the Dean of Canterbury and the State President; the Dean pointing out the necessity for bringing home to the people their responsibilities and duties, and their rights and privileges as electors, in so far as it is the responsibility and duty of the electors to know what they want, and their right and privilege to have their representatives in the Houses of Parliament give the necessary instructions to those responsible to see that the people get what they want. The president supported this contention, and concluded with an appeal for more workers and more money to assist in and finance the rapidly growing activities of the movement.

The Rev. C. D. Brock briefly outlined the Campaign, so that the many newcomers would get a better grip of the objectives. The Campaign Director (Mr. E. H. Hergstrom) appealed for further and continued support, pointing out that it was every man's battle and every man's job.

Mr. D. J. Amos reported on the implications and the results of the recent informal inter-State discussions, which took place in Melbourne. One of the results, he said, was that it would be now more possible to achieve a unified policy. Mr. C. H. Allen outlined the position throughout Australia, and gave hope that whilst some bodies were working on independent lines, their objectives were the same, and that as soon as that manpower was successfully harnessed quicker results would come.

A ready response was forthcoming to the Campaign Director's appeal for contact officers to interview personally the 600 odd people who had signified their willingness to assist in the conducting of the Campaign.

Mr. K. Oliphant (Director of Organisation) explained the new Division of work to take place in

each electorate, and the necessity for the appointment of Secretariats, with headquarters as a co-ordinating and advisory body.

Mr. Emery (of the Adelaide Unemployed Association) stressed the great hope being given by the Campaign to a large and growing number of unemployed who up to the present had found that few people had cared what became of them or their dependents. He said the Movement would give them a new faith in the brotherhood of man, and that alone was worthwhile; but the objective of the Movement for the Abolition of Poverty was indeed one that would commend itself to every honest man. Another rally of this type will be held in another three months, when the position will be again reviewed.

TASMANIA.

After a brief 'busman's holiday in Launceston, John Hogan has started on the Abolition of Poverty Campaign in Tasmania. The Launceston *Examiner* of January 30 advertises the following addresses to be given by him:— Jan. 30, Pioneer (8 p.m.); Jan. 31, Derby (10 a.m.); Feb. 1, Launceston, Ministers' Fraternal (10.30 a.m.), broadcast from 7LA (6.30 p.m.), Toc H (8 p.m.); Feb. 3, Evandale (8 p.m.); Feb. 4, Hobart Town Hall (8 p.m.); Feb. 6, Exeter (8 p.m.); Feb. 7, Congregational Church, Launceston (evening); Feb. 8, Launceston Fifty Thousand League; Feb. 11, Launceston Apex Club; Feb. 14, Majestic Theatre, Launceston; Feb. 18, Deloraine (8 p.m.)—and "other engagements pending."

One Law for the People—Another for the "Herald"

We reproduce below copies of letters exchanged between Mr. Bruce H. Brown and the Acting Chief Commissioner of Police for Victoria, from which it appears that the Melbourne *Herald* is openly accorded permission to set itself above the by-laws, which all other private enterprises must observe.

LETTER FROM MR BROWN

The Chief Commissioner, Police Department, Russell Street, Melbourne, C.1.

Sir,—At the busy intersections during peak periods, the traffic police operate notices reading "No Right Turn" and "No Left Turn," and I have noticed that these directions are strictly enforced in all cases with the exception of the drivers of the *Herald* vans.

Will you kindly inform me whether this exception in favour of the Melbourne *Herald* is made with your knowledge and concurrence, and, if so, under what law such discrimination is permitted.

--Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

10 Parkside Street, Malvern, S.E.4.
27th January 1937.

LETTER FROM ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

Mr. Bruce H. Brown, 10 Parkside Avenue, Malvern, S.E.4.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 27th inst. I desire to inform you that the police have exercised their discretion and permitted the *Herald* delivery vans to take a left-hand turn from Flinders-street to Swanston-street each evening for a few minutes.

This discretion has been exercised for a number of years, and it is not proposed to issue instructions that will interfere with the existing practice.—Yours faithfully,

W.W.W. MOONEY,
Acting Chief Commissioner
Police Department
Chief Commissioner's Office
Melbourne, C.1
January 28, 1937

Do You Believe Poverty Should be ABOLISHED?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO ASSIST, PERSONALLY OR FINANCIALLY, IN A NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR ITS ABOLITION?

IF SO, YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A MEETING
ON

MONDAY NEXT,

FEBRUARY 8, at 8 p.m.

SCOTS CHURCH HALL,

Russell Street, Melbourne

This meeting will mark the public launching in Victoria of the campaign to be conducted by

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

The United Electors of Australia want YOU to join in a movement which is non-party, non-sectarian, non-sectional; a movement which aims to restore democracy to politics by making members of Parliament obey the wishes of the electors instead of merely giving them a restricted choice between party platforms; a movement which, in place of confusing electors with methods they cannot understand, asks them to unite in demanding results which they know are physically easy to bring about.

Your Federal Cabinet Ministers allege that one of Australia's greatest problems is the finding of markets for its surplus goods. At the same time a very high percentage of our own people have a woeful need of the goods for which foreign markets are so anxiously being sought. It is ridiculous to assert that no fair or just means can be found for distributing Australia's production amongst Australia's people or that production should have to be restricted while needs are unsatisfied.

But politicians will not bestir themselves to instant action until such time as they receive an unmistakable indication of the people's demand. It is the purpose of the United Electors of Australia to build up this demand until it becomes irresistible.

The campaign is already in operation in other States. The Victorian section of the United Electors of Australia wants your help in conducting a

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REFERENDUM

The purpose of this Referendum is to prove, by the signatures obtained, that a majority of electors in every Federal electorate is determined to make poverty an outcast from every Australian home.

Their signatures obtained, the demands of the electors will be communicated to their respective Federal members and unceasing pressure will be brought upon members until they conform with electors' instructions.

REMEMBER THAT—

1. Federal Parliament, as a body, has sovereign authority—therefore it has the power to get done anything, which is physically possible.

2. The members of Federal Parliament are your servants—therefore, if you make your orders clear and intelligible, they must obey you.

In this land of plenty and in this power age, poverty, the breeder of disease and crime, is not only unnecessary and stupid—it is an abominable offence for which YOU, as an elector, cannot escape responsibility. You may not be responsible for METHODS, which you do not understand, but as a shareholder with a vote in national affairs you cannot shirk your responsibility for Results.

JOIN WITH YOUR FELLOW-ELECTORS IN DEMANDING RESULTS

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING

1. I know that there are goods in plenty and that therefore poverty is quite unnecessary and must be abolished.
2. I demand that monetary or other claims to those goods we "now destroy and the production we restrict be distributed to every person in Australia, and that taxation be progressively reduced, so that the community may make the fullest use of the country's production.
3. This must not increase prices, deprive owners of their property, or decrease its relative value.
4. In a democracy like Australia, Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
5. So I promise to vote only for a candidate who pledges himself to support in Parliament these my demands.
6. If my present member will not so pledge himself, I will vote to replace him.

Signed.....Address.....

Signed.....Address.....

JUDGE BEEBY'S LATEST

III.

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir—

We have seen that the robbery of the workers by the Arbitration Court in 1931 was excused on the ground that there had been a serious fall in the National "Income," and that the cut was continued in 1933 because our income had not recovered from the fall. When the Unions made their application in 1933 for the discontinuance of the cut, the Court, in refusing, gave a lengthy review of the conditions which led to the imposition of the cut and sought to show that in reducing the worker below a decent standard it was really acting the part of a benevolent father.

In introducing the subject of national wealth and its decline, the judges explained that "the vital question raised in 1931 was whether or not the National Income of Australia had fallen to such an extent as to make it impossible to maintain the then prevailing wage standards. The Court concluded at that time that the effect of the fall in the National Income was so serious as completely to disturb the whole economic balance." I did not understand much about this business at the time, so asked the Commonwealth Statistician to advise me how the figure representing the National Income was arrived at. He supplied me with the formula as follows:—

NATIONAL INCOME FORMULA

(a) Add together the recorded values of production in the six groups - - Agriculture, Pastoral, Dairying, etc.; Forestry and Fisheries, Mineral, and Manufacturing;

(b) Add to (a) 40 per cent, of the recorded values of Manufacturing production;

(c) Subtract from (b) 10 per cent, of the total of (b) for replacements, etc.;

(d) Add to (c) 40 per cent, of the total of (c) to cover various services of wholesaling, retailing, distribution, etc., and other services rendered.

You will need to read that over a few times to get the hang of it, but one reading will be sufficient to reveal the significance of the basis on which the formula was built - - i.e., "the recorded values." You will have observed no reference at all to the recorded volume. The quantity of wealth we were producing did not enter into the

calculations at all; the only thing considered was the quantity of the money figures known as "values." But more about that part of the swindle on another occasion.

"THIS FORMULA IS UNOFFICIAL."

For the purpose of analysing the Court's judgment, I asked the Statistician for figures showing the value of exports and the National Income for each year since the adoption of the Basic Wage in 1907, and in sending me the particulars he enclosed the following comment: "This formula is unofficial and was devised by Mr. J. T. Sutcliffe, and pending a comprehensive investigation of the subject the Commonwealth Statistician does not commit himself to the expression of any opinion on the validity of such methods. In response to many inquiries, however, the figures quoted hereunder have been prepared to show the effect of the application of Mr. Sutcliffe's methods to current data, and consequently are unofficial estimates only."

What a reassuring state of affairs was revealed by that comment! All these figures quoted with such gusto by the Court, allegedly representing the income of the Nation, were nothing but unofficial estimates arrived at by applying a formula upon which the Commonwealth Statistician would not commit himself! We therefore had the spectacle of the community being throttled by estimates of financial "values" at a time when the real wealth of the country in the shape of the things the people needed was as great as ever, and their ability to produce more of such things was actually greater than it had ever been. But someone had contracted the money figures, and the learned judges believed that these figures were more real and more important than actual goods.

WHAT THE JUDGES SAID

Knowing the formula, which had been used by the Court to bamboozle the workers and their "representatives," we should now review what the judges actually said. There is not room to quote all of it, but here is an extract from pages 10 and 11 of their 1933 judgment:—

"In the 1931 judgment the Court concluded that the spending power of the community had been reduced by over £100,000,000, or in the vicinity

of one-sixth of the average National Income of the preceding five years. Let us examine the later figures now available for the purpose of seeing if such figures would justify a claim that there has been such an economic improvement as would justify a restoration of the wage standard formerly obtaining . . . In round figures, the National Income in 1927-28 was £651,000,000; in 1928-29, £645,000,000; in 1929-30, £566,000,000; in 1930-31, £460,000,000; in 1931 - 32, £433,000,000; and the estimate for 1932-33 (which is probably at least approximately correct), £415,000,000."

Two things call for special notice at this point. The first is the open admission of the judges that their conclusions were based wholly on financial "figures" without any regard at all to the facts of production. The second is the almost unbelievable looseness displayed regarding the figure accepted for the year 1932-33 (and which, as will be shown next week, turned out to be a serious understatement). It was "probably at least approximately" correct! Could terms describe anything with greater indefiniteness? An approximate probability was used by the learned judges as a reason for depriving thousands of families of the wherewithal to secure the bare necessities of life.

CUTS FOR WORKERS MEAN INCREASES FOR JUDGES.

As the National Income includes the wages of the workers, we see that every time the judges order a reduction they bring about an increase in the purchasing value of their own salaries. A fall in wages means a further fall in the National Income, and it will be obvious that the resulting fall in the cost of living means an increase in the "real" wages of the judges. As one of the judges refused to accept any reduction at all, his salary, on the values actually used by himself to rob the working man, became worth up to 30 per cent, more than it was worth in 1929! Notwithstanding this, the Court said that further reductions in the National Income (which were certain to follow its own actions) might justify further and even more drastic cuts!

DEPENDENCE ON OVERSEAS SALES

All these conclusions, we were told were based on the assumption that the amount of money circulating in Australia is dependent upon the proceeds from the sale of the goods we send to other countries. Not only is the assumption entirely false, but figures supplied by the Commonwealth Statistician show conclusively that the quantity of money available to the people of Australia does not correspond with the proceeds of sales abroad. For example: In the year 1911 we got £79,000,000 for our exports and had a national income of £261,000,000, but the following year, without any increase at all in the amount received for exports, the National Income went up to £290,000,000. The same thing happened again in 1913. The value of our exports was still £79,000,000, but the National Income was £307,000,000! Where did that extra Australian money come from in 1912 and 1913? Even in 1914, when the value of our exports went back

from £79 millions to £76 millions the National Income was still £38 millions greater than in 1911. What explanation would the learned judges give for that? Perhaps the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank in 1911 had something to do with it.

We had a similar experience again after the war and up to the year 1927-28 (remember carefully that that was the year in which Sir Ernest Harvey, of the Bank of England, accompanied Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister, to Australia to show us the "exact" steps necessary to bring our own Commonwealth Bank fully into line with the desires of the privately-owned Bank of England!). Remember also that it was in the year 1928 that the Australian banks began their contraction of credit money. With those two facts in mind, now have a look at the following figures:—

Year.	Total Value of Exports. Millions.	National Income. Millions.
1919-20	£150	£479
1920-21	£132	£543
1921-22	£128	£491
1922-23	£118	£540
1923-24	£119	£571
1924-25	£161	£642
1925-26	£146	£616
1926-27	£144	£641
1927-28	£141	£651.
1928-29	£142	£645
1929-30	£125	£566
1930-31	£104	£460
1931-32	£108	£442

In the light of these figures, Judge Beeby should be required to explain what he means by telling the people that unless we can increase our markets abroad we must have another financial depression. There is neither need nor excuse for a financial depression in Australia at any time, and as a responsible citizen of this country I regard the publication of such a statement by an arbitration judge as an offence warranting imprisonment, because it seeks to delude the people. One has only to examine the table to realise the falsity and the absurdity of what he said. If the quantity of money in this country can be increased only according to our sales abroad, how was it that in 1920-21, when we sold £18 millions less; we had £64 millions more to buy with? Again in 1922-23 when we got £10 millions less for our exports we had £49 millions more as income!

THE EXPLANATION.

A striking feature about these figures is that although our export values went back to the extent of £31 millions between 1920 and 1924 our National Income increased by £92 millions. The explanation of this was bank policy, and nothing else. At that time Sir Denison Miller was governor of the Commonwealth Bank, and he was a man

who endeavoured faithfully to serve the people. Since his unfortunate death, those in charge of that supposedly national institution have served only the interests of the financial oligarchy.

The figures are also significant for the confirmation they give of what has been stated many times in these columns regarding the policy of the Bank of England since the appointment of Montagu Norman as its governor in 1920. He reckoned that the people had too much money and immediately proceeded to take it away from them. That was why we got so much less for our exports during the first four years of his reign. Sir Denison Miller, however, refused to allow the Australian people to be sacrificed in that way and adopted a policy to counteract the deflationary actions of the Bank of England. He did so with marked success for the people, but caused great consternation among the bankers, and their relief at his untimely death may be gauged from the unseemly haste with which they brought about the emancipation of the Commonwealth Bank after Sir Denison had gone. Mr. Bruce, Sir John Latham and Dr. Earle Page will never live down the disservice they did their country on that occasion, for they handed over the control of the nation's bank to the very people who had sought to crucify the community four years earlier.

Immediately after Sir Ernest Harvey's visit we see the results of the application of the Bank of England's deflationary policy, and the quantity of money available to the Australian people became less and less. It wasn't good for us to be healthy and comfortable—it would be far better for us to be sick and miserable. And so, despite an increase of a million pounds in export values for the year 1928-29, the income of the people was made six millions less! Here again the explanation is bank policy and nothing else.

We therefore see that the National Income rises or falls according to bank policy; that in determining the wages of the workers the learned judges are merely the instrument of bank policy; that the progress and happiness of the community are not governed by the people or their ability, but by bank policy; and that bank policy is determined by a small coterie of individuals who exercise greater power than the National Parliament itself. This state of affairs exists only because the people have not hitherto got together and unitedly demanded results from their sovereign Parliament in harmony with their physical resources and community needs. — Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

Third Edition Now On Sale

The Story of Money

And Its Management 64

Pages, 1/-; posted, 1/1

Every advocate of monetary reform knows that his greatest obstacle is the deliberately fostered and widespread opinion that monetary principles cannot be understood except by experts. The Story of Money has been written to explode that false belief, and to set out in the simplest and clearest of language just how our money system is operated and where and why it fails to work.

Its contents include: The

beginnings of money; the coinage; the banknote and fixed deposit; the structure of Australia's money system: how bank credit is supplied and cancelled, and why it is inefficient and insufficient; the velocity of money; how international trade is financed; international loans: the flight of capital; Australia's money monopoly and how it is composed: the need to finance consumers: the national dividend, its meaning and justification.

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WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

The first MONTHLY MEETING will be held on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, at the home of Mrs. Edwards 40 Elizabeth-street Elsternwick at 3 p.m.

Business: To discuss the proposals laid before the quarterly conference on January 30. All members requested to attend.

Who Is to Be Master?

A penalty can be imposed on you as an elector if you fail to vote on March 6 on the Marketing Referendum.

You are being compelled to take sides in a technical wrangle, and as the effect of a win for either side cannot be foreseen, it must be wrong that this responsibility is being forced on you.

TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE that no avenue is made available for you to answer simple queries such as

DO YOU WANT FIVE-YEAR PARLIAMENTS?

DO YOU WANT POVERTY ABOLISHED?

and similar questions affecting the welfare of every citizen.

The political system has developed upon wrong lines, and every voter must realise how serious is the situation and determine to alter it.

ELECTORS must regain the power to order or demand that any desired RESULT upon which they agree shall be achieved.

PARLIAMENTARIANS now make a welter of their power to impose on you what they say is good for you (or for themselves).

INSIST that this position is reversed so that every member (of every party) acts strictly as a servant of his electorate.

BY MEANS OF THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY CAMPAIGN ELECTORS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY OF PARTAKING IN A SENSIBLE VOLUNTARY REFERENDUM AND SO ESTABLISHING THE TRUE DEMOCRATIC WAY OF COMMUNITY CONTROL.

—C. H. A.

THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN GETS RESULTS

(Continued from page 2.)

possible that you would finish up with as many determined schools of thought as there are schemes available. And yet you would have started out unified in purpose, aiming at the one objective. There seems to be a grave danger and weakness, then, in this consideration of technical schemes for economic reform. There is no final arbiter but experience—trying it out. Otherwise, whether you are right or not remains a matter of opinion, however well informed.

"It would apparently be far more satisfactory for us to remain agreed on the one thing we do know, on which we are justifiably convinced—that steps must be taken by those in control of what is at fault to produce the results we want, and which we believe the people of this country are entitled to. I thought I gave humanity the wireless valve, but how in the blazes can the people own wireless sets on a basic wage of 29/- a week? I know that is wrong—much else is conjecture. The same applies to you all. Then, since these plans are already available, and since no majority opinion will ever get behind any one of them, at least in time, and since even if that did happen it would not necessarily be the best—class and other prejudices might enter into it—should we not rather concentrate on making our Government and its economic experts responsible for getting results, whichever plan they adopt? Douglas and I are both prepared to do that, and the fact that we are each gloriously certain that by doing so we are automatically demanding the introduction of our own scheme, believing that it alone can ultimately produce the results, should appeal strongly to your sense of humour. After all, if it is not our scheme that produces results, if an entirely new one is evolved when we actually get on the job, we will be satisfied with the results—even if a wee bit disappointed at heart. But inaction must cease. And inaction on the part of our Government will never cease while we split into schools of thought and advocates of different plans, even to the extent of making the different plans political party issues."

"HAVE YOU ANY PRACTICAL SUGGESTION?"

There was silence. Someone—it might have been our young South Australian—timidly ventured a question. "Have you any practical suggestion to offer, then?"

Soddy smiled. "I have another friend," he replied, "Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, also a trained engineer. He is sponsoring what is called an Electoral Campaign, based on the principle of demanding results. I suggest you find out about it."

As a result of that meeting, the Cambridgeshire Electoral Campaign Committee was formed. Its membership ranged from scientists to unemployed. And it wasted no time. It was six weeks to the election, and there was a very definite job to do.

Letters were sent to the two candidates for the constituency of Cambridgeshire. They were asked whether they would be prepared to act promptly on the floor of the House for the abolition of poverty if it could be shown that a majority of the people in their electorate wanted them to do so: irrespective of

their personal views or the views of their Party.

"NOT INTERESTED."

The Nationalist candidate and sitting member, Lieut. -Colonel X—I forget his name—replied very simply. He returned the letter, marked "Not Interested." The memory of a 45,000 majority in three previous elections encouraged a proper scorn for the bare suggestion that the People—the People, Bai Jove—should dictate to him.

Professor White was standing as a Socialist, for the fourth time. That took pluck and determination. Three times he had lost his deposit. But he felt that so critical was the economic position that far greater sacrifice would be justified to keep the people conscious of a revolt against poverty and its associate problems. He could see little in the proposition, but, of course, readily agreed to it. It didn't seem to matter much. Might mean a few hundred more votes, if these fellows remained as enthusiastic. Might even save his deposit.

Five more weeks to the election. They set out on an intensive house-to-house canvass. They put up a simple proposition to each elector. "Your sitting member is not prepared to advocate the abolition of poverty *even if a majority of you tell him to*. Professor White will do so. If you believe in democracy, stand up for your rights!"

A REMARKABLE RESULT

The Nationalist won again. But only with a 5,000 majority. White certainly saved his deposit. That was really a remarkable result, in the time. It proved that there was a latent spirit of democracy in the electors, which, although crushed and mutilated by the party system, was still ready to be aroused. It proved more. It proved that the power of the people was stirring; gave some indication of its strength.

White was jubilant. This was splendid. This would do the job, all right, this new idea of political campaigning. There would be no need for him to stand again. He had something to work for between elections, now.

But the real result was not to be demonstrated for three weeks. And it may answer many questions in the minds of my readers. The question, for instance, which often arises: "Yes, but if we put a man in, and he doesn't do the job, we have to wait three years to remove him." It shows the real nature of the Electoral Campaign, which doesn't wait for elections—to which elections are but minor incidents in the exercise of real democracy.

Three weeks after being elected, with five years of political security in front of him (assuming he did not realise the uncertainty of everything if present conditions continue) the Nationalist member wrote and asked permission to reconsider his previous decision that he was "Not Interested" in the demands of a majority of his constituents! I venture to suggest that that was three weeks of the hardest thinking that man had ever done in his life.

If, in five weeks, a majority of 45,000 could be reduced to a majority of 5,000, then in three more weeks he probably had no majority at all, and quite certainly, if that showing meant anything, this Campaign held in its hands the key to his seat. Whether it could put anyone else in or not, it could certainly put him out.

He had two alternatives—to airily ignore them till towards the end of his term, or to recognise that since they had more control over the electorate than his party or any other party, it was no longer so necessary for him to do just exactly what the party Caucus told him to do, say exactly what they told him to say, in order

FOOLING THE FARMER

By J. H. DAVIS.

Before Federation, marketing was continually held up at the borders between the States. This foolishness became so intolerable that the people demanded Federation practically on this ground alone; and insisted on having it written in the Constitution that "trade and commerce among the States shall be absolutely free." Now, a new generation, knowing nothing of those days, has come up and is in danger of being fooled into voting "yes" for a swindling proposal to throw away that liberty.

In the booklet of confidence trick patter which every elector has received from the kind Government, free (all costs of writing, printing and posting being paid for by every elector), I read: "In 1900 nobody thought of Organised marketing." Believe it or not, that is a fact. I can tell some more. In 1900 nobody could fool us that we could lift ourselves by our bootstraps. In 1900 there were honest men in

to retain his seat, and that he could well regard this development as an opportunity to become independent and do the right thing without fear of his future as a deterrent.

POLITICIANS WILL WELCOME.

Since politicians are only human, unless they have been there all their lives, and since most of them are just as personally anxious for general security, prosperity and contentment as anyone, such an opportunity would be welcomed by a majority of them, in spite of their training. In fact, those who did not so welcome it would be anti-social traitors; and those who had not sufficient intelligence to realise on which side their bread was buttered, to realise the writing on the wall, to realise the approaching doom of partyism, should be carefully looked after in another national institution until they recovered.

Our member—he can be called our member now—belonged to neither of these possibly prevalent categories. Today he is one of forty members who, on the floor of the House of Commons, openly defying party and Government, are constantly presenting the demands of the Electoral Campaign as expressing the desires of a majority of their electors, who, after all, pay them, indirectly, to represent their wishes. Forty is not many in the House of Commons (though it would mean a majority in our Federal House), but as the result of less than a year's electoral campaigning in a country where new ideas are notoriously unpopular, it is most satisfactory. After all, any attempt to put in new members would have produced far less than that at the last election, if any, and no more for five years. And the present numbers are steadily growing. It will be very much easier in Australia.

You cannot tell whether your member will respond so readily to the inevitable until you give him a chance. And if you want to be able to deal with him quickly in case he fails you, then get on with the job in your Federal electorate so that he is forced to say Yes or No, and has the opportunity to prove he means Yes, before the elections this year. A tall order? Not nearly as tall as that undertaken by Cambridgeshire. On with the Campaign!

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Parliament. Deakin, the first Prime Minister to visit England, drew some £600 for possible expenses and brought about half of it back to the Treasury on his return, explaining that he had not needed so much. Such were the men who planned for freedom when they wrote the Constitution.

In 1900 nobody thought Parliament would become an organised racket—an unbearable tyranny. In 1937 this racket is organised!

In 1900 nobody thought of organised farmers. In 1937 farmers are organised into the Country Party, and misled by racketeers who travel abroad continually—and do they ever return any expense money? Do they make the trip on £300? The racketeers have an army of under-racketeers holding jobs on boards and commissions, and endless other grafts ranging down to hand-outs of tickets on Election Day. And below these are numberless sub-under-racketeers trying to land such jobs. And trying—how?

In 1937 an awful marketing problem has developed, so farmers rightly want "organised marketing." This is rebellion against racketeer rule. If farmers get organised marketing they will become independent, and the racket (which extends very far beyond Parliament) will be broken up. The farmers must be fooled. And do the racketeers know how? I'll say they do—let Parliament do its old reliable trick of making a show of doing something. The people always fall for that. Tell them they will get orderly marketing if they vote "yes" for a referendum. Tell them they will get more money in their pockets. Let them have more. Then pick their pockets by putting up taxes and the prices of what they have to buy. What? Well, tell them that a law can be made to control the prices of what producers have to buy. Who cares what laws they have? Let them have a law that the globe is three-cornered if that will please them. All the laws belong to the people, anyway. Laws don't apply to racketeering.

Ju-jitsu, nothing! When they vote "yes" Victorian producers will tie themselves up so they can be stopped from sending their produce into the other States.

Not only farmers are exploited. We all are. But this is specially written to warn farmers that sub-under-racketeers, as well as others of higher rank, are planted in their organisations. In 1900 nobody thought of organised fooling of farmers. In 1937 the Central Council of the Country Party does it. So the farmers go into the racketeers' bag.

"United Electors" to the rescue! Demand results, not methods.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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

NORTHCOTE.
GRAY & JOHNSON Pty. Ltd. Leading Land and Estate Agents. 742 High Street, Thornbury.

SANDRINGHAM.
A. R. RYAN. SHOE REPAIRS. Opp. Stn. Tennis Racquet Repairs.

BIGGS & LOMAS. Tailors. First-class Workmanship. Suit Club.

CONFECTIONERY and SMOKEES. Gibson's, Bay Rd., opp. Theatre.

GROCERS, McKAY & WHITE. Bay Rd., opp. Theatre. XW 1924.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. A. E. Giddings, 13 Station St.

HOME MADE CAKES. F. TAYLOR, 21 Bay Rd. XW2048.

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AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Mr. Sherwood, chartered accountant, and member of the London Social Credit Movement, will give an address, entitled "Democracy's Choice—Sanity or Suicide?" on Friday afternoon, at 3 p.m., in the rooms of the Australian Women's Movement for Social and Economic Research, Foreman House, 226a George-street (near Bridge-street), Sydney. A lunch at 1 p.m. precedes the address, and all are welcome.

Lillie Beirne, President

TO OUR READERS—

You may obtain your copy of "THE NEW TIMES" from any authorised newsagent. Should your agent not have supplies, please ask him to communicate direct with New Times Pty. Ltd., Box 1226; G.P.O., Melbourne. C.1. (Phone M5384)

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A copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar-General, Victoria. The requirements of Section 88 of the Companies Act 1928 have not been fully complied with.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS OF COLLECTIVE CONSUMERS' LEAGUE LIMITED

A Company registered under The Victorian Companies' Act 1928.

NOMINAL CAPITAL: £20,000 divided into 40,000 ordinary Shares of ten shillings (10/-) each.

No person to hold more than One Share.

The Directors reserve the right to refuse any application for shares without making the reason for such refusal public.

No Combines or Corporations to be permitted to hold Shares.

Share Scrip shall not be transferable except with the consent of the Directors.

All Shares are to be offered to the public for subscription and the full amount of ten shillings to accompany each application.

In the event of any application being refused, the full amount accompanying such application will be refunded.

DIRECTORS:

FRANK CECIL BARNES, 171 Abbot Street, Sandringham, Clerk.
HORACE RUPERT GROVES, 39 Huntington Grove, Coburg, N.13,
Clerk. NORMAN REWA WORRALL, Boronia, Clerk.

BANKERS:

THE COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA Collins Street, Melbourne.

SOLICITOR:

MILTON L. DAVEY National Bank Building, Collins Street, Melbourne.

AUDITORS:

To be appointed at Statutory General Meeting of the Company.

MANAGER:

To be appointed by Directors.

SECRETARY:

To be appointed by Directors.

OBJECTS.

1. The Company is being formed to enable shareholders to secure substantial discounts on all trading transactions, thereby making more effective the limited pool of Purchasing Power. The co-operation of primary producers, manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors, and such other commercial activities as will enhance the financial well-being of its members will be enlisted. It is particularly the aim of the Company to foster business relationships with producers, manufacturers, and traders to the exclusion of centralised monopolies and chain store organisations, which today are having a paralysing effect upon individual business enterprise. When fully established, the Company will undertake group buying for those businesses, which are linked up with the Company, thereby effecting substantial savings, which will enable the small business to compete upon equal terms with monopolistic concerns. All traders throughout Victoria who are not associated with chain stores, etc. and who are not acting as subsidiaries for powerful companies, will be given an opportunity of registering with the Company.

2. To act for its members in arranging for traders, with the exception of combines, to supply goods and accept the trading coupons issued by the Company at an agreed rate of discount as cash.

3. To act as Commission Agents for Primary, Secondary Industries, Traders, Insurance Companies, and to indulge in barter between members and/or traders.

NATURE OF COMPANY.

1. Mutual co-operation between trading members and shareholders is the basis upon which the Company will operate. This should result in a large increase in the turnover for the former and in considerable savings for the latter. Both parties to the Contract will thus be enabled to offer a more effective resistance to the rapidly increasing tendency to develop monopolistic control which, if not checked, will soon deprive the community of its last vestige of freedom. To establish and maintain the Company upon thoroughly democratic principles, so that no individual or group can ever secure control of the allotment of shares. No dividends will be paid on shares; neither are there any Bonus shares. The Directors will receive no remuneration or reward for the first year, and thereafter only such sums as may be voted by shareholders at the Ordinary General Meeting each year.

The Company to be a profit earning concern but the shares issued to bear only pro-rata benefits, according to the amount of business through the company by each member. Example:—(a) Any individual may purchase one share at ten shillings (10/-) and become a member of the Company, if the said member's activity ends there, then no bonus or share profit will be made, nor can it be claimed.

(b) (25% of the net Profit will be distributed to Shareholders.) The member purchases one of the following denominations of trading coupon—i.e., 5/-, 10/-, £1, each week, and transacts business through a registered trader, he will receive pro-rata a dividend according to the net profits of the Company. (The purchase price the member is to pay has not yet been determined)

Balance of Profit (75%).

50% to reserve for building, etc.
50% to Social Credit Advancement, the nature of such to be left in the hands of Directors.

DIRECTORS.

All Directors to retire at the first Ordinary General Meeting, when the Shareholders will elect the Directors for the ensuing year.

Retiring Directors to be eligible for re-election without nomination. Prom then the Directors will retire one each year in rotation, and be again eligible for re-election.

All other nominations for the position of Director must be lodged with the Secretary at least (period and manner to be decided). The number of Directors to be not less than three or more than five.

BENEFITS.

(a) To minimise the present drain upon resources of Social Crediters by obtaining discounts on all purchases, insurances, etc., thereby increasing to a great extent the purchasing power of the said resources.

(b) To provide rent-free quarters for Social Credit or kindred Organisations, according to the discretion of the Directors.

(c) By assisting the smaller traders to supply first-grade commodities at lowest rates possible by the Organisation of a group-buying scheme.

(d) By arranging for insurance policies to be effected at substantial discounts.

(e) To further the interests of Social Credit in any manner possible which the profits of the Company will allow, in an endeavour to completely organise the citizens of the Commonwealth of Australia as a Social Credit Community.

The Company will institute a system of purchase vouchers, which will be accepted as cash payment for goods to the full face value of the voucher by any business establishment registered with the Company.

The purchase vouchers will be obtainable for Cash at the registered office of the Company and will be issued to shareholders at a discount of not less than (5%), rate not yet determined. Thus, if a purchase voucher of the face value of £1 be obtained for 19/-, the shareholder will receive an immediate cash rebate of 1/.

Offers of discounts varying from 10% to 25% have already been received, and the net profits on annual trading turnover will enable further rebate to be distributed to shareholders on a pro rata basis determined by the extent of their individual purchases through the Company throughout the year.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS

The net profits on annual turnover will be distributed in fixed proportions as follows:—

(a) To further the recognition and establishment of the principle that a solvent community is one in which the cash credits of the people shall at all times be equal to the collective cash price of consumable goods for sale within that community, thus enabling total purchasing power to equate with total prices, as enunciated in the Social Credit proposals of Major C. H. Douglas.

(b) A further rebate to shareholders on the basis of the total amount purchased by each through the Company during the year.

(c) Reserves.

GENERAL.

It is provided by the Company's Articles of Association that the Company cannot commence operations until 200 shares have been applied for and the money deposited in a Trust Account with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. If the 200 shareholders are not obtained within six months from the First day of December, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-six, the full amount of share will be returned to the shareholders. The Memorandum of Association is printed in the fold of this Prospectus. Qualification of Director—The holding of one share.

No shares or debentures have been or are intended to be issued other than for cash.

The estimated amount of preliminary expenses is £200, as follows:—	
Prospectuses	£100
Legal Costs and Fees	50
Incidentals	50
	£200

No amount has been paid to any promoter, no amounts are intended to be paid to promoters or otherwise than as stated in this prospectus, save insofar as the Directors being Promoters may hereinafter receive remuneration as Directors.

The Auditors will be appointed at the Statutory General Meeting of the Company.

Applications for shares will proceed only on one of the forms of application referred to and endorsed

THE C.W.A. AND MR. BRUCE H. BROWN

In reply to correspondence on "Country" Women by Mr. Bruce H. Brown, which appeared in our issues of January 8 and 15, we have received the following from Mrs. M. R. Burns, Hon. Secretary of the Port Douglas (North Queensland) branch of the Country Women's Association:—

In your issue of the 8th inst., you published a letter by Mr. Bruce Brown criticising the Country Women's Association of Australia, and as a member of that organisation I cannot allow his sweeping statements to go unchallenged.

In the first place this organisation was not formed for the purpose of curing our economic ills, but to provide a service which had not been provided by those whose duty it is to provide it and so afford thousands of our fellow country women from the back blocks, together with their families, an opportunity of a holiday by the seaside, which is not possible for them under our present social system.

Throughout Australia many hundreds of seaside and mountain homes have been erected, fully furnished and equipped, and these homes are rented to people from the back country at a rental of 7/6 per week, thus making it possible for these people to enjoy a rest away from the cares of home and in a change of climate definitely beneficial to their health.

In addition to that, my Association has provided wireless sets to outback places and in numerous instances medical attention has been made possible for people who were unable to provide this service for themselves. Space does not permit me to give you a detailed account of the many services which my own little branch at Port Douglas has rendered, but let me just quote one instance as an example. The total number of members of my branch varies between 16 and 20, and without asking anybody for anything we have erected free of debt a five-roomed seaside hut at Port Douglas, fully furnished and fitted up, and this hut is let at a rental of 7/6 per week. Since its erection no less than 370 children and their parents have availed themselves of the opportunity of a holiday by the sea at a minimum of cost and a maximum of pleasure, and the building has only been in existence a little over four years. The money to erect this building was earned by the hard work of my branch members, who worked long hours at night sewing and making articles of use while the Bruce Browns rendered a similar service and solved our economic troubles while they smoked and talked.

I take strong exception to your correspondent's remark that we would do more good if we talked less and worked harder. I was under the impression that one of the objectives of the Social Credit Movement was for the lessening of the labours of all, including the women. I venture the opinion that the womenfolk of North Queensland do more real hard work stewing over a hot stove cooking for the family in one day than your correspondent has done in twelve months. Talk is the one thing, which we refrain from. Whatever talk has been indulged in has been done by our menfolk, who have the decency to acknowledge the fact. At our annual meetings many leaders of thought, included amongst whom are prominent men in the Social Credit Movement, have been loud in their praise of the work we have done. We have never talked about it, and to do so is repugnant to every true countrywoman. I and all my

family are ardent Social Crediters, but I am firmly of opinion that until such time as your correspondent and others of his ilk do more real work for the movement and less loose talk about what we women should do, the Country Women's Association is definitely a necessity.

Reference has been made to the fact that the C.W.A. in Melbourne is being run by a number of wealthy ladies who devote a few hours of their idle time away from bridge parties and cigarettes to work in connection with this Association, and Mr. Brown has endeavoured to make it appear that the movement is being conducted all over Australia by the same wealthy idle rich, and he infers that we derive our compensation in being in the position of being able to dole out hypocritical charity. The charge is unjust and unworthy of space in a paper like the *New Times*, and I am surprised, Mr. Editor, at your publishing such a slander. So far as my branch is concerned, there are only three members who are not either the wives or mothers of cane farmers, all of whom have their hands full cooking and washing for large families under primitive conditions in a climate which would put men of the type of the Bruce Browns under the lilies in short time.

* * *

Mr. Brown comments on the above as follows:—

Everything Mrs. Burns has written confirms the accuracy and the need for the criticism to which she takes exception. If she will do me the favour of reading my letters of January 8 and 15 again she will realise that the references were not addressed to the genuine country women at all, but to those leisured city ladies who get the publicity and the glory at the expense of the country women.

We all admire those who perform noble work of the nature outlined in Mrs. Burns's letter, but we can hardly avoid suspecting these city women who talk in the name of the C.W.A. about peace, better homes, better education, better citizenship, and the like, without saying one word against the only thing that prevents our enjoyment of these things.

There is far more sense in attacking the root cause of the conditions which deprive the "thousands of women from the back blocks of the opportunity of a holiday by the sea" than in pursuing a course calculated to keep that root cause from being exposed. Unfortunately, the ladies referred to seem more intent on excusing the financial swindle by alleviating its effects than on exposing it and killing it. Actually, they are helping the swindle to continue.

All these "charity" organisations have little power groups at the top, which build on the genuine honesty of purpose and altruism of good-hearted people like Mrs. Burns. These little power groups are topped by well-to-do beneficiaries of the present money swindle, and the rank and file of self-sacrificing members unwittingly act as fighters and defenders of the charity business, thus actually helping to protect the very people who bring about the need for charity in this world of abundance.

The women outback do not want charity. What they want is a regular income, and so far as I can ascertain the C.W.A. has done nothing to help them get it.

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