

THE NATIONAL
BANK'S FAIRY STORY
ABOUT MONEY

(See page 4)

THE NEW TIMES

THE "NEW TIMES"
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Vol. 3. No. 9.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

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(Continued on page 3)

Ramps Behind The Coronation Assembly

Beware Of The "Imperial" Conference

Disclosures of the past week have given good grounds for the fear that the Coronation visit to London of the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Minister for Defence, and all the State Premiers except the recently returned B. S. B. Stevens, of New South Wales, is likely to have sinister consequences for the Australian people. The indications are that a determined effort will be made at the London conferences to work two great and evil ramps—the one designed against our property and general well being, the other against our very lives.

THE FINANCIAL RAMP

The first ramp is that for which the N.S.W. Premier tried to prepare us when he came back from London, and which is sometimes called overseas investment and sometimes overseas borrowing.

Our internal financial position is being nicely worked up to the right pitch in preparation. Outside the few favoured trades like base metals, which are booming on account of the armaments racket, everyone in business knows that it is becoming increasingly harder, if not to get orders, at least to get paid for them. And something very like the ultimatum which preceded the Premiers' Plan has again been served by the gentlemen who constitute the Commonwealth Bank Board. In response to a Loan Council inquiry as to whether the sovereign governments should be allowed to borrow a few more millions to keep their unemployed from starving, the Bank Board has said tersely: "Apply later." Not to put too fine a point upon it, we are again working up to a "grave financial crisis."

At the same time the Australian public will hardly take lying down a repetition of what was imposed upon us in the last "crisis." And so a way out must be found.

"GET MORE MONEY IN."

R. G. Casey, Federal Treasurer, indicated that way in his farewell speech at Perth earlier this week. "We have caught up with our savings," he said, "and if our development is to go ahead at the same rate as in 1928-29 we shall have to get more money in."

In its literal sense Mr. Casey's statement was quite clearly untrue. We could be said to have truly caught up to our savings only if we were using up the same quantities as we are producing of wool and wheat and sugar and the other produce of farm and factory. Since we are not doing that, what did Mr. Casey mean?

He meant that the supply of money in Australia is not keeping pace with our supplies of real wealth, that we need more money unless our true progress is to be held up and strangled for lack of accounting figures—since that is all that money really is. And here, for once, we find ourselves in agreement with him. But only for the moment. For the Treasurer, instead of saying that the money shortage should be made up by a national issue, went on to suggest that we should get more money "in." In this he was flagrantly dishonest, for even a gentleman who professes such profound ignorance about finance as R. G. Casey has repeatedly done cannot pretend that we in Australia use imported money. Every £1 we use locally is locally manufactured, whether it take the form of coins, Commonwealth Bank notes, or credits and debits in bank ledgers.

USURY ON THE GRAND SCALE

How, then, can the Caseys and the Stevenss and all those other advocates of "imported" money make out a case? We have often indicated it on these pages in the past. It is becoming more and more difficult for us to meet our interest bills to the London-domiciled bondholders, principally because the destitute English people cannot afford to buy enough of our exported produce to enable us to accumulate sufficient English money (sterling) to satisfy our creditors. So it is proposed that the creditors should accept part payment in Australian money in Australia—such money being dragged out of us by our governments through taxation—and then proceed to "lend" it back to us, again at interest.

Apart from this being usury of the worst type, you will notice that it does not add to our money supply at all. It simply restores, as a loan, portion of what we have already surrendered to the tax gatherer, and carries the certainty that taxation must at once increase, to include added interest on the new loan.

If further confirmation of the ramp were needed, you will note that Mr. Casey—like Mr. Stevens before him—said nothing about it being necessary for our development to get more goods in. All he is concerned with is the importation - - or the pseudo-importation—of money.

This is ramp number one, for which you are invited to watch out once your "statesmen" begin to be feted by the London financiers—by the "influential men behind the scenes, besides City interests," who, the cables informed us on Tuesday, want S. M. Bruce in the British Cabinet.

THE DEFENCE RAMP

The second ramp was foreshadowed in a surprisingly candid press cable from London this week, which said, among other things:—

"Already there has been an exchange of views by cable and wireless between Whitehall and the Dominion capitals, and frequent meetings have been held in London, attended by the High Commissioners, members of the Committee of Imperial Defence and British Ministers.

"These preliminaries have enabled the survey of the situation to be carried much further than is generally imagined, and the conference deliberations will be tantamount to a 'third reading debate.'

"Mr. Lyons and other Dominion Prime Ministers are thoroughly aware of the real reasons for Britain's £1500 millions defence programme.

"The main task of the conference will be to devise a workable scheme of co-operation so that all parts of the Empire will be ready in case of a challenge.

"It is considered here that circumstances automatically compel the planning of an Empire defence system in which the fighting services and consultation machinery of Britain and the Dominions will work in even closer collaboration than at present."

So the "survey of the situation" has been "carried much further than is generally imagined," and "Britain and the Dominions will work in even closer collaboration than at present."

What does this mean? It means that if and when it suits "influential men behind the scenes, besides City interests" in London to declare war, then

war will be declared by our Federal Cabinet also, and the people of Australia will not be consulted any more than they were when Edward was hustled off the throne last December.

Meantime, Australians will be taxed to the tune of £10 millions a year or more in order to "collaborate" with gentlemen whose interests are international rather than British, who have

very little, if any concern about the living conditions of the people of England, but who have a great financial concern in the exploitation of native races and nature's resources in every corner of the globe. It is for this, and not for justice or humanity, that Australians will be asked, first to tax themselves almost out of existence, and then to surrender their very lives.

DID JUSTICE GAVAN DUFFY GIVE A CHANCE?

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

On last Friday three Melbourne lads—two of 17 and one of 18 years—were brought before Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy in the Criminal Court, and pleaded guilty of breaking into a suburban railway station and stealing keys. In releasing the youths on bonds of good behaviour, the Judge is reported to have said this:—

"You may be criminals if you like; now is your opportunity to decide. Instead of working hard and living dull, routine lives like other people, you may, if you wish, have a fine adventurous life breaking into houses and ultimately using revolvers, life preservers, or similar weapons. You may manage to es-

Hence, without in any way questioning Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy's good intentions, it may be suggested that he would have summed up more accurately had he addressed his youths in this fashion:—

"This 'land of opportunity' at present offers you three possible careers. If you follow the first you will be an honest dole worker, and you will never have the faintest prospect of an income sufficient for you to live in ordinary decency, much less to marry, to have a home, or to bring up children of your own.

"If you choose the second career you will become a criminal, in which case the State will spend on your upkeep far bigger sums than it will provide if you remain honest. The reason for this apparent paradox is that the State guards property more jealously than lives.

"If you have the good fortune to secure a footing in the third career you will work hard all your days, with very little prospect of anything but the old age pension at the end of your years of dull routine."

Are not these the only real prospects, which we citizens of Australia are today holding out before too many of our young men? The production of goods is now so easy and so abundant that there is no just reason why life should not become, as God meant it to be, a fine adventure for everyone. There is no just reason why, instead of what Judge Gavan Duffy calls "working hard and living dull, routine lives like other people," we should not all have more and more freedom and relaxation—including judges, since most of their time is taken up with the crimes which result from needless poverty. Least of all is there any just reason why our youth should have to choose between drab poverty and crime.

Only one obstacle stands in the way. There is only one shortage in this country—the shortage of what we call money, otherwise ledger entries, printed pieces of paper, or token coins. And it is because, like benighted savages, we allow ourselves to be mesmerised by tokens that we are breeding criminals instead of happy, useful citizens.

GIVING A BALANCE TO THE POPULATION.

A programme of defence has in it, moreover, the elements of national self-sufficiency in an economic as well as in other respects. It gives a balance to the population, to their avocations, and to their ambitions, which it might otherwise lack, and for these reasons is not all to the bad as might otherwise appear.

--"Argus" editorial, Feb. 18.

"SEARCH ME."

One ought, I think, to pass on to one's friends the things that add a little sweetness to life. I owe the extract, which follows to the "Social Frontier," a radical educational journal, edited by a group of teachers in New York. It is from the "Memphis Evening Appeal." "At the morning service, Dr. Holcomb will discuss, 'If the depression is disappearing, what lessons are we learning?' Mrs. W. L. Walker will sing, 'Search Me, O God.'"

—Professor Laski, in "Time and Tide."

cape the consequences of one or two early escapades, but eventually you will spend your whole existence in and out of gaol, mostly in it. I shall give you a chance, but you probably never will get another."

After a thoughtful reading of the Judge's words one may be pardoned for asking: *What chance were these youths actually given?*

From Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy's own remarks, it would seem that they were given the chance of "working hard and living dull, routine lives like other people." But were they given as much as this drab alternative to a career of crime?

If the Judge reads his daily newspapers, he must be aware that even at present somewhere about every eighth breadwinner in Australia is deprived of all opportunity to earn an income by working in industry, no matter how much he may wish to do so. For industry, even without the help of this mighty army of workers, is producing more goods than the Australian public has the money to buy.

Apart from private industry, the only other avenue of useful activity open to these people is that of public works. But here again, although there are countless jobs urgently requiring to be done, governments profess themselves unable to undertake them on account of the same lack of money.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS

By YAFFLE in "Reynolds News."

By this time you will have learnt that we are now in the Year of the Trade Boom.

Before we proceed, will mothers kindly hold their children up to the window to see the light of a New Dawn? Thank you.

And now will strong men oblige by clasping hands silently in an emotion too deep for words? Thank you. That will do nicely.

The Press affirms our bliss. "The Wave of Prosperity," says one newspaper. "Trade Revival Shared By All."

Evidence of our prosperity can be clearly discerned. Figures prove it. "The working-class," I read, "has participated in the enjoyment of the nation's prosperity. Wages have increased by £400,000 a week, nearly four million people sharing the increases.

This works out at an average of about 2s a week. Spread over the whole population, it amounts to about 2½d a week per head and both feet. Is it too late to remind the workers of the fall of Babylon?

Is our economic problem finally solved? This is the question, which, together with a memory of twice-boiled cabbage, rises to England's lips.

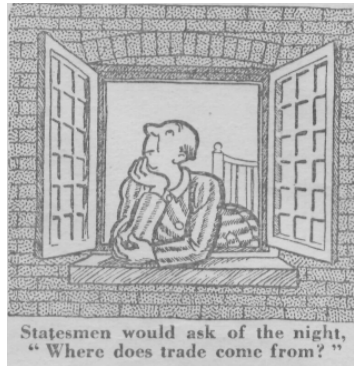
Ever since the slump came our rulers have been asking themselves and each other the eternal

keep our industries going, we have to make foreigners buy what we can't afford ourselves. The logic of this is regarded by the best people as unanswerable, so if you do answer it you are no gentleman.

This is one of the oldest and most highly valued economic laws we have in stock. It is a ripe and fruity law, mellowed with age and covered with whiskers. Our fathers fought and died for it, and it has more wage-cuts to its credit than a herring has grandchildren.

As a working rule, it has only one flaw: foreigners use it as well. It is insolent of them, for we got it first, and they had no right to pinch it.

Thus, today, all the nations say their existence depends on sending things out of the coun-



try, and none wants to take things in. So that, theoretically, no nation can exist, which seems a pity. Nations do seem to have had luck.

So our rulers had to face the problem:—Is there any kind of export which foreigners cannot refuse to accept? The answer was, weapons.

For weapons lead, with luck, to war. And wartime is the only time when capitalist economic theories function perfectly. Labour is fully absorbed, for you export as much as you like, and your competitor can't stop them. You shoot them at, and drop them on, the blighter.

But, you will say, supposing there isn't a war. What will happen to our trade? I see you need assurance on this. I will give it you straight from (figuratively speaking) the stable. Last month, Sir Samuel Hoare made a speech to manufacturers. He said:—

"What is to happen to our trade and industry when the great defence programme is completed? We are now embarked on a period of boom. Is it to be followed once again by a slump? The years after the war have their grim lesson."

He then went on to assure us that we should continue to meet orders for armaments from abroad. "I am anxious," he said, "to keep our old customers. If we do not need them today, we shall need them in the years to come, when our programme is completed."

Does this mean that our future prosperity depends on our ability

AN ANCIENT DOCUMENT

Discovered by Cedric Bootlace

"In the case of people like me Federal politics means the entire abandonment of normal professional activity . . . My suggestion is that, provided you have established yourself as well qualified in your own job, make up your mind to devote six or seven or eight years to Parliament. I warn you—you will be much poorer in pocket at the end, but you can always go back . . .

"I went to the Bar. I was fortunate to establish a large practice. I felt that left me with a substantial undischarged obligation to the State . . . From there I went into the Federal Parliament, where my political activity is 100 per cent, and my professional activity is nil."

—Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C., P.C., M.H.R., in the Melbourne Sun, Feb. 20.

The above remarks of the Attorney General by a strange coincidence synchronise with the discovery of an ancient document. The writing was discovered in most romantic circumstances, having been found wrapped round a crayfish purchased in the Victoria Market. The stewards of the Trotting and Racing Association have unanimously decided that this parchment forms part of the missing portion of the work of the famous Arab historian, Ali Hepsalot. Ali wrote about the year 1492, when Columbus was clearing the path for the Hebrew banking organisations. It reads as follows:—

" . . . Upon the next day the aged and learned sheik continued his discourse on the history of the tribe. 'At that time,' he said, 'the tribe dwelt in isolation in the vale of Os, subject always to the overlordship of the Norman—from whom Allah protect

to go on selling arms to foreigners forever? Of course not. That would mean that the Government had no plans or ideas for the future whatsoever, and the very suggestion is an insult.

Let us, then, turn to Sir Samuel's reply.

Is that all, Mr. Yaffle?
Yes. He then went on to talk about something else.

But why did you lead up to Sir Samuel's reply, if he didn't reply?

Because I took for granted he was going to. You see, I didn't read his speech properly until I got to the words, "Let us turn to Sir Samuel's reply." Then I found there wasn't one.

But you can't leave your article like that.

I must. There is no time to start another. I am in a very embarrassing situation. And instead of standing there arguing, I think it would be kinder if you took me out

us—who dwelt in the land of Eng. The chiefs of our tribe were then Zhubilee Zhoë and the great Ah Geehem. Of Zhubilee Zhoë little need be said, for he was seldom with us, and when he spoke he but uttered the words of Ah Geehem and it is of him that I will discourse. Learned and able was the great Ah Geehem and noted in the disputations before the chiefs and sheiks of the tribe. Great was the gratitude of those of the tribe for whom he fought (with words) and many were the presents of sheep and camels showered upon him.

"But ever in his heart did Ah Geehem feel the call of duty to the tribe and he said: 'Verily I will arise and take my seat upon the Council of the Elders. I will work for the people.' And he did take his seat upon the Council of the Elders and long and arduously did he work for the people. Many sheep and camels and several horses did Ah Geehem receive for his labours. And on occasion did he visit the land of Eng, whereby he received more horses, sheep and camels, and on occasion did he discourse upon his travels (for a moderate remuneration), and those of the tribe who were grouped as merchants gave him a seat at their boards and showered him with coins of gold, of silver, of copper and of bronze—and, sometimes (alas) of lead. But on the whole it was a very unremunerative task—it must be so, for Ah Geehem himself hath said it.

"But the great one minded not, for the flame of sacrifice and service burned bright within his breast. Learn ye therefore by the example and precept of Ah Geehem."

"Then spake a youth in the gathering: 'This business of sacrifice and service combined with trips to the land of Eng and sheep, camels and coins appealeth strongly to my sense of civic duty. How doth one set about acquiring a seat upon the Council of the Elders?'

" 'On that point,' said the ancient one, 'we have no direction; even the Koran itself is silent. But learn ye from the great ones who are gone. Advert not to the sufferings of the poor and lowly, for such are an abomination in the eyes of all, save Allah, and He hath no vote. Send thy young men to fight not the battles of the tribe but the battles of the land of Eng; of the produce of thy flocks and herds give what they require to the merchants of Eng, and the remainder thou shalt destroy. In the books of the Nasrani it is written, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God in its glory and all things thereafter shall be added," and yet again doth the infidel exhort his brother to cast bread upon the waters as it will surely return—but I say unto thee, get thee a tidy roll together, then get upon the Council of the Elders and thy sacrifice will be its own reward. But if thou failest to do pretty well on the side then is the fault thine own. Dost thou get me, Ali Stephen?'

"To which responded Ali Stephen, 'My oath—me for service and sacrifice.'

"And the people dispersed, marveling at the spirit of Ali Stephen, and murmuring: 'Surely this youth hath greatness in his heart and will live to be a glory and a blessing, unto the tribe.'"

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MELBOURNE (Cont.) (Continued from page 2.)

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KEW EAST.
WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS, I. Pink, 16 Oswin St (Continued on page 7.)

I was about to pop inside a village huckster's shop to buy some cigarettes when a notice above the doorway caught my eye. It ran something like this:
George A Blank
Licensed to sell tobacco.
Licensed to sell stamps.
Licensed to retail milk.
Licensed to have a wireless set.
Licensed to keep a dog.
And graciously permitted to breathe English air.
—The English "Midland Daily Telegraph."

question: "What is trade and where does it come from?"

Statesmen asked it of the night. M.P.'s asked it of each other in tense whispers between putts. Distraught economists would stop you in the street, and ask, "Does trade grow, or does one buy a pair and breed it?"

Scarce a week passed but some banker or Cabinet Minister would go into retirement with his ration of brain-food, and, when his brains had reached the condition of a Welsh rarebit at the peak of its boil, would emerge with a new remedy for slumps.

It is, therefore, natural to ask: "Is the armaments programme the final fruit of all this thinking, or is it just a way of postponing the problem of unemployment?" Let us, in a spirit of love, inquire.

My own opinion is that it is the logical outcome of all that is most constructive and far seeing in capitalist economics. Follow me carefully, please.

One of the most important of our economic laws is that we depend for our existence on our export trade. We make more goods than we can buy, so, in order to

The Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, P.C., etc.,
Federal Attorney General, Sir,

In one of your many speeches on the coming referendum, you are reported by the Melbourne "Argus" as saying: "It is not so much a question of orderly marketing, but whether our Parliament should have the power to carry out the popular will."

A similar attitude is being taken up by your versatile friend, that Joseph's-coated orator of Victorian politics, Mr. E. J. Hogan, M.L.A., who works himself up to a windmill whirl of arms at the mere idea that an overseas body should have jurisdiction over the wishes of the Australian people.

In Ned Hogan's case it may be the Irish in him, or it may be that he has been so busy accustoming himself to the viewpoints of different political parties as to leave him little time for the study of law. But in your own case there is no excuse. You are already accepted as something of an authority on constitutional law (saving always Section 92).

Hence it is surprising that you should exhibit so sudden a solicitude for the supremacy of the popular will. For have you never heard of the Statute of Westminster, Mr. Menzies! Are you unaware that the Government of which you are the leading legal light has for years deliberately postponed making that Statute apply to Australia—although the Opposition has repeatedly asked that this be done? Are you unaware that under that Statute all appeals to the Privy Council could be abolished? Are you unaware that, in the case of the Irish Free State, this was done? And that the Privy Council itself upheld the Free State action as being quite constitutional?

Had this been done in Australia—and it would have been done had the Government to which you belong desired it—there would have been no appeal over the High Court in the James case. And there would have been no Referendum.

THE NEW TIMES

for a drink. Coming? Right.



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Figures to Confound Our Trade Blunderers

Figures made available by the Commonwealth Statistician last Saturday provide a remarkable commentary on the attitude taken up by the Lyons Ministry in connection with the "trade diversion" policy of the latter half of 1936.

The Statistician's figures (in sterling) show that for the six months ended December 1935, our imports from Japan were valued at £2,679,000, and for the same period in 1936 at £2,504,000. Our exports to Japan for the second half of 1935 were valued at £6,434,000 and for the same period in 1936 at £430,000.

From July to December, 1936, therefore, the Japanese lost trade valued at £175,000 sterling, while our loss was £6,004,000 sterling—a net excess of loss to Australian producers of £5,829,000 sterling, or over £7¼ millions of Australian money.

The figures don't want any comment. It should be sufficient to place them on record as a tribute to the Ministry's achievements.

"The Argus" Joins the Advertising Racket

We recently commented on the blackmailing racket being practised by the proprietors of the Melbourne *Herald*, under the guise of "Buy Only Well Advertised Goods." It is interesting, and perhaps rather amusing, to find that the Melbourne *Argus* has now joined in the same racket.

The *Argus* had a lovely little sob story about it some days ago under the caption "Newly Wed!" There was the picture of the blushing

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bride, with the doting husband behind her shoulder—and then the inevitable question: "Little lady! However will you manage it all by yourself?" To which the answer, of course, was: "There are umpteen friends reaching out to help me—and I don't mean stuffy relatives. I mean all these advertisers who tell you the whyfor and wherefor of the things they sell. They make life very easy."

Now, isn't that splendid? All you have to do is to scan the pages of the *Argus*, look for the firms that tell you "the whyfor and wherefor" of their products, and never, never buy anything, which has not previously paid its toll to the *Argus*.

We said the *Argus* campaign was rather amusing. Do you remember the *Star*, published by the *Argus* proprietary? Do you remember how, when it ceased publication, the *Argus* was forced to admit that the main reason was failure to secure sufficient advertising? So now, lest a similar fate overtake its aged parent, that parent is embarking on a campaign of gunning for advertisers.

The Money Tree

"Like a tree," said a National Bank advertisement this week, "Money will grow if given the opportunity." (And it was typical of the National Bank's outlook that it spelt "money" with a capital M.) The Bank proceeded to declare: "On fixed deposit with the National Bank, it grows steadily and sturdily, giving greater financial independence as each six or twelve months pass by."

This is the sort of mischievous nonsense, which has deservedly made many of our private bankers the objects of hostility or contempt. For any person who stops to think must realise that money does not and cannot grow—or at least the sort of money we use since we abandoned such forms of money as mulberry bark and shells. And the major troubles of modern civilisation can mostly be traced to this precise cause, that money does *not* grow in the same manner as the real wealth, which is interchanged or distributed through the medium of money.

Will a pound note grow? Or a two-shilling piece? Or a deposit entry in a bank's ledger? Certainly not. Such things are manufactured. And as most of our modern money consists of ledger entries in banks, the real nature of a bank is to be a money factory. From which, since money now controls both the production and the consumption of real wealth, it follows that the banker is the super-monopolist and super-dictator of all time.

Naturally such an admission, if publicly made, would not be greeted with cheers by the people. And so most bankers either preserve a becoming reticence on the subject or if it has to be discussed at all, clothe

FORESTRY AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES

South Australia's Experience

By "COMM-ON-AFF."

During the 1934 session of the South Australian Parliament a Bill was introduced which, if passed, would have ratified an important agreement between the Minister of Afforestation and Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited.

A speech by Mr. E. J. Craigie, the Independent member for Flinders (S.A.), aroused such doubts in members' minds that a Select Committee was appointed to investigate, and this in turn was changed into a Royal Commission with enlarged scope and power.

The report of this Royal Commission was ordered to be printed on November 17, 1936.

The findings of the Commission are such that there is little possibility of the original Bill being re-introduced. If, as is likely, arrangements are made for manufacturing wood pulp for use in the paper trade, the clauses of an agreement with any company would be much less partial to the company, and so drawn up as to guard against operations which might injure the forests in question as timber-producing areas.

The forestlands under the control of the South Australian Government on 31/8/36 comprised 85,544 acres of softwoods and 5316 acres of hardwoods, due to a series of operations, which commenced in 1876.

In 1903 saw milling on a small scale began, and in 1926-7 the

their "explanations" in such Coplandesque phrases as to be unintelligible.

But the National Bank always was a great trier. It is believed in some quarters that a National Bank publicity man invented Father Christmas for the chimney and the Stork for the chimney pot.

Commonsense From Mr. McKenzie, M.L.A.

Mr. McKenzie, Victorian M.P. for Wonthaggi, was one of the guests at a dinner given on Tuesday night by Mr. Fairbairn, member for Flinders in the Federal House. Mr. McKenzie is noted for the directness of his speech, and on this occasion he did not depart from his usual practice.

Speaking of the referendum, he said that the amount of propaganda had confused the issue. He doubted whether as much as a small minority understood it, and whether even one person in twenty had read the manifestoes posted to every elector.

On the subject of party politics, he expressed the hope "that some day the bugbear of politics in this country—the party system—will be abolished once and for all."

On both points Mr. McKenzie displayed sound commonsense. What he was saying is, in effect, that the people should give their orders as to policy, and that details of technical methods are not matters on which they properly can or should be asked to decide. The party system, which is the glorification of methods and the obscuring of the demand for results, is the chief obstacle, which stands in the way of the people getting the things they desire.

Voters in the Wonthaggi electorate should show Mr. McKenzie that they endorse his attitude—and they should see that the same attitude is taken up by their Federal member.

Woods and Forests Department put on the market flooring, etc., milled and kiln-seasoned. At times stocks tended to accumulate, but by 1936 all output could be sold.

"UNDER INTELLIGENT DIRECTION"

An investigation by the Classification and Efficiency Board in 1932 resulted in that august body reporting that there was called for a "thorough investigation *under intelligent direction*" and suggesting the establishment of a committee charged with the responsibility of attending to these matters.

As a result, a Forestry Board of three members was appointed to control all forestry activities, and two of these were Mr. S. C. Hunkin (Public Service Commissioner) and Mr. J. W. Wainwright (Auditor General), who, as so-called efficiency experts, had advocated such a move.

During 1934, officers of the Government and representatives of Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited conducted what purported to be

THE GUARANTORS.

"A powerful Britain is the great guarantee of world peace. Although we are to spend such colossal sums for defence, we shall not be dragged into war unless someone tries wantonly to overthrow European civilisation."

"Britain's role is essentially pacific. If ever she abandons that—which seems unthinkable—western civilisation is doomed."

"I do not think war is likely while Britain plays her present part, and while she is able to teach a lesson to any ruler or country which seeks recklessly to precipitate a conflict."

—Lord Nuffield, motor and armament manufacturer.

* * *
That's what they're all saying. Do you remember how they said; the same before 1914?

an exhaustive investigation into the possibilities of utilising the "thinings" from the south-eastern forests for the manufacture of wood pulp.

As a result, Mr. E. H. F. Swain produced a report, from five volumes of which 24 "disclosures" can be made to figure as a summary of his findings and recommendations.

In light of evidence received later from authorities of undoubted qualifications, the urgent need for thinning on an extensive scale was grossly exaggerated in the wording of these "disclosures," and the people under whose *intelligent direction* the forests were now managed failed to detect this point.

"POPULAR BUT ERRONEOUS BELIEF."

The words of Mr. Lane-Poole, the Commonwealth Inspector-General, are worth quoting: "Underlying the agreement seems to be the popular but erroneous belief that disaster will come to the forests if they are not thinned. The belief that disaster would come to the plantation if not thinned has placed the Minister in a disadvantageous position."

Mr. G. J. Rodger (Conservator of Forests in S.A.) in evidence stated that the cost of thinning 27,000 effective acres in the South-East would be £7000, instead of £160,000, as given by Mr. Swain and used as the basis of the proposed agreement.

On many other scores the proposed agreement was shown to be faulty. The most sweeping criticism came from Mr. L. McIntosh Ellis, a late Director of Forestry in New Zealand. In a letter to the previous Conservator of Forests he wrote: "There is another very vital reason why the proposals of the A.P.M. should not be proceeded with, and that is for silvicultural reasons. If you extract 50 to 60 percent of the stand in the manner suggested it practically means the destruction of the

the balance and the desiccation of the soil."

The summarised conclusion of the Royal Commission is as follows:—

"That in the preparation of the agreement assumptions were made, and conclusions drawn without sufficient reliable evidence to support them."

They favour the idea of a paper-pulp mill being established if proper safeguards are used.

Concerning future management, the Commission says that the Conservator of Forests is fully aware of the urgent need for investigation and research, but states that his present staff is not sufficient to cope efficiently with even the present simple type of management. Every forester should be possessed of all the knowledge available, not only from his own experience, but from a thorough and scientific training in the principles of plant and forest growth. Practically every acre and operation requires some adaptation of practice and initiative.

THE FRUITS OF "STATE CONTROL."

Anyone who loosely looks for economic salvation through some form of "State control" of industries will find much to upset his pet theory in the 137 pages of this printed report.

Here is a case of a good going concern very nearly receiving a considerable setback under the very eyes of two of the most highly-paid and supposedly trustworthy officers of the State, and but for the vigilance of one independent member, Parliament would, it seems, have ratified the agreement.

The gospel cannot too often and too vigorously be preached, that we must revise our ideas of how Parliament must function.

In the case cited, a complicated set of clauses as to operations, payments and penalties was, presumably, solemnly voted on, clause by clause, without the possibility of there being adequate comprehension of all it implied; and then, when there was a two years' patient investigation and foolish delay, there is no semblance of a suggestion that the blame should be saddled effectively upon those who have made the mistakes.

Consumers are only concerned that the timber shall be delivered to them when and where they want it.

The moves to grow, fell and mill the wood must be the task of men, each expert in his own line, and those who undertake these duties in a genuine spirit will be willing to be judged by over-all results and expect gain or loss to themselves accordingly.

WHO?

It is taken for granted that should Mr. Bruce turn to Westminster the sequel would be Cabinet rank. Several influential men behind the scenes, besides city interests want him on the front bench. Some, whose authority counts, would like him as Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence.

—Melbourne "Sun," Feb. 23.

BOOKS ON MONETARY REFORM

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Democracy at the Cross Roads By L.H. Hollins.....	4/-
The Douglas Manual.....	7/6

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THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

Campaign Notes

VICTORIA.

So far no attempt has been made to introduce speakers into other societies, but there are nevertheless demands for such speakers from several directions, and it is very necessary that the supply should be equal to the demand and that this most useful form of propaganda and publicity should not fail through lack of numbers. Almost everyone has it in him to speak reasonably on a straightforward matter, and this latent ability can be brought out in a few simple lessons. A speakers' class is to be opened at an early date, and intending speakers are advised to send in their names at once to the Secretary (Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne), so as to be included in the first batch.

A business meeting of workers was held on Monday night at the Central Hall. A good attendance brought forward a crop of names, and it will now be possible to get started on a definite basis in many suburbs during the next week.

A supply of the new pamphlet (printed on page 8 of this issue) is now printed, and copies are available on application at the rate of 1/6 per hundred copies. This is just what you have been needing to explain the Campaign, and the Publicity Department is to be congratulated on having put out such a clear, concise and condensed explanation. Carry a few in your pocket at all times—just the very thing to hand out to fellow train or tram passengers.

There is a demand for good slogans—have you thought of one yet? And, while you have the pen in your hand, how about that letter to your Federal Member? Better write to him, saying that you are not satisfied with the progress made towards the Abolition of Poverty, and that the sooner Parliament calls for definite plans to this end the better pleased you will be. Hint that your displeasure may become more than verbal in the event of still further unnecessary delay.

All this is good pressure; it all helps to create the state of mind that is our aim, the feeling that Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail. We cannot overdo this matter of pressure politics.

The Publicity Department has a large number of newspaper articles prepared, and desires to get them into every local paper. Make it your task to interview the editor of your suburban or country paper to see if he is prepared to print suitable articles supplied free to him. Get particulars of the length that will be allowed for such matter and for how many weeks the series is to continue. Send in to Central

Office, U.E.A., Box 1226, Melbourne, and the articles will be sent out at once. This free propaganda is going to be a big feature, so please do your part at once.

By the way—have you got any new signatures this week? Hundreds are coming in; is there not one of them for which you are responsible? If not, ask yourself why, and don't forget to remedy the omission.

The names of car owners who are prepared to use their cars in the campaign are asked for. Give your telephone number, where such exists.

Memo, for this week: Explanatory pamphlet, 1/6 a hundred; send at once.

Lockington. — Called together by several enthusiasts, those present at a meeting at Lockington last week decided enthusiastically to form a branch of the U.E.A. The meeting was presided over by Mr. A. Brown,

MORE "DEFENCE" HUMBUG."

Defence experts hold that if Britain were at war, any declaration of neutrality by any Dominion would not ensure that such neutrality would be respected. On the contrary, it is firmly believed that the enemy would not respect ships bringing essential foodstuffs from the Dominions to Britain any more than it would respect British ships.

What Australian-owned ships are now engaged in trading between Britain and Australia?

popular and well-known minister of the local Presbyterian Church. Mr. J. Vise briefly outlined the plan of campaign proposed by the U.E.A., and explained that a canvass of electors for the purpose of obtaining signatures to the elector's demand form presented a much more feasible means of getting results than did the old means of advocating any particular method.

Although those present were largely uninformed re matters financial, and in spite of the fact that Mr. Vise makes no pretence of being a practised or eloquent speaker, the response was very satisfactory indeed, there being only one dissenter to the motion that a branch of the U.E.A. be formed. The convenors of the meeting were, needless to say, very pleased with this result, the more so as they had hitherto been rather doubtful as to the efficacy of the electoral campaign. They are now, however, wholly in favour of it and absolutely convinced that all reformers, once they have had a similar experience — no highly technical questions to answer to the satisfaction of an ignorant audience—will be equally enthusiastic.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. D. M. Sherwood's South Australian Tour. — Tentative arrangements have been made to date as follows: —

Thursday, March 18 — Mitcham Institute.

Tuesday, March 23 - Edwardstown Institute

Wednesday, March 24 — Clarence Park.

Thursday, March 25 — Westbourne Park.

Tuesday, March 30 — Goodwood.

Further particulars will be given in our next issue. Will all groups desirous of availing themselves of Mr. Sherwood's tour please communicate with headquarters, 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide, so that arrangements can be made? It is the intention to use Mr. Sherwood to open up new territory and to obtain the assistance of more distributors throughout the metropolitan area, so any individual who would like to assist in the organisation of a meeting in his locality is asked to communicate with headquarters. Any suggestions to make further use of Mr. Sherwood will be given every consideration.

Boothby Divisional Council Formed — The Boothby Divisional Council is composed of two representatives of each group in this division and, with Mr. Elphick as the Campaign Director, great results may be expected from this newly-formed organisation.

It is now the intention to form a Divisional Council of Adelaide and Hindmarsh. Will all groups in these two divisions please communicate with headquarters so that arrangements can be made to visit them and place the advantages of the formation of a Divisional Council before them? Rapid decentralisation is essential in this work.

Westbourne Park Branch Formed. — On Monday, February 15, a Westbourne Park

"ESPECIALLY DESIRED."

One thing especially desired in London is that the Imperial Conference should achieve a system of coordinating British and Dominion defence construction to avoid isolated building as in the case of the American aeroplanes to be built at Fishermen's Bend.

—"Herald," Feb. 24.

branch was formed with ten willing distributors. Areas were allotted and Mr. Dickson was appointed branch supervisor, with Mr. D. G. Rippin as hon. secretary. Their next meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, and all members are asked to attend to make arrangements for Mr. Sherwood's meeting on Thursday, March 25.

Cheltenham Group Formed. — On Tuesday, February 16, the Cheltenham Group was established, areas allotted, and the work begun. Mr. P. Carr has been appointed Campaign Director.

Glenelg Group. — The Glenelg branch is conducting its fortnightly teamwork and great results are forthcoming. During the rest of the time individual distributors are doing their work in allotted areas.

Keswick Group. — A very energetic worker is producing amazing results in Keswick. In two days he obtained 188 signatures, besides laying down the foundation for a very energetic branch to be formed. Will all those living in and around Keswick please get in touch with headquarters so that this branch can be formed and Keswick definitely covered?

Prospect. - - The Prospect

branch is working steadily and the results are satisfactory up to date. Prospect has distinguished itself for its perseverance in the conducting of the Electoral Campaign, and the thorough way in which the task is being carried out is an example to all.

Rally on March 9. — All are especially invited to attend this rally on Tuesday, March 9, at 8 p.m., to be held at State Headquarters. Every distributor and everyone interested is asked to attend this rally, so that plans for the next month can be placed before them.

Edwardstown Group. - - Edwardstown reports that their distributors are now settling down steadily to their jobs. Latest results from this area show successful percentages of 73 and 74 out of all possible signatures.

Membership Cards. — It has been decided to issue booklets consisting of ten associate membership cards of 1/- each, and all distributors are asked to obtain one of these booklets and to try and sell them.

In this way a huge membership can be built up from amongst those people who have signed the demand form. Blocks

TRUTH WILL OUT!

Mr. Menzies describes himself: — "After my appearance as a Second-class diplomat, my friends all clustered around me, saying what a fool I looked."

—R. G. Menzies to Young Nationalists, Feb. 22.

of ten tickets can be obtained from headquarters on the clear understanding that each person who takes a block makes himself responsible for the money or the return of the associate membership cards.

Constitution. — Copies of the Constitution can now be obtained by group leaders on demand. The Constitution is very simple, allowing each branch to be entirely self-governing, and yet at the same time to obtain the benefit accruing through the Divisional Councils upon which each branch has a representative. The principle of the Constitution is democratic—the branch self-governing, the Divisional Councils organising bodies, and the State Secretariat to be an Advisory Body.

Women's Auxiliary. - The Women's Auxiliary would like to make an appeal to the female members for assistance in the kitchen. For a considerable time now, the same women have been taking it in turns to come in once a week or once a fortnight to take charge of the Cafeteria in the Club. Many of them should be relieved, and an ap-

peal is made to all the women of the movement to come in and offer to take at least one day a month, if not one day a fortnight.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Riverina Electorate. — A well-attended meeting of representative residents of the Riverina Federal Electorate was held at Binya on Sunday, February 14, when information regarding the United Electors of Australia was placed before those present.

After the project had been discussed thoroughly, the opinion was expressed generally that such a body would meet with wonderful success in this State. It is known that a strong following can be built up quickly in several centres which were not represented, and it was resolved to take all possible steps to launch the movement in the Riverina without loss of time and to have it firmly established throughout the electorate.

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

The business of civilising Abyssinia goes on. Cable reports this week indicate that, in reprisal for the wounding of Mussolini's Governor-General, 600 Abyssinians have been "executed."

The white man's worth increases. Time was when, as far as we remember the old song:

"One dirty Frenchman,
Two Portugee—
One jolly Englishman
Is worth all three."

But the Italians, having a much older civilisation, naturally put a far higher valuation on themselves.

FRENCH AND GERMAN

Taught, limited number of "New Times" readers; no fee. Pay at end of year if satisfied. Particulars, "Grand Prix," c/o "New Times."

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without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide.

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.....

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A FUTILE FUSS

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,

There is to be a Referendum on March 6, and all of us are obliged to say "Yes" or "No" to a question that should not be put to us at all. Whatever the result of the Referendum may be no proposals are in view to deal with the issue in the only way in which it can be effectively and permanently settled.

The Federal Government has circulated a pamphlet entitled "Federal Referendums. The Case For and Against." On the first page it is explained that it is a "Pamphlet containing the Arguments in Favour and the Arguments Against the Proposed Laws...." After reading the contents I wondered whether my understanding of the word "argument" was correct, because I could find no genuine argument in the pamphlet. I therefore consulted Webster's dictionary, and found that the word argument, as used for the purposes of the pamphlet, means evidence or proof, act or process of reasoning; or a controversy made up of rational proofs. As the contents did not measure up to these meanings, I referred to the Oxford version to see whether there might be a more modern meaning, which would fit the circumstances, and sure enough there is. One of the meanings in the latter dictionary is this: "...One that takes advantage of character or situation of particular opponent—of his ignorance of facts." That fits the position exactly. The writers of the pamphlet have sought to take advantage of the ignorance and thoughtlessness of the people forming the electorates, and this applies to the advocates on both sides. All of them admit that the question is one of giving more income to the farmer, but none of them mentions the true cause of the farmer's lack of income.

THE ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD

An examination of the "arguments" put forward in favour of a "Yes" vote forces one to the conclusion that the whole thing is just one more of those non-essentials dressed up to cause disputations and divisions, thus providing favourable conditions for the perpetuation of the swindle that has been worked against us for ages. The Referendum is another attempt to mislead us.

Argument 1, for example, says this: "Primary products have to be sold overseas at prices largely controlled by competing products of low-wage foreign countries." This is not true. Literature issued in support of this argument

actually claims that "Australia produces much more butter and dried fruits than she can consume. Therefore the bulk of these products have to be exported." The butter produced in Australia represents only a little over 1 lb. per head of the population per week, and if other families used butter as freely as my own family uses it, there would be exceedingly little available for export. Other families use less because their incomes do not allow them to use more.

The same applies to dried fruits. Our total production is equal to only 1½ lb. per head per year, and obviously the whole of it could be consumed here without the slightest difficulty if the people had the money to buy it. The loose talk regarding competition from low-wage countries has been shattered by Japan, who buys raw material in the Indian market, transports the material to Japan, converts it into manufactured goods, re-ships to India, and then sells at a figure far below the price of similar goods produced in that country, even though the Indians receive practically no wages, wear only a loin cloth for covering, and eat only a few handfuls of rice for a meal.

WAGE STANDARDS.

The second argument says: "Australian wage standards are high, and we want to keep them high." A claim of this nature can only be made with the tongue in the cheek. Australian wage standards are actually lower than they were away back in 1907 and one of the reasons for this is the very practice of having specially high "home-consumption prices" while we dump overseas the stuff we badly want ourselves. We pay more and receive less so that the foreigner may pay less and receive more! This makes the purchasing power of the so-called high wages far less than it ought to be, and the proposed alteration of the Constitution cannot rectify that aspect. Indeed, it would accentuate it.

MARKETING DIFFICULTIES.

Argument 3: "There can be no effective control of marketing of products in Australia unless there can be control of interstate transactions in those products." Even with "control of interstate transactions" the price procurable for the farmer must depend on what is called the "national income," and this all-important thing will continue to be controlled by the banking monopoly as it is today. Marketing diffi-

culties will disappear when the people are supplied with sufficient money to buy the whole of their own production, and not until then. The demands of the people will effectively control the marketing when they have been placed in the position to buy.

SALVATION OF THE GROWER

Argument 4: "Until a few months ago the action of the Commonwealth Government had been the salvation of the dried fruits grower and of the large schemes of repatriation and land settlement existing in the dried fruit areas." If the action of the Commonwealth was the "salvation" of these people, how is it that in Victoria alone 3000 men and their families, after a lifetime of hard work on the land, are absolutely bankrupt, their debts exceeding their assets by an average of £700 apiece? Contrast this with the banking monopoly, which has been enriching itself in Australia at the rate of a million pounds a month!

"THE ICY BLASTS OF WORLD COMPETITION."

Argument 5: "The means of giving to the Australian farmer a home-consumption price have been destroyed, and he alone of all sections of the Australian community is left unprotected to face the icy blasts of world competition." This is an amazing display of the sheerest ignorance regarding money — its origin, its purpose, its nature and its control. There is no need at all for our farmers to face the icy blasts of world competition, and only our existing mesmerism about money allows us to tolerate it. Give the Australian people sufficient money to buy their own production and the farmer will have no worries about getting a fair price. In any case, costs of production in Australia are met with money produced in Australia, and the quantity of Australian money need not be influenced one iota by the price we receive for genuinely "surplus" goods sent elsewhere. Japan has already proved this, as shown under Argument 1.

THE POWER OF PARLIAMENT

Argument 6: "If Australia is to be an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations there should reside in some Parliament in Australia adequate power to deal with every aspect of our national life." This is commonsense, but there is something dishonest in the suggestion that adequate power does not reside with us now. The Federal Parliament is already clothed with full power over finance in Australia, and finance controls everything. The controllers of this weapon therefore have power over every aspect of our national life, but unfortunately the Commonwealth Parliament allows this power to be exercised by a private monopoly instead of exercising it itself. Even the Minister of Transport in the British Government publicly admitted on February 13 that Britain's "most powerful and irresistible weapon is her financial resources", yet we see the nation's most powerful and irresistible weapon allowed to remain under the control of a private monopoly responsible to no one but itself.

Argument 7: "The Australian farmer is as much entitled to the Australian standard of living as the Australian manufacturer or the Australian wage-earner." This is an argument for monetary reform, not an argument for altering the Constitution. The wage earner's standard is already disgracefully low, and it is now proposed to make it lower still by transferring a larger portion of his all-too-little wage to someone else while he in return actually receives less for it.

THE TARIFF.

Argument 8: "The tariff has protected the manufacturer and as enlightened system of wage fixing tribunals has protected the wage earner." This is straight our misrepresentation. The tariff

protects the manufacturer from foreign competition, whereas this proposal is to penalise the Australian consumer so that the primary producer may take part in foreign competition, whereas this "enlightened" tribunals and the protection accorded the Australian wage-earner, please refer to the recent criticism in these columns of Judge Beeby and the Arbitration Court.

CO-OPERATION.

Argument 9: "The proposal is simply one to permit co-operation between Commonwealth and States in the field of marketing." This speaks of co-operation regarding the making of marketing rules, but is silent about co-operation in the far more important job of producing an adequate quantity of the stuff people are obliged to use when they go to the market. The best co-operation the States could get from the Commonwealth would be the institution of financial measures, which would provide the people with money to enable them all to become effective consumers. Without that, "orderly marketing" can only be another name for limitation of supplies and higher prices.

HALF A LOAF

Argument 10: "We are dealing with a serious crisis in the history of Australian primary production, and half a loaf is better than no bread." This fails to deal with realities. The "crisis" arises from the inadequacy of the income of the people as a whole. Other producers are suffering from the same complaint, and a transfer of money from one to the other will not dispose of the crisis. There should be no question of only half a loaf when there is sufficient bread for everyone to have a full loaf. The trouble is that the quantity of bread is greater than the quantity of money, and that these proposals foolishly seek to reduce the bread instead of increasing the money.

Argument 11: "It would be absurd and unfair to oppose for primary industry what has been found necessary for secondary industry." This is a dishonest claim, for it is well known that importations of dried fruits and butter are subject to the tariff provisions just the same as any other importation.

NO REFERENCE TO FUNDAMENTALS.

It will thus be seen that "the case" in favour of the proposed alteration of the Constitution is quite empty. "The case" against is no better. Neither side has made any reference at all to fundamentals. Far too often have we seen the farmer pitted against the wage-earner and vice versa, and it seems that the silly farce is intended to go on, as the Referendum is designed to perpetuate the existing financial arrangements which are swindling us of the wherewithal to obtain more goods, shorter hours, better services, improved health, longer life, and everything that makes for community contentment and happiness.

Instead of allowing politicians to put abortive questions to us we must unite and give positive orders to them, and those orders must include a demand for the abolition of poverty by giving the whole of the population claims to the goods now being argued about. These claims must be given without causing taxation, increasing prices, depriving anyone of his property, or decreasing the value of our assets. The U.E.A. has been established to enable us to do this, and every person of intelligence and goodwill should be in the movement giving a hand in whatever direction is most suited to his or her attainments. That will get results; the Referendum will not.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

340 Little Collins St.
Melbourne.

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO I.

By JESSICA

When in Sydney recently I visited the headquarters of the Women's Electrical Association and, believe me, it was an eye-opener. The Association has 2,000 members and is directed by a fully qualified electrical engineer (a woman). Here is a place where electrical apparatus of all kinds may be inspected. Every kind of cooking, lighting, washing, cleaning, heating and cooling facility can be seen in operation, and advice is given on all points concerning the use of electricity in the home. The labor-saving and comfort-creating devices are truly marvellous; even the kitchen cupboards light up automatically when you open the doors — no groping and peering round to get what you want. Members are allowed to do experimental cooking on the Association's electric stoves. You can see how clothes can be washed and ironed, dishes washed up, dust and dirt removed, and practically every household task performed by the magic, silent worker—electricity.

The whole experience was, as I say, an eye-opener, and the thought that kept running through my mind was this: Here in Australia we have the raw material such as brown coal, running water, etc., for the generation of electricity in un-

Why should you want for anything
That Australia can give?
The scientist can get it
If he is asked.
The politician can ask for it
If he is told.
You can tell him
If you want to.
Get on with the job
By joining the U.E.A.,
And tell your M.P. you want
POVERTY ABOLISHED.

limited quantities; we have skilled engineers; men to build machinery and make every kind of electrical apparatus—in short, everything is here right now for supplying electric power and electrical appliances for everybody and doing away with every form of household drudgery.

Think of the comfort of a hot water system in your bathroom and kitchen; an electric clothes washer; a refrigerator; an electric stove; electric irons, fans, toasters, and so on. And think of the time you would be able to give to pleasant work of various kinds, and reading, and visiting your friends, and living generally a useful, interesting and well-balanced life.

Women, wake up! Do all you can, even in your limited spare time, to help your men folk in the greatest movement of our time — the abolition of money poverty in a world of teeming abundance. Shake up your friends; get them interested. Above all, don't be put off with the story that monetary reform cannot happen here till it has been accomplished overseas. That is the story put across by the lazy politician and the banker's puppet. The necessary reform can happen here. We can give a lead to the world. Think of your sisters at Wonthaggi. Let their tragic plight inspire you in the fight against the savage economic system that is shutting you off from your share of God's gifts. This system is the cruelest swindle ever inflicted on mankind. Remember the hymn, "God made all his creatures free. Life itself is liberty." Get in touch with the freedom bringing movement of the Abolition of Poverty. If you're not sure how to start, communicate with the *New Times*. Do it today!

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THE BRITTONS AND MONTY JENKINS

A Fable by FROTTI in "Social Credit."

Once there was a rather ignorant but nice family named Britton, and they were very, very rich, how rich no one knew, and least of all themselves, for they had been extremely poor until they came into an inheritance.

The joke was that they still lived in a poor way and thought of themselves as being very hard up; and this was entirely due to their butler, Montague Jenkins. Unfortunately for the Brittons, Jenkins went with the inheritance.

Now, Jenkins was a person of very cunning though low mentality; and as soon as the Brittons came to live at Plenty Castle he took over the reins of government and began to run the whole household, including the Brittons themselves.

You may think this odd, but, as I said at the beginning, they were not very well informed people, though quite nice and unsuspecting, and they thought it only right that they should be under the thumb of their butler.

* * *

So every week he would dole almost enough margarine, condensed milk and scrap-end-of-neck to keep the family from absolute starvation.

To get even this they had to report to him every day and declare themselves "available for work."

If one of them went for a walk, he had to clock in and clock out; and Jenkins used to dock his food-ration if he stayed out too long.

Moreover, when young Percy Britton had worn all his clothes out, a potman was sent to rake over Mr. Britton's suits to see if he could spare one for his son, which annoyed him very much; and a scullery maid searched Percy's room for something of his own that he could sell in order to pay the first instalment on a secondhand pair of trousers, and took away everything but the bed.

* * *

In this way Jenkins accomplished two things. First, he made the Brittons feel that it was wicked to enjoy their own property unless they were doing unnecessary work.

Then he put the father and sons against one another, and made the mother hate the daughter.

For Mr. and Mrs. Britton thought how much better off they would be without children to take their clothes away, and the younger ones felt that all would be well if only they had father's and mother's wardrobe.

* * *

Now, it so happened that the Britton's family solicitor, Mr.

Freedom, came down to see them about their property just before Christmas; and when he saw what was going on, he could not help himself and burst out laughing.

"What are you laughing at?" asked Mr. Britton, indignantly; "it's no laughing matter, I can tell you. When you have a couple of rotten undutiful cads for sons, who take your clothes and everything you have, you'll laugh the other side of your face."

"It's father who keeps us out of work, the selfish fool, and grudges us the very clothes we wear."

"Just one moment," Mr. Freedom interposed. "I won't ask you what you think the trouble is. You should take all day to tell, me, and all talk at once; and even then we should be no wiser."

"But I'll tell you something. You are a rich family. I have

200 DEBT CASES AN HOUR.

The flood of cases that flowed through the Debtors' Court today tried even the tireless energy of Mr. Freeman, P.P.

"These firms certainly have a lot of forgetful clients," he commented when, in little more than an hour, he had dealt with more than 200 cases, with still many to come. — *Melbourne Herald*, Feb. 24.

How many of the defendants were forgetful?
How many were dishonest?
And how many were in trouble because of an artificial shortage of money in the face of a plentitude of goods?

documents here to prove that you have millions in your own right, to use as, when and upon what you please.

"No one can stop you. It is yours. Do you understand me? Yours absolutely."

The Brittons were dumb-founded. They stared at Mr. Freedom, unable to believe their ears.

"Furthermore," he went on, "butlers, footmen, maids and housekeepers are your *servants*, not your masters. All you have to do is to give them orders.

"If they won't obey, sack them and engage others who will. And for heaven's sake, show some guts, and let's have no more nonsense about Jenkins."

* * *

I never heard whether the Brittons took his advice or not.

GIFT FRUIT FOR OVERSEAS

Another Bankers' Ramp

By R. E. DE NEVAT.

To get rid of the jam and canned fruits, which needy South Australians cannot buy, the Adelaide Advertiser is organising a "Gift Fruit Scheme." Anyone who can afford to lose 15/- may have delivered to any address in England a certain quantity of fruit or jam.

Supporters of the scheme see things upside down. They gloat over the work provided for growers, pickers, factory and wood industry employees, case makers, glass workers, printers and carters, as if it were a good thing. Any scheme, which kept money circulating in this fashion, was entitled to the support of every member of the community, they said. Following their line of reasoning to its logical conclusion, Australians should be experiencing the height of prosperity if we were all employed at collecting, packing and shipping abroad our wealth while consuming none ourselves.

The alleged benefit is illusory. What happens is that in return for their work, which makes Australians poorer, the workers are enabled to buy a portion of the remaining wealth. Sellers are then able to repay portion

MORE SENSE THAN HUMANS

The Sydney pacer Radio Ribbons can turn on a tap with his teeth.

According to his trainer, Arthur Shea, Radio Ribbons is allowed to wander in the yard of the stable. "When he becomes thirsty he walks to the tap and turns it on with his teeth. Then he goes to the end of the hose, picks it up, and drinks with the nozzle high in the air.

Occasionally Shea plays a trick on the gelding. After Radio Ribbons has turned the water on and is making for the end of the hose Shea turns off the tap. But Radio Ribbons pads back to the tap and turns it on.

—*Herald*, Feb. 24.

Under similar circumstances most of us would starve. For we haven't the brains to turn on the tap of plenty.

of their overdrafts and interest. The banker's ratio of cash to deposits is increased and he is in the position to create a new interest-bearing debt to replace the cancelled one. The banker thrives and his press gang encourages the delusion of well being among the people.

The sponsors of the scheme probably know what they are about, but the fact that thousands of well-meaning citizens acquiesce in the impoverishment of our country as a means of distributing purchasing power, is further proof that the public is not competent to decide a question of methods. May the people get a higher conception of the purpose of life and demand the first essential — Economic Security.

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WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

(Continued from page 8.) election, not merely to get an attractive position, but also because he is genuinely anxious to serve his country -- because he has what is called a public spirit. Once he becomes an M.P., however, he speedily finds that he must confine his activities and record his vote in parliament to suit party policy. The penalty is expulsion from the party or failure to have his endorsement renewed, which, OWING TO ELECTORS' PARTY ALLEGIANCE, almost certainly means the loss of his seat at the next election.

Anyone who knows members of parliament knows also that they chafe under this iron control until they ultimately become disillusioned and, taking the line of least resistance, go with the stream and become "good" party men.

The blame for this does not lie so much with the M.P. as with his constituents. As long as the elector votes for party methods, so long will the M.P. be a party creature. As soon as a majority of electors show that they are concerned only with results, so soon will the member of parliament, like any other servant, bestir himself personally to procure those results.

It may be that some members will be obstinate, that they will try to insist upon giving the people what THEY think is good for the people rather than what the people think is good for themselves. If any members adopt this attitude, if they refuse to conform with the terms of the Elector's Demand, then the electors, if they really mean business, will turn them out of parliament at the first opportunity.

But if the electors are in earnest, it is highly improbable that this position will arise. For what Member of Parliament will deliberately court certain defeat?

YOU MUST DECIDE.

The issue now rests with you and every other elector. Are you content to let things slide, to shrug your shoulders helplessly while your liberties are filched from you, while artificial poverty becomes more widespread, while more and more of your fellow citizens face a bleak and dreary future, while discarded youth turns to crime and the nation prepares for war? Or do you want to make Australia the land of happiness, peace and freedom that it could and should be?

There is no need to form new political parties. There is unlikely to be the need for any great change in the existing personnel of parliament. What is needed is that you join your DEMAND FOR RESULTS

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(Continued from page 3.)

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[Note. —The article above has been reprinted as a four-page brochure, and is now available on application to The United Electors of Australia, Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne. Price 1/6d. per 100 copies, post paid.]

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THE ELECTORS IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS WILL HAVE THE

"NO" CASE

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TOWN HALL, KENSINGTON, and Monday, March 1.

TOWN HALL, PRESTON, Tuesday, March 2.

TOWN HALL, CAMBERWELL, Wednesday, March 3.

(Mr. J. A. Gray, M.L.A., will also speak.)

ST. PAUL'S PARISH HALL, FAIRFIELD, Thurs., Mar. 4.

Mr. M. BLACKBURN, M.H.R.

And Others will Speak on the Food Referendum
Authorised by Thos. C. Day, "The Rest," 18 Bangalore Street
Kensington

Why You Should Join

The United Electors of Australia

What Is the U.E.A.?

The movement called the United Electors of Australia is the bringing together of voters in a non-party, non-sectarian and non-sectional body. Their bond of association is the signing by every member of the Elector's Demand, and an undertaking to press for what it contains.

What is the Object of the U.E.A.?

The general object of the United Electors of Australia is to enable the people to obtain such things as they may in common desire, by restoring political democracy—that is, by placing parliament once more under the control of the electors. In theory this control has always existed, but in practice it has long ceased to be exercised.

The purpose for which parliaments have been set up is to administer the policy of the people. But today a parliamentary election means little more than an occasion when the people are asked to choose between the policies to be imposed upon them by one or other of the major political parties.

These policies at best are sectional, and for the most part are mutually hostile. In their private lives neighbours who vote for different party platforms will be found anxious to help one another, and will live on the most friendly terms; but the parliament to which they send their deputies becomes a warring camp and ends in frustration. Hence the disgust with parliament which in so many countries is leading to the abandonment of the democratic ideal and the substitution of tyrannies.

The Party System a Failure

Moreover, party government has proved that it cannot obtain even the sectional advantages, which it dangles before different classes of electors. In Australia, the so-called United Australia party, supported mainly by what may be called business interests, has piled up taxation on every business enterprise until it has now broken all records—and its only prospect is one of increasing taxation still further. After years of pinning their faith to the Country party, the primary producers are likewise more heavily in debt than ever, and more insecure than ever about the marketing of their output. While, after a generation of Labor party activity, the official statistics show that the position of the average wage earner in Australia is now worse than it was thirty years ago; the buying power of his wage has not increased, while the security even of drawing that wage is daily diminishing.

Withal, the real wealth of the Commonwealth — its actual, and still more its potential production—has gone up and is going up by leaps and bounds. This is one of the richest countries on earth, and there is absolutely no sound reason why every one of its inhabitants, without exception, should not be able to enjoy an increasingly high standard of living accompanied by more and more personal liberty.

Methods Versus Results

A little thought will show how absurd is the way we endeavour to run our national affairs.

As an illustration, consider how a trading company's business is conducted. The company is owned by its shareholders who, by their votes, elect periodically a number of deputies to administer its affairs. These deputies are called directors, and are usually chosen not so much for their technical knowledge of the company's manufacturing or merchandising processes as for their reputation for integrity, commonsense and general ability. The directors then proceed to appoint sectional managers—works manager, sales manager, etc.—who in turn select the technical staffs for their various departments—engineers, chemists, accountants, salesmen, and so on. The business is now run on a basis of demanding results. Those who get satisfactory results are retained in the company's service, and those who fail are very soon dispensed with.

The principle involved is one of individual responsibility, resting ultimately with the responsibility of the directors to the owners who elect them. And these owners, the shareholders, are interested only in one thing—their dividends, or the general results of the company's operations. They would not dream of dictating to the directors on points of administration or on methods to be employed. They simply want results. And if satisfactory results are not forthcoming, then the directors themselves are displaced and a new board is appointed.

What holds true of a company's affairs should also prevail in the greatest of all our industries, which is the proper running of our country. Here the shareholders are the electors and the board of directors are the members of parliament.

WOULD SHAREHOLDERS IN A COMPANY ELECT DIRECTORS PLEDGED TO OPPOSE ONE ANOTHER, OR PLEDGED TO METHODS OF CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS RATHER THAN TO OBTAINING RESULTS FROM IT? THEN WHY DO IT WITH PARLIAMENT?

It may be said that there is no parallel, that company shareholders, however diverse or even opposed may be their other interests, have a common end in view in their company investment, and that the same does not hold true of the interests represented in our national parliament.

This brings us to the first specific objective for which the United Electors of Australia ask voters to co-operate. That objective is THE COMPLETE ABOLITION OF POVERTY FROM EVERY AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLD. And the

United Electors assert that such an objective is one where the interests of all citizens are identical.

The Existence of Poverty

Nationally speaking, it requires no argument to prove that this country is tremendously rich. With a population of under seven millions we find Australia producing, in one of the world's great needs, wool, a quarter of the entire world supply; with most of our other primary products we figure as large exporters, and there is hardly an industry, primary or secondary, where we could not greatly increase our output if satisfactory arrangements were made for its disposal.

Alongside this we have a state of artificial poverty, which is as remarkable as our real wealth.

Perhaps this assertion of poverty will not be accepted as readily as that of our national wealth. But it can easily be demonstrated.

In the first place there are the vast numbers of those who are quite destitute. Even the official figures, admittedly conservative, indicate that there are about three-quarters of a million men, women and children in Australia who, through lack of a regular income—or, as it is called, through unemployment—are dependent on State doles for their very existence.

Then we have the ever mounting tally of the destitute aged and invalid living on a pension pittance of less than £1 a week. In 1926 their number was 175,000; in 1936 it was 287,000.

And the recent census showed that the citizens as a whole are poor. In 1933 only 13 per cent, of all Australia's male breadwinners and only 3 per cent, of its female breadwinners had an income as high as £5 a week, while two-thirds of the male breadwinners had no income or incomes under £3 a week, and three-fourths of the females had no income or incomes under £2 a week. Nor is there any reason for believing that the above figures would be greatly improved today.

Debt and Taxation

Two of the greatest indications of poverty are debt and taxation. Australia's national debt has grown from £200 millions in 1901 to £700 millions in 1919, and, expressing both our local and our overseas debt in Australian pounds, to about £1,500 millions today. The debts of municipalities, of semi-governmental boards and the like, as well as private debts, have multiplied in similar fashion.

And so has taxation. To go back only five years, Commonwealth taxation was £50.4 millions in 1931 and £63.6 millions in 1936, while in the same period the States' taxes increased from £35.8 millions to £40.9 millions. Thus the grand total rose from £86.2 millions to £104.5 millions, or from £13/5/6 per head to £15/9/11 per head.

You may be one of the fortunate few who are not directly faced with poverty or the fear of poverty, but, no matter who you are, you cannot possibly escape its effects. On the one side you are being taxed more and more heavily, both directly and indirectly, to pay for the poverty of others; and on the other your own prosperity is constantly hampered because, though your labour or skill may produce goods that are needed or desired, you have no certainty that an impecunious public will be able to buy them from you.

Poverty, debt, grinding taxation and general discontent—that is our position today in spite of our plenitude of real wealth and our tremendous resources for increasing it. And, unless we unite to demand that our national board of directors, our Federal Parliament, take the necessary steps to abolish poverty, the future holds an even more dismal prospect, with war or revolution as the inevitable outcome. FOR THAT OUTCOME YOU WILL PROBABLY PAY WITH YOUR OWN LIFE OR WITH THE LIVES OF THOSE DEAR TO YOU.

What Should We Tell Parliament?

If we want to end these conditions, what instructions should we electors give our Federal parliamentary members?

Simply the demand that they abolish poverty, and do so in a genuine fashion. We know that our existing production of goods is sufficient to provide every person in Australia with all the essentials of health and security. We know production could be increased to almost any extent desired by our people, so that there is no need to confiscate anyone's property or anyone's income.

Knowing this, we are entitled to demand the result we seek. It is not for electors to be expert in methods. It is not necessary even that members of parliament should be so, any more than other company directors. They have at their disposal all the men and all the materials in Australia, and they exercise sovereign authority. This being so, it is absurd to say that a solution cannot speedily be found for a problem of ABUNDANCE. We are entitled to demand it, and if we demand it clearly enough and strongly enough we shall undoubtedly get it. For sovereignty, though vested in sitting members of parliament, belongs to the people. Members of parliament, if they fail to carry out the wishes of electors, can be displaced like any other board of deputies.

What Will M.P.'s Say?

What will be the reaction of members of parliament, used to party domination, when electors announce that they propose to resume control over policy?

Strange as it may seem to the ordinary elector, it is probably true that the average parliamentary candidate first seeks

(Continued on page 7, column 4)