

THE STORY
OF THE
ABDICATION

(See page 3)

THE NEW TIMES

THE "NEW TIMES"
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NEWSAGENTS.

Vol. 3. No. 11.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1937.

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(Continued on page 3.)

ELECTORS ROUT DAILY PRESS And Thoroughly Discredit Party Politicians

THE LESSONS OF THE REFERENDUM

Now that the Referendum is over and done with, those who have been somewhat pessimistic over the possibilities of restoring democracy should take fresh hope. For the two greatest obstacles to the attaining of that end have been the daily press and the party politician. And both have been given a resounding slap in the face.

THE PRESS.

If you chance to have a copy of any of last week's daily papers that has not yet gone to the butcher's or the garbage tin, just look up what it was saying. Would you not conclude that it was no race that the Referendum was all over, that the Yes majority would be overwhelming?

For weeks the leading articles gave you to understand that you would be both a dolt and a disloyalist unless you made certain of recording Yes to both questions. For weeks the news columns gave prominence to every Yes speech, demonstration and opinion, while suppressing or cutting to a few obscure lines nearly everything on the No side.

And the people went quietly to the booths (or not so quietly in Collingwood) and dealt the power of the press the worst blow it has received in our time.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BLOW TO PRESS

There have been other occasions when the press has had a setback. There have been other times when the people have refused to do something, which the daily papers told them they must do. But in most of those cases the people's emotions have been stirred. On the conscription issue, for instance, the battle was almost entirely emotional, and nearly everyone had a vital personal interest at stake. On the occasion when the people threw out the Bruce-Page Ministry and gave Scullin the chance which he threw away, you had the utter disgust which followed years of shocking maladministration, and which could offer nothing but privation for the immediate future. But in the case of this referendum there was very little to appeal to mass emotion—it was particularly hard to work people up to a pitch of excitement over the aviation issue. There seemed no logical answer to the case put up by the press for a Yes vote. But the people rejected that case. The people will continue to be influenced by the press. It is hard to imagine a time ever arriving when most of us will not be affected, even unconsciously, by what we read from day to day. But it has been shown that a massed attack by the great metropolitan dailies need not necessarily succeed. And that is a milestone — or rather a notable monument—on the road to our liberation.

THE REJECTION OF THE POLITICIANS

The reaction of the people to their political "leaders" was even more notable. And the most remarkable result in all the Commonwealth was in Victoria. Here you had the most conservative section of the Australian people—conservative as regards both its Right wing and its Left. You had here a fusion of such political forces as those led by Messrs. Lyons and Menzies and those led by Messrs. Tunnecliffe and Cain. The Country party was solidly with them, and even the variegated Ned Hogan was there to make up weight.

Yet the marketing section was

thrown out in Mr. Menzies' own electorate of Kooyong, and in the equally "safe" seats of Henty and Balaclava, just as it was in the Labor strongholds of Bourke and Melbourne Ports.

Almost equally surprising was the result in Queensland, where an overwhelming Yes vote was regarded by all parties as a foregone conclusion.

The particular significance of this reverse to political leadership is derived from the Yes vote having been so generally sponsored. Had it been made a purely party issue there might have been grounds for the assumption that the pendulum was making its periodic swing; that the people, sick of the broken promises of Nationalism, were once again turning trustfully to the rosy promises of Labor. But here was a platform where Lyons and Scullin stood shoulder to shoulder. Here was an occasion on which you literally heard from the one microphone Menzies, U.A.P. Attorney-General; Old, U.C.P. Acting Premier of Victoria; Cain, deputy leader of the Victorian A.L.P.; and jack-of-all-

trades Hogan. But even with the support of General Brand and the general president of the A.N.A. the answer given was in the negative.

WHY THE NO?

Why did the electors so generally vote No?

There is probably no single answer to that question. Some people with fixed incomes turned down a proposal, which they considered might lead to an increase in prices. Some people, having only the haziest idea what it was all about, followed the age-old instinct of caution by being negative. And there were dozens of other motives.

But in so far as one general thread was visible in the texture of the opposition, it appeared to be this: Governments are getting too much power. Our liberties are already far too restricted. And we won't surrender any more of them.

If our judgment in this matter is correct, then, apart from the immediate issues involved, the decision of the people was a very sound one and it was a further

sign that presages hope for the future. For you will never get liberty until the slaves are wearied of their shackles; you will never free a people until they really want freedom.

HOPE FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO DEMAND RESULTS

Summing up, it does not appear unduly optimistic to say that this Referendum is the greatest possible fillip to those who have undertaken the campaign to demand results from Parliament. The people have shown that they will not always be led by the halter of party allegiances—no matter to what party that allegiance has been given. They have shown their instinct to demand action from their Parliament rather than a further consultation about methods. They have shown their distaste to surrendering further liberties—which is the first step to telling the M.P. that he is their servant. And they have shown that they are capable of defeating the press barrage.

In this atmosphere there is hope.

SIMPLE FAITH AND NORDIC BLOOD

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

racial immortality instead of wage-increases. * * *

I foresee interesting theological developments in the religion of the United Race. First, all good Nazis will believe in the doctrine of the Holy Sixty-millionity, holding that Germany is One and Indivisible and also Sixty Million.

Then Schism will arise. A Modernist movement will put forward the doctrines of Teuto-Monism, holding that in Germany all things are One. And this will lead them finally to the logical conclusion that there is nothing in Germany but Germany.

Individual distinctions will thus disappear in the perfect Racial



Unity. Everything will run smoothly. There will be no dissensions, for if you are all One, it won't matter who drinks your beer or wears your Sunday trousers.

If a policeman asks a man his name and address, he will reply, "I am Luther, Beethoven, Bismarck, and the whole bally shoot, and I live in the divine Nordic Manifestation." And the policeman will say, "Then you and I are one, old onion, and have no cause for disagreement. Good afternoon."

It is a jolly, get-together sort of religion, designed to make things pleasant all round. Nevertheless, in spite of this, you may still desire to go and fight it. If so, we meet with another obstacle: You may have some difficulty in finding it.

For the Nazi philosopher goes on to complain of the variety of opinions which the German

people hold about God and the race, and admits they have a long way to go before the idea of racial valuation "will conquer the mind of the present-day German."

In other words, the Germans are not yet Nazis, and don't seem in a hurry to be Nazis. He seems to fear they are still in the stage of desiring less racial immortality and more butter.

I am, therefore, moved by a strong suspicion that if my eye could pierce to the depths of Fritz's soul I should find it to be the soul of the same sort of harmless ass as you, George. Have a cigarette.

Now, if I fight Nazism I want to make sure that I shall hit it. It would be unfortunate if I confused the issue by hitting, in error, someone who, with a little encouragement from me, may in a few years be instrumental in spraying his local Nazi blight with weed-killer.

But modern warfare does not permit one to distinguish between the various members of the opposing forces. On approaching the German army it would be impracticable to pause and ask it to indicate, by a show of hands, which of them desires racial immortality and uniformity of will, and which of them would rather have a cup of tea.

It is a difficult problem. I stand, sword in hand, wondering —

"Daddy! Have you done with the sword of Righteousness? I want to open a tin of sardines!"

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THE STORY OF THE ABDICATION

A Review by "AQUARIUS."

Readers of the *New Times* will recollect that the so-called constitutional crisis, in its public and visible phases, commenced and finished within the space of a very few days.

This, however, demonstrates neither that spade-work had previously been unnecessary, nor that the final repercussions of the crisis have been seen.

During, and immediately after, the crisis, the people of Australia had to rely for information on what the syndicated press and the A.B.C. dealt out to them. The full story is only now gradually leaking out, and it supports fully the analysis of the position made by the *New Times* at the time of the crisis—viz., that Edward was being locked out by the money power, which realised that he was a potential menace to its authority.

FACTS, NOT OPINIONS

In the book under review Mr. J. Lincoln White has performed the very valuable task of gathering into one volume a record of the abdication crisis with all published documents, and the full text of speeches by Blunt, Baldwin, the Archbishop of Canterbury and other marionettes who danced across the stage.

The book does not go behind scenes to the gentlemen who pulled the strings. It expresses practically no views at all, and it is clear, from phrases such as the following, that the author does not know who pulled the strings:

"Wednesday, December 2, had seen that delicate barometer, the Stock Exchange, react to the situation."

As the book is largely a record of speeches by politicians and clergy whose job it was to justify the abdication, and to put it over to the people, the unwary reader may accept these speeches at their face value and come from the book with the impression that after all the abdication was a good thing in the interests of something vaguely termed democracy (c.f., the 1066 and all that" idea that Magna Charta and the World War made the world safe for democracy—that is, for everybody but the common people.)

Readers must, however, remember a very salutary principle of our jurisprudence—viz. that admissions, which a party makes in support of his own interest, are worth nothing as evidence in his favour. Any admission, which he might make contrary to his interest is, however, valuable as evidence and may be used against him.

*"The Abdication of King Edward VIII," by J. Lincoln White. (Obtainable from Social Credit Press, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Price, 3/-. Obtainable also from Lending Library, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.)

It is from this point of view that Mr. White's book is so valuable to the student of finance-politics. Blunt, Baldwin and Co. are down in black and white—just as Reginald McKenna of the Midland Bank is down in black and white.

A DIARY OF EVENTS

The author deals first with the manner in which the American press put Edward VIII and Mrs. Simpson on the spot for months, while British papers maintained a rigid silence.

This scandal campaign gave Stanley Baldwin his cue on October 20, 1936, to broach the matter to the King. The King did *not* take the first step.

Without such a campaign it is difficult to know what pretext might have been used.

Subsequent meetings between Baldwin and his King were held at the King's request, the second meeting being on November 16, immediately prior to the South Wales tour. It is apparent that at this stage Baldwin, in the name of democracy, and allegedly off his own bat, had told King Edward that a marriage with Mrs. Simpson *would not be tolerated*. (At this stage 99 per cent. of the people had never heard of Mrs. Simpson.)

Readers may at this juncture pause to reflect on what would have been their attitude if the press had painted the proposed marriage as the King's romance, as a valuable alliance with our American cousins, and had referred to the brilliant qualities of his proposed bride, her personal charm and dignity, and so on. There is probably not one among the common people (in whose name Baldwin purported to act) who would not have thrown his hat in the air.

Overlooking the propriety of this initial assault on King Edward, the rest of the sorry business moved more or less logically to its conclusion—the refusal of Cabinets (English and Dominion) to consider morganatic marriage as an alternative; Bishop Blunt's outburst; the inspired construction put on this by the Midland press; the unanimity of Parliament and the press against the King; the gentle hint to the King that while he was not to be hurried into making a decision, nevertheless delay would cause unemployment, instability and possibly strife; the Archbishop of Canterbury's "don't breathe on the works" sermon; the abdication decision on the Wednesday and its public announcement on the following day; Mr. Pecksniff Baldwin's speech (which may be paraphrased as follows: "I haven't had time to prepare this speech, and therefore, must speak the truth. I did all the dirty work off my own bat and you will not be informed till later on that I am retiring from

politics before the next election, so that the dear electors won't have a chance to kick back at me.") The howls of some Laborites for the abolition of the monarchy; much sob-stuff about the little Princesses; the King's dignified farewell; and on Sunday, after all is over, the Archbishop of Canterbury putting in the boot. The Archbishop, who let Blunt go over the top without saying a word, and who, on the first Sunday of the crisis, asked people to suspend judgment and shut their mouths, now takes a parting kick at his late sovereign, and, incidentally, lets the cat out of the bag that Baldwin had confided in him throughout the whole business—an accessory before and after the fact. The Archbishop to

ABOUT THAT LETTER TO YOUR M.P.

You have several times been asked to apply pressure to your member of Parliament, but it is possible that you do not feel sufficiently informed to be sure that you are putting the case in an unassailable way. If this be so the following hints may assist you, and enable you to carry out what is quite surely both your desire and your most powerful pressure instrument.

1. That you are aware of the fact of real plenty.
2. That so far no attempt has been made to tackle the situation from the angle of distributing that plenty.
3. That you "don't think it is your job to indicate the methods to be employed; that is not a matter even for your representative, but for the experts of the civil service, or such others as Government should appoint.
4. That until such appointments are made, however, and on a basis that permits of no misunderstanding of the task to be accomplished, and until trials have been made, and a fundamentally simple problem solved, you are, and will continue to be, totally dissatisfied with the lack of results, and will evidence that dissatisfaction by voice and vote.

whom an enraged Anglican wrote a day or so later as follows: "You, my Lord Archbishop, have also in your own words, 'received from God a high and sacred trust.' The time left to you for its discharge is in all probability short. Is it too late to make a start?"

PARLIAMENT FOLLOWS RED HERRING.

One other fact of vast importance appears from this book—namely, that members of Parliament had, before the crisis, been tipped the wink that the King was trying to defy Parliament, and to reassert prerogatives long since in abeyance. This attitude could scarcely have been induced by the question of marriage alone. But the King had promised some of his

downtrodden subjects that something would be done for them, whereas the City of London had directed Parliament, through the Treasurer, that nothing should or need be done.

In its conflicting loyalties Parliament plumped for the City, and to the nether regions with a monarch who drew attention to the results of Parliamentary prostitution to financially engendered poverty and destitution.

Readers should buy this book, and they will follow just how a thing of this nature is put over under cloak of an artificially engendered crisis. Much evidence may be found by the discerning to damn Baldwin and Co.

BACK TO SCHOOL

It has been stated that the visit of Sir Otto Niemeyer and Theodor Emmanuel Guggenheim to Australia some six or seven years ago sent Australians to school on the technique and politics of high finance.

The constitution crisis will have a similar effect, but to a more marked degree. It is the most striking example possible of something put over the people without consultation with them.

When we are young we continually ask, "Why?" when confronted by a novel set of circumstances, and as the late Eimar O'Duffy has pointed out, it is to the discredit of many adults that they cease to worry about whys and wherefores. There are many such to be cleared up in connection with Edward's enforced abdication.

Readers should make a point of procuring copies of the *New Age*, a weekly English publication, obtainable from Social Credit Press, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. The numbers from December 10 to January 14 disclose many facts of the utmost significance relating, *inter alia*, to—

- (1) The insurance ramp, relative to cover against Coronation risks (with the City betting on what it knew to be a certainty).
- (2) The American scandal campaign (which finance could have stopped in half an hour if it had so desired).
- (3) An independent report in England in October that Blunt's outburst had already been planned.
- (4) The fact that the Midland paper, which so strongly featured and misconstrued Blunt's outburst, is owned by Mrs. Anthony Eden's family.
- (5) The usefulness of Fascist sympathy in determining the King to submit and the Labor party to take flight.
- (6) The report of one news paper, halfway through the crisis, that an intervener had been entered in the divorce case, Simpson v. Simpson. The divorce register was made available to no one for search during three whole days at this stage—an absolutely unprecedented event. The suggestion of intervention would surely be the last straw to a King allegedly being given every opportunity to reach a free decision.
- (7) The threat of trouble if the crisis continued.
- (8) The danger of a King's party formed for an *ad hoc* objective.
- (9) Exploding the catch cry—"The King has let us down."
- (10) The exact place of finance in the Constitution.

CORONATION JOE.

The retirement of Mr. Baldwin from politics has already been announced. Mr. City of London Stanley Melbourne Bruce has been asked to stand for the House of Commons, according to latest reports, in which event a new High Commissioner will be required. The question arises as to whether Mr. Lyons, who spoke for Australia as Baldwin did for England, will face the electors at the next elections, or become City of London Joe. Time alone will tell.

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(Continued from page 2.) CITY.

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(Continued on page 7.)

Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister.

Dear Mr. Lyons,

What a nice bouquet the people have handed you as a send-off for your Coronation trip. It looks like your last jaunt, don't you think? No wonder you are already talking of extending your visitations to embrace "trade talks" with the United States—for it is a wise man who can make hay while the sun is shining.

In your statement "explaining away" the referendum verdict on Sunday you said: "I do not believe that the vote is a vote against this Government." While you are a notorious unbeliever on all matters that it does not suit you to believe, in this case you are right up to a point. For the vote was not against the Government only; it was against all those politicians, both in and outside the Government who by their failure to produce results have betrayed the people's confidence. But we misjudge your political shrewdness, dear Prime Minister, if you don't realise that the Government and yourself were very heartily included in the no-confidence motion. And, unless you get an unexpected turn up we shall be rather surprised to see you re-contest Wilmot in the December elections. "I Feel," you said, "that the people have

made a grave mistake." The people are inclined to agree with you, though not perhaps in the sense you intended. But more of that towards Christmas time.

There was one point in your statement from which we must vigorously dissent. You said: "It is evident from this vote that there is an anti-Federal spirit abroad, and it is undoubtedly due to this spirit that the vote has gone so heavily against the Commonwealth." That is not true, Mr. Lyons. The people of Australia do not wish to become merely Victorians, West Australians, Queenslanders, and so on. With every year they become more and more just plain Australians. They have no real anti-Federal spirit—as was evinced by their demand for inter state free trade. What they do object to is undue centralisation of power, and that objection holds good wherever the power be located—whether in a Federal parliament, a State parliament, or, still more, a board of bankers which admits no responsibility to the electors.

What the people were really trying to tell you is that they are tired of being governed, and that they now propose to take a hand in their own destiny. In your conversations in London you will be wise to remember this.

THE NEW TIMES



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FRIDAY, MARCH 12.

What Price Petrol?

We are hearing another of those periodic rumblings of discontent caused by a penny increase in the price of petrol. But it may be said straight away that, if past experience is any guide, that is about as far as a docile public is likely to go.

To the majority of people in this country who do not own cars, higher prices of petrol may seem of little consequence. Indeed, in some quarters, owing to the old idea that the poor are poor because the rich are rich, there may even be some little satisfaction that the rich are getting another kick. But the satisfaction is of the bite-off - your - nose - to - spite-your-face type, for every increase in industrial costs—of which petrol is one—is in the long run passed on to the consumer. And, as the bulk of consumers are the ordinary wage earners, it is these who will in the main have to bear the increase.

The cause of the rise is alleged by the oil companies to be mainly an increase in tanker freights. But do these companies really expect the public to believe that, even if freights are up somewhat, the increased cost amounts to a penny a gallon? And who are the owners of the tanker fleets? Are they outside organisations to which the oil companies have to pay tribute—or are the tanker fleets *the property of the oil companies themselves*? In the case of one of our major companies, the Royal Dutch-Shell, is not the "Shell" part of its name due to an amalgamation of interests between the Royal Dutch company's petroleum and the tanker fleet owned by Marcus Samuel (later Lord Bearsted), the White-chapel Jew who controlled the Shell company? And did not the need for this amalgamation arise from the blows being dealt at Royal

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Dutch transport by Rockefeller's Standard Oil-owned tanker fleet?

Apart from the question of ownership of the tanker fleets being vested in the very companies, which complain that tankers have raised their freights, what is the reason for this rise? Simply that, owing to laying in of petrol stocks by nations preparing for war, the tankers and the oil companies are getting more business than they can cope with—that is, they are making record profits all round. What a splendid excuse for raising prices!

It is now becoming a long, long time since we had a Royal Commission on petrol in Australia. That Commission presented its report to Cabinet so many months ago that the public has nearly forgotten about it. But, in spite of repeated requests by members of the Federal House Parliament has not yet been given the opportunity to discuss the Commission or its findings.

It will be remembered that the present Federal Attorney-General, Mr. R. G. Menzies, took a prominent part in the proceedings of the Commission, in which he was the principal paid advocate of one of the major companies whose affairs were being inquired into. Mr. Menzies' action in accepting the brief was the cause of a great deal of adverse criticism by those who considered that a prominent civil servant—he was at the time in the Victorian Ministry—should not have been the paid defender of a concern being investigated by the Federal authorities. But Mr. Menzies was as impervious to criticism on this score as he was later over his action in taking an outside brief when he made his abortive appearance in London for the Federal Government in connection with the marketing appeal. And he appears to be still impervious to the criticism that Federal Cabinet seems intent on stifling any attempt to bring the overseas oil companies to heel.

The Advertisement Continues

The blackmailing tactics, by which the Melbourne *Herald* and *Argus* are endeavouring to force manufacturers to pay toll to them, under the guise of Buy Only Well Advertised Goods, still continue.

Here is an instance from the *Argus* of the 4th inst.: "If we buy goods that are unbranded and unknown, we support some backyard manufacturer who sells in limited quantities on a hit-or-miss plan. He must compete on the basis of price only and at the sacrifice of quality." Admire the logic of that attack on the "backyard" manufacturer. Supposing that he continues to turn out the identical article, but now spends money advertising it in the

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO III.

By JESSICA

I mentioned last week the part played by orthodox newspapers in upholding the present economic system. As a matter of fact they are part of the system itself, and just because of that they should find no place in our homes. If we and our menfolk resolutely made up our minds to do without these papers for a month or two we would be taking one of the biggest steps towards economic salvation ever made.

"But, hang it all," say you, "we must have the news; we must know what is going on in the world." All right. Now I'm asking you—Do the papers tell you what is going on? Let's see.

A week or two ago there was a meeting in Melbourne, presided over by no less worthy a citizen than Dr. John Dale. The object of that meeting was to discuss no less worthy a subject than the Abolition of Poverty. The hall was full; the speakers were eloquent, enthusiastic, earnest. Was that meeting reported in the daily press? No. Meetings on the same subject have been held in other cities of the Commonwealth; they have been addressed by such speakers as the Anglican Primate of Australia (Bishop Le Fanu), Professor Walter Murdoch, and others of a like calibre. Did you notice anything in your Melbourne papers about these meetings? No. Have John Hogan's activities ever been mentioned by these "news"-papers?

Argus what will be the result? Simply that the people will have to pay more for it in order that the *Argus* may get its rake-off.

It used to be said that advertising enabled a manufacturer, by increasing his turnover, to reduce his overhead costs, so that in the long run the people got cheaper goods. The answer to this is provided by experience. How many "well-advertised" lines have reduced the prices originally charged when their advertising began?

The *Herald*, on the same day as the *Argus*, had another of its racketeering efforts in print. This also concluded by telling us that, instead of taking any risk, we should ask for goods whose "manufacturers advertise them regularly and sponsor them. No firm can keep on advertising things that are not good and are not full value for the money." This statement is as absurd as that of the *Argus*. And, if you want an instance, need you go further than the *Herald* itself? The *Herald* is extensively advertised, but is it good, or is it full value for the money you have to pay for it? For answer, just consider the attitude of the *Herald* to the referendum. A newspaper is entitled to express editorially the views of its owners, but if it is to be true to its title it must present news items as impartially and as unreservedly as possible. Did the *Herald* do this in the case of those who represented the "No" side? Look up its issues of last week; if you believed the *Herald* you would have concluded that the vast majority of voters in Australia had made up their minds to vote "Yes." Which was the direct opposite to the truth.

If you want to read the *Herald* and the *Argus*, do so. But at least remember that you must not look to them for fair reports or for full news. Regard them as advertising broadsheets and you will be on safer ground.

Yes, once; and the report was to the effect that John was "a young man, scarcely 21, who made an eloquent oration on the favourite doctrine of those cranks who think that money can be conjured out of the air, the old story of 'something for nothing.'"

I could quote scores of recent important happenings—important to you and me—that have passed unnoticed or have been deliberately misrepresented by these organs, which so fondly profess their "democratic" principles, but which are in reality the mouthpieces of the worst kind of bureaucracy.

Let's get back for a moment to the "something for nothing" idea, which they are so fond of quoting when they refer to monetary reform. Aren't they themselves holding out to you "something for nothing" every day? Doesn't their unblushing prostitution of the sacred name of charity (in the shape of "competitions" with a sixpenny entry) cause your blood to boil? And what about their free insurance and "cheap" books, and prizes for cricket forecasts and all the rest of their catchpenny circulation stunts—isn't the whole thing cheap and vulgar and low me. I want to spread that truth down?

Of course it is, but it is more every home. Will you help? Rather than that. The whole sorry business is deliberately planned to keep you and me from thinking; to keep us in that static state of quasi-contentment where we say, "Oh well, things could be a lot worse." Can't you imagine the cynical smile of satisfaction on the face of the

paper magnate as he opens up the latest copy of his "democratic" production, with its free coloured photograph of the King and Queen; its flaring headlines about "prosperity"; its pictures of the Coronation contingent; the latest news about the dead body in the mining shaft; its description of the dresses at Mrs. Climb Higher's cocktail party; its hypocritical article on "Saving Our Youth," and the latest gossip about Mrs. Simpson? You can see the magnate (I can) rubbing his hands and saying, "Ah, that's the stuff to give 'em."

Sisters, you are being lulled into mental sleep by the sedative influence of these papers. They are the strongest and stoutest supporting the present system—the system which stands for poverty amidst abundance. The more you are inveigled by their cunning propaganda, the stouter will the prop become. What are you going to do about it? Here's a suggestion: Cut out some of the daily papers and buy the *New Times*. Buy it regularly, read it thoroughly, and pass it on. Understand me; I'm not interested financially in this day. I'm not on its staff, nor do I accept payment for my articles. I want you to read the *New Times* about their free insurance and "cheap" lished in Melbourne, so far as I know, and prizes for cricket forecasts know, which throws the light of and all the rest of their catchpenny truth on things which are vitally important to you and me. I want to spread that truth.

I want to see the *New Times* in every home. Will you help? Rather than that. The whole sorry business is deliberately planned to keep you and me from thinking; to keep us in that static state of quasi-contentment where we say, "Oh well, things could be a lot worse." Can't you imagine the cynical smile of satisfaction on the face of the

A PROPER PARISH CIRCULAR

And a Minister Who Knows His Job

We reproduce below a current parish circular which needs no comment from us — except that we wish similar matter were being put out by every minister of every denomination in every parish in Australia.

CAULFIELD CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
CORNER OF BAMBRA ROAD AND NEERIM ROAD.

Minister: Rev. E. Ashby Swan. Subject for Sunday evening, March 14, 1937, at 7.30 p.m.: "False statements of the 'Argus' refuted, and the reason for the falsehood disclosed."

In a leading article on February 6, the "Argus" made the following false statements, namely (1) "No one in this day dies of actual want"; (2) "There are no poverty-stricken masses in particular areas,"

Everybody knows that these statements are downright falsehoods; their utter falsity can be proved by a thousand instances, but I shall content myself with exposing their untruthfulness by quotations from the "Argus" itself.

(1) On April 8, 1936, the "Argus" published the following: "Dr. Hilda Kincald, Children's Welfare Department's Officer of the City Council, reported to the Health Committee that malnutrition was the primary cause of most of the infantile mortality in children aged up to one year . . . This malnutrition was frequently due to persistent poverty." Yet in face of this the "Argus" has the effrontery to state, "No one in this day dies of actual want." What an outrageous falsehood!

Again, the "Argus" of July 13, 1936, reported Prof. G. L. Wood as stating; "In the slums there are hundreds of children condemned by the circumstances of their environment to worse than physical death," and on July 17, 1936, the "Argus" published the following statement from its own reporter: "People who attended the meeting at the Town Hall were appalled by the description of slum conditions in Fitzroy, Collingwood, Richmond, and other suburbs." And yet, in the face of its own reports, the "Argus" says: "There are no poverty-stricken masses in particular areas," and it prints this falsehood directly beneath its proud boast: "I am in the place where I am demanded of conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it whoso list." "Conscience"!!! and "Truth"!!! What brazen effrontery!!! In making those statements the "Argus" was a stranger to both.

Now let us face this question: "Why does a great daily besmirch its honour by such false statements?" The question is important, and it is essential that we all know the true answer, and it is this: The "Argus" tries to mislead the public by false statements concerning poverty and destitution, and their causes, because the "Argus" is the mouthpiece of great financial interests which are determined to maintain their dominance over people and parliament by any and every means, however unscrupulous and cruel.

Australia's only hope to win freedom from Poverty, Unemployment and War is by breaking the power of the Money Monopoly. How long are we to endure its tyranny? Further patience is a betrayal of the poor, the defenceless, and the suffering. Let us demand that poverty be abolished.

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA

Campaign Notes

VICTORIA.

Badges. —These are now available, and can be obtained either by post or by personal application at the temporary office, Room 14, Fifth Floor, Elizabeth House, corner Elizabeth-street, and Little Collins-street, Melbourne. This is a badge to be proud of, and to wear on all occasions. Supporters should send for, or come in and get, one without delay. Price 1/- (post free).

Speakers' Class - - The first speakers' class was held on Tuesday night in the office of an enthusiastic supporter. The attendance was gratifying, and indicative of the general enthusiasm. The tutor reports that much promising material was evident among those present, and a further squad of competent speakers will shortly be ready to take their place in the front line of the campaign. The class will continue to meet every Tuesday night, and those who have not yet joined are urged to do so at once.

Meetings. --As speakers are now available it is desired to make arrangements to address various organisations on the aims and objects of the United Electors. Almost everyone is in touch with some society or other; it may be a Church group, a debating society, or any other form of meeting. Its nature is immaterial; what is important is that all supporters should at once get in touch with the leaders of such groups, and arrange with them to give a night to the U.E.A. Propaganda of this nature is of great importance, and invariably results in the enrolment of new members and workers. Details should be sent in to Box 1226, G.P.O., the temporary address of the U.E.A.

Newspaper Articles. — Several supporters have put in good work during the past week in interviewing the editors of suburban and country newspapers, and, as a result of their efforts, definite arrangements have been made for the regular supply of articles bearing on the Abolition of Poverty, the Purification of Democracy, and kindred subjects.

There are still many hundreds of local papers in which these articles may appear. Plenty of material is available; do not hesitate to make arrangements at once.

Duplicator Wanted. —Contacting all sections of the community requires that a tremendous

amount of duplicating work be done. If some supporter can make a duplicating machine available it will be of great assistance to the Movement's finances.

Reform Associations. —During the past week certain of the reform bodies have announced their general sympathy with the aims of the U.E.A., and have invited discussion as to the part that they can play in the common fight. This attitude is the more appreciated as it conflicts so sharply with that of a few members of one particular society. Some people have such parochial views that they would wreck the prospects of common action rather than see a Campaign conducted by hands other than their own. Such conduct is deplorable, but not particularly serious, as this matter is too large for puny efforts to thwart the ever-swelling flood of true Democracy.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

General Meeting on Tuesday, March 16. —As a result of the important Council meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, and the extraordinary meeting of members on Tuesday, March 2, it has been decided to hold another General Meeting on Tuesday, March 16. Members are asked not to forget the date, Tuesday, March 16, and their leaders request their attendance at this most important meeting. At this meeting the forthcoming All-Australian Conference, to be held at Melbourne during Easter, and other matters of paramount importance will be discussed, and it is hoped to be able to report the success of the massed attack on Boothby, which will take place on the Saturday of March 13.

Progress in the Face of Difficulties. —In spite of the carefully laid plans of those opposed to the abolition of poverty this State will be stronger and more determined than ever, for all know that determination, courage and singleness of purpose are the weapons which in the end must prove the downfall of the enemy. A war is being waged on behalf of the people against poverty and insecurity, and entrenched behind these are powerful interests who grow more powerful in proportion if the Movement grows weaker, and who grow weaker as the Movement grows stronger. The Movement has been fortunate in having at its disposal such a large number of voluntary and self-sacrificing workers, but as

the fight goes on it can do with more people of this type who find it grand and interesting work, carrying on the fight for and with the people. It would be a paradox to have nearly failed because of success within one's grasp, and the Movement needs that extra backing and support to turn the scales in its favour. Reserves of manpower are being called upon, and, as most people like to be on the winning side, will come in and help the Movement to win. Hundreds, and later, thousands will flock to the banner and cheer and push it on to victory.

The Club. —Members are urged to patronise the Club for lunches, to hire it for bridge parties, to use it as a meeting place between themselves and their friends. It is there, waiting for them to use it—it is their Club. The Women's Auxiliary is pleased to see them use it and ask them to do so.

Associate-Members. - - It has been decided that, apart from the ordinary members, provision will be made for associate-members, and these associate-members will pay 1/- per year and will have all the benefits of the Club, reading-room and luncheon facilities. This is specially designed for those friends whom members have been unable to get as 100 per cent members. Associate-members will be free to come and go as they please, and members are asked to get as many of these associate-members as is possible. There are expected to be thousands who are in sympathy with the objectives of the campaign, but who find it impossible to assist in any other way than by signing the Electors' Demand and undertaking, but would not mind, if asked, subscribing 1/- per year in return for becoming an associate-member.

The books of associate-members' tickets can be had at headquarters, who suggest that each member procure one (they are small and convenient) and set about disposing of these amongst friends as quickly as possible. Properly worked, this is expected to bring many thousands of associate-members per year, with a consequent swelling of the revenue, and a possible reduction of the calls on existing members.

Broadcasting Fund. —Apathy that curse of democracy and the invaluable weapon which plays so often into the hands of privilege, has been attacking the supporters of this fund. Supporters are asked not to be persuaded that prosperity is here because the press has said things are better and some are possibly finding more opportunities wherein they may live to work. Prosperity is not here, and can never be under our present social order, therefore, everyone is being asked, particularly now, to cast off the shackles of apathy and remember their promises if they have made such, and contribute as they did previously, and those who have not done so to become subscribers, so that this valuable means of voicing the truth to the community can be maintained and extended. All those who have canvassed for signatures recognise the valuable aid they have in bi-weekly broadcasts, and send out a clarion call not only to maintain, but to increase the broadcasts. An army cannot fight unless it is fully backed up by headquarters, and headquarters cannot back up the troops on the front line unless it has the support of those who keep the home fires burning. Headquarters urges the apathetic to think it over and then act.

Plans for Massed Attack on Boothby. —The Boothby Divisional Council met at headquarters on Thursday, March 4, and made the plans for the massed attack in their division, and these plans were handed out to the big rally held at headquarters on Tuesday, March 9.

This massed attack is being tried out as an experiment, and bigger and better support is looked for as it goes along.

Secretary's Visit to Sydney—The Campaign Director (Mr. E. H. Hergstrom)

IS THERE A RIFT IN NEW ZEALAND'S LABOR GOVERNMENT?

Mr. Savage's Retirement Rumoured

From "Why" (Auckland)

There have been frequent rumours during the past few months of grave dissensions in the Labor Party caucus and in the Cabinet itself. It is now being whispered (one may hear it on any street corner) that the differences of opinion have become so wide that an open break is threatening. This is coupled with a rumour that the Rt. Hon. Mr. Savage may shortly retire from political life "on grounds of ill-health."

It is, we believe, a fact that Mr. Savage's health has not been of the best, and that even before the general election the strain of conducting a vigorous opposition to the late Government's policy for four depression years was beginning to tell upon him.

Nobody need imagine that Mr. Savage has had an easy time since the Labor Party took office. He and his colleagues took on as big a job as any New Zealand Cabinet ever faced, and only a man of the most robust health could have stood up to the work and worry of being the leader of the Government. Neither he nor any other Minister has spared himself, but in Mr. Savage's case the strain must have been particularly severe. If his health is suffering, he has our sympathy, as well as that (we believe) of every other person in the Dominion.

We have been informed, however, that his health is not the only thing that is worrying the Prime Minister at the present time. There is a more or less fundamental disagreement between two groups in Cabinet and caucus. As far as can be determined, the rival policies are approximately as follows:—

(a) "Planned Economy," with State regulation of industry; "Sound" Finance, with the State controlling monetary policy on orthodox lines through the Reserve Bank; and a gradual transition to Socialism—not "in our time," necessarily, but as soon as the electorate can be educated up to it. (This policy follows more or less the Fabian schemes of Sidney and Beatrice Webb, and dovetails fairly closely with the policy of the British Labor Party). Messrs. Nash and Fraser are understood to be the leaders of the "Fabian" section of the New Zealand Labor Party.

(b) Radical reform of the monetary system, along the lines adumbrated by Mr. Savage and others before the general election, as a necessary preliminary to other reforms. Mr. Savage is, we believe, still strongly in favour of this. There is a considerable amount of support for him in caucus, but the majority opinion of Cabinet is against him.

The policy that has been followed so far, of course, is the former one. It is Mr. Nash who has been the guiding spirit behind

left Adelaide on Monday, March 8, for Sydney, where he will give the Movement there the benefits of experience in this State, and the co-operation between the representatives of the two movements cannot fail to be of the greatest use to the Campaign.

Arrangements for Mr. D. M. Sherwood's Visit to S.A.—Arrives, Thursday, March 18; Mitcham Institute, Thursday, March 18, 8 p.m.; McLaren Vale, Friday, March 19; Rally, Headquarters, Saturday, March 20; Port Adelaide, Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.; Edwardstown, Tuesday, March 23; Clarence Park, Wednesday, March 24; Westbourne Park, Thursday, March 25; Goodwood, Tuesday, March 30.

Address of S.A. headquarters: 17 Wymouth Street, Adelaide.

the legislative programme already put into effect.

We think it would not be unfair to suggest that this policy is beginning to produce storm clouds on the horizon. The freezing strike was an excellent example of the sort of thing that must happen, and must continue to happen, while a restrictive policy of financial orthodoxy is in operation. The Government dealt with the strike as best it could — and, given the circumstances the Minister had to face, we believe he did as well as anybody else could have done. The important points to notice are firstly, that these circumstances were the result, very largely, of the Government's policy; and, secondly, that the manner in which the strike had to be settled has done nothing to enhance the prestige of the Government.

Again, while the members of some of the industrial unions have benefited by the Government's high-wage policy, this has fallen as an extra burden on the rest of the community. What else could possibly happen when the community is still living in the straightjacket of monetary restriction? That the unions themselves are not satisfied with the position is evidenced by the fact that some of their leaders are definitely in favour of a more radical monetary policy.

We have every respect for Mr. Nash. He is a man of conviction, and a hard worker. But we believe his policy is mistaken, and that it will eventually produce such lesions within the Labor Party, and in the community at large, as to destroy the Government. However dissatisfied we may be with the Labor Party's administration, that party is still the best we can see on the immediate horizon, and we have no desire to see it destroyed by internal strife. We should much prefer to see it work out its salvation successfully. What we fear is that, under the domination of Mr. Nash, and those who support him, the Labor Party will eventually share a similar fate to that of the British Labor Party in 1931. (We say a similar fate; we mean, at the same time, a worse one, both for the party and for the country).

Mr. Nash shapes like a Snowden. It is curious that the British Labor Party, while it held office, was steered by a very orthodox Finance Minister, who eventually "rattled"—and that the New Zealand Labor Party is also under the control of a very orthodox Finance Minister. . . . We shall not add the rest. It would be an impertinence on our part to suggest that Mr. Nash will "rat" on his party. He is, we believe, a man of considerably sounder character and judgment, and of a less ungovernable spleen, than the little Chancellor who became the idol of the City of London and the despair of the workers of Britain. But that will not prevent him from bringing his party to ruin by a mistaken policy.

The Labor Party is a democratic organisation. It is controlled, in theory, at all events, by the decisions of its branches. We appeal to the branches and to the individual members of the party to do some serious thinking; and, should they come to share our view of the crisis that appears to be looming ahead, to use their democratic powers within the party to ensure that it is not wrecked by a too slavish adherence to the monetary superstitions of the past.

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.....

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



A JOB FOR THE PEOPLE

II

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,

How many of us realise that although Australia's production is increasing the people are getting no benefit from it? Indeed, it would seem that the more the shops can get to sell the fewer the people in the position to buy. Such a state of affairs might be appropriate to a lunatic asylum, but it should hardly be tolerated by an educated community possessing the power to change it.

Usually the study of figures is looked upon as a tiresome business, and it has to be admitted that a good story is more inviting than the Statistician's "Production Bulletin." At the same time, if we as a people are to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of our country and play a helpful part in its development, it is imperative that we take note not only of what is being achieved in the production sphere, but also of what *could be achieved* if it were not for the senseless limitations of *finance*.

"I KNOW THERE ARE GOODS IN PLENTY."

For that reason I wish to invite special attention to the first section of the "Demand" which the U.E.A. is asking every elector to sign. It reads as follows:

"I know that there are goods in plenty, and that therefore poverty is quite unnecessary and must be abolished."

Anyone who will take the trouble to look through the official statistics issued by the Commonwealth Statistician will find abundant support for the statement that there has been a great increase in most of the things which are necessary to remove poverty from the homes of the people, and that where increases have not taken place it is quite a simple matter to arrange it.

How do you think we fare in the three essentials for health and comfort, viz., food, clothing, and shelter? Comparing the year ended June 1935 (the latest year for which official figures are available), with the year ended June 1929, production in Australia *INCREASED* as follows:—

FOOD.

Flour, 187,000 tons; preserved fruit, 30 million lb.; biscuits, 8 million lb.; milk, 355 million gallons; butter, 179 million lb.; cheese, 10 million lb.; sugar, 113,000 tons; apples, 4 million bushels; bananas, 450,000 bushels; pineapples, 2½ million; oranges, 650,000 bushels; peaches, 235,000 bushels; dried fruits, 1½ million lb.; cattle, nearly 3 million; sheep, 8½ million; pigs, 140,000; potatoes, 1,000 tons; onions, 8,000 tons; rice, 580,000 bushels; peas and beans, 58,000 bushels; pumpkins, 17,000 tons.

Regarding other important food-stuffs, the information relating to eggs, fish, and honey is not at all satisfactory. The quantity of eggs produced is not given, but we are told that for the year 1934-35 we sent away more than 260 million, or sufficient to provide every person in Australia with approximately one more egg each per week. The only figures given in connection with the fish supply are the quantity and "value" for 1934-35. Similar remarks apply in the case of honey also, of which we sent away 389,000 lb. Not only could we have eaten all the eggs, fish, and honey produced, but we could have increased the quantities to the full consumptive capacity of the Australian people.

Quite obviously, therefore, not one person in the Commonwealth need go hungry, and quite obviously also there is no need for anyone to go without in order to provide the requirements of others.

CLOTHING

The position in regard to the production of clothing is somewhat the same. Tweed cloth made *increased*

by 12¼ million square yards; flannel made, 1¼ million square yards; blankets, rugs, and shawls made, 200,000; boots and shoes, 1½ million pairs; slippers, 2 million; wool, 50 million lb. It is equally obvious that no person in Australia need go cold, and equally obvious that there is no occasion to deprive anyone of clothing in order to provide clothes for others.

SHELTER.

The requirements for shelter are land, materials, and workmen. Of the first and last of these the supplies are plentiful, but our factories had to reduce their output of building materials because the wherewithal to buy them had been withdrawn. Bricks, for example, fell away from 757 million to 83 million, but have since been increased to 529 million. The same applies to cement, which fell away from 708,000 tons to 247,000 tons, but is now back to 550,000 tons. You see, we are quite capable of producing it when the public is in the position to make use of it. Despite our productive ability, however, we have people sleeping in the parks, living in tin shanties at West Melbourne and on the banks of the Murray, and herded together in slum tenements not fit for cattle.

SENDING AWAY ESSENTIALS.

Although we have many thousands of our own flesh and blood getting less than the minimum requirements for the maintenance of satisfactory health standards, we are sending away an enormous quantity of the very things they are so much in need of. Here are a few illustrations. In 1929, we sent 564,000 tons of flour to other countries, but in 1935 we had increased it to 698,000 tons. In the same way, beef increased from 180 million lb. to 206 million lb.; lamb from 43 million lb. to 136 million lb.; sugar from 199,000 tons to 306,000 tons; and butter from 102 million lb. to 263 million lb.

With the foregoing information in our minds, and the knowledge that these results have been achieved by the employment of comparatively primitive methods, and with industry working at only a fraction of its real capacity, we begin to realise how completely and how easily the needs of every citizen could be served if only we insisted upon sensible arrangements for distributing the production. In this respect we cannot remind ourselves too often of the truth of the declaration of the Southampton Chamber of Commerce, as follows:—

"From whatever angle it is viewed, we have the situation of widespread industrial trade stagnation, with producers capable of production, and millions in want of the very things that can be produced in abundance. On the prima facie evidence, the fault in the economic system lies in the machinery responsible for the transfer of goods from productive industry to individuals of the community. This link between production and distribution is *money* . . .

"Money being merely a vehicle for the credit of the community, and the power which the control of money carries with it being nothing less than the control of the entire economic life of the nation, the administration of financial policy should be vested in a national authority directly responsible to the Sovereign and his people."

Our first duty is to our own people. If, after providing for our own, other countries desire us to send provisions to them, and ask us to do so, we would have no difficulty at all in meeting their wishes by making use of our idle labour, idle machinery, and idle power. The same would apply

"U.S. TERROR"

Our press has lately told us a great deal about industrial upheavals in the United States. But it has given us no information on the causes leading to those upheavals, and particularly on the harassing tactics employed towards their men by the great financial-industrial corporations against which those men have struck. As many of those corporations are becoming prominently connected with Australian industry, the article below, which is reprinted from *New York Time* of February 8 last, may be of interest.

When he finished his career as a football and dramatics star at University of Dayton in 1932, big, boyish Richard Truman Frankenstein taught school for a year, then went to work for Chrysler Corp. as a body trimmer in the Dodge plant in Detroit. He had worked there before, during high school vacations, and for two years while he studied law at night. Soon automobile unionism was burgeoning with NRA, and educated, articulate Dick Frankenstein was a natural leader. When an Automotive Industrial Workers' Association was organised in

1934 he became its first secretary. Next year, at 28, he was elected president of its 26,000 members.

About the time he began distinguishing himself in the union's affairs, Dick Frankenstein made the acquaintance of another Dodge employee named John Andrews. The two were soon fast friends. Frankenstein had no automobile, so Andrews drove him to work and to union meetings. Many an hour they spent talking union business. Andrews was hotheaded, always complaining, wanting to call a strike and urging violence. Frankenstein had to cool him off, warning that too great militancy might wreck their young union.

Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Frankenstein liked each other, too, and in the summer of 1935 the two families took a vacation cottage together at a lake. Andrews invited his elderly millionaire uncle, a retired play producer named Bath, to join them. The Frankensteins were glad of it. Andrew's uncle took them to roadhouses, bought them champagne, brought toys to their children. So generous was he that their vacation cost the two young friends hardly a cent except for rent and food.

As union affairs took up more and more of his time, Dick Frankenstein quit his Dodge job and he and Johnny Andrews naturally began drifting apart. When most of the independent automobile unions merged with United Automobile Workers last year, he led his A.I.W.A. locals into the fold, became U.A.W.'s chief organiser in the Detroit area. As such, he was in the front trenches when the great General Motors strike began last December.

One day last week Unionist Frankenstein sat in a crowded Senate committee room in Washington, listening to testimony before the La Follette sub-committee investigating violations of civil liberties and labour rights. Suddenly he heard something that jerked him up with a funny feeling in his stomach's pit. In the witness chair sat a hard-faced, scar-lipped one-time Pinkerton detective named Daniel G. Ross, sales manager of an organisation called Corporations Auxiliary Co. He was talking about Richard Frankenstein's 1935 vacation, and about his friend and his friend's "millionaire uncle." But he did not refer to them as "Johnny Andrews" and "Mr. Bath." He called them Agents L-392 and F.B. They were Corporations Auxiliary Co. operatives, hired by Chrysler to spy on the new union by gaining the confidence of its young leader. The bill for champagne, toys, and other favours, paid by Chrysler, had been 1512 dollars. Dick Frankenstein understood now why his friend Johnny had been so anxious to push the union into dangerous violence, premature strikes. He wondered if he would ever be able to trust any man again.

Taking the witness chair himself, Unionist Frankenstein told the whole story. When he had finished, he turned to Vice-President Herman L. Weckler, of Chrysler's De Soto Motor Corp., lashed out at him and Chrysler's President Kaufman Thuma Keller, an officer of another spying organisation called National Metal Trades Association. "I think," cried angry Dick Frankenstein, "that men of the type of Mr. Weckler and Me. Keller are worse than a dope peddler who sells narcotics to addicts. They go

on and pretend to be decent citizens and hire men for spy jobs—the lowest criminals in the world."

More coherently, the young labour leader threatened: "I want to tell Mr. Weckler that we won't work in the same plants with labour spies. I say that, and I represent a majority of the Chrysler employees. Mr. Weckler knows it, and I can prove it."

Unpleasantly suggesting Russia's OGPU and Germany's Gestapo, Richard Frankenstein's double-crossing dramatised and typified the system of U.S. labour spying described by witnesses before the La Follette committee in recent weeks. Technique of the system was shown to be simple, standardised. A union member is bribed to betray his fellows, or an agent is hired to join the union, report on its members and activities, stir up trouble. National Metal Trades Association, it was testified last fortnight, maintains a 215,000-dollar fund to supply spies and strikebreakers to its 952 members, including Fisher Body, Wright Aeronautical, Continental Can Otis Elevator, Revere Copper and Brass, Yale and Towne, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. President Homer Martin, of United Automobile Workers, made affidavit that a recent officer of his Toledo local had been a Corporations Auxiliary agent, who had done his worst to wreck the union.

Founded twenty-nine years ago with headquarters in Cleveland, Corporations Auxiliary Co. had six affiliates, principal branch offices in Detroit, Buffalo, Toronto, New York and Chicago. In 1935 its 499 clients paid it 518,215 dollars. It regularly employs some 200 operatives, known not by names, but by code numbers. Its founder-president, who owns 98 per cent, of the stock and pays himself a 75,000 dollar salary, is a suave, erect, distinguished-looking oldster named James H. Smith. Last week he was accompanied to the Senate committee hearings by a glamorous young blonde. President Smith blandly tut-tutted designation of his service as "spying," declared that his function consisted of "promoting efficiency and happiness among employees, looking for leaks and violations, and improving employee morale." After Chrysler, which paid him 72,611 dollars in 1935, his best customers were General Motors, Toledo's Electric Auto-Lite Co. (which had one of 1934's most violent strikes), Detroit's Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Co. and Midland Steel Products Co., both closed by sit-down strikes last December. Others were Great Lakes Steel, Wheeling Steel, International Shoe, Crane, Kelvinator, Firestone Tire and Rubber, New York Edison, Postal Telegraph, RCA, Texas Corp.

When Chrysler draughtsman organised a Society of Designing Engineers, C.A.C. furnished a draughtsman-agent to join the union, report on its meetings. Twenty members were shortly discharged. Remaining members, a Society official testified last week, were so terrorised that they had stopped attending meetings, were mailing their dues.

Vice-President Weckler stoutly defended the use of spies. "It has long been a common practice," said he. "We must do it to obtain the information we require in dealing with our employees."

"What," asked Senator La Follette, "would be your judgment on a Chrysler executive who sat in at meetings and then revealed secrets to a competitor?"

"I think it would be terrible, reprehensible," cried Mr. Weckler.

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"DRINK MORE MILK"

By JEFFREY MARK, in "Prosperity" (London).

In a Government-inspired article, which appeared in the *Evening Standard* on November 1 last, a great "call" was made for an AI nation. The main point in this journalistic sermon was that "diet is the key for physical fitness," the text being taken from the King's speech of last year.

"I am impressed with the need for more comprehensive efforts to improve the physical condition of the nation, especially among the younger members of the community, and my ministers will in due course submit to you proposals to carry out this purpose."

This text was then enlarged upon by the following quotations from a subsequent speech of Mr. Neville Chamberlain's in the House of Commons:—

"Before we can consider ourselves a really healthy nation we shall have to raise the general standard of physical fitness and development, for physical fitness is one of the main factors in health and health in turn is the very foundation of happiness and content."

Nobody will argue about this, nor will they have any factual objection to make to the remarks, which follow it:—

"Our young people . . . must get nearer to that natural condition in which the exercise of the limbs is an enjoyment instead of a fatigue and the vitality of the body sharpens and concentrates the faculties of the mind."

No objections to make here, perhaps, but surely there is more than a touch of scolding and moralising creeping in? The Chancellor, when he is talking about the young people who consider exercise to be a "fatigue" rather than an "enjoyment," is thinking chiefly of the young people of the metropolis and the big cities, whose mode of life is not active or open enough to be healthy, and whose means and environment do not give them much chance to take exercise. The young people in the country and small provincial towns are active enough, in and out of work, largely because their environment is more natural. But what about the city unemployed and the £2 a week and less wage-earners, who cannot afford to buy enough food to keep themselves in good health and whose minds and bodies are so fatigued thereby that exercise, whether for further "fatigue" or "enjoyment" is out of the question?

"GOOD FOR MELANCHOLY."

But as we go further into this "call for an AI nation" the real object begins to show itself. We are told, "the man who wishes to increase his physical fitness can no longer ignore the discoveries of nutrition scientists"; and that it has been laid down by these experts that milk "is the nearest approach we have to a perfect and complete food."

In a supplementary article in the same issue, support for this statement is brought from all sources. Here is what Mr. Thomas Cogen, an English "Master of Arts and Bachelor of Physic" had to say about milk in his book, "The Haven of Health," published in 1663:—

" . . . Milke is hurtful, to them that have the cholick, but it is especially good for them which be oppressed with melancholy, which is a common calamity to students and for this purpose it should be drunke in the morning."

After this dash of "old world wisdom" we are whisked right forward into modern times and treated to the following extract from a League of Nations committee appointed to report on the "world nutrition problems."

"Milk is a food containing most or all of the materials necessary for growth and for the maintenance of life, and provides these in a form ready for immediate utilisation by the human body."

The same committee emphasised further "discoveries" which have been known to housewives for hun-

dreds of years - - that damage brought on in childhood through poor feeding cannot be repaired in later life:—". . . rickets, bad teeth and nutritional anaemia can be avoided by adequate provision of ordinary food, chief among which is milk . . . from the national standpoint, the cost of the investment so made in the health of the children would be more than compensated by the improved vigour and physique of the adult population."

We are then formally assured—on the authority of "the most cautious of the scientists"—that milk contains vitamin A, which "provides protection against skin diseases, eye affections, infections of the lungs and of the intestines"; vitamin B, for "protection against scurvy"; and vitamin D, for "protection against rickets and the prevention of dental decay, proteins for the promotion of growth, repair of the body and the development of muscle, easily digested fat for energy and warmth." The remainder of the list of good properties in milk is "considerable and equally imposing."

What is the meaning of all this elaborate ballyhoo—this bombardment from politicians, scientists, nutrition experts, old-world writers and crack advertisers—about the good properties of milk? Have housewives somehow forgotten about the dangers of underfeeding their children? Have they suddenly grown careless or callous about rickets, bad teeth, anaemia, skin diseases and "infections of the lungs and intestines?" Do they no longer believe that a good meal is as good as an extra coat or comforter in the cold weather? Do they now refuse to take seriously their instinct and duty to maintain the vigour and vitality of the nation?

It would seem from the tenor of these two articles that our politicians, scientists, nutrition experts and advertisers believe it to be so and that they are here trying to convey the impression that they are making a combined and praise-worthy attack to combat this new and dangerous indifference among the mothers of the nation.

THE MILK MARKETING BOARD

But the man of average intelligence will not be deceived by these pious and diligent protestations. He knows that in the last few years the Government has been seeking to control the distribution of the nation's food-production through the agency of the Marketing Boards. He knows that in the case of hops, potatoes and bacon this control has resulted in smaller output or higher prices to the consumer or both, but that, in the case of milk, production has been greatly stimulated. The number of dairy herds has increased all over the country. In the last half-year alone milk production has gone up by 10,000,000 gallons.

He knows that the Board has been trying all sorts of devices to get rid of the "surplus" of milk that has thereby been created. There has been a milk-for-school-children scheme. Up and down the country there has been a great opening-up of milk bars. Disused factories have been bought up and restarted to help reduce the "surplus" by converting it into third-rate cheese. Milk has been used to make umbrella handles. And finally, it is being deliberately poured away to waste.

The campaign, in fact, is only concerned with the health of the nation incidentally. This is a strong "advertising" point, but the main object is to flog up a money-demand for milk in spite of the fact that, under the exigencies of the present financial system, it simply does not exist. It is a plain as a pike staff to the ordinary man—however much our politicians may put their experts' telescope to their blind eye—that *the rich man drinks as much milk as he wants and the*

poor man as much as he can afford. The former might be induced, under pressure from this nonsensical advertising campaign, to drink more milk than he would otherwise drink; but *how can the four and a half million people who spend 4/- per head, per week on food increase their consumption of milk by so much as a cupful?* To what pitiful extent is it possible for the nine or ten million who can afford to spend only 6/- per head per week on food to "drink more milk"? The man whose income is enough to keep him well fed may please his whim and the officials of the Milk Marketing Board by drinking an extra glass or two at a milk bar; but what chance is there for an unemployed man, hungry and "oppressed with melancholy," in Master Thomas Cogen's phrase, to have a glass of milk "in the morning," at two pence a time? Or for the pregnant mothers of the unemployed and the poorest classes who should drink, according to

to a long-suffering public.

Even in the case of the cheap milk-for-schoolchildren scheme, which alone has some strong humanitarian justification, the loss is ultimately borne by the milk producers themselves through the centralised accounting of the Milk Marketing Board. If it be a good principle that producers should stand a permanent and steady loss in favour of school children, as opposed to unemployed and hungry adults, why aren't similar concessions forced from shoemakers and tailors for boots and clothes?

Nothing more stupid can be imagined than this "drink more milk campaign," which seeks to make a well-fed man drink more milk than is good for him; and, on the other side, nothing more callous and outrageous than a policy which descends to such disgusting ballyhoo about the good properties of this first and most natural of nature's foods in face of the truly desperate poverty of nearly half the population of this country.

THE WONTHAGGI SCANDAL GOES ON.

Further proof of the scandalous methods adopted to deprive the widows and orphans of the Wonthaggi mine victims of the money subscribed for them (to which we referred in our last issue) is contained in the following statement of Melbourne's Lord Mayor Wales, delivered on March 4:

"The public can rest assured that the money subscribed to the various funds will be used solely for the relief of widows and dependents of the Wonthaggi disaster, and will not be diverted through any other channel. Not only have the actual needs of the bereaved to be met, but the representative committee, which has been appointed to administer the Lord Mayor's Fund, will have in mind the need for money for the education of the fatherless children—it may be even as far as the university, should the occasion arise.

"IF, HOWEVER, IN THE COURSE OF YEARS TO COME, AND AFTER ALL NEEDS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR, THERE SHOULD BE NO MORE DEMAND FOR FUNDS FROM THE WIDOWS AND DEPENDENTS OF THOSE KILLED AT WONTHAGGI, THEN, AS HAS BEEN DONE IN A SIMILAR CASE IN THE PAST, IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO APPLY TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE PASSING OF A SPECIAL ACT, SO THAT THE MONEY REMAINING COULD BE TRANSFERRED AND USED FOR THE RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN THE CASE OF ANY OTHER ACCIDENT SIMILAR TO THAT AT WONTHAGGI."

"the most cautious authorities," about *two pints* of milk a day. This, at 3½d a pint, would work out at about four shillings a week—i.e., the *total amount* that four and a half million people in this country can afford to spend on their *entire* food bill.

THE MILK WE DRINK.

And besides, to use a conversational phrase, *what IS this milk* that there is so much shouting about? To an unprejudiced eye and a stomach that still remembers what milk straight from the cow tasted like, the bulk of what passes through the milk carters' tanks and pipes looks like a mixture of margarine fat, water and Reckitt's blue. For, in spite of the fact that the home milk "surplus" is being converted into umbrella handles or thrown away, millions of gallons of powdered milk are imported from abroad and find their way into bulk milk stocks, which are then elaborately "distributed" in hygienic bottles

Abandoning Our Youths

In our last issue it was suggested that the "youth employment survey" was just another meaningless gesture and that it would fizzle out.

This is now practically certain, as is evidenced by the following *Herald* statement from Canberra last Friday:—

"To fit unemployed Australian youths for absorption into industry would cost an average of at least £50 a head.

"This is the conclusion of the Federal Cabinet sub-committee on youth unemployment, which estimates the number of youths between 18 and 23 in need of assistance at between 30,000 and 35,000. That would make the cost of the scheme between £1,500,000 and £2 millions.

"Assistance would have to be spread over several years, and when the survey is completed—about the end of the month—the Commonwealth Government will have to decide what part of the cost it will bear.

"It is believed that because of the strong disinclination of youths to leave their families the original proposal to draft lads to various States as opportunities occur for their absorption into industry will be abandoned."

* * *

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(Continued from page 3.)

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MILLIONS FOR WAR, BUT NOT FOR HEALTH

A Few Leaves from America's Experience

By W. P. B.

Speaking in Melbourne the other day the chairman of the Public Health Commission, Dr. E. Robertson, said: "It is an extraordinary and regrettable fact that, although Governments can quickly find millions for war, they are reluctant to provide adequate funds to enable the manifold problems of health to be tackled efficiently."

Statements such as Dr. Robertson's have been made so often that, like the phrase "poverty amid plenty," they cease after a while to impress our imaginations—perhaps because they are too large and too abstract. We speak of millions, but who has seen a million pounds?

In recent issues of the American *Saturday Evening Post*, General Johnson Hagood, who was prominently connected with the organisation of U.S. army supplies during the last war, contributed a series of articles on this subject. One of his articles deals mainly with the profusion of goods manufactured for Uncle Sam's troops, but never used by them. As it is easier to think in goods than in money, let me tell the story in General Hagood's own words:—

"Forty-five billion dollars! That is the sum set by the Treasury Department as the cost of our victory in France. If Germany had come over here, destroyed our Navy, wrecked our coast fortifications and razed every city on the Atlantic Coast, leaving no stone standing upon another, the whole thing could have been rebuilt for less than 45,000,000,000 dollars and we would have had enough left to pay the victors a sizable indemnity.

"The requisitions for men and supplies for the next war are already being made out and approved. They have been in preparation for the past fifteen years, and it is said that they not only ride the clouds, but that they go up into the stratosphere.

"We called out 4,300,000 men, but we sent only 2,000,000 to France, and of these, 1,000,000 spent an average of thirty days in active operations and forty days in quiet sectors at the front. Perhaps we called out too many men, and a smaller force sent over earlier might have done more good at less cost.

"Out of this 45,000,000,000 dollars, two and a half went for ships; some of these were not started until after the Armistice, and some were not delivered until 1921. The Army was talking about 100 divisions in France, and the contracts for ships were made in advance. After the war, great fleets were sold as junk.

"The Army got 16,000,000,000 dollars—enough to buy the island of Manhattan and everything on it—three times as much as all the money in the United States, including gold, silver and paper, the year before the war.

WHERE IT WENT.

"Let's see how some of it went. One billion went for artillery and artillery ammunition, but no American soldier fired a shot from an American cannon with American ammunition. A billion and a half went to aeroplanes, but we did not fly a single combat plane, except some so-called 'flying coffins' that were used for observation.

"But let's look into some of the details.

"The Army bought 4,000,000 pairs of rubber boots, although soldiers could not march in rubber boots, could not carry them in their packs or find room for them in their baggage trucks. It is said that an order was given for 800,000 pairs of spurs, all hand-forged and according to the Army's pre-war specifications. This was sufficient to provide two pairs for each man in the A.E.F. who rode, drove or fed a horse, and leave

enough to give five pairs to each officer.

"The soldiers got 9,000,000 raincoats, together with 650,000 pairs of oilskin pants and 1,000,000 oilskin hats. Altogether, rubber boots, raincoats and oilskin pants and hats cost the taxpayers 65,000,000 dollars. In addition, they had 8,000,000 regular overcoats at a cost of 110,000,000 dollars.

"The French soldier wears the same uniform the year round, including his overcoat, because he has no baggage and it is easier to wear an overcoat than it is to carry it in a pack. But somebody got the idea that the American soldiers in the World War should have a summer uniform. So 7,000,000 suits of khaki were manufactured for their use in the summer of 1919. Unfortunately for this, the war ended too soon.

"Campaign hats were not worn in the A.E.F., but 8,000,000 were manufactured out of rabbit fur that had to be imported from Australia, New Zealand and Russia. Poor little bunnies! When the campaign hats got to France, they were turned into salvage, and many of them were cut up and made into bedroom slippers for the convalescents.

"We also manufactured 5,000,000 overseas caps, although they were not worn in the United States.

"During the latter part of the war, the regulation Army breeches were abandoned in favour of the old-fashioned long trousers. Seven million pairs of these trousers were manufactured, but none of them got to France. There were a great many objections to the breeches. The soldiers did not like them; they were hard to put on, and still harder to get off the wounded. The puttee leggings bound the calf of the leg, and the soldiers invariably unwrapped them whenever they got a chance. But notwithstanding all this, we went back to breeches the minute the war was over.

NO BLUE DENIM.

"We manufactured 10,000,000 suits of overalls. But the Army was not satisfied with blue denim. It demanded brown denim although the blue fades out to a variety of colours when washed, and is admirably adapted to camouflage. Brown had been abandoned as overalls for the coast artillery years before the war. It was not a commercial product. It was hard to get the dye, but the World War Army demanded it and got it just the same.

"During the winter of 1917-1918, there was no time to provide the troops with standard Army underwear. Consequently, Government agents went into the underwear market and bought whatever could be found. As a result, the soldiers, during that first winter, wore underwear of almost every description and grade of merit. This was very distressing to those who demanded uniformity in everything, and the underwear experts made an exhaustive study. The result was that for the next winter they not only designed a standard uniform undershirt for the Army but warned the civilian population that they would catch colds if they continued to wear certain types of underwear in common use. At the end of the war, the Army had millions of suits of this special underwear left on its hands. It was sold for a pittance, and some of it is still on sale.

A GAME OF BUTTON, BUTTON.

"Somebody discovered that metal buttons might cause the infection of wounds. For this and other reasons, a button of vegetable ivory was substituted. The Bureau of Standards tested the tagua nut, which was imported from South America.

Nut buttons were found to be satisfactory, and production was undertaken on a large scale by manufacturers of electrical goods, hardware, celluloid, billiard balls, phonograph records, and others, who had never made buttons before. We must remember that with an Army of 4,000,000 men, it was required that all the buttons should be alike. One man could not have a white button, while another man had a black or a brown. China buttons, bone buttons or even wooden buttons might be imposed upon civilians, but the Army had to have its buttons of vegetable ivory.

"Everything had to be of khaki colour—even to pocket handkerchiefs. We were told before going overseas that if a white handkerchief were displayed near the front, it might bring down upon us the fire of a German aeroplane.

"Twenty million khaki blankets were manufactured at an average cost of seven dollars each. It was estimated that each soldier would need a new blanket every sixty days.

"Question: What became of the old blankets?

"The demand for pillows created a shortage of feathers. Half a million pillows were manufactured. They started out to fill these pillows with duck feathers, but when the American duck feathers were exhausted and thousands of China ducks had given up their plumage, and there were still not enough feathers to go around, adulteration of goose feather and such like was permitted. Down in South Carolina, when I was a boy, mattresses used to be made out of corn shucks. A shuck mattress with a cotton pad on one side was a luxury. Chicken feathers were used for pillows, and in the Army, up to a few years before the war, the soldiers had bed sacks filled with straw. They still use pillows of cotton.

"The Army specifications called for fair leather for harness, which was practically unknown in commercial production. It required special processes that were difficult. Up to thirty years ago, the Army had used black harness. The British, the Germans and others were using black harness. So, after having induced a number of manufacturers to set up plants for making fair leather, the Army changed back to black. This left everything up in the air. Those who set up the fair-leather factories went broke. In all, 1,000,000 sets of harness were ordered, but after spending 75,000,000 dollars for harness and other leather equipment most of it was left on our hands and could not be disposed of.

TOO MANY TENTS

"Thirty-three million dollars was expended for large pyramidal tents—enough to accommodate more than 3,000,000 men. This was in addition to the small tents—pup tents—that were carried by the men in their packs. There was no particular reason why we should have bought so much tentage. The men in the United States lived, for the most part, in cantonments. In the back areas of the A.E.F., the Division of Construction of Forestry erected 225 miles of barracks for their accommodation, and in the zone of the Army they lived in billets. Sherman said that a soldier should have no tentage at all, and that a pup tent was enough for a general."

That is the story. And in the same United States a few weeks ago President Roosevelt, making his inaugural address, said: "I see one-third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished."

But that is because America is today at peace. The same holds good of Australia.

In war time goods are poured out even to the most absurd profusion of waste. Why? Because a united nation demands results up to the limit of its physical resources.

And why not in peacetime? Think it over.

WHAT SHOULD WE VOTE ABOUT?

A well-known Melbourne clergyman, discussing the referendum in an address he delivered last week, said that he had no more idea of how he ought to vote than the man in the moon.

The statement was in itself praiseworthy for its frankness and, in so far as it related to the abstract merits or demerits of the case put to the people, it probably represented the mental state of millions of other electors. For here was an issue on which such constitutional authorities as Sir Robert Garran and Sir Edward Mitchell took opposite sides, on which such eminent economists as Professor Giblin and Professor Copland differed, and on which Mr. R. G. Menzies, M.H.R., and Mr. R. G. Menzies, M.L.A., had voiced contrary views. In these circumstances how could a poor clergyman be expected to know?

The verdict has now been given. To what extent electors voted according to the technical pros and cons, and to what extent they were swayed by other considerations, must remain a matter of surmise. But one point stands out with particular clearness—and that is how hopelessly the people become divided when they are asked to make a national decision about technical methods.

It can be stated without any fear of contradiction that the general objective of the marketing referendum was acceptable to every voter in the Commonwealth. There would not be any person who does not wish to see our farmers get a fair price for the goods they produce. But when voters were asked to determine the manner in which this price would be realised it at once became evident that there was a tremendous conflict of opinion. Not only did we see a splitting up within every political party between those who said "Yes" and those who said "No" to the actual method suggested, but both the "Yes-es" and the "Noes" themselves—and particularly the latter—were capable of an almost infinite resubdivision. If you were to take the Commonwealth "No" vote and ask it to put forward a single alternative method on which, say, two-thirds of its members could agree, would you be able to get this alternative? It is most improbable.

Does this mean, then, that every effort for progress must be frustrated under a democracy and that our only hope lies in one or other of those dictatorships, which are now coming into fashion? It does not. What is abundantly clear is that the electors should not be asked to decide on the detailed methods to be adopted. The electors should make the decisions on policy, and on policy,

only. They should never be put into the position of having to confess that they don't know any more than the man in the moon.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that, if democracy is to prevail, the proper way to run our national affairs is this: The electors should make decisions on general lines of policy, and their representatives in Parliament should be responsible for administering that policy. This does not mean that the M.P.'s must be expert technicians, for M.P.'s, by virtue of the sovereign powers delegated to them, have the authority to call in all the experts available. These experts may not and probably will not agree entirely among themselves, but at the worst a process of trial and error will bring about the desired results far more certainly and far more rapidly than any alternative that can be proposed.

This is the manner in which any well-conducted business organisation is run. Our electors are the shareholders; our M.P.'s are the board of directors; and the experts are the technical staffs employed by the board.

Could you imagine a poll of company shareholders taken on lines similar to last Saturday's poll? Then why run the biggest and most important of all our business enterprises, the affairs of our nation, on comic opera lines?

TRUTH IN THE "ARGUS."

Extract from a "special" article on Social Credit in last Saturday's

"Argus":—

"When pressed for details of his scheme, Mr. Aberhart proclaimed repeatedly his intention of bringing Major Douglas to Alberta to supervise the task of instituting social credit in the province, but a few short weeks after Major Douglas arrived it became apparent that relations between the two men were exceedingly strained, and shortly afterwards Major Douglas publicly announced his break with the Aberhart Government, and the Social Credit Premier was left to implement his programme—if programme he had—on his own initiative."

As a matter of fact, Douglas has never been in Alberta since Aberhart was elected.

AND THE "ARGUS" KNOWS IT.

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