

BASE METALS
AND
NOBLE GENTLEMEN

(See page 4)

THE NEW TIMES

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

Vol. 3. No. 12.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

Base Metals and Noble Gentlemen

*

Pearls From the Chambers of Commerce

*

Rearmament and Prosperity

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

GENERAL

INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES Pty. Ltd., 155 Yarra St. Cold Glues, Dextrine.

"LEUKOL." By far the most up-to-date Toothpaste. No Toothache. No Extractions. No Pyorrhea. 30,000 packages sold without advertising. From local Chemist; or send 2/- to W. Winford, 45 St. Elmo Rd., N.21.

MELBOURNE

ABBOTSFORD.

HOLLINS, A. R., 405 Victoria St. Motor Repairs of all kinds. J 2047.

AUBURN.

BLACK CAT LIBRARY and Ladies Hairdrrs. 639 Burw'd Rd. Haw. 1779

BLACKBURN.

"A" GRADE MOTOR ENGINEERS Station Garage, Whitehorse Road. WX 1490.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. Ladies' and Gents'. Wright, 122 South Parade.

MOTOR REPAIRS, Straton's. Better Service. Lower Cost. WX 2748.

PAINTER, PAPERHANGER, etc. G. B. COLLIER, 8 Wolseley Cres.

BOX HILL.

ALL Electrical and Radio Needs. G. G. Foster, W'horse Rd. WX2581.
BOOT REPAIRS. Work Guaranteed W. Tolley, 975 W'horse Road.
BOX HILL FURNISHING CO. 247-9 Station St. Cash or Terms. CHAS. L. COX, TAILOR. Men's and Boys' Wear. 285 Station St.
CHEMIST. F. Cheshire, For Your Prescriptions. 270 Station Street.
COOL DRINKS. Sweets, Smokes. R. Dannock, 1124 Whitehorse Road.
CYCLE SHOP and Oxywelding. "Alwin" Station St., South of Rly.
DRAPERY. For Smart Styles and a Fair Deal. TAIT'S Corner Stores
DRESSMAKER. Mrs. Evans. Station St., opp. Baptist Church.
ELECTRICAL & RADIO. Holliday. Opp Stn. Sales, Repairs. WX 2677.

FURNITURE REMOVERS. Gill Bros., 254 Station St. WX2073
GROCER. W. M. Anderson, 14 Main St. WX 1233.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. L. Larsen, Station St., opp. Gilpin's.
IRONMONGER & SPORTS STORE F. P. Park, 10 Main St. WX1290.
MARS LAUNDRY CO. WX 2662. Pick up & Deliver. Quality G'teed.

RENNIE'S BLUE TAXIS. WX1946, City Prices. Day and Night Service.
TAILOR. J. G. Penson, 227 Station Street. Suits Hand Made from 95/-.
W. A. MOODY. 1014 W'Horse Rd. Fruit, Vegetables Delivered Daily.
WATCHMAKER and Jeweller. Barnes. Station Street. Repairs.

CAMBERWELL.

SPORTS DEPOT & Leather Goods. E. Goslin, 777 Burke Rd. Haw. 4900.

CARNEGIE.

P. A. McWHINNEY, Grocer, Confectioner. Opposite State School.

CITY.

ANNOUNCING Naytura Cafe Health Service & Store. Free dietetic advice. 300 Lt. Collins St. C 5001.

A TAILORED SUIT at Moderate Price. Dress Suits. DOYLE. C. 6192. Wentworth House, 203 Collins St.

ATTENTION! Naytura Hostel. Vegetarian Guest House. Accom. State & Inter. Guests. Haw. 74.
BLINDS of every sort. Car curtains repaired. T. Pettit, 235a Queen St.
CAKES, PASTRY, etc. Home Made "Clovelly." The Block, Elizabeth St. Cent. 255.

COLONIAL BUILDING CO., 465 Collins St., MU 1930. Call for free booklet on home building.

DAVIS, 568 Bourke St. Royal Medal Milkery, Separators, Engines
DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT BOOKSHOP. 166 Lt. Collins St.
DRY CLEANING & REPAIRS.

"Saville." Leonard House, Eliz. St. 5th Floor.

FROCKS. Coats; W., O.S.; Mod. Price. Kellehers, Block Court, 3rd Floor

(Continued on page 3)

More Pearls from the Chambers of Commerce

The "Wisdom" of the Perth Conference

The Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia have once again met, this time in Perth, for the purpose of expressing their views and of passing their annual batch of resolutions. As in the past, it is a matter of regret that these representatives of big business and of big finance have shown so little real understanding of the things they discussed and voted upon.

SOME GOOD POINTS.

With a number of their resolutions most people will find themselves in sympathy.

To begin with, the presidential address expressed disapproval of the trade "diversion" policy undertaken by Sir Henry Gullett (R.I.P.).

Then Sir L. Bonython drew pointed attention to the increase in our national debt, which, he said, had increased by 61 per cent, in the last 16 years, while population had increased only 27 per cent.

Conference also passed resolutions favouring a reduction in various forms of taxation and in postal, telegraphic and telephonic charges.

In addition, it stated its belief that national accounts are presented to the public in a complicated and unintelligible manner. This is more than true, since we have never been presented with a proper national balance sheet at all. What is given to us is at best merely a statement of the Government's cash takings and disbursements; on our capital account we are furnished only with the total of our national debt, there being no attempt to let us know the extent of the national credit against which this debt has been contracted.

There were several more of what might be called "effect" resolutions which the Chambers passed and which embodied wishes common to almost the entire population—for we all desire to have our staggering burden of taxation lessened. But when it came to dealing with the causes which have produced the deplorable results, Conference, if the daily press reports are to be believed, was either silent or else it followed the scent of some very fine herrings.

THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ISSUE

Here is a typical example:—The Chambers passed the following motion: "This conference views with concern the continuation of Government borrowing. The increasing volume of governmental expenditure entails an ever-increasing charge for interest. It urges that all Government substantially curtail their present rate of borrowing and closely scrutinise expenditure with a view to checking the increase."

Now, that resolution of itself is unworthy of a kindergarten, much less of a body of businessmen who claim to be intelligent. What it says is, (1) Increased Government spending means increased borrowing; (2) Increased borrowing means increased interest, i.e., taxation; (3) Therefore cut down government spending.

The resolution omits entirely to take into consideration the objects of government spending, to point out where or how this spending should or could be cut down, or alternatively to consider any other manner by which governments might secure funds.

WHAT GOVERNMENT SPENDING MEANS.

On what do governments spend money? Mainly on performing essential social works, such as those of the postal department—and here the

Conference wanted to cut down revenue through a lowering of charges; or on equally necessary services, such as the police, who certainly are far from being overpaid; or on making some sort of provision for the destitute, the aged and the invalid—and here it is hardly to be supposed that the Chambers would wish a reduction of the present scandalous pittances; or on public works, which today are notoriously starved in all directions, and are in practice mainly another device for distributing doles; or on the payment of interest on past loans incurred for one or another of the above purposes or their like.

The Associated Chambers would certainly not advocate a repudiation of our interest obligations. And without laying themselves open to the charge of being less than human, where can they point to any other considerable reduction, which is practicable?

GOOD FOR BUSINESS.

So much for the financial or bookkeeping side of government expenditure. Viewing it more realistically, what happens to the money which governments disburse? Is not almost the entire sum that goes out on works, salaries, doles, pensions and the like immediately spent on ordinary living expenses? Does it not enable the consumption of goods, which the community has already produced, and which farmers, manu-

The "New Times" has been asked by Mr. C. Barclay Smith, personal representative in Australia of Major C. H. Douglas, to make known to those of its readers, who are members of the Social Credit Movement that an Australian National Social Credit Conference will be held in Melbourne at Easter. This Conference will be attended by delegates from all Social Credit bodies throughout the Commonwealth, and its deliberations will be directed mainly to two ends. One of these will be a co-ordination between States in methods of propaganda, etc.; the other will be an attempt to define and unify the attitude of members towards the electoral campaign to restore democracy and to abolish poverty now being waged by various bodies in the different States of Australia.

The Conference will assemble on Saturday, March 27.

facturers, shopkeepers, and even Chambers of Commerce are desperately anxious to dispose of? Is not government expenditure, which distributes incomes without putting goods on the competitive market, the best thing that could happen to existing businesses? Provided such expenditure is not first or subsequently withdrawn from business, it is.

WHERE GOVERNMENT REVENUE COMES FROM

This brings us to the source of Government revenue. The resolutions already quoted, and the general tone of the Conference, show that it is strongly opposed to further taxation, or, rather, that it demands substantial reductions. The only alternative it sees is borrowing, which means more taxation. This also it denounces.

And here these prize businessmen were content to leave their problem. Would not schoolboys be ashamed?

The logical position is this:—
1. If the country's production of real wealth is sufficient, then it is the clear duty of the government to see that at least the essentials of a healthy life are available to all citizens. The extent to which work may or may not be required in return from those able to work is outside the scope of this consideration.

2. No one can deny that our production is ample to supply every-

one's necessities, or at least that any temporary shortage could easily be overcome.

3. Money is the normal way of distributing goods.

4. If the members of the community between them have the money equivalent of their real wealth production—that is, if the production of goods generates an equal production of purchasing power—then the Government can draw all the revenue it needs from equitable taxation.

5. If all lawful Government needs in accordance with the above were met from taxation, even our present burden in that direction would be doubled or trebled. Neither the Chambers nor anyone else (except perhaps the A.L.P.) would suggest that this is possible.

6. If there is not sufficient money, then the sovereign Government should make up the deficiency by way of issue. The mere idea that the sovereign should permit his subject to issue money to him by way of interest-bearing loans is absurd and is the negation of sovereignty. But this is a point, which the Chambers of Commerce never by any chance discuss. Is it

because of that close connection with private banking interests which has more than once been revealed in these pages?

THE CHAMBERS' WAY

It would perhaps be unfair to the Chambers if we did not mention before concluding their one bright idea. Their president, at least, did have a glimmer that the difficulty might be overcome. If Australia, he said, wished to continue to progress, it required further capital from overseas. Every possible reduction of taxation and freedom from restriction should be given to encourage the flow of capital to Australia.

The "capital from abroad" idea has been exploded too often in recent issues of the *New Times* to need our going over that ground again. But just imagine the president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia giving it as his considered opinion that a country bursting with goods on the one hand and pinching its belt on the other has no hope of making an internal distribution without first alienating more of its capital assets to foreigners! Could stupidity or malice go further?

WHY REARMAMENT BRINGS PROSPERITY

There is no more powerful argument to be found for financial reform than rearmament. Much as we all hate war or the prospect of it, we find that a time of war preparation is a period of prosperity. And yet it should be the opposite.

When a nation embarks on a campaign of making bombers, poison gases, shells and the like, it is clearly impoverishing itself. For it is absorbing both the energies of great numbers of its most capable workers and vast supplies of its most useful raw materials. The energies are wasted and the materials will in due course be given away free to the foreigner. Hence, a proper system of national accounts should at once reflect this impoverishment, and the standard of living of the people should at once be reduced. But, as we know, the opposite takes place.

At the present moment in Australia prices of what are called base metals are soaring. Records are being set in share quotations. Engineering trades are starting to boom. And if the process continues a wave of prosperity will begin to be noticed through all trades.

This is even more noticeable when war itself is declared. And the bigger the wastage and destruction of warfare the greater the temporary wave of prosperity.

The explanation is quite a simple one. What happens at these periods is that incomes are distributed to great numbers of people who would otherwise be without them, and—which is just as important—the distribution of these incomes is not accompanied by the placing of extra goods on the market. If you imagined that all the people engaged in the armaments industry were still paid their money but told to do nothing, the result would be the same, at least as far as our ordinary industries are concerned. There would be the same quantity of goods for sale in the shops, the same prosperity for stores, warehouses, factories and farmers, the same added comforts in the homes of the people. The only difference would be that human energies and national

materials would be conserved.

If, on the other hand, the munition workers were absorbed in ordinary production and paid the same wages, nothing like a similar prosperity would be noticed although they would now be adding to their country's real wealth. This is because the extra goods they produced would now be offered for sale, so that there would be relatively no more money available than before, and markets would be as glutted with unsaleable goods as ever.

Hence, we have these two paradoxes: The real impoverishment a nation leads to apparent financial prosperity, whereas its real enrichment produces rather than abates financial poverty.

The corrective clearly lies in bringing our financial system into line with physical facts. If the amount of money issued to the people were made to correspond with the quantity of goods available for sale, every increase in peacetime production—that is, in the production of goods for ordinary consumption—would result in a higher standard of living. But if we turned our energies into making weapons of destruction there would be no call for extra money, and the munition makers would have to be supported by the rest of the community—which would mean steep increases in taxation and a general lowering of living standards. To some extent rearmament is today financed by taxation, but in the main, as we see in Britain's case—and as, in all likelihood, we shall shortly see in Australia's—the financial process adopted is that of issuing additional money in the form of interest-bearing loans.

The proper financing of armament programmes would not of itself stop war—although the causes of this are mainly to be found in our financial system also. But such a course would act as a powerful deterrent. For if you take the profit out of war and war preparations you will add quite a lot of very influential people to the ranks of the peacemakers.

SQUEEZING THE COMMUNITY

By "AQUARIUS."

There are two major methods of retiring money from the community pocket. These are: (1) Taxation; (2) Prices. The growth of taxation during the last century or so need not be stressed here. A moment's reflection will show readers that prices have risen terrifically also.

There has been a constant filching of purchasing power through rising prices. The buying power of money has been diluted.

The lower limit of price is decided by the fact that a producer must recover in price his whole cost of production, or go to the bankruptcy court.

The upper limit of price is conditioned merely by the amount of money available at the time of sale. The price of an article is what it will fetch. If a large amount of money is distributed in respect of factories, roads, armaments or other constructional works which don't come on to the market immediately, the price of butter, cabbages, grandfather clocks, boots and motor cars, etc., immediately rises to mop up that money and immobilise it for buying purposes.

This fact is well instanced by the ability of people like Lord Nuffield to retire from the community pocket several millions of pounds more than they have put into that pocket. It is instanced also by the way bread, milk, boots, groceries, glycerine, metals, etc., are now rising in price, consequent on the issue of rearmament credits.

THE MEANEST FORM OF TAXATION

Rising prices are the meanest form of taxation.

No scheme of monetary reform can be effective which does not—

- (a) Put more money into people's pockets;
- (b) Insist that that money shall not be taken out of those pockets except at the proper rate—i.e., as consumable goods are delivered for consumption.

Only a scheme embodying these general principles can give the producer and the consumer a fair deal—a matter impossible under the present order. If our price system was not wrong every improvement of process would have meant lower prices—to the advantage of everybody's pocket.

THE REFERENDUM.

Electors have never in the past been asked to vote on any question of the adequacy of the flow of income to the community pocket, or the propriety of the accelerated rate at which that income is now abstracted from that pocket.

They have merely been asked to vote on alternative methods of apportioning out to the community the kicks, which inevitably arise from the inadequacy of the total community income.

Someone must go short. Payment of a living wage will ruin industry. Payment of a sufficient dividend means ruin to the worker. A fair deal for the producer lands the consumer in the mud, and vice versa.

The referendum, held on March 6, relative to marketing merely covered the derivative issues of apportioning kicks as between producer and consumer, and of deciding whether the consumer was to be slugged through price or through taxation. Most politicians would have preferred that it should be done through price, as that gives them a better alibi.

The Australian citizen, who pays sixpence more per pound for butter than the Englishman pays for the same butter exported, does not as a rule think of service of the overseas national debt. He thinks in terms of enmity of the dairy farmer who, when all is boiled down, is even then receiving a sufficiently raw deal. In short, he is set on the trail of a red herring and loses track of Montagu Norman, Esq., completely.

REASON FOR FAILURE OF REFERENDUM

Many reasons for this failure might be advanced, but the true reason is probably to be found in the past failure of politicians to deliver results. Why should more powers be granted to politicians who have probably prostituted what powers they already hold to the service of an international crew of bankster-gangsters, whose one lust is power, and who deny access to the plenty made available by modern science? The world is run from Basle in accordance with a sort of international means test.

No; the elector is not a mere nitwit. Call him a donkey, if you wish, but even an ass has an elementary sense of proportion between miles travelled and carrots achieved.

Several referendums have been put over the Australian elector. He has tossed out conscription, alteration of industrial powers, aviation and marketing proposals. He has been gulled into saying "Yes" on one occasion, and is only now waking up to the fact that he put his foot in it badly on that occasion.

ONCE BITTEN.

We refer to the matter of the Financial Agreements legislation,

the matter of State and Federal debts, and the imposition on Australia of a super Parliament in the Loan Council.

By this amendment both State and Federal Parliaments lost what little financial autonomy they had had, the whole of Australia became security for any bankers' loan to any part of Australia, and we are two or three times annually treated to the spectacle of our Governments crawling to the Commonwealth Bank for loan funds, and then fighting each other like cat and dog for the inadequate funds contemptuously flung to them. One elected Government has been cast out of office by this new power, and the Almighty alone knows what constitutional difficulties now beset the path of any Australian Government seeking monetary reform or independence.

John Citizen was told that the proposed amendment was of no importance, a mere matter of machinery. He was told that he would incur his public debt at a lower rate of interest. The amendment was tagged on to a really good fight about industrial powers about which John Citizen was allowed to get very hot and bothered. The press and politicians took sides on the industrial question.

With one accord they said the other matter was of no importance.

After this shocking betrayal, any proposal must be regarded as suspect.

A GOOD ADVOCATE

A further consideration arising out of the referendum is the position of the Hon. Robert Gordon Menzies, M.A., LL.M., K.C., P.C., (with more to come). This gentleman is a great advocate, even though he may not be a great lawyer or a great politician. A consideration of his utterances, first, as a State politician and, later as Federal Attorney-General, leave the reader in considerable doubt as to what, if any, are his political principles.

Some few years ago he opposed strenuously the spoon-feeding of rural interests, and now he sponsors the marketing referendum to allow certain rural interests to be spoon-fed. As Victorian Attorney-General he championed State rights, as Federal Attorney-General he seems to be as strongly for centralisation as any of his predecessors.

Such is his gift of advocacy that he has put up a very fine line of argument all four ways, and considered separately each argument would lead one to the conclusion that anyone who spoke to the contrary must be either fool or knave.

Now, this is all very well. But whose interests is Mr. Menzies advocating—his own, or those of

some, and if so what, section of the community? Does he think that statesmanship imposes any duty on him higher than the acceptance of a brief, with either good guineas or the prospect of advancement and office endorsed on its back sheet?

However this may be, some rude people have recently done Mr. Menzies the disservice of reproducing side by side what Mr. Menzies said some few years ago, and what he now says.

Menzies, debunked by Menzies, resolves out into twenty-five per cent, eye-on-the-main-chance and seventy-five percent bluff. This may be a happy mixture for a big businessman, but it is hardly likely to appeal to electors at the next election.

CHOOKIES AND CHURCHES

By "DYNAMICS."

Everybody realises that there is a distinct if subtle difference between the meanings of the words intelligence and intellectuality, but no good would be gained in trying to bring careful definitions into play. An illustration may be more useful at the present moment:—

Reliable scientists assure us that at one time the barn-door fowl was an intelligent being, so much so that when an eagle hawk hovered overhead the mother hen immediately gathered her chickens beneath her wings. (Bible testimony confirms this.) Centuries of progress have left their mark upon the chooky cranium, so that now in cases of emergency the fowls always convene a hen convention.

One is prompted to write the above introduction to this article by cogitating about the resolutions passed by the Methodist Conference of South Australia on Thursday, March 4 (as printed in the Adelaide Advertiser).

The Brethren decided that it was advisable to formally "commend to our people" the four points of agreement reached at the Brussels Peace Conference.

Let us take it for granted that most of the good people who gathered at that Brussels Conference were well intentioned, but the resolutions passed indicate that, either because of ignorance or else by the design of cute committee manipulators, they were sidetracked into making pronouncements about methods when they should have thought and resolved more about causes and demands for results.

And even if one allows that some indication of methods was called for the wording of the resolutions displays a woeful lack of comprehension concerning the deep-seated but easily found springs of strife.

If steps were taken as they suggest: (a) To make treaty obligations doubly solemn and binding; (b) To reduce armaments drastically; (c) To strengthen the present League of Nations, *ad lib.*, and (d) To use effective means for "remedying international conditions": the result would not accomplish much towards removing the causes of war.

The only sensible course, which the average person can pursue, is to steadily hold up to ridicule the pompous but impious fools who follow such intellectual pother and fail to use their basic intelligence.

The fact is that every person in practically every commercial transaction is forced more or less to nourish the germs of the warfare disease: and until parsons and people combine to tell their parliamentary representatives that they find this revolting condition intolerable, then the seeds of warfare will sprout and sprout until, in the end, open warfare develops as a natural consequence.

Anyone who has seen at springtime the ill effects of placing a thin, hard pavement over a patch of dormant sour-sob bulbs will find it easier to believe the truth of our cause and effect statement.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

CITY.

GINGER JAR CAFE, 238 Flinders Lane (4 doors from Swanston St.). Best 3-course meal in city. JAS. JENNINGS, 211 Queen St., and 6 Regent Arcs. Optician, 73 years est. Testing Free.

MAISON MERLIN, Natl. Bk. Bldg. 271 Col. St. Ladies' Hairdressers! OPTICIAN and Hearing Aids M L. COLECHIN, Champion House, 4th Floor, 57 Swanston St. F 5566 OPTICIAN, J. H. Buckham, J.P. Nat. Bk. Ch., 271 Collins St. C. 831 PRINTING. E. E. GUNN Off 600 Lit. Bourke St. Cent. 6021 QUICK SERVICE TOBACCO KIOSK. Equitable Place. Buy your Smokes here! TAILOR, Dependable Suit for 130/- P. Whitcroft, 215 Queen Street. TAILOR, High Class; H. Stackpoole, Lang Arc., off 333 Lons. St. WATCHMAKER and Jeweller. M. Chapman. CAPITOL HSE. 6 yrs. Hardy Bros., in charge Repair Dept.

DARLING.

ESTATE AGENT, J. White, 1 Illowa St. UY 6521.

ELSTERNWICK.

CARMICHAEL'S, Men's Wear. 233 G'huntly Rd., next Baptist Ch. H. L. SERCOMBE Pty. Ltd., 70 Glenh'ntly Rd. Dairy Produce Specialities. RADIO & ELECT'L SERVICES. Mackintosh's, 72 Glenh'tly Rd. L 4588.

ELWOOD.

THE DUCHEY LIBRARY, 3 Ormond Road. New Books Weekly.

FAIRFIELD.

BUTCHER, 93 Station Street. Arthur B. Heath Solicits Your Patronage.

FOOTSCRAY.

BOOT REPAIRS. A. A. Taylor. Station Ramp, While U Wait S'vice. MASSEY'S GARAGE, W'town Rd. The Home of Motor Reconditioning

GLENFERRIE.

OPTICIAN, W. W. Nicholls, 100 Glenferrie Rd. Haw. 5845. SUITS to order from 70/- H. 5813. A. Sutherland, 184 Glenferrie Rd.

HAMPTON.

BEAUTY SALON, Norma Bell, 133 Hampton St., next P.O. XW2160 BOOKSELLER, S. J. Endacott, 75 Hampton St. for all book needs. CHEMIST, Rod Burgess. 156a Hampton St. XW 2424.

HAIRDRESSER, Ladies and Gents. R. STEWART, 68 Hampton St. HOME MADE CAKES. BEAN'S, 140 Hampton St. XW1787. TAILOR, R. W. Simpson, Railway Walk. Suits Hand Made from 95/-

IVANHOE.

BOOT REPAIRS. J. Fraser solicits your custom. 130 Upper H'berg Rd. UPHOLSTERER. Blinds & Bedding. Duke's, 111 H'berg Rd. Ivan. 626.

KEW.

ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145. BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice. C. KENNEDY, Grocer. Haw. 229. Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd. DRY CLEANING, Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733. E. WHITE, 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.

FLORIST, "Mayfair," Haw. 1452. Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd. GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto. Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons. GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought. Greaves, opp. Rialto. LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd. M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

KEW EAST

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS. I Pink, 16 Oswin St. WICKER & Pram Repairs. L. Pavitt, 2 Hale St. Pick up and deliver.

(Continued on page 7.)

Sir Henry Gullett,

No Longer in Charge of Trade Treaties.

Dear Sir Henry,

Well, it had to come.

We were not surprised to hear of your resignation from the Cabinet, nor are we curious as to the precise reasons that led immediately to it.

The papers have said about you those nice things usually reserved for the deceased, from which we infer that you are not expected to stage a comeback like W. M. Hughes. Thus, although the Melbourne "Argus" declared: "Most will look forward to the time when his great ability will be available again to the Australian Government," it prefaced this pious hope by the rather final: "No one will grudge Sir Henry Gullett the respite from his previous arduous responsibilities."

Still, anything is possible in politics, and it may be that time will yet bring you again into office. We venture to suggest, therefore, that while you are in the bosom of your family you might let your mind speculate a little as to why you failed as a Minister. For the blunt fact is, Sir Henry, that you were a first-class failure—even though you have been accorded honours. Your trade treaty Ministership has been notable chiefly for the awful mess made of our relations with Japan, which country, as you at least know, beat you pointlessly, while it seems that your policy in other directions is now about to be reversed.

The nearest you ever came to getting on the right track was when you said, rather more than twelve months ago, that we could not possibly exchange goods with Germany on a pound for pound basis, because there was not in

Australia sufficient purchasing power to enable us to consume the whole of our own production—with special reference to our wool clip. We pointed out to you at the time the logical attitude you should then have adopted—which was to say to your fellow Ministers in effect: "Look here, you fellows; you expect me to make trade treaties. Trade is based on the exchange of goods. Nearly all these countries which I have visited (and they are many and various) are prepared to take our goods and to give in return goods which plenty of our people need and desire. But, since our people can't buy their own goods, they naturally can't buy other people's goods in exchange. It's now up to you to do something."

Unfortunately, instead of doing this, you tried to effect the impossible. And what happened? You arranged to take Lancashire products and to keep out Japanese products. The Japanese kicked back at our wool, as they had to. The woolgrowers got to work, and you more or less made it up with Japan. But then Lancashire got annoyed again and, according to the cables the other day, another deputation from that quarter is waiting to give J. A. Lyons a pretty warm reception when he lands in England shortly. So things are back to where you found them.

There's only one way out, Sir Henry, and it's time you realised it. Neither trade wars nor military wars offer any solution—apart from their other disadvantages. We've got to give the people enough money to buy their own production. And it must come eventually—so why not now?

THE NEW TIMES



THE NEW TIMES

Published every Friday by New Times Pty. Ltd., Elizabeth House, Elizabeth and Little Collins Sts., Melbourne, C.1.
Postal Address: Box 1226, G.P.O. Melbourne.

Telephone: M 5384.

Vol. 3. No. 12.
FRIDAY, MARCH 19,

What About Our Dried Fruits Now?

We have never attached any great importance to the utterances or opinions of Mr. E. J. Hogan, the ex-Labor member of Victoria's Country party Ministry. But a statement ascribed to him in last Friday's *Argus* is worth comment, simply because it is typical of the colossal ignorance or hypocrisy of the thousands of Ned Hogans throughout this country.

Mr. Hogan, being only of recent years a Country party man, perhaps feels the necessity of protesting his concern for the farmer more constantly than those who have never been in any other political camp. Whether or no, he has lamented the adverse vote on marketing with greater volubility than most other Ministers—even to the point of making repeated personal attacks on Mr. James, whose successful appeal to the Privy Council upset our *status quo*? It was in the course of one of these petulant outbursts that he is reported to have said: "Australia's maximum consumption of dried fruits is 20,000 tons a year and the average crop is 80,000 tons. What is Mr. James going to do about the 60,000 tons in excess of local requirements?"

The first thing about this utterance that must strike any sensible person is that Mr. Hogan, like so many others, assumes without any proof—if not against open evidence—that "Australia's maximum consumption" is the same thing as "local requirements." It does not seem even to have dawned upon him that there can be such a thing as an *unsatisfied* requirement in this country.

But let us look into the figures. To speak of our dried fruits crop as 80,000 tons makes it sound quite formidable—and this is the method of quotation generally preferred by those who insist upon talking of

surpluses. But bring the thousands of tons down to lbs. per person, and what do you get? Merely this, that, on Mr. Hogan's figures, the total production of all varieties of dried fruits in Australia amounts to almost exactly *half a pound per head per week!* It's not nearly so formidable put that way, is it? And it becomes still less so if you call it an ounce per day.

If you consider all the varieties of dried fruits that Australia produces, and the multiplicity of ways in which they can be consumed, is it too much to say that, instead of eating a quarter of an ounce each per day, as Mr. Hogan would have it, the people of Australia would be very pleased to make such gourmands of themselves as to go the limit and consume a whole ounce?

If our people had enough money to buy the things they really require, it is more than probable that the whole of our present dried fruits production would be insufficient to satisfy local demand. But this matter of *incomes* is one to which Mr. Ned Hogan, like other Ministers, never by any chance adverts. Nevertheless we commend it very seriously to such of our readers as are engaged in the fruit industry. *Give the people decent incomes, and there will be no dried fruits problem.*

"Costs Rising in Sympathy"

A financial leader in one of our daily papers the other day said: "There seems to be little doubt that trade and business recovery in Australia is proceeding on the upward swing of the trade cycle. Prices for exports have risen, more money is in circulation, and with a greater demand for all classes of goods, costs, including wage costs, are moving upward in sympathy." It then went on to give classified details.

You are asked to note those beautiful words, "in sympathy." Costs are moving upwards in sympathy with prices, and prices are being regulated by the upward swing of the trade cycle. Is that, or is it not jargon of the worst type?

If people alternately gorged themselves and went long periods without eating, if they overdressed one year and practised nudism the next, then you might have some sort of a reason for this trade "cycle." But as both people's needs and their desire to satisfy them remain fairly constant, and as their physical capacity and will to do so have never yet shown any sign of slackening, but rather the reverse, it seems to be only commonsense that the movement of industry should always be onward and upward. Instead of which our financial editors, our University economists, and most of those who call themselves our business leaders are quite content to accept it as an axiom

BASE METALS AND NOBLE GENTLEMEN

The daily press, in its hectic search for news that has a news value, has been rather fortunate lately in having the cricket, England rearming, the Spanish civil war, the referendum and the Coronation. Yet, amongst all these important doings, much space has been devoted—particularly in the Melbourne *Herald*—to the spectacular rise in base metals, and the people have been given clearly to understand that this meteoric and sudden ascent in prices of base metals is very good news from the national viewpoint. Few people know anything about base metals, what they are, why they are termed base, their uses or who controls their production and marketing in Australia.

"BASE" AND "NOBLE."

Broadly speaking, base metals are those which are of most use, though that is not the real reason for calling them base—anyone trying to follow our financiers and political economists, however, could be pardoned for thinking along such lines.

For technical reference purposes, metals are divided into two groups—"base" and "noble"—the base metals having the more rapid tendency to revert to their original forms, as they exist in nature.

A steel bolt or nail, for instance, in a jetty, exposed to the severe conditions of salt water and moist atmosphere, will decompose rapidly. This chemical change, called rusting, separates the constituents of the steel until it decays right away. Copper, also a base metal,

that we must be whirled round and round until we are giddy and sick in their precious trade cycles. We must not dare to protest, and even to enquire intelligently becomes heresy.

Then, as to prices and costs, why bring in the sympathy note? What are prices supposed to represent other than the sum total of all costs—including, of course, the cost of management or personal trading profit? If a cost such as wages goes up, then inevitably prices must follow; otherwise industry will be bankrupted. (There are, of course, cases of extortionate profit being charged into costs, but these do not affect the main argument, nor are they nearly so general as the rich-are-rich-because-the-poor-are-poor type of advocate would suggest.) Similarly, if prices happen to be raised, then, unless the wage earner is to starve, his wages must also be raised; and this in turn will tend to raise prices still further. So the spiral goes on until our present absurdity of bank credit supported by a working percentage of legal tender becomes shaky. Increasing prices mean more demand on banks for legal tender. The banks are unable to meet this demand and so, to save themselves from being found out, they restrict credit or call in overdrafts. Wages are then cut down in order to reduce costs—and we are back to depression.

Costs, we are told, are going up in sympathy with prices. Prices, as the housekeeper knows, are going up in all directions—a penny here and a ha'penny there. And the good Laborite, seeing a few shillings extra in his pay envelope, thinks his standard of living is rising, and cannot understand why he still does not seem able to get ahead of things.

But as long as he accepts such rubbish as trade cycles and sympathetic rises, he never will get ahead. Nor will the community in general.

is much more durable under similar circumstances. Under ordinary atmospheric conditions, such as on the top of a tall building, copper might endure for centuries, likewise lead and zinc would have a long life. Steel, on the other hand, would soon rust away unless periodically painted or protected in some way from the elements.

The noble metals, notably gold and silver, would last for ages under conditions that would quickly and completely destroy base metals. In other words, the chemical changes brought about under natural conditions take place with greater ease in base than in noble metals, and—to the horror of our economics and financiers, no doubt—the world contains enormous quantities of base metals while the noble metals are scarce.

Base metals, again, are divided into two groups—ferrous, those containing a preponderance of iron, and non-ferrous, which do not contain iron or in which iron may be permitted in very small quantities for purposes such as strengthening.

By far the greater use is made of the ferrous group. Bridges, ships, motor cars, rails, machinery and, of course, guns of all descriptions call for terrific quantities of steel. The non-ferrous group, on the other hand, supplies the copper, brass and gunmetal parts of machinery, water tubes and storage equipment, washing machinery, cooking appliances, zinc galvanising as seen on roofing, electrical gear, cables and munitions in the shape of cartridges, bullets and shells and many other things.

BASE METALS ABUNDANT

There are plentiful supplies of all base metals in Australia. The Yampi Sound iron ore deposits were not required by the big Australian interests and all this fuss about Japan and Yampi Sound is rather amusing to those "in the know." There is an abundance of iron in every State of the Commonwealth, and in most parts of the world for that matter. The shortage of steel exists only in the plant for mining, treatment, smelting and rolling, and millions of pounds' worth of this class of plant was broken up and sold as scrap metal during the past fifteen years—the orthodox method of keeping prices up.

However, the recent disturbances in base metals that has made such good news for the daily press is in the non-ferrous group—copper, zinc and lead. As might be expected, public attention was, and is, directed more to the stock exchange side of the fluctuation than to its effect on industry and the people generally.

THE RISE IN PRICES

At the end of February 1935, standard copper was quoted in London (the Empire market) at less than £27 per ton. At the end of February 1937 the London quotation was touching £70 per ton. During the past six months the price has risen by more than £30 per ton.

Lead at the end of February 1935, was just on £10 per ton. The final quotation for February 1937 was just on £32 per ton.

Over the same period zinc rose from a little over £11 to £30 per ton.

During the past six months lead has risen by more than £14 per ton and zinc by more than £16.

Today's prices are higher than those prevailing at the end of last month and are still rising. What other commodities can we see that have trebled in price in two years? Surely Mr. Bruce, Professor Copland, Mr. Lyons and all those wise men who advocate rising prices should be wild with delight at the base metal position.

THE EXTRA 25 PERCENT

It is generally understood that during the period of depressed prices in metals the Australian

producers of copper, lead and zinc could not have carried on without the assistance of the exchange, which gave them 25 per cent, over and above London prices. *The 25 per cent, extra was also paid by all Australian purchasers requiring supplies for use in the Commonwealth.* In fact, the price to Australian buyers was more than 25 per cent, above London, but was evidently competitive with the cost of similar metals that buyers might contemplate importing. Such items as freight, insurance and landing charges as incurred when importing, could be added to the local price in computing the figure to be quoted to the Australian buyer of Australian base metals. Assistance under Section 92 was apparently not required.

Now, the percentage of Australian production that is locally consumed is a big consideration; in fact, our exports have been steadily decreasing because of increased local consumption, a good deal of which is going into munitions. Yet the price charged in Australia includes the 25 per cent, exchange on today's inflated London prices.

It may be argued that the producer is entitled to the highest market price and that he should not be called upon to make a sacrifice in selling locally, because he can sell his full output in London and reap the 25 per cent, in transferring the payment to Australia. Before we agree to that, however, we should look into the doings of the producers over the last few years and investigate the manner in which they reduced working costs by cutting wages and salaries, the concessions or inducements they were given to carry on, and the trading results of the secondary industries in which they are interested to such a very large extent. These secondary industries almost own a monopoly in Australia for the supply of cables, tubes, plates, rods and sheets of copper, and alloys containing copper, zinc and lead. Many important industries depend for their raw materials on the non-ferrous metal group of Australia, and, sheltered as this group is behind a solid tariff, it is in a remarkably strong position to do almost what it likes. Now, with war preparations going full steam ahead, it is the duty of the Commonwealth Government to safeguard the people against exploitation and profiteering, particularly because of the monopolistic complexion of these base metal magnates who were put on to the high road to their present strength by war-time Prime Minister Hughes when he smashed up the Merton metal organisation.

COLLINS HOUSE IN THE PICTURE

An examination of the sources of supply of base metals (non-ferrous) in Australia reveals the remarkable power of the Collins House gentlemen who figure so largely in the direction of banks, trustee and life assurance companies, and big financial ventures that exert so great an influence on the standard of living of Australians. Here they re-appear in Mt. Lyell Co. (copper), Broken Hill Associated Smelters (lead) and Electrolytic Zinc. Other Australian shows dabbling in these metals don't count. They do not amount to anything worth counting.

On top of this, the Collins House people control the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co. with large works at Port Kembla; Metal Manufactures Ltd., also of Port Kembla, with its pup company, Austral Bronze, in Sydney. That covers a vast field from which our munitions factories, railways, dockyards, engineering workshops, foundries, builders, plumbers and others must draw their requirements.

The Collins House group made fabulous sums out of the last war.

(Continued on page 7. col. 1.)

THE PRINTED WORD
in
**Pamphlets, Booklets, Leaflets,
Weeklies, Monthlies, Annuals,
Newspapers, Magazines, or
Books EXCELLENTLY
AND
ECONOMICALLY
PRODUCED
BY
THE ADVOCATE PRESS
309-319 LONSDALE PLACE
MELBOURNE
Phone 6831 (3 lines.)**

**LISTEN IN TO
BROADCAST
From 7HO, HOBART
EVERY SUNDAY, 8.30 P.M.**

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF Campaign Notes

VICTORIA.

The Way of Success—Have you ever thrown a stone into a pool, and watched the ripples spread and spread till all the placid surface of the water is agitated into restless movement? This is the way the demand for the abolition of poverty is spreading, and breaking up the old cohesions that had become fixed and binding. Throughout Victoria the movement has been set afoot, and the truth is quietly at work pervading the minds of the electors, spreading wider and wider, growing in strength. Everywhere there are workers; here a group, there a lone hand, putting pamphlets into the hands of the people and ideas of liberty into their minds. These are the methods that will compel success:—The ready pamphlet to hand to every contact, the prominently displayed badge that arrests the attention and draws the enquiry, "What's it all about?" the demand form produced at the right moment to secure the signature; the contribution secured, and the new supporter set to work as a new centre of "ripples." Propaganda, first, last and all the time. No opportunity too small to miss, or so great as to cause fear of grasping it. All is grist that comes to the U.E.A. mill. U.A.P., Labor or Country party, to each there is the answer, and to each the same answer, "The Abolition of Poverty is Possible, Get on with the job!" Besides being possible, it is also absolutely necessary to the well-being of the nation, and it will be done as soon as enough people demand it. There's the point, the all-important point, "enough people demand it." That means propaganda; the constant hammering at the minds of all with the idea that prosperity can be theirs for the asking, and will in fact, never be theirs if they fail to ask.

The Idea Spreads—Dunne the past week there has been striking evidence of the effectiveness of the idea of demanding results. All readers of the *New Times* will have read the reprinted parish circular put out by the Rev. E. Ashby Swan, of Caulfield, and those who went to hear the advertised sermon will agree that he presented a convincing case for the plain demand. It is not claimed that the U.E.A. alone introduced the idea to Mr. Ashby Swan; let the credit of that rest where it may; but it is certain

that, till the U.E.A. broadened the basis of the demand, it had not proved acceptable to a great number of responsible citizens, of whom the reverend gentleman is a typical unit. To become a power in the land, as it can and must, the philosophy of the Electoral Campaign must be acceptable to the average man, not merely to the "elect"; and although, provided sufficient energy is displayed, it is possible to get thousands of signatures to almost any demand, yet it is true that a large proportion of those will be almost irresponsible and not the outcome of a settled conviction. Votes that can be relied upon are the essence of the contract, and these can be obtained most easily by securing to the cause those men whose opinions will carry weight with their hearers. So may the task become less arduous, and the result more certain.

Propaganda—The three new leaflets are now available, and will prove most helpful in pressing home the particular points to which they are directed. "Is This Prosperity?" asks the first, and gives evidence of the existence of poverty, about which there may be some doubt among those reading the daily press only. "Prosperity is Everybody's Business," declares the second, drawing attention to the oft-neglected fact that it is to the advantage of every section of the community to see that poverty is abolished. "Political Parties Will Not Get Results", is the last of the series to date. This analyses the policies of the various parties, and shows how each is a proven failure if judged, as they should be, by results. In view of the present discontent with political happenings this last should be particularly useful in helping to break down the iniquitous Party System. It is recommended that they be used in the order given, so as to constitute a logical approach to the whole subject. Each supporter is requested to write or 'phone immediately for the quantity that can be used at the moment. No charge is made for these, but supporters will remember that a small donation will help to keep the funds in a sound condition and to continue to supply the munitions of war freely where no financial return may be expected.

The U.E.A. Bank—Attention is drawn to the advertisement of the U.E.A. Bank which appears

elsewhere in these columns. Poverty cannot be fought without adequate weapons. To provide these weapons the U.E.A. Bank has been established. From the thousands of branches that will be opened throughout the State must come the income without which the campaign cannot succeed. It is hoped that every supporter will open his own branch in his own home. These banks, in reality attractively designed moneyboxes, will be forwarded free upon application to headquarters, and will be cleared regularly to suit the convenience of the holder. It is urged that each family give itself a definite quota to raise—the responsibility of raising definite portions of such quota to rest upon individual members of the family. It is felt that father is sure to come to light—he is probably used to it—while the deposits accruing from mother's even keener house-keeping in the future will substantially further the campaign. Here, if anywhere, is a worthy outlet for the enterprise of the young. Dances, bridge parties, and the many other ways, which the mind of modern youth can devise, will no doubt provide the quota of the young folk, who will be the greatest beneficiaries of the campaign's success. This is the immediate job to be done, for upon it largely depends the propaganda programme, which will not only bring thousands of recruits to the ranks of the U.E.A., but will also ensure that their efforts will bear the maximum fruit. All supporters and sympathisers should apply for a bank immediately by sending in the coupon at the foot of the advertisement. This is the immediate chance to fill an effective role in the noblest task Australians have yet tackled.

Badges—The heavy demand for badges is being met with the greatest possible expedition. Those who have not yet applied for one (1/-, post free) are urged to make use of this continuous propaganda medium at once.

Speakers' Class—The attendance last Tuesday night was augmented and enthusiastic. The natural talent and promise of rapid qualification among the pupils has drawn surprised comment from the tutor, who is looking forward to some very concrete results from the mutual efforts of the pupils and himself. The class is, of course, continuing to meet every Tuesday night; and those who have not yet joined, but desire to equip themselves to speak lucidly and effectively (in public or otherwise) on the greatest and most urgent cause in history, should send in their names and addresses to—Hon. Sec., U.E.A., G.P.O. Box 1226, Melbourne, C.1.

Membership—It is pointed out that no fee is levied for membership of the U.E.A., as the signing of the Elector's Demand is the only requisite to join the ranks of those who fight under this banner.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Resignation of State Secretary—It is regretfully announced that Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, the secretary of the movement, has resigned. The reason for this course of action is that Mr. Hergstrom has found that he must make provision for his own economic position. His services will not be withdrawn as a valuable member of the organisation, but in the secretarial capacity only. Members of the movement and many people outside it declare that he has been a tireless, conscientious, industrious and enthusiastic worker; indeed, that no other person in the State has contributed so much and so consistently to the progress of the movement. The movement has passed through troublous times, but Mr. Hergstrom has been the sheet anchor to which it has moored its faith and confidence.

Appointment of New Secretary—The appointment of Mr. R. M. Lee as Acting State Secretary and Miss D.

Martin as assistant secretary is announced. The former has been in attendance at headquarters daily for over four months, and the latter took over the position vacated by Miss Darwin last July. They are both capable workers, and appreciation of their work has been expressed on several occasions. Both have been understudies of Mr. Hergstrom for some time, therefore, it is assured that the work will be carried on in accordance with the best traditions. All members are asked to give their active support to these two people, upon whom a difficult and large amount of administrative work must fall.

Appointment of Assistant Campaign Director—The appointment of Mr. M. E. Dodd, of Prospect, as Assistant Campaign Director, is also announced. He will work with the present Campaign Director (Mr. Hergstrom), and will be of great help to the organisation. Mr. Dodd is one of the keenest and most active workers in the movement, is Group Supervisor of the Prospect Group, has done a great deal of work in that direction, and has already made several valuable suggestions which have been acted upon by the movement. It is requested that all sections give him as active co-operation, where necessary, as he is prepared to give in return. Mr. Dodd is in attendance at headquarters daily between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., and announces that he will be glad to see anybody who has business to discuss with him.

Massed Attack on Boothby—On Tuesday, March 9, a rally was held at headquarters, to finalise arrangements for the massed attack on Boothby. The attendance was not as large as was desired, but the quality made up for the lack of quantity, and next week the results of this massed attack will be announced.

Visit of Mr. Sherwood—Members are asked not to fail to attend the reception to Mr. Sherwood on Saturday, March 20, at headquarters. This will be a great opportunity to meet this world traveller on behalf of the Electoral Campaign, who will give valuable information of activities the world over. It is interesting to note that Mr. Sherwood and John Hogan have been campaigning together in Tasmania, where John, from reports, has had amazing success. The women's auxiliary will again do the honours in regard to supper.

Meetings Arranged for Mr. Sherwood—Arrives, Thursday, March 18. Mitcham Institute, Thursday, March 18, 8 p.m. McLaren Vale, Friday, March 19. Rally at headquarters, Saturday, March 20. Port Adelaide, Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m. Cheltenham, Monday, March 22. Edwardstown, Tuesday, March 23. Clarence Park, Wednesday, March 24. Westbourne Park, Thursday, March 25. Goodwood, Tuesday, March 30. Prospect, Wednesday, March 31.

Boothby Electorate—The Director of Boothby (Mr. E. W. Elphick) reports continued and steady progress. - Distributors are active and producing highly satisfactory results. They are contacting their Federal representative, and informing him of the progress they are making, so that he is fully aware of the situation, and is in a position to know the growing number of electors who have adopted as their policy the abolition of poverty.

Clock Competition—The winner of the clock competition (the clock being donated by Mr. Allen) was Mrs. E. A. Chappie. The result was decided on Tuesday March 9.

Picture Competition—It is announced that the well-known artist Miss Gwen Baringer, who is shortly to have an exhibition of her work, has donated a beautiful watercolour to the organisation, to be competed for by members. The picture is valued at seven guineas, and would be a welcome addition to any

home. The tickets for the competition are 1/- each, and a prize will be given to the person who is successful in selling the greatest number of tickets. This prize for getting results is to be donated by Miss Kelly, another great worker and supporter.

Appreciation—Appreciation of the great work being done by Mr. Wally Nichols, of the Port Lincoln organisation, has been placed on record. Mr. Nichols is one of the foundation members over there, and instead of diminishing his activities with the passage of time he increases them, in fact he has been described by a recent visitor to those parts as being "a tiger for work."

Literature at Reduced Prices—Headquarters announces that they have a large stock of valuable literature which they wish to clear, and are going to smash prices so much that the prices will be reduced below cost. While they last it is a chance for members to get those books they have always wanted but have not been able to buy.

Address of S.A. headquarters—17 Waymouth-street, Adelaide.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Public Meeting—The first big meeting of a public nature was held at the Y.M.C.A. hall, 325 Pitt-street, Sydney, on Wednesday last, March 17, at 8 p.m. Although a report of this meeting was not to hand at the time of going to press, a large attendance was confidently expected, including many citizens of prominence and influence, and representatives of powerful movements interested from different angles in the objective of the campaign. It seems certain that such people will identify themselves actively in the promotion of the N.S.W. division of the U.E.A.

Propaganda—The N.S.W. division, which is progressing not only steadily but very surely, has brought out a 12-page brochure analysing the ills of our day from the Electoral Campaign point of view, and setting out clearly the constitutional and democratic remedy the Campaign offers.

Communications to the N.S.W. division should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., Box 2024L, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W.

DON'T SPEND A PENNY—

without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide.

BOOKS ON MONETARY REFORM

- Why Poverty In the Midst of Plenty By the Dean of Canterbury.....
 - ABC of Social Credit. By C. Barclay Smith.....
 - Dividends for All By C. Barclay Smith.....
 - Tell Me the Story Simply. By Will T. Duggan.....
 - Modern Problems and Mental Attitudes. By Rev. J. T. Lawton/I.....
 - Economic Democracy. By C. H. Douglas.....
 - Credit Power and Democracy. By C. H. Douglas.....
 - Social Credit. By C. H. Douglas.....
 - The Breakdown of the Employment System. By C. H. Douglas.....
 - Monopoly of Credit. By C. H. Douglas.....
 - An Outline of Social Credit. By HMM.....
 - Poverty Amidst Plenty. By C. J. Galloway.....
 - Democracy at the Cross Roads. By L. H. Hollins.....
 - The Douglas Manual .. 7/6
- ALL POST FREE.
- Obtainable from The Douglas Social Credit Movement, Room H, The Block, Melbourne

LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA.

Listen in to 7LA EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT 8.15



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.

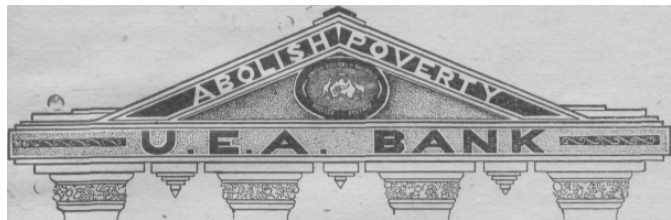
Signed.....Address.....

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

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

.....

The People Build a Bank to Abolish Poverty



Here is a Chance for You

Here is a chance for YOU to build a bank to burst the bonds that are preventing YOU from sharing in all the good things of life to which you are perfectly entitled.

This is your opportunity to do something to banish doubt, fear and worry completely from your life. Australia is a rich country, possessing everything to make us all secure and happy. There is no necessity for anyone to be in want in the midst of such plenty as we see all around us.

FIGURES PUBLISHED BY A.M.P. SOCIETY.

Of every one hundred persons of twenty-five years alive today, the following will be their position in forty years:—

One will be rich; four well to do; five will be working; thirty-six will be dead; fifty-four will be dependent on public or private charity.

These figures, which show that only 5% will be economically secure, are quoted by one of the world's largest life assurance societies. What an appalling position faces nineteen out of every twenty of us! Only one in every twenty will attain that moderate security which will ensure an adequate supply of life's comforts—and this in a time of plenty.

There is something seriously wrong when in a rich world most of its people are poor.

Little imagination is needed to visualise life as it could be, and there is a growing demand for a change from the present madhouse condition to common sense.

One thing only can give us our common heritage of plenty. One thing only is powerful enough to ensure future security for you and your children. That one thing is **the will of the people**—your will, which, added to that of millions of others, will give you life as it could and should be.

The people have never before been given the opportunity to express that will.

DO YOU WANT POVERTY ADOLISHED?

Then help us have it abolished. Join in our demand and hasten the day when individual members of Parliament will ACT.

The U.E.A. (Non-party) is the spearhead in this demand for a fuller and better life.

WE WILL NEVER STOP NOW UNTIL WE GET IT.

We are conducting a voluntary national referendum to enable the people to express their all-powerful will. Against terrific odds we are winning through. Lack of funds is our chief difficulty. We are overcoming this now, and our latest development is

THE U.E.A. BANK

In the first stage of its development, 10,000 branches of this "People's Bank to Abolish Poverty" will be opened.

Every penny of money deposited in the U.E.A. Bank will be used to spread the message of a life of plenty; to build a people's demand that nobody can defy, a demand that will fill the apathetic politician with a lively sense of the wrath to come, and enable the sincere member to do the job he would wish.

Each branch of this bank is in reality just a little moneybox, attractively designed, to place in a prominent place in the home, in which YOU can drop YOUR small coin. Every penny, three pence, sixpence or shilling you each drop into this bank weekly will not bear interest, but will bring a return in the highest of all material forms—economic security and economic freedom for yourselves and your children.

It does not call for sacrifices; just drop a few small coins in the bank each week, and the stream of money thus provided will be used to conduct a campaign to ensure that the figures of the A.M.P. Society no longer remain true.

WE WILL SUCCEED MORE QUICKLY WITH YOUR HELP.

OPEN A BRANCH OF THE U.E.A. BANK IN YOUR HOME NOW.

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA (non-Party)

(Victorian Division.)

BOX 1226, G.P.O., MELBOURNE

Hon. Sec., U.E.A., Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne—

I desire to open a Branch of the U.E.A. Bank,

NAME (block letters)

ADDRESS.....

.....

A JOB FOR THE PEOPLE

III.

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, -

We have seen that there is an abundance of the things the people need, that it is quite a simple matter to increase that abundance, and that consequently there is no necessity whatever for poverty to exist in any Australian home. This being so, it is our duty to have the needless poverty removed and our first demand as a united people must therefore be that the things we have produced and the things we are capable of producing shall be made available to the people of Australia. This is covered by the first section of the "Elector's Demand and Undertaking," as published each week in the *New Times*.

LEVEL UP, NOT DOWN.

To demand the abolition of poverty and leave it at that could quite possibly lead only to a levelling down of the people who now enjoy comfortable circumstances without providing much improvement for the great bulk of the community who are so badly in need of it. This possibility must be carefully guarded against, as it is a levelling up that is required. For that reason the framers of the "Elector's Demand and Undertaking" showed wisdom in including section 2, as follows:—

"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."

Time after time this journal has published proof that goods have been and are still being destroyed, while an examination of the official statistics relating to production will show that we are not producing up to anything like our full productive capacity. Up to this point it should not be difficult to get general agreement, but to a great number of well-meaning people it is quite inconceivable that poverty could be abolished without increasing taxation, much less without reducing it. This attitude is quite understandable on the part of any person who has not taken the trouble to find out the true facts regarding money, and does not yet realise that our banking institutions as at present operated are simply private money factories, deliberately keeping supply short in order to maintain the "price" on the "money market" and to retain their control over government and people.

THE ABSURDITY OF A "MONEY MARKET."

We hear daily of the "money market" as though the stuff dealt with in that market were some tangible thing like wheat, wool, potatoes, bread, and the like. The truth of course is that these latter are wealth, real wealth, whereas money is only a ticket of claim to wealth. These tickets of claim correspond with figures written in books called bank ledgers, and the figures in the ledgers are regarded as debts to the banks. The figures in the ledgers are increased or decreased to suit bank policy, and not to suit the requirements of the nation. This is the method by which credit is expanded and restricted, and explains the enrichment of the bankers who produce nothing tangible and the impoverishment of those who provide us with the necessities of life. Although we can see that money is actually brought into existence by a mere stroke of the pen, we foolishly allow it to control and determine the "value" of all the real things of life. Not only so, but we allow this controlling medium to be controlled in turn by a private monopoly having responsibility only to itself and actually operating under the protection of parliament.

From the foregoing it will be seen that if we are to remove

poverty without burdening ourselves in other ways we must necessarily convert money from master to servant, and we must also see that when the money figures are written in the books they are written for us instead of against us. In other words, money must come into existence as the property of the people, and not as a debt to private banks; as the servant of the people and not a weapon for the people's enslavement. When this change takes place, the government will provide its own finance and "borrowing" will cease.

AN OFFICIAL REPORT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

In October 1935, a document of outstanding importance was presented to the Tasmanian Parliament. This was a report on the monetary system by a Select Committee. The Committee had been specially appointed by Parliament to find out—

(a) Whether the people are being prevented from enjoying the actual and potential increase of wealth;

(b) If the people are being prevented, what is the cause of such prevention; and

(c) What steps should be taken to remedy the matter?

After hearing evidence and investigating the question thoroughly, the Committee gave the following unanimous answers:—

(a) The people are being prevented from enjoying their wealth and production;

(b) The cause of this prevention is the shortage of purchasing power in the hands of the community as a whole;

(c) The only way in which effective remedy could be secured would be by restoring to the community control over money in all its forms and the establishment by the Commonwealth Parliament of machinery, which would secure regular equation between the community's production and the community's purchasing power.

WHAT IS THIS PURCHASING POWER?

There is not the slightest doubt that the Committee's conclusions are correct. It is all a question of getting purchasing power into the hands of the people, and purchasing power is another term for money. The only purchasing power, which the Australian people can use, is Australian money, and Australian money is money, which is made in Australia. Obviously, therefore, there is no difficulty in producing Australian money to whatever extent may be required for the purposes of the people who live in Australia, and it is for us, the people who do live in Australia, to insist that the quantity of Australian money shall be equal to Australia's production.

IMPUDENT SWINDLERS.

Those who say there is plenty of money are utterly confounded by the dimensions of our public and private debt, and the fact that the wherewithal for paying it represents only a fraction of the amount owing. If the quantity of money were adequate there would be no occasion for government loans and certainly no justification for the Loan Council being requested to reduce its programme. The fact is obvious that despite our perpetual borrowing we are always in the position of not having "funds" to undertake important public work, and, for the same reason, are almost helpless when it comes to the question of caring for the aged, the infirm, the sick, the blind, the destitute, or of tackling any scourge like cancer. Although we have gone further and further into debt since 1931 we are still told that relief work must be cut down because of the chronic shortage of money, and our Governments are stupid enough

to take such ridiculous orders instead of exposing the impudent swindlers who give them, and who deliberately restrict the production of money. Money is only a matter of bookkeeping, and any Minister of the Crown who says community needs cannot be met because of shortage of funds should be arraigned on a charge of treason. He should certainly be hounded out of public life.

MR. MENZIES ADMITS IT!

Every one of us knows that it is no use going to a store unless we are in the position to claim what we go for, and the only thing that gives us this claim is money. The price of the goods has to be paid in cash or its equivalent, and consequently if the people are to have access to goods they must be provided with money, which may take the form of cash, cheque, credit note, or any other medium serving the purpose of money. The responsibility for bringing this condition about rests upon the Commonwealth Parliament, and at Malvern on March 4 Mr. Menzies publicly admitted that full power to do so is given in Section 51 of the Constitution. Experience over many years has shown the need for millions of new money annually. When governments were circulating this money we had what was called prosperity, but when governments ceased circulating it we had what was called depression. Had the Commonwealth produced its own money instead of borrowing counterfeit money there would have been no public debt, no interest, no trade stagnation, no taxation, no unwanted youths, and so on. Taxpayers must rid their minds of the idea that taxes are collected to pay for governmental services. They are not. Most of them are collected as tribute to the private manufacturer of money.

TAXATION SHOULD BE UNNECESSARY.

In these circumstances we must all join together and demand not only that the money claims shall equal the goods for sale, but that there shall be a progressive reduction in taxation following the discontinuance of borrowing. We pay taxation now only because the Commonwealth Government allows our money supplies to be produced and controlled by private interests instead of requiring its own financial institution to do it. When it produces and issues its own money the days of government loans will have passed forever, and there will be no cause for taking from our pockets through taxation to pay interest. Individuals will then be able to purchase up to the full amount of their income and industry will be entirely relieved of the irritating and oppressive demands of the tax gatherer. —Yours faithfully,
BRUCE H BROWN

Slum Abolition

A PUBLIC MEETING

will be held in the
ASSEMBLY HALL,
on

**Monday, March 22nd,
1937, at 8 p.m.**

DR. RAMSAY MAILER
will speak on the
**SLUM ABOLITION
CRUSADE OF 1936**

Come and Hear
How a Great Movement
Was KILLED.

**COLD GLUES, DEXTRINE
PASTES AND GUMS
INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES
PTY LTD**
155 Yarra St. Abbotsford
Vic. Phone J 2478

BASE METALS AND NOBLE GENTLEMEN

(Continued from page 4.)

Therefore, if the people of Australia want to avoid exploitation during the preparations for the next, action should be taken very quickly.

Just as we have base metals and noble metals, so we have base gentlemen and noble gentlemen and perhaps it is a coincidence that amongst the base metals, as controlled by Collins House, the names of the following noble gentlemen occur: Sir Colin Fraser, Sir Alexander Stewart, Sir W. Massy Greene, Sir Robert Knox, Sir Herbert Gepp, Sir Arthur Robinson. By chance, perhaps, Lord McGowen, of Imperial Chemical Industries, recently passed through Melbourne. His company is also financially interested in Australia's base metals, per Collins House.

THE CANONS OF BUSINESS

Surely these noble gentlemen would not wish to benefit by our necessity to arm ourselves in the interests of the Empire, and if it were shown to them that the current market prices of base metals were due to an artificial world shortage brought about by restriction of output in other countries, combined with Britain's distress in being compelled to purchase heavily to arm herself, perhaps they would use their influence and urge their colleagues to supply Australia at a nominal profit. Perhaps, on the other hand, that would conflict with the canons of good business—as they are all good businessmen.

The cold fact remains that the sudden colossal rise in prices of base metals is bad business for Australia. It is due to an unnatural, faked shortage and the ordinary man does not know how to cope with artificial shortages. They are more skilfully manoeuvred than natural shortages, but they strike at the incomes of so many people that man will surely evolve a means of dealing with them, just as he can survive droughts.

The immediate effect on us of the increase in base metal prices is a reduction in the standard of living or, expressed another way, a rise in the cost of living due to the extra selling price of everything (ranging from a copper kettle to a battleship) in which base metals are used, plus extra taxation to cover the increased prices which government departments have to pay for their supplies.

The least important feature of the whole business is the rise in price of base metal shares on the stock exchange. That cannot effect the people of Australia generally. It amounts to no more than the recording of the fact that the metals have risen in price. It indicates that the engineer or manufacturer requiring a ton of copper today must pay more than double the price at which it could have been bought a year ago. This extra price, of course, must be ultimately recovered from the public, and the newspapers try to show us that something good has happened. They will, on the same reasoning, ask us to rejoice when they boost their own price up to 2d, but we must not expect them to explain why the prices of base metals in Australia should be governed by London prices. When base metals are low, the Australian buyer is charged prices "based on production costs"; when the prices soar, we are charged prices calculated on London parity—and it is all good business.

APPLES

CHOICE JONATHANS,
4/6 Per Case.
Freight Free in Victoria
FENN
Orchardist Garfield Vic.

AND THE CYCLE GOES ROUND AND AROUND

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

People keep asking me whether the present trade activity is going to last. They come to me because last year I gave them a winner at 100 to 8 for the St. Leger.

I am not an economist. Palmistry's my racket—though the two are much alike. So I would rather refer you to those who, having refused to lie down during the Wars of the Roses, are now regarded as Economic Experts.

In an article headed, "Can We Stop Slumps?" the City Editor of the *News Chronicle* says:—

"A lot of discussion is going on among bankers and economists on the probability of a trade slump developing in a few years' time, and whether it is possible to prevent that happening."

This is encouraging. It means the experts have the matter well in hand. And you have only to look back over the past few years to see how right they always were.

First, you remember, they announced that the economic crisis

The italics are mine, to remind you that the laws of trade are supernatural. Its reasons for doing what it does are obscure, and known only to itself, so you can't help it. In fact, I remember about that time a poet wrote a hymn on the inscrutable ways of Providence, beginning:—

"Trade moves in a mysterious way its cycles to perform. It turns unbidden, like the tire, or passes, like the storm. So let us be content to spend what money can be found, While trade, for reasons of its own, goes cycling round and round."

This did not mean that the experts were helpless and could do nothing. There were two practical steps they all agreed upon: Cut down wages to meet foreign competition, and cut down production to meet consumption.

But they spent most of the time discussing fundamental questions,



was due to a Blizzard or Cyclone, meaning that trade is governed by laws beyond man's control, like the weather.

This conception of trade as an uncontrollable force was supported by the theory of the Trade Cycle. That meant that good trade comes in cycles, like fine summers, and that every good spell is inevitably followed by a bad one, and nothing can be done about it.

Looking through a heap of old news-cuttings for an example of the Cycle Theory, I find it was best expressed by Professor Dennis Robertson, lecturer on economics at Cambridge, who said in 1933:

"I believe that the trade cycle, for obscure reasons of its own, did begin on the up-grade in the middle of last year."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOSE SLOGANS FOR FLINDERS STREET

Further to my letter to you of a fortnight ago, the slogans appended have been submitted to me as suitable for the proposed Flinders Street station sign.

C. ELLIS.

Hon. Secretary, National Money League of Australia.

Slogans:—
"We must use Australia's wealth in peace or destroy it in war!"
"£1 notes cost 2d a dozen. Why suffer a depression for want of them?"

"Use national money to make our plenty available to us in peace."

"Australia expects . . . Australians to demand their birthright of plenty."

"How long can a sovereign people be bound and chained to want?"

"The governors of a country are those who create its money. Who governs Australia?"

"An elephant can be chained to a tent peg: how long can Australia be chained to poverty?"

"The restrictors of Australia's money destroy more of our wealth than all our droughts, fires, floods and pests put together."

WHY NOT USE SECTION 51?

Even with the referendum going against the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth still has ample power to arrange orderly marketing (Section 51). But as this would necessitate the Commonwealth Government resuming and actively using its power to issue credit as the people's possession, and depriving the private banks of their usurpation of this power, there is no hope of expecting the present Government to take this step, ruled as it obviously is by that sinister group known as the Bank of England. It is the general people who need to see and be taught the one step further than the late referendum.

"E.P."

THE MONEY SWINDLE

What a pity that the majority of Australians who thought and acted for themselves at the poll, regardless of the party leader's eyewash, wouldn't also think and act for themselves in the matter of the Money Swindle, which really is the only issue before Australia and the world.

"X."

Corner at last, and find it was Armaments all the time.

After this display of expert knowledge in the past, I think we may turn to what they say about the future with the absolute confidence of a punter picking a double.

* * *

First, what is a slump? A slump, according to orthodox definitions, comes when the means of production have been increased to meet a special demand. When this demand has been satisfied, we find we are producing more than we can buy. Factories slow down, there is unemployment, the nation's buying power declines, the Blizzard starts again, and the Corner-turning season reopens.

Now, it is clear that if at this point we could give the people more money to spend, whether they worked or not, we could go on producing, and there would be no slump. But we cannot do that for two reasons: (a) It would be immoral; (b) money grows on trees, and it is a law of nature that you can't grow more than a certain amount at a time.

What, then, do the experts propose? In the article to which I have referred, the City Editor of the *News Chronicle* supports the proposal of Mr. J. M. Keynes, that during the present activity, local authorities should postpone public works, so that when the armament programme is over there will be something for the people to do.

It appears from this that slumps cannot be prevented. According to the laws of capitalist economics, which were laid down during the first week of Creation, and, therefore, cannot be altered, there is no means by which a nation can distribute the wealth it produces.

Hence, the term Homo Saphead, meaning a species of bipeds, which listens to its economic experts. It is distinguished from the brutes by the fact that the latter eat all the food they produce instead of destroying half of it, in ignorance of the fact that in so doing they unbalance their budgets and become bankrupt.

We are, therefore, confronted with this final flower of economic wisdom:—

That the less trade we do now, the less we shall notice it when we do less trade still. Therefore, the only way to prevent the evils of a slump is to have a slump all the time.

Let us, therefore, dispense with our motors, houses, cooking-stoves, and overcoats until, reaching the final stage of economic stability, we dispense with clothes and go back to the trees.

Thus shall we attain the Ideal to which capitalist economics lead us ever On and Up—the Simple Life.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

MALVERN.

FROCKS & KNITWEAR To Order. L. M. Fairbrother, 241 High St. (And 55 Koornang Rd., Carnegie.)

MORELAND.

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

NORTHCOTE.

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

SANDRINGHAM.

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

BIGGS & LOMAS, Tailors. First-class Workmanship. Suit Club. **CONFECTIONERY and SMOKES.** Gibson's, Bay Rd., opp. Theatre.

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

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

HOME MADE CAKES. F. TAYLOR, 21 Bay Rd. XW2048. **LIBRARY, 5000 BOOKS.** **COUTIE'S NEWSAGENCY.**

PARKDALE.

RADIO REPAIRS AND SALES. C. Barnett, 19 Herbert St. XW2031.

SPRINGVALE.

DAIRY, M. Bowler. Buckingham Ave.

R. MACKAY & SONS. General Storekeepers. UM 9269.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

DON B. FISKEN, Baker. 2 Douglas Parade.

DUNSTAN, DAIRYMAN. 28 Station Rd. Phone, W'town 124. **HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist.** C. Tomkins, 165 Nelson Pl., 76 Ferguson St.

WINDSOR.

E. COOKE, 49 Chapel St. W. 8044. High Class Butcher (Cash).

If you think the NEW TIMES is worth supporting, your best way of doing so is to make it known to your friends.

Third Edition Now On Sale

The Story of Money

And Its Management

64 Pages, 1/-; posted, 1/1

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

Its contents include: The

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

The Story of Money

Is obtainable from

NEW TIMES PTY LTD

BOX 1226, G.P.O. MELBOURNE

"FEED MY LAMBS"

Being a Harvest Thanksgiving discourse delivered by Rev. W. Bottomley at the Melbourne Unitarian Church on Sunday evening, March 7, and reproduced in the *New Times* in the hope that it may be a pointer to other speakers, reverend and lay.

Tonight, as is evident to all of you, we are celebrating the ingathering of the harvest. It is an ancient custom, and one that we would not willingly forego, for it reminds us of the providence of God. It reminds us of the fact that in the great unfathomable scheme of things, of which our lives seem to us to be an essential part, provision was made for the supplying of all our needs; contingent, of course, on our learning how to procure and how to use the means of life.

Another fact to which I may briefly allude is that in thus expressing our gratitude for the harvest, it indicates that we have no quarrel with the universe or with its Author. On the contrary, the ocular demonstration of the good fruits of the earth in this manner reminds us that such fault as we have to find is not with the Creator, for we know that in Nature there is no lack, but with the maldistribution of the goods that are produced. Whether we like it or not, the responsibility for the just use and distribution of the fruits of the earth, and all manner of wealth which is created by man's labour, lies upon us. God has provided the means, and it is not possible to see how, consistent with the gift of freedom that we enjoy, He could have arranged it otherwise than that the responsibility should be upon us rightly to use the means He has provided.

FREEDOM EXISTS.

It is important, I think, at this point, that we should realise that this freedom exists. To deny that freedom is to deny your true nature; it is to accept a slave philosophy; it is to abdicate your rights as a human being in favour of those who would use you as slaves for their own power and enrichment. If you find that your freedom is denied in practice—if you find that our laws and customs, our economic arrangements, virtually deny that freedom, then the remedy is to be found in affirming your freedom and in challenging every institution that denies it.

The way in which human freedom is asserted, or can be asserted, depends, of course, upon the political constitution of the country in which men reside. Where there are no constitutional rights, where men are the slaves of despots, the only way is by a revolt of the slaves. Where men are kept in subjection by force, the only way of liberation is by force, but where men have obtained the power to elect their own lawmakers and administrators, then, clearly, the way is open—the way of peaceful and constitutional action—to obtain such reforms as the people desire. But, in any case, we must never deny our essential freedom and the responsibility, which goes with it.

FREEDOM BRINGS RESPONSIBILITY.

This apparent diversion from our subject is really no diversion at all, because it is designed to bring home to us the fact that there is a direct responsibility resting upon us in this matter of distributing the goods of the earth. I feel strongly that our harvest thanksgiving would only be a form of religious piety, without any practical outcome, unless we are at the same time ready to do some serious thinking in respect to the world's well being. It is as if God said to us: "I have done My part; now what are you going to do?"

"FEED MY LAMBS."

There is a story told in the fourth Gospel that Jesus appeared to some of his disciples, after His resurrection, by the Lake of Galilee. These adherents of His had gone

fishing, but had been unsuccessful. As they approached the shore, just as day was breaking, they saw a figure on the beach whom they did not recognise. It was Jesus. "My children," He said, "have you any fish?" "No," they answered. "Cast your net on the right-hand side of the boat," He said, "and you will find some." They did so, and now they could scarcely haul in the net for the load of fish it contained. "It is the Master," one of them said, upon which Peter, the impulsive one, jumped out of the boat and swam to the shore. The others brought in the boat and beached it. "Come and have breakfast," said Jesus. And there, in the early morning light, they broke bread together, the disciples with the Master Whom they thought they had lost.

After they had eaten, Jesus looked at Peter, and, addressing him by his first name, Simon, said: "Simon, son of John, are you more devoted to Me than the others are?" "Yes, Master," he answered. "You know that I love You." "Feed My lambs," said Jesus. Then, a second time, Jesus asked; "Simon, son of John, are you devoted to Me?" "Yes, Master," he answered. "You know that I love You." "Be a shepherd to My sheep," said Jesus. Then, a third time, Jesus asked him: "Simon, do you love Me?" Peter was pained at his third question, and exclaimed: "Master You can tell that I love You." "Feed My sheep," said Jesus.

Now the point about this story that appeals to me is that Peter was the one who, as soon as the Master was recognised, took to the water to reach Him. It was a glad, impulsive act. He would be the first to grasp his Leader by the hand; the first to show his devotion to Him. The action was not lost upon Jesus, and it is to Peter that He gives the command, "Feed My lambs." And today the cry goes forth, particularly to those who claim the name of Christian, "Feed My lambs."

WAS THERE A MATERIAL MEANING?

But, of course, it may be argued that the exhortation had nothing to do with material things. It will be said that Peter's great work was of a spiritual nature. Especially will this seem the case when it is remembered that the writer of this Gospel uses material symbols like bread, water and wine for a kind of life that transcends the material, for a life that has the quality of eternity. Well, frankly, I have no quarrel with that interpretation because I believe that man is of such a nature as lifts him beyond the material and makes him but "a little lower than the angels."

But that, I would urge, constitutes the greatest and the most powerful argument for so arranging our economy, for so organising our material resources, as to make mankind free of anxiety as regards his food, clothing and raiment. Man should be set free to pursue the highest and best. A man can do his best work when he has no anxiety about his rent, his meals, or any of his bodily needs. Did not Jesus say: "Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold, the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they... And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; yet I say

unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Yet who will deny that thousands upon thousands of men and women, even in this fair land, are condemned to lives of unrequited toil, of periodical unemployment, of insecurity and desperate anxiety? Why are ye anxious concerning all these things? Is it not because a large proportion of the working population is less secure in their lives than the birds of the air and the beasts of the field? Yet your heavenly Father knoweth you have need of these things. But, unlike the birds, and the flowers of the field, man must sow and reap, he must organise his life, he must use foresight and apply his knowledge, for such are the conditions of his earthly existence and of his intellectual and spiritual progression.

RELIGION AND ECONOMICS

Now I believe, indeed I think all of us believe, that religion should embrace the whole of life, and nothing is more imperative in these days than that it should concern itself with man's economic well being. Sowing and reaping, manufacturing and distributing, as well as the whole sphere of public service, should be religious acts. That is to say, they should be made to serve man's highest welfare. What we have gathered before us in the shape of gifts to celebrate the harvest should serve to remind us that the fruits of the earth are for the satisfaction of men's needs, and it is upon the basis of such products that the whole of our complicated social structure exists. Take these away, and nothing remains. Upon this foundation our lives depend. Apart from the primary products of the earth there could be no manufactures, no science, no art, no religion. Man's highest ideals, which lift his soul beyond the present, enabling him to enter into communion with the Father of all life, nevertheless, are rooted in the earth. Heaven and earth are thus united. The ladder, which reaches up to highest heaven, has the earth to rest upon, and upon it the angels, symbolical of man's aspiring spirit, ascend and descend, keeping up a way of communication between heaven and earth. Poetry, if you like, but nonetheless pointing to the reality of man's nature, whereby his soul aspires to higher things, whilst yet he is rooted in the earth.

I hope I have made it clear that the material aspect of man's life is not to be disregarded by those who would minister to his spiritual needs. If Christ's command to Peter was, "Feed my lambs," and if, in this particular case, it had reference to man's higher needs, it could only be on the assumption that the material needs were met. He had directed them to a successful haul of fish. And if those material needs are not being supplied, then obviously it is our duty to look into the cause and to concentrate our efforts upon a remedy.

THE ABSURDITY OF THE DEPRESSION

Let me remind you of a few simple facts. The first is that there is more than enough cultivable land to supply the world's needs. In the years of plenty preceding the great world depression of a few years ago, the agricultural countries had put so much land under cultivation that the output exceeded the amount the world could afford to buy, so prices dropped, ruining the agriculturists. It was not that the world did not need the things that were produced, but that the money was not available to purchase them. If the people had had the means to purchase and to consume the goods that were being so rapidly produced, there would have been no depression.

But the economic structure of the world broke down completely. Whole nations went bankrupt at a time when Nature was giving in abundance, because of indebtedness and a shortage of

money. The whole thing, apart from the tragic consequences that ensued, seems positively absurd. You all know, for the facts have been told again and again, that live stock was cruelly slaughtered and the carcasses destroyed, that wheat and other much-needed foods were burnt, whilst millions of people were literally starving. The death roll due to the stupidity of our economic system will never be computed. And yet, in spite of it all, no Government has been courageous enough to break the stranglehold which the financiers of the world have upon them and upon the people—no Government, that is, except Russia, and, indeed, it was not the Government in this case, but the people in revolt against the Government, and this has only been at the expense of individual liberty and the establishment of a coercive system which does not commend itself to our liberty-loving minds.

THE REMEDY.

Now it does seem to me that there is an obvious remedy for all this. It is a remedy founded upon natural right and human need. The natural right is that wealth, being socially produced, should be socially available. No man can grow rich solely by individual effort. Those who attain great wealth do so by virtue of the fact that they are living in a world where labour is available and where consumers exist. There is no wealth but what has been socially produced. Let that fact sink into your mind, for it is incontrovertible and unchallengeable. The rich philanthropist gives away what other people have enabled him to amass. He owes his wealth to the community that has, by its labour and its needs, made possible its accumulation. And yet the people have no claim, beyond the all too slender resources of their money, upon the goods that are produced, and the outstanding fact is that their money tokens are never sufficient to buy the goods that are produced and which they so much need.

Well, what is the remedy? It is one that is becoming more and more clear as time goes on. It is that the people must be given the means to make the demand upon the goods that are produced; in short, they must be given the money tokens, which represent the wealth of the community. In the past the demand has been for higher wages from the employer, and there was a time when this was more or less successful, owing to the peculiar circumstances then existing. For example, when England was the workshop of the world, and other countries were demanding the goods which she, and she alone, produced, the profits of industry were such as made possible an increase in wages, and this actually

did happen. Between 1850 and 1875 real wages rose by one-third, but while the prosperity of the working class increased by a third, that of the middle class increased thirty fold; so that there was ample margin for the increase in wages which the workers sought and obtained. But those times are gone; countries that at one time bought their manufactured goods elsewhere, sending their agricultural products in return, are now manufacturing for themselves, and Prince Kropotkin's forecast, as published in his book, "Fields, Factories and Workshops," a generation ago, has been proved correct. This brief incursion into industrial history is sufficient, I hope, to prove that the demand for increased wages in competitive industry is a hopeless one. It is further proved by the fact that the wages of thirty years ago in Australia purchased more than does the basic wage today, showing that real wages—real wages being what they will purchase—have actually declined.

It becomes evident, therefore, that some other method must be found and, for my part, I cannot see any method more effective than giving the people a share in the social inheritance by means of a national dividend. But this can only be made possible by the control of money being taken out of the hands of private corporations and invested in the people's government as trustees of the people. By this means enough money could be placed in the hands of the people to enable them to share in the total wealth, and the prime cause of poverty and social discontent removed.

This is a question that I commend to your serious consideration because upon the solution of this problem depends the future welfare, progress and happiness of the world. We should then have no need to build up armaments to absorb the unemployed, or to stave off revolution, or to protect our markets, or to obtain new ones. With the abolition of poverty the Church could go on with its work, leading the people in the ways of wise and noble living. There will always be work for a true Church, for experience has amply proved that man can never be satisfied by the supplying of his material needs alone. These material needs are basic, but they are not all. We have within us the seeds of a larger life, a life more noble, more beautiful, more pregnant with divine possibilities than we have yet dreamed of. And at last the possibilities are within our grasp if only we will have the faith and the courage to embrace them. It is my earnest prayer that this Church will take a worthy part in building up a new order of society:

"More bright than gold or gem,
God's own Jerusalem."

TO OUR READERS—

You may obtain your copy of "THE NEW TIMES" from any authorised newsagent. Should your agent not have supplies, please ask him to communicate direct with New Times Pty. Ltd., Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1. (Phone MS384).

If you wish to have your copy posted direct from this office, please complete the form below and mail it, accompanied by remittance payable to New Times Pty. Ltd.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To New Times Pty. Ltd.,
Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1 Please forward me "The New Times" for.....

months, beginning with issue dated....., 193....

cheque

I enclosed postal note for the sum of.....
money order

Name.....

Full Postal

Address.....

Date.....

The subscription rate to "THE NEW TIMES" is 15/- for 12 months;
7/6 for 6 months; 3/9 for 3 months, post-free