

REARMAMENT
ROUNDUP

(See page 4.)

THE NEW TIMES

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1937.

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FOOLS' PARADISE FOR WHEAT

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WHY WORRY ABOUT
SPAIN?

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N.S.W. Bridge Deficits



THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2.

The Masses and Trivial Impressions

Speaking at the Independent Labor Conference in Glasgow last Saturday, Mr. J. Maxton, the well known British M.P., said: "Nobody at the last conference anticipated a constitutional crisis leading to the dismissal of one King and the appointment of another. We have seen how trivial an impression the whole thing has left on the mind of the masses, indicating that the monarchical institution does not matter a damn."

And the surprising thing is that so intelligent a man as Mr. Maxton undoubtedly is could deliver such a statement with apparent pleasure. In his mind, and in the minds of many Left wing Labor speakers and writers in England, the easy disposal of a monarch is hailed as a further step towards their goal of a Socialist republic.

But if this republic is to be the "workers'" paradise which they envisage, and not the worst form of tyranny yet conceived, the mental attitude of the masses towards the events of last December—assuming that James Maxton & Co. interpret it correctly—should rather give cause for the gravest alarm. For the big political issue was not whether the monarchical institution did or did not matter a damn, but whether *democracy* mattered. However trivial may have been the regard of the masses for Edward VIII, it can hardly be denied that it was at least much less trivial than the regard felt for his successor. Nor can it be disputed that the displacement came about without the masses being in any way consulted—that the act was an act, not of the people, but of an autocratic oligarchy. And if an oligarchy can act in this way concerning one who is at least the nominal head of the

State, and can get away with it without leaving more than a "trivial impression" on the mind of the masses, to what can democrats of the Maxton type possibly pin their hopes? Regrettable as it would have been had Edward's unceremonious bundling-out been the occasion for civil commotion—as would undoubtedly have happened in such despised countries as France—such strife would at least have indicated some measure of vigilance on the part of the people towards their rights of self-government.

It is easy to say that the masses of Britain—and likewise of the Dominions—don't care a damn who is their king, and so don't bestir themselves. Kingship is remote. But there are many other issues, which are very near and very vital, and on how many of these have the masses bestirred themselves? For the last six or seven years most of the people of Britain have been persuaded that they were too poor to attain to a standard of living that would even put sufficient food into their bellies. Now they suddenly discover that the country can budget for a £1500 million programme of armaments. And apparently they still don't care a damn!

Subsidies

Monday's cables indicated that subsidies paid by the British Exchequer to its local producers from October 1931, to date amount to £38½ millions. The industries subsidised include beet sugar, cattle, horses, milk, aviation, land transport, fish and ships (not chips, because potato growers are fined instead unless they *restrict* production).

This comprehensive list operated in a country long noted for its non-interference with production is simply another admission of the no-longer-to-be-denied fact that industry cannot carry on unless it is subsidised from some outside source. Either producers must be subsidised so that they can sell below cost, or consumers must be so that they can pay fair prices to producers, or both. The subsidies may be given directly, as in the instances above; or indirectly, by paying people to produce goods which are not put up for sale, such as armaments or other forms of public works. But subsidies must continue and be extended, otherwise we shall have an infernal crash.

Unfortunately it has not yet been openly accepted that these subsidies must come from some source other than taxation, which only means a general levelling down, or fresh loans, which are another word for unrepayable debt. Both Britain and Australia, together with other countries, are, however, rapidly nearing the stage of recognising the necessity for free subsidies—for who now even makes the pretence that national debts will ever be repaid? Certainly the toll of interest on these debts—or at least the internal ones and, in

REARMAMENT ROUNDUP

The article below, which discusses the expenditures of nations preparing for war and the probable trend of alliances, is reprinted from the well-informed American journal, "Time," of March 1 last.

The most war-minded country in the world might be the one which is spending most today on Rearmament, and last week statisticians of the Foreign Policy Association figured that the latest rearmament budgets of the Great Powers entitle the Bolsheviks to rank first.

In 1936 the national defence expenditure of Japan was 307 million dollars, France 716 million, Italy 870 million, United Kingdom 846 million, U.S. 964 million, Germany 2600 million, Soviet Union 2963 million.

World spending on rearmament totalled 10,730 million dollars, and of this 8879 million was spent by Britain and the Continent, thus making Europe as a whole Public Enemy No. 1 of Peace—except that each country insists its rearmament is solely to preserve peace, thus making Europe in 1937 the Public Friend No. 1 of Peace.

The colossal scope of Bolshevik preparation for peace was shown last week by the fact that although the Soviet Budget carries the burdens of Russia's entire national economy, and is loaded with all kinds of Five-Year-Plan economic costs which private capital would carry in other countries, J. Stalin is spending more than one-fifth of the entire Red budget making ready to fight. Germany spent in 1936 seven times as much as in 1934. Russia only tripled her expenditure in the same period but is still ahead of Germany. Together the Bolsheviks and Nazis spent in 1936 on future war more than all the rest of the world combined.

In Manhattan it was estimated last week that 1000 million dollars, or about one-tenth of the world's entire current rearmament bill, is being spent for fighting aircraft alone. Vice-President Howard S. Welch, of Bendix Aviation Corp., figured that 62,349 serviceable planes exist today, about one-third of them war planes, and that in 1937 an additional 28,500 planes are being built, four-fifths of them war planes.

In London last week the Chancellor of the Exchequer, hawknosed, hawk-minded Neville Chamberlain, told the House of Commons that, although at least 5,000,000 dollars is going to be spent every weekday for the next five years on rearming the United Kingdom, "it may be that in the end we shall find that even this has not represented the total amount this country has been compelled to spend."

In Ottawa last week, Canadian M.P.'s from the West demanded to know whether the Dominion Government has given or is about to give the United Kingdom "a blank cheque which might be filled in with the lives of young Canadians." This emotional question Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King quietly and flatly answered thus: "There are no commitments and no understandings in the nature of commitments between this Government and the Government of Great Britain or any other Government."

Since rearmament gives so much employment at high wages to the workingman, no Labor M.P. seriously opposed rearmament in debate last week, and in the city shares in British armament and allied firms rose on the Exchange some 20 per cent. No-

Australia's case, both internal and external—is still being levied. But even this has grown so unwieldy that it must soon topple. Without a war, it may last another five years. With a war, the echoes of the first barrage will send it hurtling over—in which, incidentally lies one of our greatest hopes for peace.

body paid much attention to Laborite Sir Stafford Cripps's remark: "We are witnessing the most magnificent subscription to a world suicide pact ever publicised by any country in the world."

"FEELING OF SECURITY."

In the course of further rearmament debate in the House last week Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin made unobtrusively perhaps the most important declaration from his Majesty's Government since the rise to power of Adolf Hitler in 1933. A basic tenet of Nazi policy today is that, excluding Soviet Russia, the rest of Europe including Britain must unite in a Western Pact. This regional pact to guarantee peace only on Germany's frontiers in the West, leaving the Fatherland free to wage war in the East, has long been resisted by France with her doctrine of "collective security," and, of course, by Russia. Dictator Stalin would be glad to sign an Eastern Pact with Germany but finds Der Fuhrer utterly cold to that. In the making of any pact for peace or war in Europe the weight of Britain in the scale of decision may well throw it one way or the other and last week the words uttered so casually by Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin were heavy with fate. He was speaking just after the House had endorsed his rearmament programme in its preliminary stage. Mournful-faced, the Prime Minister said:

"His Majesty's Government has not lost hope in devoting its efforts to maintain peace by a pact to take the place of the old Locarno Pact with the old Locarno powers. I think it may well be in the immediate future that the most hopeful prospect is the prospect of the regional pact. It is worth anything and everything in Europe today to get a feeling of security—at any rate in one part—from which that security, if once attained, may spread to other parts of the Continent. . . Were there a pact—I am not speaking of collective security through the whole of Europe—for mutual assistance against aggression between the nations of Western Europe, I hold and believe that such a pact could maintain peace."

THE SIGNIFICANCE.

In these words of the Prime Minister the significant three were "old Locarno powers." Emphatically the Soviet Union was not one of the "old Locarno powers" which Mr. Baldwin hopes to get together as new Locarno powers. In other words, the Prime Minister, by his deft use of "Locarno," said clearly, although not wantonly calling a spade a spade, that the British Government are now with the German Government and the Italian Government in wishing to make a Western Pact of the type desired by Adolf Hitler, to the exclusion of the Soviet Union. Mr. Baldwin's unanswerable argument for this is that it would give a "Feeling of Security" and not even the logical French can prove or disprove a feeling. Over in Paris last week Premier Leon Blum was facing the awful dilemma whether Paris should loosen its ties with Moscow, move with London and Rome nearer to Berlin to achieve a "Feeling of Security."

"MR. SMITH."

Obviously this week the Western Pact of Adolf Hitler's "dreams and schemes was not yet in the bag, but Ambassador von Ribbentrop received the significant British honour of being invited to a house party at Knowsley Hall by the Earl of Derby, great and good friend of King George V and Queen Mary, not hitherto rated pro-German and in British Government circles one of the most influential

aristocrats in the Kingdom. Derby took the course of advising British editors that his entertaining of von Ribbentrop was a "purely private affair" and that "any talk will be confidential." He expected the Kingdom's news organs to unite in keeping his hush-hush house party hushed, but there are too many British Jews in journalism for that. Instantly news of the Ribbentrop-Derby "confidential talk" leaked into anti-Nazi quarters and next morning the New York Times printed as news that Lord Derby "is held to have committed one of the first blunders of his long career."

Jubilating Nazis meanwhile hailed von Ribbentrop as the Nazi who secured from Britain a treaty giving Germany the right to tear up the naval clauses of the Treaty of Versailles; the man who not only gave the Nazi salute to new King George at a levee, but later presented 17 Nazis, all of whom injected Nazi saluting into Court etiquette; and finally this week as the Nazi persuader who is out to make peace in the West while the world's biggest rearmament investments are made by Germany and Russia for war in the East. Russia is the only great Power which could possibly be whipped in 1937 or 1938 by Germany, and then only in conjunction with Japan. Herr von Ribbentrop has thought of that too, and so has Mr. Baldwin. Three months ago at No. 10 Downing-street the Prime Minister and the German Ambassador had a long talk. From this Herr von Ribbentrop drove directly to Croydon, flew to Berlin, and there signed for the German Government its treaty with the Japanese Government uniting these Powers against Communism and the world revolution of the world proletariat fomented by the Comintern from Moscow. With deliberate Japanese-German irony this pact is not directed against the Soviet Union, only against Moscow's Communism.

Tokyo dispatches last week reported such high "rearmament fever" that Japanese miscreants were stealing knobs off doors, absconding with household plumbing, selling their metallic loot to the Imperial Government's munitions foundries and shipyards.

The U.S. Government was not yet stealing doorknobs, but was so crucially short of metal for rearmament that President Roosevelt had to call for action.

ELECTOR'S DEMAND FORMS

Elector's Demand forms and leaflets setting out the case for the abolition of poverty may be had on application to the U.E.A., Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Supplies will be posted free and post free—though donations towards the cost of printing and the general conduct of the campaign will always be welcomed.

NOTICE.

Those Who Were Interested in the Formation of

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Are Advised That Registration Has Been Effected Under the Victorian Companies' Act 1928, Under the Name,

COLLECTIVE CONSUMERS LEAGUE LIMITED

The prospectus of the Company, embracing the Memorandum of Association and Form of Application for Shares, may be had from the Registered Office at 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

F. C. BARNES, Director.

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WHITHER THE IRISH FREE STATE?

Emigration Figures Again Mounting, as No Attempt Made to Handle Monetary Position

Very little has been heard in our daily press of late about the internal conditions of the Irish Free State, except that Mr. de Valera's political position seems to go from strength to strength. But that the new political liberty of the I.F.S. is not of itself bringing the expected solution of its economic difficulties is made clear from the editorial here reproduced from *Social Justice* (Dublin).

According to figures recently given by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in answer to a question in the Dail, the new wave of emigration grows apace.

Year ending.	Net migration Outwards.
1933.....	3,278
1934.....	9,517
1935.....	17,284
1936.....	23,711

These figures take no account of the migration over the northern border, which can only be guessed at, and are consequently an understatement of the actual facts. It has recently been stated in the public press, and has not been denied, that 36,000 people left the Free State in the first nine months of 1936. If this is true, emigration has reached the colossal figure of 45,000 per annum, and apparently is still mounting.

At the annual dinner of the National Agricultural and Industrial Development Association, held on the 12th January, the chairman congratulated the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Mr. Lemass) on the decrease in the numbers of the registered unemployed.

We doubt if Mr. Lemass shared the pleased expressions of some of the manufacturers. The figures have certainly fallen, owing to three causes. More relief works are in operation, more workers are emigrating, and there is a little more employment.

One bright young economist has written to us to point out that the Government could get rid of the unemployment problem altogether by offering free passages to England, and a small bonus, amounting to a couple of weeks' Unemployment Assistance money, and states quite correctly that the Government would be able to save approximately £1,250,000 in the next twelve months by this means. If he had added that the adoption of Swift's modest proposal would have ensured that unemployment would not again become an awkward problem, we should have heartily concurred. It is evident that this young man is imbued with the scientific spirit, which distinguishes the teaching of economics in the Irish universities.

SOME DISADVANTAGES.

We would be the last to cast a doubt on the value of the considerable legislative activity of Dail Eireann, but still we think it should be remembered that our expanding political status will lose some of its point if there are hardly any people left to live under the new regime, and our new industrialists will be rather handicapped when the greater part of their customers have emigrated. The policy which will then, doubtless, be advocated by our economic experts will be to increase our subsidies on Irish exports, and subsidise a publicity campaign to urge the Irish in England to demand Irish manufactured goods. Whatever we may think of their value to the nation, it must be admitted that our experts are not lacking in resource.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Still, we would like to know what the Government is going to do about it. If we allow the present trends to continue, there will be little future for Ireland except to provide copy for novelists of a sardonic turn of mind. We have had complete control of our own economic affairs for years, and during the administration of our several governments about a quarter of a million young and active people have fled from a country too lacking in intelligence to employ their services.

Every person productively em-

ployed produces more wealth than he consumes. This is obvious, because in no other circumstances would it be possible for the country to support its legislators, the professional classes, the Civil Service, and the experts, those engaged in distribution and the rendering of services of all kinds. We all live on what those productively employed are able to produce. The majority of emigrants from this country are productive workers to whom we deny the means to make a living at home. They do not forsake the country places in Ireland because they prefer crowded conditions in foreign towns, but because they have no prospect of decent standards of living in Ireland.

THE FLIGHT OF CAPITAL

Economists often talk of the danger of a flight of capital if we reform our monetary system. The real flight of capital is taking place daily, and on an increasing scale before our eyes, caused principally by the monetary system to which we now cling.

We allow our levels of prices and wages to be determined by those in other countries, and sacrifice our young people to an antiquated system of economics, which was designed to favour particular private interests in another country, which has never yet served the Irish people, and which is visibly bringing European civilisation to catastrophe. A nation is like a pyramid, and the productive workers form the base. The base of our pyramid is being subjected to a rapid and dangerous erosion. The fact can be ignored, or it can be hidden for a while, but the country, which ignores it or hides it can have no secure future.

It was Pericles who said that what makes a city great was not its walls, but its men. That was a long time ago, and the experts now know a lot of things that Pericles could not have taken into consideration. The banks are paying good dividends, and so are many of the new industries. There is plenty of money for investment, and a money market is being established in Dublin. Every recognised index points to prosperity.

Another antiquated commentator wrote:

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

In Ireland we know better; we let the men go, and preserve monopoly, and vested interests.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce stated the objects of his policy at the annual meeting of the National Agricultural and Industrial Development Association in Dublin recently. Among other things he said:—

"Our aim is to create here an independent and united Irish State... so organised economically that it will be able to ensure in all circumstances a reasonable standard of comfort for all its citizens. . . . In fact, the whole purpose of any national policy is to secure the well-being of the people, and to protect them against unemployment and poverty, from whatever causes they may arise—from defective or deficient industrial development, from foreign wars or internal disturbance, from would depression or trade dislocation... We have urged, facilitated and pressed forward the industrial revival, firstly, because we believed that no nation striving to be free could

hope to maintain its freedom unless it had an independent and self-contained system, and that, for us, meant balancing our national economy by an intensification of industrial production, and, secondly, because only by developing every possible natural resource and potentiality could we secure the means of building up the social services which the circumstances of our people demanded."

Mr. Lemass is outspoken and courageous, and we hope he will carry out his policy to the last letter. We hope also that he will realise that an independent industrial system requires, as an essential condition of its independence, an independent fiscal system, and that without a national monetary policy a national industrial policy is at the mercy of whatever power controls money. No industrial system can function without a properly controlled supply of money, and if the control of that supply is not in the hands of an Irish public authority, acting in the Irish public interest, the industrial system cannot be counted on to do more than operate within whatever limits another power may set.

WHEN THE BOOM ENDS

Had the Minister launched his industrial policy during the period when the post-war deflation was in operation, he would not have met with the measure of success, which has so far attended his efforts. When

BONDS OF EMPIRE!

"Britons never shall be slaves"; but they always will be debtors until they decide otherwise and enforce their will on their governments.

For example, each little Briton born in South Africa finds his or her share of national debt amounts to £124 16s. 4d., on which he or she has to pay £5 14s. each year in interest. Corresponding figures for the other British (should it not be bankers'?) Dominions are:—

	Yearly Interest.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Australia	184 2 6	6 13 10
Canada	55 4 10	2 10 0
New Zealand . . .	116 19 8	6 12 9

—"Social Credit."

the present boom conditions in England pass their peak (and some authorities think that they have already done so) and when the next deflation sets in what will happen to our independent and self-contained industrial system?

A national monetary policy and a new technique consciously directed to create and maintain an expanding internal market for goods and services is the only way to safeguard our industrial system from the effects of contrary policies pursued by other countries.

Mr. Lemass cannot build up or maintain any independent and self-contained industrial system without a self-contained and independent monetary system. That fact is beyond dispute, and we hope that the Minister will not rest content with raising a pleasing superstructure of industry while neglecting to secure its foundations.

The foundations of any such system as he is trying to bring into being are an expanding market for goods and services, and the provision of markets is a function of monetary policy. The Minister has made good progress with one part of his problem; the other and the more important part, so far, has been ignored.

DEBATE ON MUNICIPAL RATES

"Is an increase in municipal rates justified?" is the subject to be publicly debated at the Coburg Town Hall on Thursday next, April 8. The Mayor (Cr. McDonald) will officiate as chairman. The speakers will be Cr. A. Martin (affirmative), and Mr. A. Jans (negative). The latter is a member of the Coburg branch of the Douglas Credit Movement. Members of the audience may "heckle" the speakers after the debate.

ASSES OR ASSETS?

By DYNAMICS

In the Christmas number of *Chamber's Journal*, 1936, there is an article by Major R. W. G. Hingston headed, "Wild Animals in Danger of Extinction," in which these words appear: "The world fortunately appears to be changing. Feeling is definitely against destruction It is a fact that animals within a sanctuary become tame very rapidly. I believe that the one great hope lies in converting the living animal into a communal asset."

Hurrah! We shall soon be able to sing with gusto and conviction, "Where every prospect pleases and only man is vile."

Quite often has it been pointed out that humans are unique among the animals, in that they alone descend to wholesale destruction of their own kind, and now, just as we reach the stage when there is a marked revulsion against cruelty to and destruction of animals, the men of the world are preparing on a colossal scale for destruction of human life and the social amenities on which communal comfort depends.

Reliable authorities could be quoted to show that this extraordinary and seemingly "mass" effect is certainly not due to inherent combative instincts in individuals; and travellers in many lands assure us that no collective wish for warfare can be discovered in any un-contaminated group either in city or country areas.

Resentment, distress and fear are of course affecting the tempers of many people in many quarters, and the resulting reaction may bring about a condition such that in some countries markedly, and in most countries somewhat, cunning manipulators of public opinion prepare the minds of people to look to war to clear the air of the troubles which beset them.

Cannot we take a hint from Major Kingston? If the lions in Africa lose their aggressive attitude towards men when they are afforded economic security without serious encroachment upon their liberty, why not try the same sane dodge on men?

The capacity inherent in the present day productive system is obviously sufficient to provide the

basic requirements of food, clothing and reasonable amenities for every inhabitant of the so-called civilised world, but some blight or retarding factor prevents this potential capacity from becoming a continuous reality, and so the much-to-be-desired economic security which might make all the difference to the frayed tempers is denied to millions who should enjoy this, their just inheritance.

The problem of effecting an immediate improvement calls for some rectification of the distributive system, but any suggestion of curtailing the affluence of those who now call widely upon the goods available should be spurned. Articles for use can be multiplied so easily in our present and prospective farms and factories that social trends of the future must be in the direction of levelling upwards and not the opposite.

Having stated our problem in general enunciation, what is our next step? Some, remembering the ancient Euclid system, will want to proceed to a particular enunciation and follow up at once with construction details and formal proof. In the realm of social dynamics this course will not answer. So long as there is no physical bar to a realisation of their wishes or wills, then voters are best advised if they merely find ways of making their united desire known to those in Parliament.

These said specialists are paid to serve as moulders of the community life under instructions from their masters, the electors, so far as policy is concerned. Let us insist, then, that Parliament, having arrived at an integrated evaluation of the will of the people, as expressed in terms of the results wanted, shall choose capable people to do the corresponding expert planning.

Experts in each realm, such as health, engineering, finance, etc., will do the calculating, the drafting, the specifying and then watch that the proper measures are used to obtain the results, which the people desired.

Under such a sensible scheme there is every prospect of converting every animal, even including the species, *homo asininus*, into a communal asset.

LIARS, LOOK OUT!

Best-known mechanical device to detect lying (says *Time*) is the polygraph, perfected by Professor Leonarde Keeler of Northwestern University. A subject attached to the polygraph who tells an untruth supposedly registers changes in blood pressure, pulse and respiration which are indicated by a needle jiggling on a graph. Tested last week in Manhattan was another such instrument—the psychogalvanometer. The invention of tall, burly Father Walter G. Summers, S.J., Ph.D., head of Fordham University's department of psychology, the psychogalvanometer works not on the heart and lungs, but on the minute electrical currents coursing through the body.

In Father Summers' Woolworth Building laboratory a newshawk grasped an electrode in each hand as if he were experimenting with a toy shock machine. The electrodes were attached to an apparatus resembling a radio set, inside which were two balanced electrical circuits, with a two-stage amplifier on the input side hooked up to a recording

millimeter. Any electrical agitation the newshawk betrayed under emotional stress would jiggle the millimeter, make a needle correspondingly scratch a chart.

Producing five cards, Father Summers asked the newshawk to choose one in his mind, then deny, card by card, that he had selected any of them when they were re-shown him. Watching the needle, Father Summers flipped the five cards, heard the newshawk's answers, then declared: "Your card was the three of diamonds." The newshawk was compelled to admit it was.

The bigger the lie, says Father Summers, the bigger the jiggle. This year Providence police let him use the machine on a woman suspected of theft. When she denied committing the crime herself, the needle moved mildly. When she denied knowing who had committed it, the needle jumped. In court it was established that the woman actually was an accomplice.

The psychogalvanometer is more comfortable than the polygraph, whose subject has a sphygmomanometer (blood pressure meter) strapped with oppressive tightness on his arm. Neither machine will work on madmen.

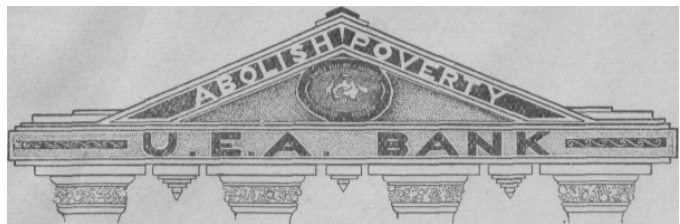
* * *

That last sentence dashes all your hopes about certain politicians, financiers and others. Because only madmen or at least morons, could have behaved as they have done these last few years.

THE SHIPPING MONOPOLY GETS IN FOR ITS CUT.

March 18: Mr. Alex. Wilson (president, Victorian Wheatgrowers' Association) declared at Conference that effective steps would have to be taken against the shipping combine.
March 27: Daily press announced a further rise in shipping freights for wheat and flour of 2/6 a ton.

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 to-day, 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 ABOLISHED?

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

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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 should.

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.

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NAME (block letters)

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA.

Those who have signed the Elector's Demand have shown themselves to be willing to assist in the struggle for individual freedom and security. They are not content to wait for someone to do the job for them, but have voluntarily offered themselves as pioneers of progress. Some there will be who will be prevented by private affairs from taking a more active part in the Campaign against Poverty, but many others, the great majority, will wish to enlarge their field of activities. There is much that these people can do, both in public and in private capacities, and the aid of every man and woman of goodwill is going to be highly valuable in the coming year, in which, it may be, the fate of this land and the world at large may be shaped.

What things are possible? What can each one do? Let us consider the major activities first.

The pressing need is for the organisation of working groups. Of these there cannot be too many, and there need be no limit to the size of each group. It may start as one person, or just a few friends who have determined to see this thing through. What is needed is goodwill and energy sufficient, at any rate, to get moving. Supposing some one person has made the decision to start—how should he proceed? First, he should write in to the U.E.A. (Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne) and tell them of his wish to help. If at the same time it has been possible to arrange to get together a few friends in the home of one of them, it will be of great help to the organisation. Having heard from this potential worker, the U.E.A. will reply to him by sending a supply of leaflets for distribution, demand forms for signature, and various other materials that will be dealt with later.

If a meeting has been arranged, a speaker will be sent to explain fully the aims of the Electoral Campaign and its methods of working.

As a result of this meeting it is probable that there will be a small working group formed, possibly a half-dozen, who will be given charge of the local arrangements. It will be their duty to appoint one of their number to act as organiser, and, while the group remains a mere handful, it will be best for him to combine all the duties in his own person, leaving the further appointments to be made as the duties become more onerous.

First, let a survey of the district be made, so that allotment of streets to the various workers can be arranged. If possible, it is far better that workers should go out together in pairs, as the sense of support that each gives to the other is very valuable, and there is also a friendly rivalry induced as each one works his own side of the street and notes are compared as the work progresses.

The method of working must depend on the locality, and each helper will evolve his own particular technique. Do not attempt to get signatures without some preliminary propaganda preparation. Go out one day or evening and hand out one of the leaflets, or the pamphlet, "Why you should join the U.E.A." Do not be content with pushing it into the letter box—this is usually a sheer waste of time, effort and printing—but take it to the door, and see that it gets directly into the hands of the householder or his wife, also leaving a Demand form with whichever leaflet you think is the most suitable.

At the same time they are to be told of the local organisation of the electors to demand results, and that they will be called upon again in a day or two, after they have had time to read the literature and think things over, when it is hoped that they will have signed the Demand form and so dine their bit to help.

Each worker will gain experience very quickly and will soon know what are the best methods of approach, and as they

meet together and pool results there will quickly be evolved ways that will get in the maximum of signatures with the minimum of effort. Any way that is particularly successful should be reported to the Central Office, where it can be made known to all others, so making for the greatest efficiency.

Do not be deterred from this work on the score of expense. The U.E.A. is supplying all literature free of cost, and only asks that it shall be made use of and not wasted. Of course, this free supply must be paid for by someone, and that is where the finance side of the U.E.A. must come into being, and by means of organised collections, the U.E.A. Bank, and other methods of raising funds, will keep up the flow of subscriptions into the Central Office that will make possible the regular and increasing spread of the doctrine of demanding what is wanted and making sure that it is obtained.

Given energy and goodwill, the organisation is easy. Given the organisation, the collection of signatures is not difficult. Given the signatures, and the propaganda that will ensure the effective support of the electors, the pressure can be put on the individual member of Parliament, and so soon as a number of these men start to put forward in Parliament the demands of their constituents, and continue to do so unceasingly, just so soon is action going to be taken for the abolition of poverty.

Once start the trickle of the demand through the dead walls that bar progress, and before the obstructers have time to draw breath the trickle will cut its way into a gap that will become the channel for a mighty flood, which all the trained organs of propaganda, all the efforts of vested interests, and all the fulminations of reaction will be powerless to stem.

Get going and victory is as assured as that day follows night.

Speakers' Class —Another well-attended meeting of the above was held last Tuesday evening. Despite a few absentees, the class was crowded, and the tutor reports that he has already "got results," in the form of first-class speakers who are now ready to take their place at any meeting.

The next class will be held on Tuesday, April 6, at 8 p.m.; further arrangements are being made for a second class to be held through the week.

Those wishing to join in the class are requested to send in their name and address to the Secretary, Speakers' Class, Box 1226 G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Mr. D. M. Sherwood in South Australia.—At a rally

held at headquarters (17 Waymouth St., Adelaide) on Saturday, March 20, a good crowd gathered to welcome Mr. D. M. Sherwood, of London, who was commencing his tour in South Australia speaking on the Electoral Campaign.

Mr. Sherwood's talk was so broad and at the same time covered the ground so thoroughly that at its conclusion it was suggested that the speech be printed and circulated in leaflet form. The main points of this speech will be published, and reprints will permit a copy being handed to anybody who so desires.

Taking the four main points (which he called the four portents) Mr. Sherwood summed up the world position in such a way as to leave no doubt that the Electoral Campaign is the only solution to world problems. These four portents were:—

- (1) Lack of national balance;
- (2) Inevitable war;
- (3) Revolt of coloured races;
- (4) Absolute breakdown of man—bodily, mentally and spiritually.

As a result of Mr. Sherwood's meetings in South Australia there have been a number of people offering themselves as new workers, and new districts have been opened up, particularly the Mitcham area, Clarence Park and McLaren Vale.

Class in New Economics — Commencing on Monday, April 5, a Study Circle, limited to 12 to 15 members will meet at the University to discuss New Economics. Discussions will centre on Currency, Financial Problems and Social Credit. To those who desire to carry on with this propaganda work, this will be their opportunity, and as the class will be limited, early application for membership will be necessary.

Literature at Reduced Prices —Headquarters announce that they have a large stock of valuable literature, which they wish to clear, and prices will be smashed so much that they 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.

Picture Competition. —It is announced that the well-known artist, Miss Gwen Barringer, has donated a beautiful watercolour to the organisation to be competed for by members. The tickets for the competition are 1/- and a prize will be donated to the person selling the most tickets.

Rally at Headquarters—There will be a rally at headquarters on April 10.

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THE VIEWS OF MR. E. J. HOLLOWAY, M.H.R.

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.

Sir,

At the anniversary social of the Labor Day committee at the Melbourne Trades Hall on March 13 Mr. E. J. Holloway, M.H.R., was the principal speaker, and, believe it or not, he actually told his listeners that a Labor Government could do no better than the present Government unless the Constitution is altered. It did not require an alteration of the Constitution to take money from us, but apparently that course must precede any move to give money to us. Mr. Holloway made the following assertions:—

1. Never has the Commonwealth Parliament been held in such ridicule and contempt as today; there is unrest, dissatisfaction, and lost faith in Parliament.

2. He feared that this contempt for the persons who now control the Federal Parliament will be levelled against the principles of democratic government itself.

3. The recent extraordinary victory of the Labor Ministry in the reactionary State of Tasmania... must be taken as some indication of lost confidence in the present Ministry.

4. The Ministry had not made any real effort to alter the Constitution.

5. No government could deal with the great problems of industry and commerce unless the Constitution were altered.

A DOCTOR DEALING WITH EFFECTS

Here was a prominent member of the Federal Parliament bewailing the increasing loss of respect on the part of the mass of the people for parliamentary institutions and at the same time demonstrating the very attitude of mind that has given rise to the loss of respect. He knows conditions are bad and why they are bad, but all his talk is directed towards effects instead of causes.

When Mr. Holloway spoke of the Federal Parliament he included himself, and if that Parliament is today held in greater ridicule and contempt than ever before, as he says, then it is because the members, including himself, have failed the people who sent them there. If he has been correctly reported (and I have seen no disclaimer) we are forced to the conclusion that he is not familiar with the terms of the very instrument under which Parliament functions—viz., the Commonwealth Constitution Act.

Unrest is abroad, and is becoming increasingly articulate. But we must never forget that unrest is only an effect. What is the cause of it? Contentment and unrest do not go together. Unrest comes from discontent, and discontent comes from the inability of the people at large to obtain the necessities and to enjoy the amenities of life. This inability is due to the fact that one thing, and one thing alone, stands between the people and the satisfaction of their requirements. That one thing is money, but this is the subject about which Mr. Holloway and his fellow members are careful not to speak where the public can hear them. No matter how efficient our production may be the people cannot have access to it without money, and yet Parliaments remain mute while more and more of the electors find themselves either without an income, or able to obtain less and less goods with the income they do receive. Parliament has the power to rectify this but does not use it, and Mr. Holloway cannot escape his share of the responsibility for the neglect. Lack of income, i.e., Finance, is the cause of the unrest. Nothing else.

EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION

The same applies to the expressions of dissatisfaction. They are merely an effect also. The Cause is the important thing. Parliaments have been established to see that the resources of the land are used in

the best interests of the people as a whole, and these institutions are clothed with absolute power to secure this result. As Mr. Menzies told his audience at Malvern on March 4, the Commonwealth Parliament was established to deal exclusively with matters appropriate to Australia as a whole. These national matters are enumerated in the Constitution and they include Finance. Outside these, the powers of the State Parliaments are unlimited. It is therefore clear that all power is vested in the parliamentary system as a whole, and that by co-operation between the States and the Commonwealth it is possible for them to secure any result that is physically practicable. In view of this, it is not at all surprising that the people are showing dissatisfaction at the appalling conditions round about them, conditions which it has been within the power of Parliaments to prevent. The surprising thing is that we should have tolerated such conditions at all.

WHY FAITH IN PARLIAMENT IS LOST.

In the same way, if we have lost faith in Parliament there must be some reason for it. Loss of faith usually follows failure or betrayal, and the Federal Parliament has been guilty of both. It has failed to exercise the functions delegated to it by the people for their "peace, order, and good government," and it has actually betrayed the country by allowing a group of private individuals to usurp the prerogatives of the Crown over the production of money, thus controlling the very lifeblood of the whole community. Mr. Holloway has taken little part in exposing this failure and betrayal, and still sticks to the stupid idea that Governments have only two ways of obtaining finance—(i.) to steal it from individuals through taxation, or (ii.) to borrow it from private manufacturers. He does not seem to realise that the government should manufacture its own, in fact that it should be the *only* manufacturer of money.

And when he refers to "the persons who now control the Federal Parliament," who precisely does he mean? As the members are elected by the people and are sent to Parliament to serve the interests of their constituents, who are these super persons referred to and from where do they get their authority?

Furthermore, if Mr. Holloway fears that the contempt now in evidence regarding the "persons" alluded to may be levelled against the principles of democratic government itself, he must be under the impression that the Australian people have actually experienced those principles. Perhaps he will tell us when we have had government by the people for the people. We certainly have not had it at any time during the 22 years in which I have been an Australian elector.

LABOR IN TASMANIA

As to the recent victory of the Labor Ministry in Tasmania, Mr. Holloway is in no way entitled to ascribe that as evidence of want of confidence in the Commonwealth Ministry, or to assume that Labor in the other States would be accorded the same measure of support.

There were two main reasons for the remarkable vote in Tasmania. One was the merit of the Labor Government's administration in that State during recent years, and the second was the fact that the election was fought on the policy of *monetary reform*. In other words, it was a demand by the Tasmanian people for a change in national financial policy and its control. The Tasmanian Labor party led by the Hon. A. G. Ogilvie is an outstanding critic of the Loan Council farce, and a courageous opponent of the impudent domination on the part of the Board of the Commonwealth Bank.

The people of Tasmania are behind him in this, but the people of the mainland as yet have no ground for supposing that the representatives of political Labor are ready to follow the same course. Only this week I have read that Mr. Ogilvie is fighting for all of us against a repetition of the criminal actions, which precipitated the financial stringency (mistakenly called "depression") in 1929. This is what he said: "There is a conspiracy to get us back to the days of 1931, and I am not going to have it if I can possibly help it. I intend to make a statement shortly, dealing fully with matters connected with the Commonwealth Bank and the Loan Council."

Where is the Labor leader on the mainland, or even the Labor member, who is telling the public the truth about the money swindle and exposing how they are being bled by the private monopoly, which is traitorously allowed to operate the swindle? Judging by the published reports of his speeches, Mr. Holloway does not even understand what money is, what it exists for, where it comes from, who produces it, or who controls it. Yet it is the one thing that causes all the difficulties experienced by the masses, and the only thing through which the masses can secure emancipation. Mr. Curtin is well aware of this, but since being elected Federal leader he has been strangely silent about it; and while he and his colleagues are acting the part of dumb men, the real enemies of the people go on with their preparations for another financial emergency.

HOCUS POCUS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.

Instead of facing up to these realities Mr. Holloway talked a lot of hocus pocus about the Govern-

MR. LYONS CHAIRMAN OF GUESSING COMPETITION.
The Orient Line announces that J. A. Lyons has been elected chairman of the sports committee on board the *Orontes*, on which he is travelling to England with his cricket team of hangers-on.
Fittingly, it is announced that the programme includes a guessing competition and a hunt for knowledge.

ment's failure "to make any real effort to alter the Constitution," and actually had the nerve to say that the great problems of industry and commerce cannot be dealt with unless the Constitution is altered. If he thinks that way he is as culpable as any member of the Government he criticises, for a change of Government would be no remedy, and he, too, would excuse his own failure and the lack of activity by his party in the plea that the Constitution is against them. It is untrue.

Industry and commerce have only one great problem, and it is peculiar to both: That is to find buyers. Buyers are people who have money to spend, and when the Australian people have been placed in the position to buy the products of their own industries they will obviously be in the position to indulge in commerce with other countries. If they cannot buy their own production, they cannot, of course, buy the production of others in exchange. It follows logically that the great problem of industry and commerce is the problem of finance, and as power over finance is definitely vested in the Commonwealth Parliament now, it is false for Mr. Holloway or anyone else to say that an alteration of the Constitution is necessary before the problem can be dealt with.

What the masses need is regular and adequate incomes, which is all a question of finance, and as it is within the power of the Federal Parliament to meet this need, there is only one course open for us to follow. We must demand that the members of Parliament either get on with the job and provide incomes for the people, or make room for others who will.

—Yours faithfully,
BRUCE H BROWN

PEACE WITH HONOURS

THE WAR THAT WAS TO END WAR

Returned Soldiers—Are You Listening?

The market value of the shares of five British armament firms—including Vickers—have risen from less than £7,250,000 in 1933 to more than £29,250,000 in 1936.

Back to August 1914. Here is Mr. H. G. Wells telling the readers of *War Illustrated* (22/8/14) about the shape of things to come:

This is now a war for PEACE. It aims straight at disarmament. It aims at a settlement that shall stop this sort of thing forever. Every soldier who fights against Germany now is a crusader against war.

This, the greatest of all wars, is not just another war—it is the last war!

Three years later, the same paper publishes this shriek from another writer:

"The Germans, individually and generally, are unclean, and whoever permits himself to come in contact with them hereafter will be defiled.

"It is known fact that the German is simply a dirty brute, tainted from prince to peasant with perversity and moral filth.

"I say that any man in France who gives quarter to an unwounded German who throws up his cowardly hands at sight of the avenging steel is conniving at the violation of his own women."—(3/11/17.)

The Great War ended, and in June 1919, the Great Peace of Versailles began. On August 6 of that year it was announced in the House of Commons that honours had been conferred upon high officers of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, for services rendered, and grants were voted them and others. The honours and the grants were as follows:—

Admiral Sir David Beatty (Earldom), £100,000.
Admiral Viscount Jellicoe (—), £50,000.
Vice-Admiral Sir Roger J. B. Keyes (Baronetcy), £10,000.
Field-Marshal Viscount French (—), £50,000.
Field-Marshal Sir E. Allenby (Viscountcy), £50,000.
Field-Marshal Sir H. Plumer (Baronetcy), £30,000.
General the Hon. Sir J. Byng (Baronetcy), £30,000.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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Others who served much nearer the firing line were left to look for their grants in the gutter.
—Glasgow Forward.

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THE BANKS GO INTO THE TIME-PAYMENT BUSINESS

The hire purchase system on the grand scale is a denial of what until recently was the core of "orthodox" economic theories—viz. that the distribution of incomes resulting from production sufficed to buy the goods so produced. Wholesale hire purchase is only another proof that future income must be mortgaged if present goods are to be distributed.

As long as our present financial arrangements persist—whereby incomes depend on the distribution of money originating from privately controlled banking policy—so long will hire purchase and time payment systems remain and extend.

Until recently, both the hire purchaser, the seller on terms, and the financier arranging the accommodation have been looked upon in "respectable" circles as not quite nice. But the institution is now being given the benediction of the "best" circles, and the bankers themselves are going into the business, as is shown, by the illuminating article below, which was published editorially by the London *Economist*, in its issue of February 20.

The hire-purchase system of financing retail trade has developed at a phenomenal rate in recent years. In the United States, where progress has been more rapid than in any other country, hire-purchase paper ranks third in importance of the varieties of discounts held by Federal Reserve Member Banks. In London, the banks are concerned in the financing of the hire-purchase companies to a much smaller, though to a growing extent. There has been a strong prejudice in the City against the whole hire-purchase system, which is now being broken down. This particular form of conservatism was based very largely on the principle that the retail purchaser of consumers' goods, unlike the wholesaler or the manufacturer, should pay for his purchases before enjoying their use - - that credit should be used to finance production and distribution, but not consumption. Even now, the extent to which the banks are concerned in the latter function is confined to the making of relatively short-term advances. A hire-purchase agreement running anything from six months to two years is too long a commitment for the ordinary bank—although the effective average period of the advance is shorter than its nominal term, since money is being repaid all the time. Hire-purchase business, again, appears to most banks to involve a greater risk of bad debts than they are willing to incur. The hire-purchase companies, on the other hand, contend that a number of well-spread commitments affords better ultimate security than, say, a single factory, which can readily be distrained upon but has probably little complete realisable value apart from its specific business function. Nevertheless, few bank managers are likely to welcome the prospect of realising the assets involved in a large number of hire-purchase agreements, and, in spite of the attractive profits, which the system holds out, the banks have touched only its fringe. So far they have accepted only the better-class bills, and in many cases have stipulated that these should have only three months, or less, to run.

"BANK OF ENGLAND LARGEST SHAREHOLDER."

That the hire-purchase system as a whole, however, has been making headway is attested by the rapid

SO HAVE WE!

"There have been many times in my political career when I have wished I had stayed teaching in a school."

—J. A. Lyons ("Sun," March 20).

growth of the leading firms. The oldest and largest of them, the United Dominions Trust, started in 1919 with a capital of £5000, and earned a profit six months from its inception. The Trust now has share capital and reserves exceeding two million pounds, and the Bank of England is its largest shareholder.

An example of more recent developments is afforded by the experience of the Assurance Finance Trust, which started business in 1933 and increased its turnover fourfold between 1935 and 1936. The proportion of retail sales

financed by hire purchase varies with different articles, and exact statistics are not available. Independent estimates, however, have put the proportion of wireless sets sold on hire-purchase terms at 75 to 80 per cent, and that of motorcars at about 70 per cent. Among other articles, household appliances have a high percentage of hire-purchase sales.

The method of finance adopted varies with the different companies engaged in the business, but the principle is the same throughout. A distinction must be made between hire purchase and deferred payment. Under the hire purchase system the ownership of the goods does not pass to the consumer until the last instalment is paid, and the goods can be taken back into possession at any time in the interim if the purchaser defaults. In that event, the instalments already paid may be forfeited and a further sum exacted to cover depreciation. This system is not

WE HOPE NOT, TOO.

"Dominion and Colonial troops have not been seen in England since 1919, AND THEY MAY NOT BE SEEN AGAIN FOR A GENERATION OR MORE."

—Editor of Debrett's Peerage, March 30.

applicable, however, to goods such as special equipment which have no alternative use, and are consequently of little second-hand value and hardly worth distaining upon. In such instances the ownership of the goods passes at once to the consumer, and payment is arranged on deferred terms, which vary in individual cases.

HOW FINANCE IS ARRANGED.

We are concerned in the present article with the first and more widespread of these methods—the hire-purchase system proper. In the majority of cases the mechanism of the operation is as follows. The customer effects his purchase from a local dealer, but his agreement to pay over a period of time is made with a hire-purchase finance company, which pays cash direct to the dealer. The business then passes outside the dealer's hands. The disadvantage of this method is that it reduces the element of personal contact between retailer and customer, for the latter is left to deal with a finance company of which he may never previously have heard. This process, however, is made largely inevitable by the necessity of conforming to the provisions of the Moneylenders Act. A slightly different method, nevertheless, which is more in accordance with the realities of the transaction, has been evolved by the United Dominions Trust. In this case the actual hire-purchase agreement is made between customer and dealer, and the latter subsequently makes his own agreement with the Trust. The Trust is a registered banking firm, and can thus arrange, as the dealer's banker, to collect the instalments as they fall due.

The rates actually charged vary according to the amount of business offered and accepted. Both security and rates charged are, as in any other banking transaction, a matter of confidence between the finance company and the customer. Though

detailed information is thus unavailable, it is known that in the case of small agreements the companies are content to assure themselves as to the status of the purchaser through their own investigation machinery. The necessary information can usually be obtained within twenty-four hours, and frequently within twelve. In the larger transactions the same security is expected, as a banker would ask for when making an advance. In this connection the use of the trade bill has been revived, particularly by the United Dominions Trust, and in many cases a single endorsement is considered sufficient security.

DISGUIISING THE RATE.

The rates charged on hire-purchase business are often higher than they appear to be at first sight. The customer who pays £105 in monthly instalments over a year, instead of £100 cash, is probably under the impression that he is paying interest at the rate of 5 per cent, per annum. Actually, as the capital is reduced with each instalment, the effective average rate is about 9.5 per cent. The rates charged at present vary, in fact, between about 5 and 8 per cent; and as the companies are themselves able to borrow at about 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 per cent—by way of bank advances, acceptance credits, and discounts -- the gross margin of earnings is substantial. On the other hand, the work involved, even for a small transaction, is considerable. Allowance has to be made, naturally, for bad debts, but these are significantly small. They do not normally amount to as much as 1 per cent, of total transactions, and one large company has never exceeded one-tenth of 1 per cent, in any year.

It is not within the scope of this article to examine the impact of the hire-purchase system on the community. The flagrant abuses and injustices, which in some instances have been alleged against the system, cannot be attributed to the large and reputable firms with which we are here concerned. The touting of small articles from door to door, however, with payments exacted weekly on the tally system, has undoubtedly caused much suffering, though those who have practised it may have kept on the right side of the law. It has been suggested that Great Britain should follow the example of Denmark, where, when the value of a sale is less than £13/10/-, the vendor can only recover possession, in the event of default in payments, by crediting its value, less depreciation, to the defaulting purchaser. Defenders of the present British system admit that such a reform would prevent many injustices, but they claim that it would greatly complicate the administration of a system, which renders the community a distinct service.

We have lately drawn attention to the consequences for the City of

THAT TERRIBLE BEAN

Not content with obtaining food, oils, rubber, glycerine, flour, candy, celluloid, medicine and fertiliser from the soya bean, Japan is now obtaining artificial silk from it.

—London "Observer."

London of the virtual disappearance of the inland bill and the reduction of the number of international trade bills by trade depression, restrictions and exchange clearings. These developments have changed both the functions of the discount houses and the distribution of the banks' earning assets, which are increasingly lodged in Treasury bills and Government securities. The development of the hire-purchase system offers an opportunity both to banks and discount houses to resume some of their former functions, provided they are able to adopt a less austere attitude towards this new form of finance. In view of the considerable volume of business they transact, the present position of the hire-purchase companies is anomalous. Closer co-operation with the banks and other houses would enable them to become an integral part of the financial structure, the benefits of which should be mutual.

THE BRITISH BIRTHRATE PROBLEM

Politicians and Economists Puzzled

Yet It Is So Easy

The population of Britain will drop to 20,000,000 in 100 years, and only 5,000,000 in 200 years, so scientists have been telling us (says *Social Credit*, London).

Now Sir William Beveridge, director of the London School of Economics, tells the Sheffield Luncheon Club on February 11: The population some years from now will begin to fall by a quarter in each generation, and will inevitably become extinct.

A private member's motion to demand a Government inquiry into population problems was debated in Parliament the same day. The mover, Mr. J. R. H. Cartland, made this remarkable prophecy for 20 years ahead:

A lower standard of living, unemployment still at its present proportion, an acute shortage of skilled labour, a housing slump—only 4500 houses a year required instead of the present 1,000,000.

Many redundant schools, a coltry, many more institutions for the lapse of mass-production in indus-care of the aged and a greater burden of pensions, and emigration to the Dominions from Asiatic and European nations instead of from this country.

EDUCATION AND SNOBBERY

The lower standard of living would be based perhaps on the well-known phenomenon that if there are too many houses, too many factories, too many workers, too much of everything, then there is a lower standard of living.

Many people believe that poverty in the midst of plenty is due to there being too many people. With fewer people Mr. Cartland, M.P., thinks it will be worse.

Some Members of Parliament thought that lack of money was the cause of people having fewer children; others, however, thought that lack of money made people have more children.

If the latter are right the Government has the matter well in hand—heavier taxation is coming in April.

One member thought that "education snobbery" was inducing people to have smaller families in order to be able to pay for education other than at a State school! He suggested making attendance at State schools compulsory for rich and poor alike. He also believed in higher family allowances, and proposed to tax bachelors to pay for them.

POTENTIAL MOTHERS.

It is not as simple as all that, however, according to Sir William Beveridge—the future of any population depends not on the balance of births and deaths, but on what is happening to potential mothers.

"Boy babies matter very little. Only the girls count.

"Nothing much can be done to check the fall of population by saving the lives of women," he says. "So few girl babies die before reaching the age of 50.

"Nor can anything appreciable be done to check the fall by increasing marriage. As it is, most women marry.

"Through changes in mortality or marriage, the threatened decline of population in England can be slowed down a little, but it cannot be prevented altogether.

THE ONLY WAY

"The only way of stopping it—and some time or other we must stop it—will be to increase the readiness of parents to have children.

"A second reason for small families is the cost of rearing children. The question of family

allowances will, before long, be in the centre of all discussions of social policy."

At the London School of Economics family allowances are already paid to employees.

READY-AYE-READY.

To increase the readiness of parents to have children—that is a clearer statement of a sensible objective than usually emanates from the London School of Economics.

What is it, then, that makes people unready to have children?

First and foremost, a reluctance to let loose another unhappy human into the grim struggle that life has become. Second, a fear of the financial burden that a child, and particularly a *family*, will represent. The cost of education. The sacrifice of luxuries and of freedom. The doctor's bills.

None of these things arises if you have money. Education, nursing, doctors' bills, luxury, travel, freedom, security are possible in this world of abundance.

Let people have the things they fear to lose through children and they will have children readily enough.

THE INVENTOR

By JOHN HARGRAVE, in "Summer Time Ends."

All his life Harding had worked had worked with almost frantic intensity

he had helped to make machinery run smoothly

up, down, back, forth bedded in concrete, beautifully bright

because of Harding and men like Harding, machinery was more efficient and needed less and less human labour

Harding had thrown many thousands of workpeople out of jobs; had produced machinery, automatic and semi-automatic, that automatically pushed herds of workers out of the factories and left them, a dole-degraded shoal of stranded labour-power—surplus labour

and now in every highly industrialised country of the world, the machines were slowing

some were rusting just when Harding, and a thousand other Hardings, had perfected and perfected machinery and processes to a pitch of productive efficiency never before known on this planet—at the very moment when all human needs could have been supplied without difficulty—some dead hand was laid upon industry: a mysterious creeping paralysis crept into the mills, into the workshops (even into the fields) and made invention the Mother of Poverty

the mechanical chorus hummed, but the hum was a wearied drone, slowing, slowing, slowing

the dynamos hummed drowsily, working, as always, in their sleep . . . but here and there the hum died away

hellish furnaces flared and sank were allowed to go out metal shafts, rods, arms, elbows, cranks working in rhythmic interplay,

slowed . . . stopped slowed . . . stopped wheels, belts, changed tune: took their time, went slow half time.

DON'T SPEND A PENNY

without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide.

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