

HOUSEWIVES'  
ASSOCIATIONS  
AND  
SUGAR PRICES  
(See page 3.)

# THE NEW TIMES

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

Vol 3. No. 16.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

# How E.S. & A. Bank Confiscates Staff Savings

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# Sense and Nonsense from Judge Dethridge

\*

# Mr. Menzies and the Privy Council

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and Business Directory

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(Continued on page 3.)

# How E.S. & A. Bank Confiscates Staff Savings

## "The Rules Make No Provision," Says General Manager to Colin Thomson

### Revelations About "Provident" Funds

Like many other companies of its kind, the E.S. & A. bank makes it compulsory for its employees to contribute to a staff pension fund. In the case of the bank this fund bears the high-sounding name of Officers' Provident Fund—for it is part of the pose of banking that its most junior clerk, however underpaid or menial his occupation, is yet dignified with the title of bank "officer."

The present Provident Fund of the E.S. & A. bank dates back to a meeting of its board of directors on May 4, 1898. Prior to that date there was a Guarantee and Provident Fund, set aside by the bank out of profits, consisting of £10,000 plus £1887 accrued interest, as well as an Officers' Guarantee Fund, then amounting to £6910, which had been made up by staff contributions.

The 1898 resolution set up two funds—a guarantee fund and a provident or pension fund. Of the former no more need be said than to quote the preamble to the board's resolution: "The Directors considering it to be desirable and expedient in the interests of the Bank, as well as in the interests of the members of its Staff, to raise a Fund within the Bank for the purpose of providing for losses which the Institution may sustain through default on the part of its Officers, and also a Fund for the purpose of enabling Officers to receive a Pension for their support on attaining a specified age and retiring from the service—It is resolved," etc.

It will be noted from that wording, as it will be noted from what follows, that the first interest is always the bank—"in the interests of the Bank, as well as in the interests of the members of its Staff," and "providing for losses which the Institution may sustain . . . and also . . . enabling Officers to receive a Pension."

#### The Case of Colin Thomson

In 1917 a young man named Colin Thomson joined the service of the Royal bank, and when that company was absorbed by the E.S. & A. in 1927 he was taken over with other members of the Royal staff.

In October 1936, after 19 years and seven months of service, Mr. Thomson resigned his position with the bank. His record was a good one, and he had risen to be head teller of a city office, where he was responsible for a daily holding in actual cash of over £30,000.

After his resignation Mr. Thomson applied to the bank for some consideration in respect of the amounts, which he had been regularly and compulsorily paying into the Provident Fund—including 25/- out of his very last pay as his final contribution!—and on which, incidentally, he had had to pay unemployment relief tax. Had the Royal bank not been absorbed, Mr. Thomson would on resigning have been entitled to receive back all his payments plus 5 per cent, compound interest. But the E.S. & A. paid him nothing. Not one penny.

Here is the letter to Mr. Thomson, dated 12th January, 1937, and personally signed by General Manager Ewing, in which the bank made known to him its decision:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant wherein you make application for a refund of contributions made by you to the Officers' Guarantee and Provident Funds during your service with the Bank. "In reply, I have to inform you that the Rules of the Funds make

no provision for any such payment to you."

#### The Rules

Some of the rules under which the E.S. & A. bank's Provident Fund is conducted, are:—

Every member of the staff, on all salaries up to £1500 (and including £1500 of those, if any, in excess), is compelled to contribute 4 per cent, of his salary to the fund. Upon joining the bank's employ he must also pay an entrance fee to the fund, varying from £10 to £20, according to his age.

The interpretation of rules governing the fund shall be decided by the administrators, provided their decision is unanimous—the administrators being the chairman and deputy chairman of directors and the head office manager in England, and in Australia the local general manager.

#### TABLEAU OF THE ANTI-JAPANESE TARIFF

"It was a spectacular double tableau. The sudden fall of a curtain, after the explosion of the bomb in the first scene; the startled audience being requested to keep very quiet during the interval, which was by the way, unusually prolonged; the curtain being raised on the final scene with the chief actors shaking hands somewhat awkwardly, and smiling wanly at one another. The audience generally received the production in silence, which does not always give consent."

—Mr. R. R. Skeat, chief president of Victorian Country Party, at Conference, April 13.

Should the administrators not be unanimous, "the question shall be referred to the Directors, and their decision shall be an absolute settlement of the matter in dispute."

#### Retirement

Under the rules, the following are eligible for pensions from the fund:—

1. Those reaching the age of 60—who are thereby compelled by the bank's regulations (unless waived by the directors) to retire.

2. Those who, having reached the age of 50, having had 30 years' service, and having expressed the desire to retire, have obtained the directors' permission.

Provision is also made for payment of a pension to anyone who, after 20 years' service, shall get the consent of the directors to retire on account of ill-health or other disability—but "should it come to the knowledge of the Administrators that the disability of such Officer was caused by his own misconduct, it shall be in their discretion to declare the pension forfeited." Now, isn't that last part lovely? The chairman, vice-chairman and general managers sit as a court of morals while they solemnly decide whether Mr. Brown's chest trouble did or did not arise from his staying out too late at night, or whether Mr. Smith was drunk or sober when he slipped on the banana peel. And Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith, although the stake is the money, which they have actually paid from their inadequate salaries, have no appeal from the decisions of these pompous and interfering inquisitors—nor, indeed, even the right to be heard in their own defence.

The pensions payable out of the fund are at present calculated on the basis of each pensioner drawing one seventy-fifth part of his leaving salary in respect of each completed year of service; thus an employee

with 40 years' service would retire upon approximately half pay (forty seventy-fifths of his last year's salary).

#### Refunds of Payments

If any member of the staff has had more than 10 and less than 20 years' service, and if he gets permission to retire on account of ill-health or other disability, or if he is compulsorily retired "for any reason involving no question of personal misconduct," he is entitled to get back from the fund what he has paid into it, but without interest.

From this it will be noted that had Mr. Thomson done something short of "personal misconduct"—say, had he expressed political or economic views of which the bank disapproved—so that the directors decided to dispense with his services, he would have got back the £160 to £180 he had paid into the fund. But because he resigned of his own volition he got nothing. When Mr. Thomson pointed this out to E. O'Sullivan, until recently general manager of the bank, that gentleman replied: "You are a married man, Mr. Thomson, and if you have a maid in the house who gives good service you wouldn't pay her to go."

Mr. O'Sullivan's answer was, of course, just as flagrantly evasive of the real issue as the so-called answers he used to provide in the press in reply to monetary reformers when he was chairman of the associated banks. For there is no question of paying a bonus, but merely of handing to an employee portions of salary retained under duress.

#### Tying the Serf to His Master

Mr. O'Sullivan's inference that a good maid should rather be penalised than rewarded if she chooses to leave is, however, reflected in the provident fund's rules. Thus rule 24 begins: "Any Officer in receipt of a pension who shall enter into the service of any other Bank, or engage in any employment which in

the opinion of the Administrators or the Directors is, or is likely to become, prejudicial to the interests of the Bank, or who shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Administrators to have been guilty of such misconduct as would have occasioned his dismissal had he been in the service of the Bank, shall forfeit his pension."

And rule 25 says: "Any Officer in receipt of a pension on the ground of ill-health or other disability, not having yet attained the age of 60 years may be required by the Administrators to satisfy them with regard to the; continuance of his disability, failing which he may be called upon to re-enter the service of the Bank, and his pension shall thereupon cease."

The whole scope of these regulations is grossly unjust. In the first place they seem to envisage the pension as though it were a gratuity donated by the bank, instead of its being a form of compulsory saving imposed on the staff. Hence the hedging in of repayments by any conditions of behaviour—whether moral conduct or "employment prejudicial to the interests of the Bank"—is both high handed and dishonest. And, above all, the bank's conditions offend against the very first canon of that "sane finance" which it so vociferously upholds—viz., that money deposited with a bank is in safe-keeping. Fancy the E.S. & A. bank, while enforcing these regulations, crying out against those who will "confiscate the people's savings"!

Payments made into the provident fund by the E.S. & A. bank's staff are similar in nature to assurance premiums, and the policies of members should have a surrender value just as other life policies have. (In passing, we are informed that the bank's provident fund is £1,000,000 strong.) To diddle a member out of what he has paid simply because he decides to leave the bank's service is to re-affirm the old feudal idea of serfdom. It is immoral, and—unless the banks are to be acknowledged openly as above the law—it should at once be made illegal.

## NEW TERMS FOR POLITICAL REALISTS

### What is a Coshist?

(1) Coshist—a contraction of communo-fascist; hence one who uses violence upon those who venture to disagree with him.

To anyone who does not think entirely in terms of arguments and ideologies it is obvious that, however deep the alleged difference between the political theories of Communism and Fascism, in practice they work out in the same way—namely, we're right, he's wrong, cosh him."

The symbols adopted by these people are most appropriate to their aims. Thus the hammer and sickle represents the belief in enforced labour for all, and the fasces or bundle of sticks very aptly illustrates the binding of individuals hand and foot into a useless bundle, the Totalitarian State. In the same way the "cosh" or blunt instrument is an excellent symbol for the belief in violent coercion, which is shared by both the exponents of Coshism.

The word Coshist will, it is hoped, be most useful as an adjective referring to people, or actions, which cannot fairly be called Fascist or Communist. Take, for instance, the Marketing Board, which uses an economic "cosh" by fining farmers for producing too much milk,

and then distraining on their cattle, which it sells at a few shillings per head. If you call this Fascist you will be accused of left-wing sympathies. Call it Communist and you side with the die-hards. Call it *Coshist*, and explain what you mean to start with, until the word is known, and people will begin to understand.

Next week—*Bashifist*.

—"Social Credit."

#### WHY NOT?

"Future Warrior" writes to "Reynolds News": "Why should not Britain's youth—the prospective defenders of this country—be given shares in those industries which are now booming as a result of the Government's arms programme?"

"I suggest the issue, to all men of military age, of special stock from a Government pool, made up of shares in the munitions, chemical, oil, motor, aviation, and other industries directly concerned in the production of war material."

"At present, the chief beneficiaries for the arms race are those who, in the main, have not seen, or are not likely to see, real active service."

THE SHOW'S A FLOP

A Plea for a Brighter House of Commons

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

The nation is faced with far-reaching and revolutionary changes in its system of government. It is an open secret that Mr. Baldwin will shortly retire, and that his place as Prime Minister will be taken by Mr. Chamberlain.

There is no need here to enumerate the wide differences in policy and outlook, which distinguish these two great statesmen. Suffice it to say that Mr. Chamberlain has a moustache; Mr. Baldwin has not.

The change, however, does not end there. Any change in the Cabinet shakes the country from end to end of the front bench. And the departure of a Prime Minister involves another question of equally profound importance -- the appointment of a Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This is important. The position of Chancellor involves special qualifications. His function is to take orders from the City. He has to be ready, at a moment's notice, to take telephone calls from Threadneedle Street, ordering the Government to cut benefits, reduce salaries, go off gold, convert a loan, devalue the pound, or else.

This is called "Taking the City into our Confidence."

In order, therefore, that such commands shall be put through the administrative machine with the utmost promptness and dispatch, it is necessary to avoid all possible likelihood of criticism or backchat, which might delay the process of national stability. It is, therefore, advisable to choose someone with as nearly as possible no opinions on economics whatsoever.

Such men are not easy to find, for most men have some sort of ideas about trade. Generally, they are found only among those who have been for so long in high political positions that they have lost all their private opinions.

We are thus faced with one of those momentous questions, which determine a nation's destiny: Will it be Sir John Simon or Sir Samuel Hoare?

Momentous as these decisions are, one cannot blind oneself to the fact that the House of Commons

does not attract enough popular interest.

Some say it is the party system that is responsible for a lack of brightness and spontaneity in the debates. The speeches are only put in to fill up time because the voting is a foregone conclusion.

This is true. But in these busy days, when a Tory Government finds so many things to prevent that being done, there is no time for personal opinions.

The open mind, so desirable in a haricot bean or a cabhorse, is an impediment to legislation, and



Who will control the finance of the nation—Sir John or Sir Samuel?

M.P.'s are now requested either to make up their minds beforehand or leave them at home. In fact, many members of political families save trouble at the start by having their opinions taken out when young, along with their tonsils.

Nevertheless, we must have these speeches, otherwise the public will not know whether it is being ruled or not, and anarchy might result.

Therefore, since the debates are not useful, they must be decorative. If they are not gingered up the whole show will flop. The public will finally lose all interest in Parliament, and democracy will be threatened.

The debates must compete more favourably with other items of What's On In Town Tonight. We must have brighter speeches, snappier cross-talk, more song-hits

and heart-reaching lyrics. The whole performance must be louder and funnier.

The only good turn in the programme at present is the old gag of putting on a hat when raising a point of order. Apart from that, there isn't a laugh in the whole act.

There is no reason why all the turns should be new. We all love the old songs best, and there are certain old favourites one could not bear to lose. Therefore, such turns as "The Government will explore every avenue and leave no stone unturned" should be set to a good tune, so the whole House can join in the chorus.

It is true that the House cannot choose its own plot. Since its most important legislation is dictated from the City, it must necessarily be one of those acts of which the main theme is the noises off.

But the manner of its presentation is in the hands of Parliament itself. I therefore propose that at the beginning of every Session the speeches shall be put into the hands of competent librettists, composers, and choreographers. Each Party must include a number of accordion players, tap-dancers, and cross-talk artists.

Raised to the level of the best vaudeville, Parliamentary procedure will thus contrast favourably with the unrelieved monologues of the Dictatorships, and democracy will be once more re-established in popular favour.

CAT'S MEAT

Eighteen cats are reported to be starving in the midst of plenty at a house in Croydon, because their mistress, who fed each one of them on a special diet, was taken to hospital, and they refused all offers of food from anyone else.

At a meeting of protest held last night on the roof of No. 45, a resolution was passed calling upon all self-respecting British cats to dissociate themselves from such uncivil behaviour; and expressing indignation that members of their species should so far demean themselves as to show such slavish independence upon an inferior species, and, by starving in the midst of plenty, to give the impression that the intelligence of cats is no higher than that of human beings.

The meeting closed with the song, "They've let the side down." —"Reynolds."

R. G. Menzies appearing for the company like he did in the Petrol Commission—and then a report which even Parliament is not given the privilege of discussing, much less of acting on (always presuming that the report itself is worth anything).

The point we submit to you is that it is almost hopeless for ordinary folk like you and us (forgive the comparison) to defeat technicians on technical grounds. The private ledger will beat you—and us—all the time. And the same applies to the average Member of Parliament, no matter how zealous or sincere he may be. He will be blinded with science from the outset.

We suggest to you, therefore, that you turn your 100,000 members loose upon the enemy's rear. Instead of arguing that prices are too high to be fair—which is technical and involved—DEMAND THAT INCOMES BE RAISED TO MEET PRICES. This will give you the same result. What you want is sugar—or the means to buy all the sugar and other commodities required for a healthy household. There is no trouble at all to prove: (1) that the average housewife's income is insufficient for this at present; or (2) that there is plenty of sugar, and other commodities, available to be bought if the incomes were provided.

Stick to these two points, Miss Geach, and your members will have an unanswerable case. If you are asked where the income is to come from, say you don't care two hoots—the sugar is there, likewise the people who need it, which is all that matters: the rest is a matter of accounting.

You may find this at first a novel idea. It is. It is just beginning to catch on in Australia. It is what is becoming known as the Electoral Campaign, and it is being taken up by thinking people from all sorts of organisations—including members of every political party, who are realising the futility and lack of democracy inherent in the party system; and including members of associations like your own, who are sick of being tricked with fair words.

The watchwords of this campaign are: (1) Parliament is Your Servant and (2) Demand Results.

THE NEW TIMES

A Few Facts and Figures

Let us consider a few facts and figures. These are not dull. If you stare at them a minute they grow muzzy and then fade out, and you see in their places these grass grown shipyards and workshops with grimy, broken windows and middle-aged men, who look like old men, sucking their empty pipes and staring at nothing, and grey-faced women remembering new clothes and good meals and holidays and fun as if they had once lived in another and better world. It is the figures that have done it. They have crept in here and worked this havoc, like tiny furious devils. Those Reports and Blue Books, which are so dull that you and I can hardly compel ourselves to read a page of them, have in them the blood and tears, the sweat and agony, of ten thousand tragic novels and dramas. There is a real and dreadful magic in their numbers.

See—little figures at one end and big figures at the other, and what is happening? Why, everybody we know is cheerfully busy, and Tom can marry Alice, and Elsie can have music lessons, and old Bob has bought five more pigeons, and Aunt Grace is moving into a nicer house, and Harold's great-uncle has gone travelling all round the world. Now look again—big figures at one end and little figures at the other, and now what is happening? Horrible! The whole scene has darkened, and Frank has been sold up and has disappeared, and Rose can't get married, and George is out of work, and nobody knows what has become of the Robinsons, and poor old Sam shot himself last night.

In the world as it is now, no angry God threatens us with thunder and lightning, no high priest selects a child of ours for the sacrifice, no chieftain whisks away our women to his bedchamber; we talk across the continents and fly over the oceans; we can be warmed in winter and cooled in summer, and we should be lords of the earth—if it were not for the figures. They are our masters, and most exacting and capricious masters they are, too. They are our prisons and cages, and against their angular columns and bars we press and bruise our tender flesh. This is perhaps the last and worst enchantment the world has ever known. If we should ever break their spell, we might all live like princes and princesses, happy ever after.

—J. B. Priestley, in "English Journey."

Orders payable at the rate of 3d. a week were made at Clerkenwell County Court against two men sued for the price of electricity by the Borough of Islington.

"We are not living; we are existing," the Registrar was told by one who said he had been workless for more than a year, had a wife and three children, and from 35s a week benefit paid £1 rent. —Social Credit, February 26.

SEARCHLIGHT ON THE MONEY CHANGERS

President Roosevelt sent a personal message of congratulation to Edmund Reardon, of Cambridge, Mass., vice-president of the Union Savings Bank of Boston, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

The congratulatory message said:

"To round out a full century of life is a rare privilege vouchsafed to few. And so I want to congratulate you very heartily upon the completion of your 100th year. I am glad to know your health is good and that you are still able to perform your executive duties at the Union Savings Bank. I think, however, that you are entitled to take things a little more easily now, but I admire your determination not to retire, and your optimistic point of view regarding the future, which I trust will be bright and peaceful."

It must be rather embarrassing to those Supreme Court justices, whom the President is attempting to shelve at 70, to have a banker receive a message of congratulations for the full possession of his faculties at the century mark.

--"Social Justice" (U.S.A.)

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.)

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CHEMIST, Rod Burgess. 156a Hampton St. XW 2424.

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IVANHOE.

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

KEW.

ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1146. 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.

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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)

Miss Portia Geach, President, Federated Association of Australian Housewives

Dear Miss Geach, —

We understand that on behalf of your association you this week sent the following cable to Ramsay MacDonald, as president of the sugar conference in London: "Australian organised housewives, with 100,000 members, resent the suggestion to maintain high sugar prices, which are already too high."

We admire the fighting spirit of your association, but we respectfully submit that sending a message to Ramsay Mac. is entirely misdirected, and amounts to nothing more than taxing yourselves to pay the P.M.G. the price of the cable.

You have two ways of dealing with an unduly high sugar price. The first is to see where and why the price is too high, and to keep focusing your spotlight and concentrating your attack on this quarter. The second is to come at your enemy from the rear, by demanding that incomes be raised until they meet prices. We suggest the second method of attack as more cunning, more likely to succeed, and as one which can at the same time be applied to sugar and to every other commodity.

Supposing that you decide on the first method you will have to make all sorts of inquiries, starting on the farms of North Queensland and finishing in the grocer's shop around the corner. We have a shrewd suspicion that you will locate the main nigger as lurking somewhere in the mysterious secret ledgers of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. This banker-controlled corporation has since 1923 increased its paid-up capital from £3 millions to £11,700,000 by the simple process of capitalising reserves, disclosed or secret. What its secret reserves still are, God, the company's directors, and the keepers of the secret ledgers alone know—but we have no doubt they are continuing to mount up nicely out of undisclosed profits.

Now, should you decide to take this company on, how far do you think you will get? Perhaps as far as another abortive Royal Commission—with maybe, Mr.



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### Mr. Menzies and the Privy Council

The Federal Attorney-General is reported to have said in Sydney on Monday, *a propos* the Canadian proposal to abolish appeals to the Privy Council, that there was no likelihood of similar action being taken by Australia. Mr. Menzies then gave as his reasons, (I.), the "very great value" of the appeal as "one of the few remaining formal links between the various parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations", and, (II.), that, "after all, appeal to the Privy Council means that we preserve some broad uniformity of legal decision on matters of law which are common to the whole Empire, such as common law and the general principles of equity."

It will be noticed from the above how easily Mr. Menzies switches across from the idea of a Commonwealth of Nations to that of an Empire—just as his remarks under review followed almost directly on another oration wherein he objected to the importation into Australia of un-Australian ideas of law and justice.

Dealing with his arguments, it is difficult to see why an over-riding authority should be left with any overseas body of gentlemen, however estimable in themselves, merely to preserve a formal link of any sort. The appeal to the Privy Council is a definite limitation put upon that Australian democracy to which Mr. Menzies is constantly paying lip service, and there is little room for doubt that it has been left in our constitution for the same undemocratic reasons as account for the methods by which the Federal Senate and the State Upper Houses are chosen.

As for the assumed advantage of "broad uniformity" on "common

law and the general principles of equity", what precisely is Mr. Menzies driving at? Most people will be prepared to accept his word that the decisions of the Privy Council "have given very great satisfaction to lawyers in all parts of the British world." From a lawyer's point of view, the more courts the better—Mr. Menzies has done pretty well out of the Privy Council himself. But it does not by any means follow that the same holds good for the people in general. Are we to assume that broad uniformity on common law and the general principles of equity is something restricted to British peoples as part of their inestimable heritage? And, if not, will Mr. Menzies shortly be advocating a world court?

Appeals to the Privy Council, so far from concerning themselves with broad matters of law, which are common to the whole British Commonwealth, are far more likely to arise over technical details and interpretations in the different constitutions of the various member States. In fact, we suggest that experience shows this to have been the case, and also that the ordinary citizen, in so far as he is aware of these decisions, is not one whit the better for them. Certainly he is not thus conscious of any stronger kinship with the French-Canadian, the South African Boer, or the Hindoo.

Apart from the discussion now proceeding in Canada, the Privy Council appeal was recently abolished in the case of the Irish Free State. It appears likely that it will shortly go in other Dominions. If Mr. Menzies were more frank, he would therefore refer to it as a link in the *chain* which binds Australia to Britain—or, rather, to certain financial interests in Britain.

### Incurable While You Wait

In an address to the Melbourne Constitutional Club on Monday Councillor Nettlefold made a statement which, had it been uttered in a community of sane or responsible people, should have provoked an uproar. As things are, it went almost unnoticed.

Cr. Nettlefold was discussing the increasing incidence of cancer, which, he said, accounted for one in 15.9 deaths in 1908 and one in 8.8 in 1934. He then went on to make the terrible charge that "waiting lists at most hospitals were so long that cancer victims often became incurable while waiting to be admitted."

The particular gravity of this charge lies in its being so clearly without defence. For it is hardly likely to be said that we have a shortage of bricks, timber, architects, labourers or tools; or of hospital furnishings; or of medical

and nursing attendance. There is quite certainly no shortage on the material side, and at the worst any lack in the human elements could speedily be remedied. In these circumstances it is absolutely indefensible that victims of cancer or any other disease should be left uncared for.

The question then becomes Whose is the blame?

The answer is: Not hospital committees, nor councils, nor even Parliaments. The blame rests upon all of us as electors. For Parliament is our servant, and if we gave our orders clearly to Parliament this scandal would immediately come to an end. So would all those other scandals arising from the unnecessary and unreal poverty which persists simply because we have not hitherto had the will to abolish it.

### Mr. Fairbairn Again

We have before this had occasion in these columns to criticise Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, the bank director-M.H.R., for his undemocratic and perverted conception of his parliamentary duties. Mr. Fairbairn's views were again to the fore on Tuesday, when he is reported to have told delegates to the Gippsland Shires and Boroughs Development Association that Australia was heading for dictatorship if electors continued to judge members of Parliament by what they did for their own districts. Members, he added, must get a knowledge of the whole Commonwealth instead of going round their electorates acting like second-rate curates. He then proceeded to give his knowledge of dictator-ruled European countries—derived from an aerial tour above them.

Apart from his gratuitous offensiveness to curates, Mr. Fairbairn was obviously on the defensive against the Electoral Campaign now being actively conducted in his electorate. Mr. Fairbairn, as we have had reason to note previously, does not like the idea of his being the servant (or even the curate) of his constituents, and so he tries to find refuge in nominating himself as a kind of all-Australian member. But it won't work. His clear duty is to use his best endeavours to carry out the instructions, whatever they may be, of the electors of Flinders. If he will not do this, then he is occupying his parliamentary seat under false pretences—and it will be the business of the electors to put him out.

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### THE BRITISH WAR DEBT FAKE

#### Chancellor's Calm Admission

"It was found sometimes during the Great War that it was very difficult for the public to subscribe the money, and therefore the Government took what was financially a very grave and unfortunate step. It said to possible investors, "It does not matter whether you have the money or not, the Bank will advance you the money on your existing assets, and later on, by arrangement between you and the bank, it may be this year, next year, or some years hence, you can repay the bank."

Thus (says *Social Credit*, London) Hansard reports Mr. Pethick-Lawrence's speech on March 1 in opposition to the Defence Loans Bill.

Here at last is an admission endorsed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the manner in which the chosen friends of the banks were enabled to buy war loan with money they had not got. This served as camouflage for the banks, into whose hands the major portion of such purchases fell eventually when deflation was imposed.

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence proceeded:

"If it were really the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise his loans in such a way as that, it would be far better, if the money was to be pure credit, that the nation should produce its own credit and get its own profit on it."

Quite, it would be far better, and had Mr. Pethick-Lawrence based his attack on the fact that the nation is being made to hang a debt round its neck of £400 million, when it could create this money at no cost to itself, the Chancellor would have found it difficult to answer him.

As it was, Mr. Chamberlain ignored this point, and slid over the reference to the financing of the last war, as follows:

"The third point on which the Hon. Member asked for an assurance was with reference to certain loans raised during the war on bank credits; he asked that I would not resort to a practice of that kind.

"If I remember aright there was considerable difficulty at the time to which he referred in obtaining subscriptions direct from the public, and that was the reason why the banks were called in."

It will be noted that neither speaker referred to the fact that the banks in any case advance all

### Heart or Head?

By

LEONORA POLKINGHORNE

The parson said with mournful mien,  
"Tis surely very sad  
That fill mankind these days is seen  
To be so very bad.

"They rob the poor, prepare for war;  
The hungry are not fed—  
It seems to me that more and more  
The reason's plain," he said.

"The goods pile up, more than we need,  
Yet poverty we see;  
The cause of this, we must concede,  
Is man's depravity.

"A change of heart, the chastening rod  
For all this want and woe,  
Is what we need—and now, praise God,  
From Whom all blessings flow."

Deep in Wonthaggi's darkest mine,  
On cold New Zealand heights,  
Mankind, urged by the spark divine,  
Has taken splendid flights.

When war-drums beat, with eyes aflame  
They rush to death and doom.  
Nor question if they go to claim  
The laurel or the tomb.

Man's heart throughout the ages throbs  
To every human call—  
A brother's need, a small child's sobs  
Find quick response from all.

So, reverend Sir, pray think once more  
On what you just have said,  
And ask if poverty and war  
Are faults of heart or head!

the money required by the Government, which is thus chronically in their debt, and has to press the people with taxation to repay the banks.

In reality, therefore, it is the banks that are the Government, and the Administration at Westminster merely carries out their policy.

It will be remembered that similar admissions regarding Australia's war debt have been made in our Federal Parliament. But so far the Australian people, like the English people, have done very little about it.



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## MR. E. J. HOLLOWAY, M.H.R., REPLIES TO MR. BRUCE H. BROWN

An answer to a criticism of Mr. Holloway's views, which appeared in the "New Times" of April 2.

In the *New Times* of 2nd. inst. Mr. Bruce H. Brown charged me with making false statements in connection with the limitations of the Commonwealth Constitution. To this I can only reply that my statements were so obviously correct that they answer for themselves.

But Mr. Brown also charged me with ignorance and cowardice for not understanding and exposing the betrayal of our people by the financial groups who have usurped the control of the production and distribution of our money supplies.

This is so serious, and so unfounded, that I have asked the *New Times* to be good enough to permit me to restate once more through its columns what I have been saying during the last twenty years, both inside and outside of Parliament, and which Hansard, my printed election manifestoes—both in Flinders and Melbourne Ports—and much other printed matter will very easily prove

### A MONETARY MONSTROSITY

The paradox, which confronts us, today seems to me to be the greatest in all history—the paradox of widespread destitution and poverty in the midst of an undreamed-of abundance. What a blot it is upon our humanity and wisdom, and our boasted progress to allow this monetary monstrosity to remain with us, when it so obviously and automatically increases our poverty as we increase our wealth.

That this ever-increasing power to produce wealth is not in any way balanced by our artificially restricted power to consume, with the inevitable result that the margin between production and consumption becomes wider and deeper, should be obvious to all who want to see. Also that the commonsense policy would and should be so to manage our monetary and currency system that a regular and uniform flow of credit, purchasing power, or demand for goods and services, shall at all times prevail, and thus free the great mass of potential consumption, the restriction of which is so largely responsible for the armies of unemployed with all their attendant evils today.

### IMPORTANCE OF CONSUMER

The great lesson which is being forced upon a larger and larger number of people is that the great army of people who work for wages or salaries, who make 80 per cent, of our population, are not only inevitably necessary to produce commodities, but that they are just as necessary to consume them. Therefore the wages of the Workers, which constitute (as they do) 80 per cent, of the market, are more important to the community than dividends, and must be so regulated as to bring about that necessary balance between production on the one hand and consumption on the other.

Because of these, to me, economic facts, I hold that the duty of those in charge of our currency system should be to see that this *via media* of exchange, this title to purchase—money, credit, currency, etc.—should be created and made to circulate to that end.

### THE SOURCE OF MONEY

Surely it ought to be more obvious today than in Aristotle's day, or when Plato made his laws, that money is not made by nature, but by law. The law gives it efficacy. The law determines its value and quantity, or whatever its shape or form—gold, silver, bronze or paper. The law makes it legal tender. The law is made by man representing the people. The people are the State. Therefore the backing of all credit is the State, or nation, which should be the only authority with power to create, issue, or restrict credit, a regular flow of which is the life-blood of our economic system, which feeds, clothes and shelters our people. Today this power of life and death is left to groups of private individuals,

who very naturally have made this greatest of all gold mines a close preserve, which can and does make and unmake governments, and thus again and again cheats the desires of the people.

Herein lies humanity's greatest curse. The world's financial Shylocks have turned the wonderful achievement of mankind in all the realms of science and invention from what should have been a great human blessing into a veritable curse.

### WHERE IS THE CAUSE

Now my study of economics, and industrial history, has convinced me that the cause of this strange economic paradox exists in the very womb of the present social order, called Capitalism, and the fundamental Vice of the system lies in the fact that it is organised to produce and distribute goods and services for the private profit of the few who own the agencies of production, such as mines, mills, ships, power plants, factories, etc., rather than for the use of all the people.

Naturally, all such agencies are operated only so long as commodities can be produced and sold at a profit, and closed down as soon as they can no longer be sold at a profit, which is the only incentive for those who own the machinery to operate same. When those periods arrive, which they must, factories and workshops are closed, and the workers discharged until times get better—which they never can permanently under the present system. First, because all those who work for wages receive collectively an amount of money equal to one-half of the actual value they, by their mental or physical labour, add to the raw material. The other half goes in profit to those who own the tools of trade (other incidental costs of course, are subtracted before this division takes place). Therefore, it can be said that the wealth thus produced is about equally divided between the capitalists and the workers.

Now, that division constitutes the purchasing power of the two classes. But herein lies the cause of the present paradox, and the proof that the wonderful success or progress of the capitalist system is, and must continue to be, its own undoing.

The purchasing power of the capitalists, which in the aggregate is equal to that of the workers, is shared amongst a *very few people, not more than 10 per cent*, while the purchasing power of the workers is shared amongst a *great many—80 per cent—of the people* (the other 10 per cent, being the professional classes)—the capitalist share being very great and the workers' share being very insignificant.

The second truth is that under the present system the average cost of selling commodities is about equal to the cost of production—thus, selling costs must be added to the price of the goods so that when the worker spends his wages to buy the needs of life, which are their only use to him, he gets in return only *half the value of his wages*, so that the workers, when *producers*, receive in wages only half the value of what they produce, and when considered as *consumers* they are only able to purchase half the equivalent of their wages in commodities. The nett result is that the workers, as a class, have their purchasing power contracted to about one-fourth of what they produce.

### "SOCIALISM NATURAL AND INEVITABLE."

Surely, from these facts, which are based upon the Government statistics, it must be obvious why we have high stocks of goods and services on the one hand, and a great mass of artificially restricted consuming power on the other. For the rich few cannot possibly consume all they could buy, no matter how wasteful they may be, whilst the workers (and herein lies the secret), who

## LONDON AT CORONATION TIME

### As Seen Through American Eyes

## "23 Miles of Grandstand Seats, 10,000 Beds on the River Thames, and Sixpence Coronation Mugs for Eightpence"

From the sprightly pages of New York news-magazine, *Time*, comes this account of Britain's preparations for the Coronation, together with sidelights on incidents and characters depicted with a breezy frankness that contrasts with the staid journalism of the British press.

Leaving behind the home in which they lived as Duke and Duchess of York at No. 145 Piccadilly, the new King and Queen had just moved into Buckingham palace last week. Installed with a big nursery window on the public facade of the Palace were popular Princesses Elizabeth, 10, and Margaret Rose, 6. Last week people who came to watch the daily change of the Guard amid stirring fanfare exchanged nods, smiles and waves with their Royal Highnesses. Already Princess Betty is past mistress in attracting the popular affection inspired for 25 years by the Prince of Wales, and last week an exalted Briton who had just visited the Duke of Windsor brought home a pat remark. Said Edward, "less in the heat of anger than in philosophic amusement" according to his visitor:—

"I always told those idiots not to put me in a golden frame."

The Kingdom and Empire are confident that the right people have now been golden-framed. Last week Buckingham Palace was a busy hive of active preparation for the gorgeous, solemn Coronation scheduled for May 12. The King had regular fittings of his various Crowns and Coronation garments, as did the Queen. Tightly boarded up already is Westminster Abbey, and inside carpenters thwacked furiously, erecting that ominous-sounding platform, "The Scaffold," on which their Majesties are joyously to be crowned.

### Selassie, Goring and Pyjamas

Zest and pace were given to the approaching Coronation by striking events last week. With faint shrugs and slightly lifted eyebrows civil servants of the Foreign Office told the press that, since his Majesty's Government still recognise the Ethiopian Government of Haile Selassie (although he has been driven from Addis Ababa) and the Spanish Government

because of their great numbers constitute 80 percent, of the market, cannot possibly buy anything like all they could legitimately consume because of the smallness of the wages. For many years I have been a Socialist, and every year confirms my belief that Socialism is the next natural and inevitable step in mankind's economic evolution.

Socialism does not mean the automatic levelling down and making uniform everybody's merest thought, word or deed, as suggested by that great scholar, engineer and mathematician, Major Douglas, in some of his London lectures; but it does mean the gradual and orderly transition from the present system of cut-throat competition for private profits, with all its immoral waste and unnecessary suffering, to the social ownership of those *socially necessary services, beginning with the socialisation of the whole ramifications of our banking and monetary system*, which holds the key to them all, so that it may be used, as it should be used, to serve our people and industries, and not, as now, to make the people and industries serve those private financiers who now have it under complete control.

Finally, may I pay my tribute to those responsible for the publication of the *New Times* for its splendid work of helping to draw aside the veil of almost supernatural mystery and trickery with which the usurers of the world have for so long hypnotised the unthinking people with their imaginary science.

E. J. HOLLOWAY.

of Francisco Lalrgo Caballero (although he has been driven from Madrid), invitations have had to be dispatched to these Governments asking them to send representatives to the Coronation. At news of this Benito Mussolini, who was recently appeased by a new British-Italian treaty supposed to have ended mutual animosity over Ethiopia, grew furious. Il Duce's press thundered that Italy's Royal House of Savoy is justly renowned for the wisdom of Vittorio Emanuele III., added that his Majesty "cannot make other than the correct choice" in deciding whether or not to send Italian Crown Prince Umberto to sit in Westminster Abbey with a black-faced Ethiopian.

Gleeful in England last week, Emperor Haile Selassie hinted that he would send to the Coronation his favourite son-in-law, the Ras (General) Desta Demtu, who was still in Ethiopia last week commanding the remnants of a native army. Few hours later an Italian-led column of Ethiopian troops swooped down and routed the Ethiopian stragglers of Ras Desta Demtu. According to the Italian official version, Haile Selassie's designated Coronation envoy was implicated in the attempt to assassinate Italy's Viceroy in Addis Ababa by means of hand grenades. In short order Ras Desta Demtu was executed, and convalescent Viceroy Graziani radioed to Rome: "*Duce, your orders have been carried out, as always.*"

Next, in the House of Commons, various Labor members denounced last week the expected representation of Germany at the Coronation by *Ministerpräsident-Generaloberst* Goring. Fresh from the U.S., where she harangued Detroit Strikers, famed little Laborite Miss Ellen Wilkinson had to be coldly ignored in the House by Viscount Cranborne, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, when she shrieked: "Can we have some guarantee that we shall not be insulted by the presence of General Goring as Germany's representative at the Coronation?" So far as British officials knew last week, Goring is coming and that is that.

In London Stock Exchange quarters meanwhile rumours rumbled that the German Government has chosen Coronation week as the time to invade Czechoslovakia and seize those few of its provinces in which citizens of German blood unquestionably predominate. In knowing European circles these rumours were considered "propaganda-in-reverse"—a British attempt to repeat the supremely adroit French move which recently kept the Reichswehr out of Morocco. In that case the French Cabinet circulated to the world press the deliberate lie that German forces had already landed at Ceuta, whereas the French Secret Service knew they only planned to do so. Exposed in advance, Dictator Hitler soon professed his "non-aggression," landed no Germans in Ceuta, and Der Fuhrer may not strike at Czechoslovakia during the Coronation if his Nazi schemes are sufficiently anticipated and aired to the world.

While such matters as these gripped the minds of the British Cabinet last week, a Coronation problem too tough for the Duke of Norfolk's Court of Claims to solve had to be referred for decision by King George. The problem: since the Joint Hereditary Lord Great Chamberlain of England, Lord Ancaster, has the undoubted right to receive "his Majesty's night robe" in which the King sleeps the night before the Coronation, what

is to be done in view of the fact that King George VI sleeps in pyjamas? This baffled the Court of Claims, should not baffle his Majesty. Friends of King George were confident he will decide that Lord Ancaster shall be given his Majesty's pyjamas and also, of course, according to ancient custom, "the bed wherein his Majesty lay, together with all the curtains and valances thereof and all the cushions and clothes within the chamber, together with the furniture—these to become in future times precious relics of 1937.

### Chronology

Every year England's aristocrats open their social round, "The London Season," on Varnishing Day at the Royal Academy, this year April 30. Next day and for the rest of the Coronation Season anyone, on payment of 40 cents, can visit this same show, view the year's crop of oil paintings and sculpture in which Royal Academicians have done members of the Royal Family, peerage, beaige, their children, estates, horses, cattle, dogs, canaries, mice. (Such a rage has mouse fancying become in May-fair today that a swank British connoisseur often pays as much as 75 dollars for a likely buck mouse, and a stud fee of 10 dollars is not uncommon.)

Next come a Royal Court on May 5 and another May 6, the U.S. Embassy deciding which U.S. women shall drop three curtsies to the King and Queen after being presented by Ambassador Mrs. Robert Worth Bingham, gratis. English women have often paid up to 1000 dollars to an English-woman who has been presented at Court and so become entitled to present a "friend," but this form of purchased entree to Buckingham Palace is open only to women whose husbands are subjects of the King or who are themselves British.

On May 11 the Dominion Prime Ministers present Addresses and Loyal Greetings to his Majesty and lunch in state at Buckingham Palace.

Next day, May 12, is the Coronation.

On May 13, the solid gold dinner service of the Royal Family, worth 16,000,000 dollars, will be used at the State Banquet. As always happens, at least one guest too exalted to be nabbed in the act will get away with a gold butter plate worth 500 dollars. Next evening the British Foreign Office is dinner host to the King and Queen—biggest night of Foreign Secretary and Mrs. Anthony Eden's lives, although Foreign Under-Secretary Viscount Cranborne, a Cecil, and his Viscountess are often house guests of their Majesties. Next day, May 15, the Envoys of 53 States depart and on this day train accommodations to the Continent cannot possibly be secured by an ordinary visitor.

Best chance to see the King and Queen without having to buy a seat is on May 19, when their Majesties drive nearly three miles across town from Buckingham Palace to lunch with the Lord Mayor at Guildhall. One may catch a local cruise boat next day to go to the Royal Naval Review at Spithead.

To church in St. Paul's Cathedral ("The Parish Church of the British Empire") go the King and Queen on May 24, humbly wearing "plain clothes." Next evening they dine at red brick No. 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister and Mrs. Stanley Baldwin ("The King Makers"). The King was born December 14, 1895, but the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin has ordered "Celebration of the King's Birthday on June 9," and this may be said to close the Coronation Season. The London Season continues for swanksters until the Cowes Regatta, which ends August 7.

### Getting There

Among themselves travel and steamer folk were saying ruefully last week that "Americans who are able to go have not yet decided whether they are going to the Coronation—the thing has not yet crystallised, and it will probably crystallise suddenly one way or the other."

Thus last week no trans-Atlantic

(Continued on page 7)

# SENSE AND NONSENSE FROM A MASTER OF LAWS

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir -

George James Dethridge, Master of Laws and Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, has at last admitted that the question of a reduction in working hours is wholly governed by monetary considerations. It is true that he mixed the admission with some nonsense about "idle money" and what the country could "afford," but that in no way reduced the importance of the admission that those who control our money supplies also control the decisions of his Court, and that consequently the Court is merely the agent of the private money monopoly. In view of my earlier criticisms of Judge Beeby's public expressions I am naturally glad to have this confirmation from Judge Dethridge.

Before there can be argument there must be agreement, and in this case it is essential that we

then additional money figures should be brought into existence to meet those extra cost figures. The reason this is not done is a twofold one—firstly, because the supply of money is the monopoly of the private banks, and, secondly, because when money figures are brought into existence they are entered as interest-bearing debt to the banking system. It is easy to see from this that under the existing procedure the creation of additional money to meet additional expenditure would only mean a further burden on the people, for they would not only have to meet the additional working costs, but they would also have to provide bank interest on the additional money.

That is the fly in the ointment, and it will stick there until the production of money figures is removed from the control of a private monopoly and made the responsibility of a statutory authority. The Railways Commissioners would not care two hoots about the extra costs if they knew they could depend on recovering them through increased patronage of their services, but this latter would depend entirely on the incomes of the people and their opportunities for using the railway facilities. Reduced hours will increase their opportunities, but only monetary reform will increase their incomes.

### "IDLE MONEY."

Judge Dethridge's references to "idle money" were as follow:—

"The only way in which a reduction of hours could be obtained without increasing unemployment was by the ultimate removal of part of the idle capital in the community and the spreading of it among the working classes, which would spend it. . . . The point is whether there is idle money that could be taken away, without disturbing employment, from the well-to-do classes and put into the hands of the wage earners who would spend it. If the Court increased the basic wage, and as a result diverted the idle money to the wage-earners, employment would be increased, but if there is no idle money unemployment would not be diminished."

This is sheer taradiddle. Our unemployed are part of our idle capital, but, as we could hardly spread that type of capital "among the working classes, which would spend it," it is obvious that this University-certified master was confusing the terms "capital" and "money." And the suggestion that hours have not been reduced because the well-to-do classes are holding all the spare money is infantile, and contrary to fact, as is also the statement that "the only way" is to take from one class and give to another class. Reference to "the working classes" is equally childish and snobbish, for machinery and solar energy have made it possible for every family now to be well-to-do if it were not that our parliaments and judicature prevent them from enjoying the results of these wonderful developments.

Notwithstanding the criminal checks and restrictions, we have the position that the production of Australia is already sufficient for each of us to receive the equivalent of £10 per week, and yet if all the money actually in existence in the whole of Australia were equally divided each of us would get only 30 shillings per week. In the face of this, what are we to think of the nonsensical talk about "idle money" and its diversion to the working classes? It is not a question of idle money at all. It is a question, first, of an insufficiency of money, and, secondly, of the swindling methods by which the supply is kept insufficient.

### PRODUCE A SAMPLE.

On this question of idle money I would challenge the learned judge to produce a sample of money that is not idle, and to explain the difference between the two. Money has no life; it is merely

a symbol. It does not "work," it never has "worked," and it never can "work." It is even valueless of itself, and is thoroughly useless except as an accounting chit or symbol. If the well-to-do have idle capital, as the judge declared, where do they keep it and what would it look like if we could see it? If they keep it at "the bank," is it represented by the 3½ per cent legal money held there or by the 96½ per cent, cheque money consisting of pen and ink entries in the bank ledgers? Really, this second ponderous statement from the judge is just as false as the first was true, and shows how self-admittedly ignorant he is on the all-important subject of the nature, origin, purpose and control of money. Fortunately for him the official representatives of "the workers" are equally ignorant, and thus unable to expose the fraud of the whole business. But happily there are reasons for believing that "the workers" themselves are waking up, and when they do we shall see radical and far-reaching changes in the control and application of our monetary policy.

### "IF THE COUNTRY CAN AFFORD IT."

The third part of the judge's remarks to which I would invite special attention reads as follows:

"But that is only one aspect of the question. The other aspect is that it is desirable, if the country can afford it, that the hours of the working classes should be reduced. It is desirable that they should share in the amenities of life."

The working classes! Who are they? One would imagine, from utterances of this objectionable nature, that the "working classes" are composed of people of different clay from those of the "other" classes, and that "the country" is some poor thing struggling against the greatest natural adversity. And if "the workers" should not share in the amenities of life, then who *should*? It is talk of the nature referred to that fans the flames of and inspires the "class

And what did he mean by the phrase "if the country can afford it"? Here again there must be agreement before there can be argument, and we must first be agreed as to the meaning of the word "afford."

### "THE GREATEST PACIFYING FORCE."

"Until the League of Nations becomes what we have dreamed, the British Empire holds the fort as the greatest pacifying force in the world today."

—Sir Thomas Inskip, British Minister for Co-ordination of Defence, in "Sun" cables, April 12.

In same cables, same day: "Six British officers and 19 other ranks were killed in an encounter with followers of the Fakir of Ipi on the North-West Frontier yesterday . . . five officers and 35 other ranks were wounded . . . Rifle fire from the tribesmen brought down a British bombing plane."

And, three days earlier, the "Argus" reported: "Day and night bombing raids are being carried out in the section of the Waziristan territory occupied by the disaffected tribesmen. The purpose of the raids is to persuade the tribesmen that their practices in attacking troops, kidnapping Hindus, and cutting telegraph wires, are not worth while."

### THE GREATEST PACIFYING FORCE!

The Oxford dictionary gives it as, "Have the means, be rich enough, manage to spare," and, unless the Master of Laws was confusing it with the word "money," this must have been the meaning he had in mind, too. If it is a question of having the means, or of being rich, or of being able to spare, it is only necessary to refer to the official reports of the Commonwealth Statistician to prove that we have enough of the material things to fully meet the needs of every Australian citizen on a standard more than six times greater than now obtains. Proof of this has been frequently supplied in these very columns, and no honest person could deny our ability to provide an increasing abundance of all the

necessities and most of the amenities of life.

Physically, therefore, the country *can* afford it; indeed, so far as all the physical necessities are concerned, it could afford a 30-hour week immediately and plenty for every person.

But perhaps the learned judge was thinking particularly of our ability "to afford these amenities financially, and evidently this is the sphere in which all his doubts arise. Finance is a matter of bookkeeping, and I suggest in all seriousness that if the banking houses have difficulty in obtaining machines to make the necessary entries the public schools will welcome the opportunity to supply well-educated lads quite capable of accepting paper documents and entering particulars in bank ledgers. If, of course, money were—as the learned judge evidently imagines it is—some omnipotent deity and the bankers his high priests to whom all peoples, and particularly those who belong to "the working class," shall stand in reverent awe, then it would be fitting that everything about us should be subservient to it and them. Without their approval we should not use our labour and materials to make our railways uniform, to build hospitals, roads, and bridges, to prevent floods, to protect the aged and infirm, to safeguard the people's health, to educate the rising generation, to remove the drudgery of toil from our homes, to abolish slums, and to do everything required for the uplift of humanity. In fact, perhaps the sun should not continue to shine, the rain to fall, or the wind to blow without their august blessing and permission. But money is *not* the mysterious, all-powerful entity its self-constituted high priests would have us believe, and it is high time a stop was put to the mumbo-jumbo that surrounds it.

### STOP SPURIOUS SYMPATHY.

It is also high time this spurious sympathy for the so-called working classes was thrown back in the face of those who offer it, and the supposed leaders of these classes came out and challenged the privileged utterances of self-satisfied persons in high places. Abundant evidence of a convincing nature is just as readily available to court judges and working class "leaders" as to you or to me, and indeed it is incumbent on the judges to obtain and give heed to such evidence. Section 25 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act places this obligation upon them in these words:—

"In the hearing and determination of every industrial dispute and in exercising any duties or powers under or by virtue of this Act, the Court or the President shall act according to equity, good conscience, and the substantial merits of the case, without regard to technicalities or legal forms, and shall not be bound by any rules of evidence, but may inform its or

his mind on any matter in such manner as it or he thinks just."

Before any man should accept the responsibility of appearing publicly in the name of the suffering people he should make himself acquainted with the facts of money—what it is, where it comes from, what it is for, who produces it, why there is such a shortage of it. He will then be in the position to declare that any man occupying a responsible position who accepts the dictum that resources cannot be used and people cannot be properly fed, clothed, and sheltered because of financial limitations is simply a party to the perpetuation of a swindle against the community.

It is my belief that we are being robbed every day, and that the Arbitration Court is being used as one of the means to effect the robbery. At Belfast on November 24, 1936, one of the greatest of living men made the following public declaration:—

"The essential power which the banks have acquired is monetisation of real wealth, i.e., the power of creating acceptable and accepted orders or demands upon the producing system and of destroying

### TOO LATE!

Stanley Baldwin to his constituents:—

"I have always felt that for the country's, the party's and our own sakes it is best that we should all ask to be relieved of our burdens."

"IT IS BETTER TO GO BEFORE THE PEOPLE KNOW YOU ARE BECOMING INCOMPETENT."

them on recall; and the essence of their fraud upon civilisation is not in the magnificent technique of the system which they employ, or even in the charges which they make for the use of this money they create. . . . The essence of the fraud is the claim that the money that they create is their own money, and the fraud differs in no respect in quality but only in its far greater magnitude from the fraud of counterfeiting. At the instigation of the banking system, barbarously severe penalties are imposed upon the counterfeiter of a ten-shilling note, but a peerage is conferred upon the counterfeiter by banking methods of sums running into hundreds of millions."

The question is: Should the Court determine cases on the basis of physical practicability or on the basis of mesmeric symbols? There is only one sensible answer, and as Australian citizens it is our duty to demand of the Commonwealth Parliament that the money figures are made equal to the production and price figures, so that no longer shall it be permitted to our judiciary to withhold material justice on the plea that "we can't afford" the money figures.

—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

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### "SOMETHING."

Thousands were approaching manhood soured with society. Their environment was not conducive to loyalty either to Australia or to the Empire. Something had to be done to encourage them.

—Senator Brand at Legacy Club's Conference, April 10.

And, according to the "Sun" report, the best the Senator could suggest was that "the apprenticeship clauses could be temporarily cut or eased to give youth a chance."

should all be in agreement regarding the basis of what I propose to say. The basis of this criticism is the report, in the Melbourne *Argus* of April 1, of what Judge Dethridge said in the Arbitration Court the previous day, and his remarks may be divided into three sections—the first relating to costs and prices, the second to "idle money," and the third to what we can "afford."

### COSTS AND PRICES

His references to costs and prices were as follow:—

"Supposing that hours were reduced in the railways, the natural position would be that the Railways Commissioners would try to find cheap mechanical substitutes for man labour so as to bring their running costs down to something like what they were before. If they were unable to introduce substitutes for man labour, they would have to employ additional labour to achieve the same production as before. That means that labour costs would be increased, and that the Commissioners would have to charge more for their services. In turn that means that the customers of the railways would have less to spend on other forms of labour."

In this little dissertation the judge makes it perfectly clear that the core of the problem is *cost*, and that when we increase costs we must necessarily increase prices. Under the insane financial arrangements we so foolishly tolerate, that is undoubtedly true, but for some strange reason the judge always assumes that the quantity of money is constant, and that no matter how earnestly we may desire to improve conditions for the great bulk of the people we can arrange this only by robbing the small minority who are described as the "well-to-do" classes. This is also the belief of the Socialist, and perhaps it is because the unions' advocates are similarly mistaken that they make no attempt to prove how utterly wrong and even absurd the contention is.

Proof has been given in these columns that money is no more real than figures and tickets, and that as a matter of irrefutable fact finance is only a question of bookkeeping. There is therefore no reason in the world why our money figures should not agree with our price figures, and if the granting of reduced hours would mean an increase on costs,

## London at Coronation Time

(Continued from page 5.)

line had its "Coronation sailings" yet solidly booked in any class. Out-of-town agents, by paying a small deposit, are permitted to book and hold any number of cabins in dummy names until about ten days before a given ship sails, do not lose their deposit in any case as it stands to their credit if the reservations are given up. This sort of speculative booking had by last week pretty well "filled" the *Queen Mary*, *Paris* and *Bremen*—all of which sail from Manhattan at just the right time for last-minute Coronation fans in a hurry—but the Cunard White Star Line is taking practically its whole fleet out of Manhattan at that time and unquestionably good accommodation is still plentiful. In this or any other year, actual decision to go abroad should of course be followed by "Booking Early" for best, cheapest cabins.

A great victory for the Earl of Derby, who has campaigned for years to get the 10-dollar British visa fee down, was its recent revision to 2 dollars after April 1. The French visa, ordinarily 2.33 dollars, is reduced to 47 cents for the Paris Exposition Season this spring and summer, with 50 per cent, reduction to Exposition visitors of all French rail fares. Italy offers similar inducements and the recent devaluation of French francs, Belgian francs, Dutch gulden, Swiss francs and Italian lire make these ideal post-Coronation countries, cheaper today by some 20 to 40 per cent, than they were in 1936 and better bargains than they will be in 1938 as prices inevitably rise to offset devaluation. Canadians are in the same state of mind as U.S. citizens and last week Canadian Pacific had many unbooked cabins in all classes for its Coronation sailings of the *Duchess of York*, *Empress of Australia* and *Duchess of Atholl*.

### Staying There

In London speculative bookings, not only of hotel rooms but of seats from which to view the Coronation Procession, have surged in wild fluctuations and last week continued erratic. Nevertheless, London is such a rearmament boom town in 1937 that, even if nobody came to the Coronation—and by lowest estimates 2,100,000 are coming (of these comers 1,500,000 are estimated to be United Kingdomers, 500,000 from overseas, 100,000 from Europe.)—The hotels would be overcrowded as they were last spring and summer, the theatres jammed and head waiters (usually Italians in the swankest English places) as cocky as in 1929. Today in London almost no top-class hotel rooms for Coronation time remain available. His Majesty's Government bought the best months ago, and forehanded folk the rest. Class A and B tourists from the U.S. who would normally stay at the Ritz, Savoy or Claridge's are today being booked into Class C and D hotels such as the Thackery and Russell.

All Manhattan agents find their best, highest-priced Coronation seats sold out, or nearly. Thus Raymond Whitcomb, who have the grandstand adjoining Westminster Abbey, have sold all the top-price seats they offered at 262.50 dollars each, have plenty left at down to 94.50 dollars each, their cheapest. Thomas Cook and Son have the stand of 4000 seats near Hyde Park Corner and throw in with one of these seats a minimum rate inside cabin on the *Kungsholm* for 395 dollars round-trip. This definitely cheap inclusive rate covers dinner, breakfast and bus transport between the ship in the Thames and a point within five minutes walk of the stand. American Express offer similar rates with emphasis on further travel on the cheaper Continent after the Coronation.

Privately all agents agree London will be so jam squeezed that even Ambassadors in Government cars will have to arise at dawn before the Coronation and reach the Abbey by 7am. at the latest. Millions of Britons will stand, sit, slump and sleep on curbstones not only the whole previous

night, but in all probability the night before that. Ten thousand tourists will sleep in ships on the Thames.

Anyone who would like the Cumberland Terrace mansion in which Mrs. Simpson lived can rent it at 210 dollars for Coronation week. The late great Earl of Birkenhead's son's house may be had for May and June at an asking price of 1500 dollars on agreement to feed the six Birkenhead servants, and pay their combined wages of 150 dollars per month—and at that the young Earl is "open to offers." Today Manhattan agents are loaded up with such London houses, report "little or no demand"; but U.S. Ambassador to Soviet Russia and Mrs. Davies have taken one of the largest mansions in all London for the Coronation.

### Sight Unseen

A seat anywhere along the Coronation Procession route, and there are 23 miles of grandstand seats, schedules the sitter to see the King and Queen bowling along in their golden Coach of State. After leaving Westminster Abbey the King will be wearing the Imperial State Crown. Other members of the Royal Family will be in open landaus or limousines, as will foreign Crown Princes, Special Envoys, Ambassadors. Necessarily, the Procession is all that the public can possibly be shown, for the Coronation must take place inside the Abbey. About 15,000 subjects of the King have a "right" in varying degrees to be in the Abbey, but its maximum capacity is about 7700. The choir screen cuts off all but about 2000 persons in the Abbey from seeing what takes place. It is therefore in a fine mediaeval and traditional sense a Mystery.

This is as it should be, for George VI is to emerge after many exhausting hours of ministrations by the Archbishop of Canterbury and others as officially a *persona mixta* or "mixed person." In the eyes of faithful, devout members of the Church of England, his Majesty is henceforth a mixture of priest and layman. He has been anointed with holy oil or balm as a bishop is consecrated, and upon his head has briefly rested what is called St. Edward's Crown. This is too sacred to be worn in the open or seen by the mob.

Centuries ago Cromwell's men smashed up and dispersed the British Regalia, including what was then called St. Edward's Crown, stealing the jewels. After the Monarchy was restored the present St. Edward's Crown was made in 1661, and is thus a venerable relic, although England's holy King, St. Edward the Confessor, died in 1066. It is St. Edward's sacredness, and that of the Church of England, which is the Mystery of the Coronation and its essence.

George VI was King the moment Edward VIII abdicated. After his Coronation, he is not any more King or Emperor than he was before, but he emerges in talismanic Mystery. As Shakespeare makes King Richard II exclaim:

*Not all the water in the rough  
rude sea,  
Can wash the balm from an  
anointed King;  
The breath of worldly men cannot  
depose  
The deputy elected by the  
Lord!*

### Bean Feast

The great Coronation Mystery enshrined at Westminster Abbey is in 1937, and has been for generations, something in which the English, Scottish and Welsh share by instinct and faith rather than in their thoughts. Centuries ago pilgrims came from all over Europe in season and out to the shrine of St. Edward. They come no more—except to the Coronation. Until about 200 years ago the people of Britain believed the King could cure them of bodily ills, and he had to spend scores of days every year "touching" the sick. That custom fell into disuse before Queen Victoria was born, and today George VI—except in his devoted sub-

jects' love—is in the cold eyes of Science endowed with no special Mystery. The Coronation has become what Englishmen call pleasantly a "bean feast"—a period of rejoicing, relaxation, fun and amiable pomp. On May 12 the charm of special novelty is added by the fact that so few of their subjects ever until recently much noticed or thought about the present King and Queen. Who is he? Who is she? They were vaguely "popular" as the Duke and Duchess of York, but their lives today are new.

### Their Majesties

Queen Victoria's beloved Prince Consort, "Albert the Good," died Dec. 14, 1861, and 34 years later the grief of the Widow of Windsor was still so poignant that she was much annoyed when it began to seem probable that Britain's present King George VI would be born on the anniversary of the Prince Consort's death. The expectant young mother, the future Queen Mary, sent to Queen Victoria (according to the Manchester *Guardian*) assurances that she "almost feverishly hoped that her accouchement might occur on any other day," but it occurred Dec. 14.

This put the father, England's future George V., in a difficult position when he faced the Great Queen, his grandmother, and she demanded that his newborn second son be given as his first name "Albert." Victoria had tried to get the future King Edward VIII christened with Albert as his first name, and the future King George V had managed to tuck it in second, but after the way Queen Victoria had been annoyed on Dec. 14, it became impossible to resist her will, and the baby became "Prince Albert," later "Prince Albert, Duke of York" (premature headlines even made him "King Albert" upon the abdication of Edward VIII.). Since it happens that "Albert" is a name the English simply do not like, the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin had the Royal Family and everyone else with him in undoing the work of Queen Victoria, and announcing that his Majesty is King George VI. He was christened "Albert Frederick Arthur George."

At the Royal Naval College, cadets nicknamed the future George V when he was a cadet, "The Sprat." Edward VIII as a cadet was "The Sardine." The more serious, studious nature of George VI made him, as a cadet, "Dr. Johnson" and later "Mr. Johnson." It was soon evident that the present King was the only scion of the Royal Family ever to show a definite mechanical bent. Ship mechanisms became his major interest. Even today his Majesty is fond of the exceedingly intricate model railways—not "toys," but "scale models," costing in some cases up to 20,000 dollars for a complete system.

In September 1914, the appendix of Prince Albert was removed, in 1917 he was operated upon for acute duodenal ulcer. Despite these gastric difficulties, the Battle of Jutland found him in the "A" turret of *H.M.S. Collingwood* as that ship went into action. During the bombardment he coolly made hot cocoa for his fellow officers.

Aviation offered Prince Albert opportunity to enter an arm of the fighting services easier on the stomach than the Royal Navy, ideal from the point of view of his mechanical skill. His Majesty today is a better pilot than King Edward ever was.

His "Dr. Johnson" nature has kept the new King quietly, diligently studying all these years the problems of industry, civics, the classes and the masses in which for 25 years the Prince of Wales exhibited on all occasions and all over the world a dazzling show of interest. Those few who know the new King best know that he and his Queen know much and care greatly and intelligently for the welfare of their subjects and the smooth functioning of the State. Queen Elizabeth, although the daughter of an earl and descended from the most illustrious Scottish nobility, is technically the "first commoner" to become Queen of England

since Henry VIII's Queen Catherine Parr. In nothing has her Majesty been common, except in dress, for it was undeniable that as Duchess of York she was "the sloppiest dresser in the Royal Family." This was the result of misplaced loyalty to her Scottish maid, an honest wench, who, realising, perhaps, more keenly than anyone else how unfit she was to dress the Queen of England, tearfully protested her inadequacy to her mistress. This peculiarly Scottish situation is now being got in hand by the Queen Mother and Elizabeth is already no sloppy Queen.

Not until after King George V. came to the Throne had Westminster Abbey, sacred "Valhalla of the Empire," been used over a period of six centuries for such joyous occasions as a Royal Marriage. A bridesmaid at the wedding of Princess Mary, only daughter of King George and Queen Mary, was wholesome and attractive young Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, today Queen Elizabeth. When the present King George VI presently sought his sister's bridesmaid's hand, she made no secret of her Scottish impression that he had been sent. She unaffectedly told his Royal Highness that she could not; she really could not accept a suitor who had been sent. This was in her father's frowning Glamis Castle, where, according to Shakespeare, Macbeth murdered Duncan, and the English press likes to repeat its tale of the commoner daughter of a Scottish earl who was unyielding and unimpressed until her King's second son finally convinced her that he came as her suitor on his own. To their marriage on April 26, 1923, George V. "with the greatest pleasure... gladly" gave consent.

The new King has a natural candour matching that of the new Queen. About six years after his marriage he said as Duke of York, "My chief claim to fame seems to be that I am the father of Princess Elizabeth." To a pushing cinematographer who managed to button-hole the Duke, and make an offer as fabulous as it was vulgar, the present King quickly replied with perfect truth, "You can tell your firm that I make my own films of my daughters." Newsreel companies never know when he will call up to borrow a 45,000-dollar sound camera, truck, and delighted, grinning crew to help their King and Emperor shoot a scene.

In his own name the King is a paid subscriber to *Cavalcade*, the British news-magazine most candid in reporting the Royal family. In the eyes of good middle-class people like Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, this magazine is "most vulgar." Recently a close "friend of George VI rang up the editor, suggesting a denial be printed of rumours circulating on the Stock Exchange that another mild epileptic "falling fit" had been suffered by his Majesty. This denial, since it came virtually from the honest King-Emperor himself, could be accepted as the nearest thing possible to the lowdown on a matter of utmost interest to British businessmen in view of the approaching Coronation, in which they have so many millions at stake. But between the business-like King-Emperor and his business subjects, stand the Gentlemen of England. The printed denial in *Cavalcade* was pounced upon, its excision forced.

As Duke and Duchess of York the most historic duty discharged by their Royal Highnesses was to open in Australia the handsome Parliament Building of that Dominion, exactly 26 years after its Parliament was originally opened by the future King George V. But the most important duties discharged over long years by the present King were as the really active patron of, for example: the British Empire Cancer Campaign; the Institute of Hygiene; the Browning Settlement; the Newspaper Press Fund (for indigent ex-hacks and soaks); the Gordon Boy's Home; The Waifs and Strays Society; the Free Masons (his Majesty is Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and as such darkly suspected by Masonophobes

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(Continued from page 3.)

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Mussolini and Hitler); the Safety First Association; the Early Closing Association, and especially the National Playing Fields Association. Many hundreds of teenage British boys have romped and played games with the Duke of York in the annual two-week period, which it was the custom of his Royal Highness to spend camping with them. They know *what George can do*, and neither the words "falling fits" nor the fact that his Majesty plays a fast tennis game left-handed, and, under stress of emotion, stutters or is momentarily unable to speak, worries buoyant young Britain in the least.

George VI is sound in that in which King George V was most sound and King Edward VIII by no means sound—Character—and so is her Majesty. They are unaffected, charming people, and if outrageous fortune has any slings and arrows in its quiver for them, they have what it takes to meet these wisely. They are definitely more popular today than were Queen Victoria and Prince Consort Albert at the time of their marriage. They give every promise of maturing into the ripe greatness of the late King George V. and her Majesty, Mary, the Queen Mother.

This week the first rehearsal for the Coronation was set to begin sharp at dawn on April 6. The first overseas Premier to have set sail is Dunstan of the Australian State of Victoria. This week the great organs of the London populace slapped out such Coronation shock headlines as: *Sunday Referee*: "Whispering Against the King"; *Sunday Graphic*: "Sell Britain to the World"; *Sunday Express*: "Don't Bungle the Coronation."



## ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

### VICTORIA.

Reading the papers day by day one is struck by the increasing interest that is being displayed in the nature of democracy, and the criticism that is being levelled at the failure of Parliament to obtain the security and comfort that is the just due of everyone living in this present age of power production and easy transport.

There is a growing realisation that democracy has been ineffective, and although this thought has in some cases forced the mind into channels of Fascism, yet this tendency is daily becoming less pronounced, and the true course is showing up ever clearer and clearer, that the way to make democracy effective, the only way for the people to get those things to which the labours of their forefathers has justly entitled them, is for the people to demand what they want, and not to cease that demand until it is satisfied.

Whatever may be the correct solution of the various economic problems that beset mankind; there is little disagreement on the fact that essentially there is no serious difficulty in the job of distributing an existing plenty. One difficulty alone exists, the difficulty of clearing out of the way of progress those vested interests, which at present are organised to influence politics to their own advantage instead of to the advantage of the people at large. The onset of real democracy would not deprive these interests of any of their present material benefits; indeed, they might improve them in the general progress, but it undoubtedly would deprive them of that power with which neither they nor any other men are fit to be entrusted—the power to oppress their fellow-men. There is no denying the fact that these persons will use all the powers of their organised forces to fight tooth and nail against the proposals of true democracy, and it will be necessary for all persons of goodwill to combine their forces in the fight for freedom. Such a combination is possible under the United Electors of Australia organisation, and it is hoped that all who believe in the action of the U.E.A., will take the first opportunity to show some active interest in the work being done. Such interest may be manifested in several ways, by active assistance in organisation, by speaking on behalf of the U.E.A., by distributing literature and leaflets, by collection of Demand forms, and by subscription to the funds, which alone make all other activities possible.

New Groups—Bentleigh, true to its promise that it would establish a Group immediately following the Easter holidays, has done so. The preliminary meeting has taken place and the Group is now organising a public meeting to announce its preparedness for action. Brunswick and Albert Park are holding "house" meetings during the week with the object of forming Groups, which will undertake the organising of Town Hall meetings to inaugurate the Campaign in the electorates concerned.

Supervisors—Mr. Morton, of Yallourn, has Gippsland in his charge, and has had John Hogan addressing meetings in the principal Gippsland centres. Mr. Taylor has taken charge of the Balaclava electorate and held his inaugural meeting on Tuesday evening last, at which John Hogan was present to assist him in launching the Campaign. Mr. Eric Butler, of Benalla, has been appointed Supervisor for the Federal Electorate of Indi. Mr. Butler has spent a month assisting in the central office and has gained a thorough grasp of the working plan of the Campaign. We are expecting quick results from him when he goes into action.

John Hogan. - - John gave good service to the Electoral Campaign during his debate at the "Heckle Hour" on Saturday evening. He managed to make the Campaign the centre of interest. There is no doubt that the idea of the Campaign reached thousands of ears to which such a simple solution to our problems had not occurred. John will be speaker at the Town Hall inaugural meetings, which are now being arranged.

U.E.A. Bank—We have a big programme of monster public meetings which require leaflets, posters, press and screen advertising, and this means expense. The response to the launching of the Bank has been admirable and with patience there is no doubt it will do its job; but time is no friend of patience and we have to advertise our public meetings. So will those good people with good intentions send in their names and a Bank will be forwarded by return mail?

Badges. — How many badges have you noticed in the trams and trains? Help to swell the number and thus advertise the Campaign. They make an excellent gift for your friend. 1/- each.

Speakers' Class—Extra speakers' class at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, at Tea-Room in basement of Central House, 174 Collins Street.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

"Prosperity" Talk —For many months now Australia has been working to usher in the "prosperity" that we have been hearing about for so long, and about which certain politicians have been dreaming for longer still. But, while we are surely much nearer our goal, we have still some fighting to do. Workers in the Electoral Campaign are there because they are fighters. This is true of every State. We know it is true in South Australia because the response to our recent appeal proved it. And we know that people who take up a cause such as this will battle on to the last ditch.

If there is one thing we must be careful to avoid, it is to be caught napping. The Opposition has for so long found ways and means of putting people to sleep. At the present moment it seems to be done by convincing people on rations, and people just off rations, and people doing "rent work," that prosperity has returned. If this is true, we would like to ask prosperity where it has been all this time. If it has been hiding behind the backs of politicians and/or others, then it is still up to us to see that these politicians, and those others, do not carry away our prosperity again. Let us capitalise this prosperity slogan; let us remind our M.P.'s that they cannot dangle prosperity before our eyes, as a conjuror might a brand-new rabbit, and whisk it away again before we have a chance to get a grip of it. We must still tell the M.P. what we want. And we must remind the people what they want, for many of them do not yet know how to put it into words. Then when we all know, and all speak at once, something must give way. It must not be the people.

New Campaign Director—While we regret that circumstances make it necessary for Mr. E. H. Hergstrom, who has been Campaign Director for several months, to resign this position, we are indeed pleased to be able to say that in Mr. M. E. Dodd we have a successor who has abundant enthusiasm for the movement, and the ability necessary to put into concrete form the ideas which he has. He feels that we are now entering upon the decisive moment in the Campaign, and that we must bend all our energies in bringing that Campaign to a successful conclusion. While it be that some who are not so closely connected with the movement, especially those in country areas, may think that the campaign has run away with itself, they must be reminded that

change is the essence of life; and the more vigorous the life, the greater and more frequent the changes. Do not, then, look askance on the changes, which the new Campaign Director will possibly introduce.

Mr. Hergstrom has assured us that he is not leaving the movement. He, too, is so enamoured of the vigorous life, and change, that it is safe to assume that he will not leave the Campaign. The South Australian workers wish him success in his attempt to convince himself that prosperity has indeed a little secret for him. It must surely be so.

Departure of Assistant Secretary—Miss D. M. Martin, who has been in the Headquarters office since last August, has accepted a position at Port Lincoln. It is impossible to say what we owe to Miss Martin as a result of the work she has put in as Assistant Secretary. Enthusiastic for the Campaign, a conscientious worker, she will certainly leave a gap in the ranks that will not be easily filled. But, while she gave herself so unstintingly for so long, it would not be fair to ask her to do so indefinitely. Her advancement at Port Lincoln is assured, and we wish her all the success possible.

Broadcasting. — Unfortunately the Broadcast Fund has fallen off of late. This must be mended, or it will be necessary to have broadcasts only as frequently as circumstances allow.

Cheap Books. —We still have a number of books for sale at cost price. A list will be sent on application.

Picture Competition. —Do not forget, the Picture Competition closes on April 20. A prize of one pound to the one who sells the most tickets.

### ADELAIDE CITIZENS' FORWARD MOVEMENT

Delegates from the following organisations attended a meeting of revived Citizens' Forward Movement in the rooms of the Headquarters of the Electoral Campaign (non-party), 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide: Housewives' Association, Electoral Campaign (non-party); Australian Labor Party, A.L.P., Women's Branch; several Unemployed Associations, Communist Party; St. Luke's Mission.

A number of apologies received from other organisations regretted their inability to attend, but stated that they were in full sympathy with the Movement and wished it every success in its fight for a worthy cause.

The Citizens' Forward Movement, in its earlier career, was instrumental in getting an increase of children's rations. Following along similar lines, the following resolutions have been adopted:—

(1) That a request be made to the Government to the effect that the unemployed be given work at award rates.

(2) That, until all are employed, those remaining be granted an amount equal to the old age pension payments for men and women, including married women, plus 5/- for each child under the age of 14 years.

(3) That all recipients be allowed to earn sufficient to make up the amount received to the basic wage, and no reduction to be made except where the basic wage has been exceeded.

(4) That further provision be made for medical attention for the unemployed, the present arrangements being totally inadequate.

(5) That the inconvenience and inadequacy of the surgery in Molton Street be directed to the Minister, and that he be asked to provide more up-to-date and convenient services.

The next meeting of this Movement will be held on April 21, at 8 p.m. the time having been altered from 3 p.m. owing to a number of delegates being unable to attend meetings held in the afternoon. It is anticipated that as a result of the alteration a large and representative meeting will be held.

## MR. GROVER GROPES

A Review by DYNAMICS

"The Time is Now Ripe," by Montague Grover, is a book to praise on several scores, and one sincerely hopes that it will do more good than harm. This certainly will be the case if people, while expecting the needed "Revolution without Tears," will seek to rectify the specific parts of our system of social co-operation which are at fault, instead of following the suggestion for a revolution of the whole social system.

As a piece of journalism, few critics would not acknowledge that the matter put forward in the book is a splendid example of how views should be presented for consideration by the people for whom they are prepared.

### MR. GROVER'S DESTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

First, let sentiments be dealt with which can be heartily commended; later, criticism will be offered on other aspects of the case as set forth.

No attempt is made adequately to connect the following citations to their context, but in no case, it is hoped, will violence be done to the intentions of the author:—

"My hatred of capitalism . . . its gross and stupid inhumanity, its contemptible inefficiency."

"For every million won from business as a profit there is more than a million lost through . . . bankruptcy . . . it is fairly obvious that the basis of operations is unsound."

" . . . then one sad day both rivals awakened to the fact that the work people . . . were no longer able to buy the commodities which capitalism produced."

"The odour of burning rubber fills the atmosphere of civilisation, yet it persists in driving with the brakes on, and it is only a matter of time before the car bursts into flames."

"So the modern capitalist lives in constant fear that his ruthless fellows or still more ruthless system may suddenly despoil him of his spoils."

"All the intelligent capitalists freely admit that things can't go on. They are in an economic fog."

"Of all the easy marks which form the prey of capitalism the State itself is probably the most freely imposed upon."

When the author confronted businessmen with a considered pronouncement that "estimated production could be increased four-fold" they demurred, but if asked personally how greatly they could increase output if they had unlimited orders, the answer of the most pessimistic was "ten times."

" . . . In addition to the classes named are the huge armies of trained people who are now engaged in tasks for which there is no logical reason . . . agents, canvassers, brokers and their hordes of satellites."

"It is not the money which capitalism takes out of industry which makes it an evil: it is its obstruction to capacity working of the industrial machine."

### A FEW HINTS.

With such an array of destructive criticism of the present order of society to his credit, Mr. Grover may welcome a few hints concerning changes of tactics so that he can make his constructive suggestions rather more realistic.

As a staunch Socialist he compares the muddled state of affairs, which he now contemplates as being similar to "a steamer taken to sea without a chart or a compass." A more reliable metaphor would picture a steamer with a large complement of passengers and crew busy about their meals, jobs and recreations, but not alive to the fact that the mad captain (having duped his weak-minded lieutenants) is heading the vessel

straight for the rocks. Men like Lyons and Baldwin are the duped assistants; the financial dictators form a hegemony aloof from open view of political life.

Mr. Grover joins with many other socialistic reformers in quoting Russia as a reliable model. Which of us really knows what is in the mind of the few who rule in Russia, and what is the trend as regards freedom of thought and action? And even if we did know the answer to these questions, does it follow that Australia should in the least be slavish to their ideas?

### THE IDEA OF FREEDOM

Mr. Grover admits that at one time he "set out to become a capitalist for the Great Idea of being able to tell anyone to go to hell if he felt that way." Quite a commendable ideal (not necessarily to be coupled with capitalism as such), but how in the name of thunder can such an ideal be reconciled to the socialistic one visualised as follows: "After an election is held members will assemble and elect a leader; that man will assume virtual dictatorship"; and when we go on to find that the redoubtable Mr. Menzies is figured (ironically one hopes) in this position of dictator, one begins to squirm with horror at the prospect presented.

The resulting everything-in-the-garden-is-lovely State is dubbed Sanocracy, and a few amusing glimpses of it are vouchsafed to us:

"Comrade Menzies, while he will confiscate all capital, will guarantee all income."

Of poets: "The only obligation will be that they turn out sufficient work of the quality expected: Sanocracy will become impatient with the poet who tends to spend day after day with Mimi in the surf waiting for an inspiration." For staying forty days in the wilderness, such a one would presumably get into no end of a row.

### COMPETITION.

Again: "A salesman will have no reason to conceal the defects of the wares . . . and there will be no rival wares for him to decry." Because there is now a foolish and unnecessary scramble in business wherein each tries to get his adequate share of money from the inadequate total of money incomes, superficial observers of affairs decry all competition, whereas competition as to quality can and should persist.

On page 143 we find: "But the presumption is that each family will receive not cash, but present day values, and these would be available from the wealth which would roll into the State's coffers just as soon as industry got properly going." The meaning of this passage is vague and uncertain, but it seems to suggest a vast treasury of money (or goods) at the disposal of the dictator. Almost the opposite of this is the picture the present writer likes to contemplate. Let the consumers have money to spend up to the limit of productive capacity; they will then order what they want without any silly go-between acting as mentor.

Briefly, one may say that Mr. Grover does not seem to have considered the alternative that, instead of a dictator, we may need directors in several realms of activity at the centre of our community affairs but each director must first understand what is the policy of the people as a whole concerning the results they freely choose or wish for. These directors will be exalted or sacked by our representatives in Parliament according to whether the results achieved are in accordance with those desired or no.

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

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