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Vol. 3. No. 19.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

General Motors' Scandalous Rake-Off

*

Wonthaggi Committee Robs Widows and Orphans

*

"Loyalty" and the King's Birthday

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General Motors Net 74 per Cent Scandalous Rake-off At Expense of Australian Public

Last week General Motors-Holden's made available their accounts for 1936. This company, which represents the swallowing of Holden's Motor Body Builders Ltd. by the international octopus, General Motors Corporation—through its Australian subsidiary, General Motors (Australia) Proprietary Ltd.—has a paid-up capital of £1,527,400. Of this capital £561,600, in 6 per cent, preference shares, is held by the former ordinary shareholders in Holden's; and the balance of £965,800 in ordinary shares represents the General Motors interest.

For the last three years the company has disclosed the following net profits:—

1934.....	£402,333
1935.....	673,057
1936.....	746,672

From these profits ordinary shareholders received dividends of 20 per cent, in 1934, 25 per cent, in 1935, and 40 per cent, in 1936. But the dividends don't tell the whole story, as the company has also added to reserves from undivided profits no less a sum than £832,652 during the three years. After paying the preference dividend, the disclosed profit for 1936 would have sufficed to pay an ordinary dividend of 73.8 per cent.

One should have expected the publication of these accounts to have provoked a chorus of indignation from the Australian daily press, and an insistent demand for a reduction in the price of motor vehicles to the Australian public.

Did you notice it?

What the "Herald" Said

The Melbourne *Herald* featured the report prominently. It also realised to the full what the accounts signified. Thus, it commented on "a drop of more than £500,000 in stock values," and said, "lower stock values suggest that the company is placing its valuations on a sound basis"—which is the "sane financial" term for hiding a bit more profit.

The *Herald*, in spite of this, had not one word to say in criticism of General Motors' profiteering. On the contrary, it endeavoured to excuse this manufacturer of well-advertised cars and trucks.

It offered two excuses. The first was the note that "profits from distributing motor cars can be subject to violent fluctuations. In the two years ended June, 1932, £866,386 was lost, largely because heavy stocks were cleared at less than cost." To which one might reply that, granting these book-keeping losses to be genuine, the last three years' dividends alone equal a return of 8½ per cent, per annum to ordinary shareholders from the time the company began operations in Australia to date—apart altogether from the £832,000 added to reserves during the same three years.

The second *Herald* excuse, tacked on to its admission of a 74 per cent, profit for one year's trading, was: "But this overstates the true earning rate. Shareholders' funds are only partly represented by capital. Interest-free advances from allied companies for materials alone averaged £850,000 in 1936, and reserves, etc., averaged about £600,000. On total ordinary shareholders' funds of about £2½ millions, the earning rate is 29 per cent. Similarly, the latest ordinary dividend of 40 per cent represents a distribution at 16 per cent, on total funds."

Regarding reserves, as the company has, after declaring a dividend of 40 per cent, in respect of 1936, still withheld £326,000 of the year's profits, the *Herald* when discussing the 1937 profits, will be able to discount them still more heavily—and if the same process continues for a few more

years, it will doubtless show that a 40 per cent, distribution is absolutely paltry.

"Interest-Free Advances"

But its "interest-free advances from allied companies" is simply delightful. We presume this item represents engines, etc., bought from General Motors and some of its pups abroad. Since these have not yet been paid for, the *Herald* chooses to regard their book value as an investment by the parent company (which, you will remember, is also the holder of the ordinary shares in the Australian concern), and so treats the amount involved as though it were a portion of the company's capital. Now, we presume that General Motors Corporation of America (and elsewhere) is not in business for the mere fun of making engines, and that all supplies sent out from its factories, whether to subsidiaries or otherwise, are charged up at a price to include profit—in which case the *Herald* argument is that the manufacturer should get his profit twice over. When a newsagent who receives trade credit for the *Herald's* multitudinous engines of literature makes up his accounts, does the *Herald* expect that, where itself appears under the heading of "sundry creditors," it should be put down for a dividend by the agent in addition to its own far-from-negligible profit as a printer and publisher? If not, why this special pleading for General Motors? Is the *Herald* writing editorially with one eye, or perhaps two, on its advertising columns?

General Motors and the Australian Public

Profiteering is robbery at any time and anywhere. But the part played by General Motors as an overseas corporation is particularly sinister on the whole financial economy of Australia. If its profits, exorbitant as they are, were wholly distributed as dividends and paid to Australians, there would be injustice as between one section of the community and another—but

BLANKETS!

A case reported by the police to the State Relief Committee, and investigated by the "Herald" representative, showed that a father and mother had become seriously ill because they had given what bed covering was available to their children during the cold snap last week.

Two years ago, the husband was unable to follow his usual calling because of ill health. He has been able to work only on casual jobs. The parents have tried hard to make ends meet, but the home has been gradually reduced to a sad state of need.

Like many others, blankets are what are required most of all. —"Herald," May 1.

AND WE PRODUCE A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S WOOL.

maybe nothing worse. But what happens in General Motors' case? The company admits that in 1936, after making all sorts of generous provisions for one thing and another, it netted a profit on sales of £746,000. After paying Australian shareholders their preference dividends, a balance of over £712,000 is earmarked for shareholders overseas.

THIS MEANS THAT GENERAL MOTORS DRAWS BACK FROM THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILLION POUNDS MORE IN ONE YEAR THAN IT PAYS OUT IN THE COURSE OF ITS BUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA. GENERAL MOTORS IS INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE OVERSEAS FINANCIAL RING. AND GENERAL MOTORS IS PLAYING A FIRST CLASS

PART IN THE GAME OF AUSTRALIAN DEFLATION.

36 Per Cent of Capital Gets 4 Per Cent. of Profits

The operations of the company also illustrate the way in which Australians are treated as wood and water joes by these overseas financial interests. The company, as already noted, has a paid-up capital of just over £1½ millions. Local (i.e., Holden's) shareholders have put up over one-third of this. But, on 1936 operations, these latter—because of their "preference" rights—got only £33,696 out of total disclosed net earnings of £746,672—36.7 per cent, of the capital drew only 4.4 per cent, of the profits. And, as the company's constitution sets out that preference shareholders' rights do not extend beyond a cumulative claim to 6 per cent, per annum and first claim on their capital in the event of a winding-up, they will have no further interest in profits, whether paid out immediately as dividends, put aside for the time as reserves, or distributed as bonus shares.

And this is the sort of thing which Australian governments not only permit, but which they are anxious to perpetuate. Are not Casey, Stevens, Forgan Smith, Dunstan, and the whole pack of politicians—U.A.P., Country party and Labor—crying out for still more "capital" from overseas?

What Do We Owe to General Motors?

What has the overseas end of General Motors-Holden's done for Australia?

In the real sense, it has provided a little directional skill—for the actual working staff, today as in Holden's day, is almost entirely Australian. In the fictitious sense, additional "capital" has been introduced—the said "capital" consisting, not even of American dollars, but of entries in Australian bank ledgers giving rights to Australian pounds. Could Australia do this for itself? Of course it could. Could Australia prevail upon the necessary technical experts to come here from America or elsewhere to teach our workmen the secret of better car fabrication? Of course it could—didn't skilled technicians come out here to teach our men how to build the Sydney Harbour

bridge, and all sorts of other enterprises?

Then why this terrific imposition on those who buy motor cars in Australia—and don't forget that General Motors is not the only overseas culprit—and on the general public which pays, almost inevitably, the extortionate price of motor transport in the prices it has to pay for the ordinary necessities of life?

Think it out for yourself—and remember that you can stop it just as soon as you exert yourself sufficiently to demand of your Federal Parliament (specifically, of your own Federal member) that Parliament take the necessary steps to make financially possible whatever is physically possible. That this particular problem is physically

WONTHAGGI

The Victorian railways, using 10,000 tons of coal a week, would be heavily affected financially if Victorian supplies were held up and additional purchases had to be made in New South Wales.

When reserves were worked out, the Department would have to purchase heavily from New South Wales at higher rates than those paid for Wonthaggi coal—rates which might be increased by the New South Wales coal owners, once the stabilising factor represented by the State mine supplies was removed.

The railways now; pay 11/11 a ton for State Mine screened coal, and 23/- a ton for Maitland screened coal; 9/6 a ton for State Mine slack coal, and 18/10 a ton for Maitland slack.

—Melbourne "Herald," May 1.

capable of solution within Australia is proved by the very advertisements of the overseas gentlemen themselves. Do they not tell you, over and over again, that even today eighty-something percent of the car you use is made in your own country?

If overseas manufacturers care to send us their cars or other goods and to take Australian goods in payment, well and good. If they care to start in business here, and to spend their profits in Australia, well and good also. But to suggest that an overseas group, in return for a million of capital—even if it be real capital, such as motor engines—should have a right to levy an annual toll upon the people of this country amounting to three-quarters of a million pounds, is more than absurd. It is tragic. And that permission to do so should be accorded by Parliament is downright treachery.

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THE FAMILY TREE

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

Mr. Churchill, during a recent debate, said he welcomed the rearmament programme as a sign of Britain's Will to Live.

In other words, Britain intends to make herself Fit to Survive.

Now, it is clear that if we intend to survive, we must look carefully for those qualities which, through-Cut the ages, have enabled some species to progress, and the lack of which have caused others to cease developing or to become extinct. I see nothing for it, therefore, but to inflict upon you a treatise on Evolution. Aspirins will be distributed at the close of my address.

* * *

Originally, we were taught that Life has always been a struggle for survival, in which the weakest went to the wall and only the strongest or most cunning survived. This process was called Natural Selection.

Recently, however, a new school of biologists has arrived who say the exact opposite. They say that the creatures which, in each successive stage of evolution, most successfully survived and developed, were not the strong and cunning, but the most sensitive and defenceless.

Starting from B.C. double-O, we find that the earliest creatures

strength. We must arm for peace!" "You've said it," replied the Megalosaurus. "I welcome this Will to Live."

As for the most heavily armed of them all, the Tyrannosaurus, we all know what happened to him:—

There once was a Tyrannosaurus, Who said, "No one else shall reign o'er us!"

So he used all his sense For attack and defence, And died while the earth was still porous.

But all this time, ignored by the armed Powers as beneath their notice, was growing up a small creature, which, instead of developing its defences, remained unprotected and weak. Instead of becoming more and more impregnable, it became more and more sensitive.

If the big saurians had noticed it, they would have formed a Committee of Public Health and pronounced it unfit to live. And that would have been a pity, for it was your ancestor.

As it was, it survived by keeping out of the way of the Great Powers. It lived in trees and watched the struggle for existence from the gal-

story. If true, it means that the way to successful survival is defencelessness.

It means that the creature, which raised Life to a higher stage than all the rest was the one that risked going without defences in order to develop more faculties.

It means something even worse. It means that up to the beginning of the mammal stage the meek had inherited the earth. I don't know what the vicar will say.

And so the biologists are still looking for Man's ancestor among the mammals. Man did not, they say, descend from the apes. For the apes became specialists, and so developed no further. They specialised in climbing and stayed in the trees. The gorilla specialised in

scended from sentimental Socialists, who preferred community singing to drilling! Ridic.

* * *

Anyhow, the biologists are looking for something like that for man's ancestor. And I don't think you like the idea. It is so different from the beetle-browed, muscular and ferocious biped from which, we have been told, we descended, and whose aggressive, he-man characteristics you pride yourself on having inherited.

Man's ancestor, they say, must have been some little manikin, perhaps two feet high, with alert senses and gentle ways, defenceless body and receptive mind, developing only by means of sensitiveness; which played and sang, and came down from the trees to explore the wider earth out of curiosity, and was bound to its group, as Professor Gerald Heard says, "by its dominant emotion—affection."

Gee, buddy! You ain't so tough as you thought you was!

* * *

Turning from biology to archaeology, we find the same deplorable story of congenital pacifism and unpreparedness.

The more they discover about prehistoric man, the more obvious it becomes that he was never a fighting animal.

Recent excavations of the greatest of the pre-historic civilisations of the East show evidence of advanced culture, building and craftsmanship, but no signs of contemporary weapons or defensive walls.

War, it appears, is a recent invention. Man did not adopt it until the end of the Stone Age. So no wonder the Government is in a

PROSPEROUS MELBOURNE.

The father was in constant employment until two years ago when ill health prevented him from doing his usual work. Since then, he has been able to obtain only odd jobs and most of the furniture has been sold. There are four children, all under 12.

"We manage to get sufficient food," said the mother today, "but there are only three worn blankets in the house. It is not for ourselves that we seek assistance, but for our children. It is hard to keep them warm these nights, and we dread the approach of mid-winter."

The three blankets and the best coat were on the children's beds, but there were only old coats in the back room where the parents slept. Many similar cases have been reported by reliable charity workers who have a first-hand knowledge of the requirements of the poor.

—"Herald," May 4.

hurry. We've a lot of time to make up.

When Man entered the first stage of civilisation, says the same authority, he was still what he always had been — "a peaceful, co-operative, suggestible, affectionate animal." Which shows how far some of you have progressed.

* * *

It would appear, therefore, that when a leading article in the *Morning Post* last Monday observed:— "A fighting animal for millions of years, man has but recently begun to talk of peace"

—the printer had accidentally transposed two words. What the writer meant was:—

"A peaceful animal for millions of years, man has but recently begun to talk of fighting."

In the rush of a newspaper office, such simple mistakes can easily occur.

We thus find ourselves in a critical situation. If what these biologists say is true—that the Fittest to Survive are the most defenceless—we had better stop rearming quickly, before we become extinct.

If it is not true, then these biologists, anthropologists and archaeologists must be arrested under the Defence of the Realm Act for discouraging recruiting and rearmament.

THE TEST.

At the annual meeting of the Melbourne City Mission on Tuesday, Mr. A. Eggleston, referring to the disposal of donations received, said that no one need fear that staff had no difficulty in testing bona fides.

A NICE PARTY

At a dinner party given to Mr. Lyons ("The Prime") by Mr. S. M. Bruce on Monday night, the distinguished guests included Lord McGowan, of Imperial Chemical Industries; Mr. Geoffrey, editor of the London "Times"; Sir Philip Game, who dismissed the Lang Government in New South Wales, and who is now openly London's Police Chief; and Sir Henry Strakosch, the notorious international financier and associate of Montagu Norman and Niemeyer.

Show me a man's companions—

defence. "It is the biceps," he said, "that keep our foes at bay." So he, too, stayed put, looking like a fool.

The biologists' argument is that if it was a meek and defenceless creature, which survived from the reptiles, it was probably some meek and defenceless creature, which survived from the mammals and became Man.

While the rest of life, they say, was all fear and struggle to kill or escape from being killed, there was always one type of creature that did neither; and that creature produced Man.

In short, it appears we are all descended from some primordial Conscientious Objector. And how do you like it?

There is, I read, one type of monkey that gives a hint of the nature of Man's ancestor. They are the Howler Monkeys of America. They have nine distinct voice-sounds, which distinguishes them from the better-known American entertainers, who have only one.

These creatures are said to be nearest to man because they are socially minded and playful, and spend a lot of time singing in chorus. They never desert the old or injured, nor fight each other.

They have no "old man" or ruler dominating them. They live by rule of common consent in a co-operative commonwealth.

This, of course, is very hard to believe. As if Man could be de-

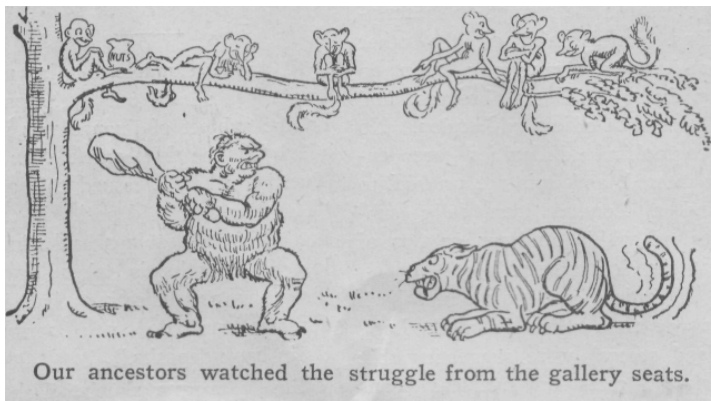
lery seats. It grew fur instead of scales, and hands instead of claws. While all the others were learning how to defend and attack, it was learning how to feel. Definitely not cricket.

And so it happened that the creature which carried life on from the reptile stage to the mammal stage was the weakest of them—a little rat-like beast, like a tree shrew or small squirrel. From it came the lions, tigers, horses, dogs, sheep, cows, kangaroos, dangerous, chimpanzees, Portuguese and Greeks.

From it also came, at last, Mr. Churchill, the will-to-liver. But don't tell him. He thinks he was sired by Brontosaurus, out of Proto-Gorilla.

* * *

Now this is a very disturbing



moved about the floor of the sea. Then some of them, moved by Enterprize and Efficiency (applause), turned their feelers into fins for the better pursuit of their prey, and left the floor, thinking, the poor mutts, that they were rising in life.

They got as far as being fish, and there they stuck. Nothing about them has changed since, except their market price. But others of the family were not so efficient. They refused to Get On, so they Got Out. They remained on the floor, walked along it, came out on to dry land, and became reptiles—nasty, but a distinct rise in the social scale.

So with the reptiles in their turn. Most of them turned also to Efficiency, Defence and Armaments.

"Our potential enemies," said the Dinosaur, "are increasing their

To the Committee of Misappropriation, Wonthaggi Relief Fund

Sirs,

Some weeks ago we drew attention to your misappropriation of the funds subscribed by the public for the relief of the widows and orphans of the men killed in the Wonthaggi mine explosion. We now note that on Monday you, a self-constituted committee, appointed PERMANENT trustees and laid down a basis for future payments from the funds.

Your scheme, as we understand it from the daily press, is that each widow will receive £2 a week for twenty years, PROVIDED SHE REMAINS A WIDOW. Should she dare to remarry you will cross her off the list right away. There is to be an allowance of 15/- a week for each child until it attains the age of 18 years.

To obtain this result about £25,000 of the £29,000 subscribed is to be invested in such a way as to bring in 3½ per cent, on the unexpended balances. The press does not say how or where you propose to invest the money, but we presume you will hand it over to buy annuities (and let the insurance companies peddle it out again at 5 per cent, or more) or divert it into some similar channel.

The only lump sum the widows will receive is the £100 apiece you so munificently "gave" them some weeks ago and on which they had to live for some time, their weekly payments dating from April 1—a most appropriate date.

These payments and investments leave a balance of some £2720. Your permanent trustees propose to keep this and to use it at their discretion for such purposes as special medical attention or "assistance to children of unusual ability in their advanced education." In all such cases, of course yourselves will be the

sole judges as to whether the widows' or children's health or brains may justify the special attention.

When this gross case of setting up a barrier between the charity of the community and the objects of their compassion was first mooted, we indicated in rather plain terms our opinion, which is that you are misappropriating funds and robbing widows and orphans. We have still the same opinion, but we now consider that you are unbusinesslike fools as well. Had the funds been distributed outright, there would have been an average amount available of about £2240 per family. There are 18 children to the 13 widows, and, worked out on your basis of calculation, this would have provided a lump sum of about £1800 for each widow and about £300 for each child. Now, which would be the better and more attractive proposition for, say, a widow with one child—(i.) to draw £2/15/- a week for her household, with the certainty of £2 of it stopping in 20 years at most, and immediately if she remarries or dies, and with the balance of 15/- stopping when her child turns 18; or (ii.) a lump sum of £2100 right away, given with no conditions, as the vast majority of donors meant it to be given? With the latter sum the widow could buy a business that would bring her in a comfortable living and give her a taste of independence—even to the extent of marrying again if she chanced to find a congenial partner. With the former arrangement—the one you have unlawfully imposed upon her—she has no prospect of anything but a weary treadmill of an existence, of £2/15/- a week to meet rent, food, clothing, and what-not for herself and her child.

Are we not justified in declaring you to be fools as well as robbers?

THE NEW TIMES.

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.

BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice.

C. KENNEDY, Grocer. Haw. 229. Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd.

DRY CLEANING, Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733.

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LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. Burnie Salon, 81 Cotham Rd.

M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

(Continued on page 7)



THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, MAY 7.

Kent Hughes Again Insults the Unemployed

Since the decline and fall of the Argyle Ministry little has been heard of the deputy leader of the U.A.P. in Victoria, Mr. Kent Hughes—for which small mercy we should be duly grateful. But the gentleman could not resist the occasion of the Young Nationalist conference at Bendigo on Saturday to seek a little more limelight by returning to his callous and unfounded attacks on our destitute unemployed.

Beginning by abusing the Labor party for having obtained from the present Victorian Ministry some slight increase in the miserable payments made to the destitute—on which any decent man would have congratulated them instead—Mr. Hughes went on to declare that the present rates of relief are such as to be "undoubtedly a temptation to some men not to look for work, but to sit back on the Government." Apparently Kent Hughes, in spite of his Rhodes scholarship, has not the brains to see that such a statement is one of the most terrible indictments he could possibly launch against the industrial system he is so eager to defend—for if the difference between the reward of industrial employment and the dole is so slight as to make it not worth while to bother, what must be said of the sufficiency of the wage?

However, the Hughes insinuation against the unemployed is just as unfounded as in the days when it was a part of his daily patter in the Ministry. Everyone knows that there are odd cases of men who don't want work, just as everyone knows that such cases are generally a matter for medical attention. But if Kent Hughes really

believes what he said—and we scarcely think this political playboy does—let him try it out for himself. We don't know if the Hughes domicile at Kew is decorated with the "No hawkers or canvassers" sign so popular in that neighbourhood, but, if not, let him inquire how many battlers call daily in the heartbreaking endeavour to earn a few shillings a day by peddling. Or let him allow his garden to want attention or his hedge to need clipping, and he will soon see for himself what an army of men there are who *do* want the chance to exchange their labour for some sort of a wage. These are the men about whom he might more profitably concern himself.

"Loyalty" and the King's Birthday

The decision to celebrate his Majesty's birthday on different days in different States of Australia, and on a day months removed from the actual anniversary of his birth in every case, once more draws attention to the shameful hypocrisy of those who love to sneer at others "disloyalty" while parading their own "loyalty" on every occasion when they stand to gain anything. Until last December our "loyalists" always pretended that, apart from the office, they bore deep feelings of personal respect and affection towards the Sovereign. Even at the time when they rejected Edward many of them insisted that it was only because he had personally betrayed their respect and affection, and they whooped with joy over the ultra-respectability of their new choice. Now they show that their affection is so slight as to wither at the mere thought of business being upset to celebrate the one day in the year which is universally selected for affectionate remembrance.

No legal holiday for the new King's Coronation; the slackest time of the year for celebrating his birthday! How the Duke of Windsor must be chuckling on the Continent!

Canberra Makes a Discovery About Foreign Trade

Canberra has made a remarkable discovery. According to last Friday's papers, "Japan's decisions to reduce wool imports for the year to 872,000 bales, including 300,000 from Australia, is based on financial considerations, according to Canberra officials. The Japanese Government has been worried over its adverse trade balance, requiring a drain on funds, and is believed to have placed restrictions on the purchase of raw materials to correct this position."

In conjunction with this there might well be taken the follow-

ing item from the Melbourne *Herald* of last Saturday evening: "In 1933-4, shipments" (of wool) "from Australia to Germany fell just a little short of 400,000 bales. Although showing some improvement upon the figures of the previous year, shipments in the present season from July to March amounted to only 112,153 bales. Under any conditions such a heavy decline must cause great concern, but the position becomes very serious when it is realised that Germany has not increased her purchases in other countries to compensate for this fall in supplies from Australia. In short, the fact must be faced that, in her aim at self-sufficiency, Germany today is doing without wool to an extent which would have been considered impossible a decade ago. The true position may be best indicated by the statement that in 1913 an equivalent of 1,267,622 Australian bales was imported from all sources and retained in Germany; in 1936 an equivalent of 644,924 Australian bales was retained. Any move from the Commonwealth which would contribute towards arresting this alarming drift would be of great and permanent value to our leading industry."

There you have two statements of the gravest possible significance to everyone in Australia. At the moment the war prices of commodities that are exported have dulled the edge of the outcry, which was so bitter a few months ago. But everyone knows that the present booming markets are only a passing phase. And what of the future? Japan is threatening to cut down her overseas purchases because she cannot get sufficient foreign exchange; Germany has already done so to such an extent that she now buys only half the wool she got from abroad over twenty years ago. Other countries must inevitably follow suit.

It is not that these countries do not want our wool. There is not one of them, which would not gladly increase its purchases of wool—and of other Australian exports—to an extent beyond all past records. But if we will not take their goods in exchange, and so provide them with the means of paying us, they cannot do so. Hence the policy of self-sufficiency; and hence the preparations for military war which are now in full swing.

Again, it is not that our people do not want to accept goods either from Germany or from Japan. It is that they cannot afford to buy them and at the same time to buy the products of our own factories. In other words, the people of Australia have not enough money to buy the whole of their own output, including the import equivalent of that part which they export. The thing is so perfectly obvious that one wonders how politicians and businessmen can fail to see it. Apparently they don't—yet. But it is the business of politicians to give way to pressure; and, unless our farmers are prepared to go insolvent without protest, it must be *their* business to put ever-increasing pressure on politicians until this matter of money incomes is fixed up once and for all.

The farmer can grow wool or wheat or potatoes; but he cannot grow the money to enable their distribution to take place. And if he does not make it his affair to see that this money is provided—and provided without robbing him through taxation or some similar device—then it is a waste of time and effort for him to keep

On producing more than enough for his own immediate needs.

He'd better keep on jolting Canberra. Who knows what may happen now that the discoveries have started?

Who Owns the National Debt ?

One of the difficulties confronting habitual liars is that of remembering always to tell the same tale to the same person; it requires a memory out of the ordinary not to bowl oneself out at times. An excellent example of this was provided by the Melbourne *Herald* one evening last week in its Canberra report.

"The Treasury was asked today," said the *Herald*, "why it allows such a long period as 10 days for lodging subscriptions to this loan, whereas in London the £100 million defence loan will be open for not more than one day. It was explained, in reply, that in Australia a substantial portion of each loan was subscribed by small investors scattered over a wide continent, and time must be allowed for the receipt of subscriptions. In Britain, on the other hand, loans are usually taken up by financial houses, brokers, and others with offices in London. No geographical difficulties are encountered, and it is not unusual to find a London loan fully subscribed within an hour or two of the time of opening."

If readers cast their minds back to the time when John T. Lang (and others) were suggesting that interest rates on overseas loans should be reduced, as they were in the case of our internal loans, they will recollect the outcry of "Repudiation!" that was chorused from the daily press and from Canberra. And backing this up was a tremendous play upon the destitution that would befall the "widows, orphans and retired clergymen" who were then alleged to hold a considerable part of our I.O.U.'s. At the same time it was pointed out that it would be quite impracticable even to discuss the matter with bondholders, as they were scattered up and down Britain, and it would be a herculean labour even to contact them. Now we find that "in Britain loans are usually taken up by financial houses, brokers, and others with offices in London," and that "it is not unusual to find a London loan fully subscribed within an hour or two of the time of opening." In other words, practically the whole of our London debt of £544 millions (sterling), with its interest toll of £18 millions (sterling), is due to the London banks and their subsidiaries.

As far as Australia is concerned, the Canberra message said that "a substantial portion" of each of our loans is subscribed by small investors, but it will be noted that the extent of this portion is something, which governments refuse to disclose—from which we are entitled to draw our own conclusions.

Rises in the Civil Service

The announcement that senior Commonwealth public servants are to receive considerable salary increases as from this week is welcome and overdue. Australia is fortunate in having in its permanent public service men (and women, too, although they seem to have been overlooked)

who would have risen to the top of the tree, both in reputation and in emoluments, had they entered private practice. That such services have been given without adequate reward in the past is no excuse for continuing imposition in the future.

But what of the rank and file? What of the thousands who are so miserably underpaid that civil service departments have become notorious as the happy hunting ground for the usurious lender of a few pounds? Does not their condition excite any latent desire to do tardy justice? Or is it that the Government is not concerned with justice at all, but is merely anxious to stop any outward drift of trained men in responsible positions, knowing full well that gaps in the ranks can be filled at a moment's notice, from the still more unfortunate ranks of those who are either unemployed or in casual positions?

Reform in incomes should start from the bottom and not from the top.

National Loans and Bank Deposits

A prime example of the utter balderdash served out to the public on the subject of finance was supplied by the Melbourne *Sun* on Tuesday when it issued this gem: "The increase in deposits in trading banks and savings banks in the last 12 months is taken by the Treasury as indicating that loan subscriptions do not seriously drain bank deposits."

Surely even a simpleton should realise that if a person who has a bank deposit lends it to someone else all that happens is that the ownership of the deposit changes hands, unless the borrower uses the loan to repay an existing debt to a bank, in which case the deposit disappears. As governments mostly increase and rarely diminish their debts, a national loan, in so far as it proceeds from the genuine lending of thrift savings, merely signifies that Brown's deposit becomes first a government deposit and subsequently a deposit in the name of the person to whom the government pays out the proceeds of the loan.

So far from government borrowing decreasing bank deposits, the effect is the contrary. For every subscription to a loan, which comes from a bank, and every subscription coming from individuals through the granting to them for this purpose of an additional bank overdraft, means an addition to bank deposits; since in both cases the increase in government deposits does not lessen any previous deposit.

The community, including their "sovereign" governments, can merely redistribute among themselves existing bank deposits. The deposits are created by banks granting loans or buying investments for themselves; and they are destroyed by the repayment of bank loans and by banks' sales of investments. Any monetary textbook must indicate this—then why does the *Sun*, or some unnamed nonentity at "the Treasury," seek to disguise it? Is it all part of the scheme to keep the public in ignorance?

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"TELL YOUR BANKER"

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,
The above heading was the main feature of a very expensive advertisement recently inserted in the bankers' handbills by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, and the idea was copied from a similar scheme conducted last year in England. The object of the advertisement was, firstly, to suggest that everyone with a bank account should tell their bank to transfer the odd shillings and pence to the credit of the Anti-Cancer Council, and, secondly, to obtain publicity for propaganda in support of an appeal for £100,000 from the general public. If those who have a bank account responded to the invitation the bank would simply transfer figures from their respective pages in the bank ledger to a new page having the name of the Anti-Cancer Council. There would merely be a transfer of money figures, whereas the urgent need is for an increase in the money figures.

Even though it may shock some of your readers to hear it, the general public, whose incomes are limited to salaries and wages, would be doing a far greater service to themselves and also to posterity if they resolutely refused to make any money contributions to this Anti-Cancer Appeal. There are four reasons for this attitude, and they are these:—

Why You Should Not Give

1. The community has already provided every physical thing that is actually necessary for the fight against cancer, such as doctors, nurses, apparatus, chemists, scientists, and materials of all descriptions.

2. Money is not necessary in the fight itself, but only for the purpose of accounting what is used in the fight. The production of money is the monopoly of the private banking system, and, consequently, the responsibility for supplying funds to meet the needs of development and research rests upon the money producers. The job of the people is to provide the physical necessities, which they have done.

3. The money, which now reaches the great bulk of the people comes to them in the form of wages, and has therefore been included in the price of the things for sale. If, instead of being used by the people for the purchase of such things, this money is diverted for use in other directions, many of the goods must inevitably remain unsold with seriously detrimental effects on industry.

4. Work of the nature of a war on cancer should be financed by the Commonwealth Government through an issue of new money from the National Credit office, and should be made available for public purposes without interest. The people have only to demand this to secure it.

In these circumstances it becomes clear that the charitable instincts of the people are being improperly exploited to bring about their further enslavement, for so long as the people in general respond to such appeals they are tightening the noose of the present financial swindle which is surely strangling them.

Doctor Says Position Is Desperate

Entirely because we have written insufficient figures in the financial books of the nation we have been without cancer research laboratories and have been treating patients with obsolete methods. Read this shocking statement by Dr. R. Kaye-Scott, of the Royal Melbourne Hospital. It is taken from the Melbourne of April 22:—

"Describing the position as desperate. Dr. R. Kaye-Scott yesterday appealed for more room and more assistants in the therapy department. He said that the two old machines, which were being replaced by the new equipment, were 14 years old, and should have been scrapped five years ago. They would not be scrapped

because, even with the new machine, there was so much work that the hospital could not do without them. It is no exaggeration to say that they had been held together with sticking plaster and string . . . The lack of assistants is quite obvious, and something must be done about it."

What the department requires is room, labour and equipment, of which there are plenty. The farce of the position is that they cannot be made use of without money, of which there is anything but plenty. The farce is made even more farcical by the fact that money is nothing more than a system of symbols, and the added fact that the fellows responsible for keeping the symbols scarce have direct representatives sitting in august state on the Anti-Cancer Council. They make it appear that they are deeply concerned about the protection of the community, whereas their only concern is the maintenance of the swindling practices by which our protection and our progress are prevented. Although the fight against this dread disease has been so obviously hampered through lack of figures and tickets, the bankers responsible for it have the brazen effrontery to seek to capitalise the scourge in order to carry on "the world's greatest confidence trick."

Even Dr. Kaye-Scott seemed to be as much mesmerised about money as the rest of his colleagues, for he piously expressed the hope that help would be forthcoming from the Anti-Cancer Campaign. If it is not forthcoming presumably he will continue without murmur to use worn-out apparatus "held together with sticking-plaster and string," and be satisfied to work in conditions that would be a disgrace to the uncivilised. It is interesting to note that a member of the Baillieu family, which is so closely connected with the fraudulent money monopoly, is president of the committee of management of the hospital!

"Combat Cancer With Cash!"

An envelope has reached me bearing the postmark: "Combat Cancer with Cash!" This caused me to wonder whether the necessity for cash is peculiar to cancer, but a casual glance at the newspapers was sufficient to convince me that cash is not peculiar to any particular need but common to all. It is the only thing that can combat debt. It is the only thing needed to combat poverty. It is the only thing we are short of in combating community stagnation. It is the only thing lacking to combat malnutrition and maternal mortality. It is the only thing that prevents our combating the flooding of low-lying areas. It is the only thing wanted to combat slums. It is the only thing we are waiting for to combat the break of railway gauges at the State borders. It is the only thing now required to combat overcrowded schools and hospitals. It is the only thing that stands in the way of combating the shocking condition of country roads, away from the main highways, and disgraceful footpaths. It is the only thing that can combat taxation. It is the only thing that can combat the dire effects of unemployment and the extension of sweated labour. In fact, it is the only thing missing in the combat against everything that stands between the community and its general happiness.

More than all this, it is the very licence of the people to live, for without it we have no claim on food, clothing and shelter, and therefore no claim on the necessities of life. And yet we are foolish enough to allow it to remain under the control of a private and irresponsible monopoly. This monopoly, instead of providing adequate licences, actually seeks to confiscate the licences already issued, and if we submit to this we deserve what is coming to us. We must insist on combating cancer with credit, using the almost limitless and genuine National Credit and avoiding

dependence on the artificially-restricted and counterfeit bankers' credit.

"Affront" to National Council of Women

Another almost laughable episode in the "Campaign" was the affront to the dignity of the National Council of Women. These ladies had been invited to attend a conference at the Royal Australian College of Surgeons (a privately organised and bank-supported institution established to take control of the selection and appointment of surgeons, and to ensure that surgery shall be a close preserve for those finding favour with it. Parenthetically it should also be noted that an Australasian College of Physicians is in process of formation, and a "National Appeal" is being made for its benefit. Mr. A. C. Davidson, General Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, is treasurer of the committee, which has already received donations of £250 each from the Bank of New South Wales and the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney. Very soon, therefore, the profession of medicine will also be entirely subservient to bank interests! But the great majority of the men engaged in surgery and medicine are still asleep on the subject of finance).

But, reverting to the National Council of Women, they were so hurt about the business that they passed the following resolution unanimously:—

"That the National Council of Women considers that there was a grave omission in the arrangements made for the inaugural meeting of the Anti-Cancer Campaign, in that no woman was invited to speak, and it resents the discourtesy and the lack of wisdom in not including those to whom such a subject is so vital."

What a pity that no woman was invited to speak, for we might then have had some idea of what this particular women's organisation actually thought about cancer and the way to fight it. I would suggest, Mr. Editor, that the *New Times* offer its sympathy to the ladies in their disappointment in not having a spruiker at the inaugural meeting, and invite them to tell us in your columns what they would have said had the opportunity been given. They might also be invited to say whether there is even one woman on their executive body today who knows that money is, what it is for, where it comes from, who produces it, who owns it at the time of production, and who controls the quantity in circulation. If there is such a woman, then she alone is qualified to speak.

The Proper Things to Tell Your Banker

The conclusion of the matter is that businessmen should be well advised to keep their odd shillings and pence in their own account, and instead of telling their banker to transfer money figures from their account to the Anti-Cancer Council, tell him a few home-truths of the following nature:—

(1) For too long has he been the secret dictator in industrial, civic and national affairs.

(2) For too long has he maintained an air of mystery and propagated false ideas about money.

(3) For too long has he bled society as a whole, by means of the world's greatest confidence trick.

(4) For too long, through his monopoly and manipulation of credit, has he been permitted to practise the science of swindling and to condemn millions of people to premature graves.

(5) That if it is wrong for a citizen to privately utter money, it is also wrong for a private monopoly to utter it.

(6) That the claim that the bank is the custodian of customers' deposits is the crudest make-believe, for if their customers asked for their money today the banks could pay only about nine pence in the £1.

(7) That the of-repeated statement that banks lend customer's deposits is false, and calculated to deceive. What they lend is a creation of new money

which becomes a deposit.

(8) That banking is little more than bookkeeping, and that the bankers have assumed a role quite outside the legitimate functions of bookkeepers.

(9) That for too long has the banking system assumed the ownership of money at the time of its production, when in fact it is the property of the community.

(10) That its practice of lending to the Government what the Government already owns is fraudulent on the part of the bank and treasonable on the part of the Government.

(11) That once the nation reasserts its ownership of the community's credit there would be no occasion for anti-cancer money appeals, and anything that is physically possible and publicly desirable would automatically become financially possible and desirable.

(12) That in view of the sorry pass into which all sections of the community have been forced by the banks, the time has come for the

banks to take their hands off the nation's credit.

(13) That the private money monopoly, represented by the private banking system, through its creation and maintenance of an artificial shortage of money, is Public Enemy No. 1, being entirely responsible for most of the crime, disease, misery, squalor, poverty, mental strain, hopelessness, fear and general unhappiness afflicting the community.

(14) That you will not rest until money is used as the servant of man instead of his master.

Tell your banker! After you have told him, follow it up by actively participating in the Electoral Campaign to secure not only the abolition of poverty, but also the placing of the community in the position immediately to fight cancer and every other thing that needs to be fought.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

IT CANT HAPPEN HERE

I certify that the occurrence of any of the under mentioned events is so manifestly impossible as to warrant the use of the above title. —W. Blackstone, Minister for Mendacity.

Last evening Lady Gohup-Hyer presided at a joint meeting of the suburban Younger Sets, Not So Old Sets, and Old As You Look Without Make-Up Sets. Lady Gohup-Hyer suggested to the meeting that the methods previously adopted to assist charities might with advantage be scrapped. The system of running Balls and Theatrical Entertainments was a vicious and expensive one, and it would be preferable to collect the moneys now expended in dresses, costumes, booze, organising expenses and photographs of secretaries direct from intending patrons and charity workers. This would ensure that Charitable Institutions actually got something and would dissipate the current idea that, to the best people, "charity" meant something that by judicious handling might become the source of extensive publicity and entertainment. Her remarks were received with enthusiastic approval.

In the Court of General Sessions at Melbourne today William Lage was sentenced to three years' imprisonment on a charge of receiving. The prisoner expressed his gratitude to the Judge for the leniency extended to him and thanked the police for their considerate treatment; and also complimented them on the fairness with which they had given their evidence.

The Minister for Health in the Commonwealth Cabinet today informed the press representatives that the party to which he belonged had made an exhaustive examination of the recently compiled vital statistics. It was obvious from the terrifying figures relating to the birthrate that the Australian race was doomed. The party had no policy to meet the position and must admit that it had done nothing in the past and was incapable of doing anything in the future. The resignations of the whole of the parliamentary members of the party would be tendered immediately. This action on the part of the members had not been induced by the fear that there would soon be no one left to pay the old age pensions.

Enquiries amongst the supporters of the defeated League teams in Saturday's football matches lead to the conclusion that in every case the result was due to the scrupulously fair and skilful play of the victors. All persons interrogated spoke in most eulogistic terms of the ability and impartiality of the field umpires.

At the meeting of all denominations, convened by members of the Melbourne clergy to discuss the bombing of Basque civilians, several speakers vehemently asserted that the bombing of civilians was in all circumstances a thing to be deplored. It was immaterial

whether the aggressors were Franco's flyers or the men of the R.A.F., and whether the scene of operations was the Spanish Peninsula or Waziristan. If such horrors were a necessary incident of modern warfare, declared the speakers, then it was time that some attention was given to the question of ascertaining the cause of warfare, as it seemed certain that the root of all these evils was to be found embedded in the present monetary system.

These remarks were warmly applauded.

At a meeting of representatives of the daily press the question of the accuracy of the cable service was strongly debated. The meeting agreed to the following resolution: "The dissemination of lying statements concerning Red activities in Russia, Spain and Mexico, and also the grossly inaccurate information received concerning all international politics, together with the continued misrepresentation of the activities of the Social Credit supporters, lead inevitably to the

THE TAX-FREE RAMP

According to a statement by the Federal Treasury on Tuesday, the following taxation privileges are accorded to holders of Commonwealth Loan:—
On taxable income of £600 derived from loan interest, total income tax is £16/8/9.
On similar income from other sources, taxation would be:—
New South Wales..... £ 54 14 11
Victoria..... 65 19 8
Queensland..... 78 16 10
South Australia..... 74 5 1
West Australia..... 53 13 9
Tasmania..... 45 8 2

conclusion that the Australian public is being deliberately deceived in matters vital to its welfare and existence, and the public is, in consequence, warned against giving credence to any items of news appearing in the daily press."

An extraordinarily large number of Justices of the Peace, at a special meeting last night, voted unanimously in favour of the following resolution: "That it is detrimental to the interests of the public to continue the system of allowing untrained men to adjudicate in Courts of Petty Sessions."

The mover of the resolution stated that the system had long been a public scandal. Many of them were too old to understand proceedings before them; many more of them would never have understood such proceedings in the days when such faculties as they possessed were at their best. The system amounted to a denial of justice to a large section of the community.

His remarks were received with cheers.

AUNT BERTHA TO SEE THE CORONATION

Dear Children,—

Here I am again. I should have written to you long ago, but you know Mr. Lyons prevented all of us Government servants from writing for the papers. You didn't know I had a Government job, did you, dears? I was there for some months and the warders are the dearest things. I see, however, by the *Herald* (every edition, every evening) that Joe is letting mother do a little journalistic work, so I thought I would write, too. You see, my position was something like mother's—quarters provided by the Government, plenty of hot water and air, free transport and two presentations at Court (once before the Police Magistrate and once in General Sessions).

Well, it's lovely to be out again. You can't imagine how

SENATOR LYNCH DEFENDS THE SENATE.

Senator Lynch at Perth (April 29) defends the Senate from the attacks of A. E. Green, Labor M.H.R.:—

1. "He (Mr. Green) said: 'The Senate was called together for only 19 days in 12 months.' As President of the Senate I called that Chamber together for duty on 49 sitting days from March 11 to December 9 1936."

Almost overworked.

2. "When his Government wanted to turn the Commonwealth Bank into a politically bossed institution, and sought to flood the country with fiduciary paper money, the Senate stepped in and stopped it. . . . The Senate is the sole security of the small States in the Federal structure."

And of something else as well, with the sides 33 to 3.

I rushed for the daily papers when I got out—they won't allow us to read works of fiction in the clink. I was so pleased to read in the *Age* that arrangements had been made to carry on the overseas marketing in the same old way. You know, when I went in the *Age* and the *Argus* and my old cobbler, Keith Murdoch, were telling everybody that our cake was dough if the referendum wasn't carried. Can you believe it, but I thought they might be telling the truth? But I must be fair to Keith. I am told he said exactly the opposite in some of the other States—so he was half right, wasn't he, dears?

Now, will some of you little tots please write and tell me how the Spanish war is going? I heard that the English clergymen had found out all about it, and so simply. They just asked Comrade Caballero if he was anti-religious, and he said no, he wasn't. So they asked him what about all these churches

and convents that got blown up and burnt, and he said that was merely showing disapproval of mediaeval architecture. That's the way to get at the truth, children—ask the gentlemen concerned. You know, I tried that system on the boys in Pentridge, and I found that every man in there was wrongly convicted. Isn't it terrible?

But I suppose you want to know what Auntie is doing. Well, I'm off to the Coronation, and I'm going to write to you every now and then and tell you all about it. Of course, I won't be able to write as well as Mrs. Lyons, because nobody pays me for it; and I won't be able to see Mr. Cardus playing horses, because, when you have to pay your own way, you travel in the lower class. Besides, I've been too ill to see anything, so I just keep up to date by reading Mrs. Lyons. She said that Aden was terrible—not a smile on a child's face. Poor little things. Do you know, I think she should have got Joe to dress up in his Court uniform and show himself. My word, those little children would have had a laugh that would last them a lifetime.

I was very much surprised to hear that she saw a lot of goats tied up in the street at Aden—weren't you? I do hope that there has not been any mistake; but it does sound as if someone has captured our coronation delegation. But we mustn't get alarmed, dears, because Mrs. Lyons says that these goats live on barbed wire and newspapers. I suppose they vary their diet with a hunk or two of shrapnel, so it's probably just a few specimens of the ordinary average Australian public that have been caught and tied up.

We got past Rome all right, and Joe went ashore. He didn't see so much of the Pope this time. I think the Pope must have had enough. You wouldn't remember, dears, but Joe called on the Pope once before; and he said to the Pope that there was a lot of food going to waste in the world, and a lot of people starving; and the

*We regret to admit this is true.—Ed.

TUT, TUT!

"Mitcham Resident" writes to the "Argus" (May 5): "Is it an evidence of loyalty on the part of the Education department that all State schools should be closed during Coronation Week so that on Coronation Day no school shall fly its flag nor shall the scholars of any State school salute the flag, repeat their pledge of loyalty, nor sing the National Anthem? All State schools shall be empty and silent."

Pope said yes, he knew that; and what was Joe going to do about it? And Joe said he hadn't thought of that, but he would go home and think about it and he would let the Pope know what he thought. And Joe came home and thought and then he wrote and said that he had solved the problem, and the way to get rid of the food was to give the little school children an extra meal. Now, wasn't that clever of our Joe? But he didn't say any more than that, and the Pope read the first seventy-four pages of Joe's letter and then turned over to see how Joe was going to do it, and he found that Joe didn't say.

Well, dears, we're getting near England now. We had a most lovely sermon broadcast to us this morning. It was by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was all about Kings and loyalty, and how we English loved our

NO HOUSES TO LET.

It was almost impossible to find a house to let in Melbourne for even a small family, the secretary of the Slum Abolition Board (Mr. Davey) said yesterday, referring to the plight of the Driscoll family, in which there are 10 children.

Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll have been given 21 days to vacate their house in George-street, Fitzroy. They cannot get another house, although Mr. J. A. Heyman, the Fitzroy philanthropist, has offered to guarantee £10 of their first rentals.

Mr. Davey said he had made a personal tour of many miles of Melbourne streets in cheaper areas, and he had not seen more than four or five houses to let.

—Melbourne "Sun," May 5.

King and would do anything for him. They told me he had prepared it to preach about the last King, and it was so beautifully written that all he had to do was to alter the name. Don't you think he must be frightfully clever? Then he went on and told us how prosperous the country was, and how peaceful; and it was so annoying, we couldn't hear him for the static. At least we thought it was static, but we found out afterwards that it was the noise made by the police who were dispersing a meeting of unemployed persons near the Cathedral. But I can't tell you any more at the moment, dears, because I must get ready to go ashore. I'm going to write to you again and tell you all about the House of Commons, where the laws are passed, and Mr. Montagu Norman's office, where they are made, and I hope to get a snap of the Archbishop laying the foundation-stone of Vickers' new works, where the streamlined shells will be made, and I expect to be able to tell you about Lord McGowan treating Mr. Lyons just as if he were the Prime Minister of England.

And remember that, though oceans lie between us and daily newspapers and politicians lie all around us, you will ever be in the thoughts of

Your loving,
AUNT BERTHA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REDUCED HOURS AND COSTS.

I cannot resist challenging Bruce H. Brown (re his letter in *New Times*, April 16) when he says: "If granting reduced hours would mean increased costs, then additional money figures should be brought into existence to meet those extra cost figures."

Let us follow that logic to its logical finality, thus: Keep on reducing hours and adding cost figures and see where we will get. It is just as logical to reduce to 20 hours as to 40 if extra cost figures will rectify any mistake, and if 20 can be rectified by merely adding figures, why not 10, or five, or why work at all if figures will satisfy our appetites?

I agree that shortage of money prevents distribution, but creating figures will not increase goods.

There is a medium in all things, and medium means true balance. Reduction of hours is exercising many minds at present, but we must keep an eye on the point of demarcation; too far to the extreme on either side means chaos.

Forty-four hours hurts nobody and our mechanisation easily balances therewith, but before reducing hours let us see that every consumer is getting his full share and that our standard of living is as high as we wish it to be—by "we" I mean the lowest paid person. Has the person with the lowest income attained the highest standard of living? This can only be accomplished by an issue of debt-free money, and when we have attained that desirable condition and find we have a surplus of commodities we may sensibly reduce hours, there being no logic in making goods which cannot possibly be consumed. Work for work's sake is in vain.

I venture to say, if money were as plentiful as is necessary to satisfy every demand, that in spite of all our machinery, for some years we would be clamouring for longer hours. Picture the demand for labour if every slum were abolished, every old house renewed, every house furnished as the housewife would like, every road made that is needed, all railways unified, all possible water conservation schemes put in hand, every school accommodation provided, every possible beautification scheme completed, tramways extended to the limit—to say nothing of motor cars, aeroplanes, etc. If every man, woman and child in Australia's seven million decided to complete the above works they could not finish the job in 20 years, working 50 hours per week with most modern machinery. We cannot do without figures, but figures don't work. They only represent work.

E. E. BLAKE.

92 Bell St., Coburg, Vic.

(We don't think our correspondent is really at variance with Mr.

Brown, who, in the letter in question, was merely concerned to point out that any decrease in working hours, if it adds to the financial costs of production, must be accompanied by appropriate financial measures to add to consumers' incomes. Our correspondent himself appears to realise this when he advocates the issue of more debt-free money.

In passing, there is no such thing, technically speaking, as debt-free money. If money is to have any meaning at all, it must confer a claim on its holder; it must make him a creditor. And you can't have a creditor without a debtor. Our Commonwealth note issue is not debt-free money, since it is a charge against the community, to be made good in the last resort by the supply of community goods and/or services to those who happen to hold it. We presume, however, that our correspondent has in mind the issue of money free of interest and free of debt to the private banks; which is another matter.—Ed., *New Times*.)

"THE BLESSING THAT DESTROYS."

Mr. Thompson's commentary in the *New Times* (April 30) on the article by Douglas Newton in the English *Catholic Times* of March 19 may be that of the realist rather than the dreamer, and have certain virtues on that account, but surely his methods are, to say the least, unhappy. You won't convince a man of the good in your own cause by waxing funny about his contemporaries' corollaries and clean collars. Mr. Newton and his contemporaries obviously are right in their conception of the fundamental causes of the world's ills, whatever may be Mr. Thompson's esteem for their corollary. This being so, would it not be better if, instead of antagonising them, their co-operation in the practical side of the solution were cultivated by, say, a suggestion that perhaps more would be achieved if in some way their morals and our mathematics could get together. Much damage is done to every good cause by the ebullitions of misguided enthusiasts who mistake invective for persuasive argument.

GOLDEN RULE.

"A BREAK IN HER VOICE."

"There was a break in her voice when she told me how she was missing us all."
—Enid Lyons, describing her mother's telephone call from London.

THEN WHY DID SHE GO?

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VICTORIA'S UNEMPLOYED.

According to Monday evening's press, the following are the estimates of Victorian unemployment registrations for the end of May:
1936.....23,327
1937.....23,336

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A Drama by Montague Grover

Characters:

The Chairman of Consolidated Banks.
The Chairman of Cereals Ltd.
The Chairman of Seafoods Ltd.
The Archbishop.
The Chief of Police.
Bill.

The curtain rises to disclose the boardroom of Consolidated Banks. The characters enter talking among themselves. The Banker takes the seat at the head of the long table, with Bill in the seat usually occupied by the secretary of the company. The rest seat themselves and cease their chatter.

Banker: Gentlemen, you know why I have summoned you here today at such short notice. The position is most serious, and calls for immediate action. It is even more serious than appeared at first sight. The very foundations of sound business are threatened by this man.

Archbishop: Have you found out how he does it?

Banker: No, I regret to have to report that all our investigations have failed along that line. If we could only discover his methods, we might check them at the source.

Police Chief (confidently): Just let me get a couple of my lads on the job and we'll clear it up for you.

Banker: Yes, but when? We're not here to provide the raw material for serial detective stories. We've got to move quickly. This business is urgent. If we delay, the trouble'll extend to all industries, and then the fat'll be in the fire properly.

Police Chief: Have it your own way. You seem to have done a heap up to date.

Archbishop: Let us not quarrel, gentlemen. The issue is too important to permit of time being wasted in idle recrimination and personal rancour.

Cereals: But if the energies of this extraordinary person could only be directed to other avenues.

Seafoods (shifting uneasily in his seat and plainly annoyed): Yes, we're the goats—you and me. Why the hell doesn't he start turning out bricks by the million or giving away tubes of toothpaste to all-comers? Why -----

Banker: What the devil are you two bellyaching about? If he does what you suggest, it'll be worse than ever. The banks'll get in the neck.

Seafoods: Ah, now we see the milk in the cocoanut.

Banker: But if the banks get it in the neck, you're going to get it in the overdraft—and don't you forget it.

Seafoods: I was only joking, old man; I never—

Banker (to Cereals): And you, too; you'll—

Cereals: I never spoke. In fact, I thought at the time that that remark of our friend, Seafoods, was entirely out of place.

Archbishop: Gentlemen, gentlemen, please remember that it is in the interest of each and every one of us to approach this matter in unison.

Banker (to Archbishop): If you'd had sense enough to be helpful, you'd have put your well-chosen stuff over these two before the meeting started, and saved all our time. How do you know that while we're swapping platitudes here, this bird hasn't turned out a few million coats and trousers and distributed free roasts of beef to the multitude? Now, get this: I'm here to watch the interests of the banks and if you don't know what that means you'd better go back to your offices and have a look at your balance-sheets. Now, shall we get on with the business, or has anybody else got a few wisecracks he'd like to let go?

All: Hear, hear.

Banker: Since we last met, I got Bill here to get a few of his gang to float round with their eyes open; and, as this fellow is mixed up with the very scum of the city, Bill's crowd are likely to pick up a lot more than your men. (To Police Chief): The crowd that follows this bird'd throw a fit if they saw a cop or a demon half a mile away.

Police Chief (mollified): That's

right. They're a tough bunch, you take it from me.

Archbishop: The depravity of this city is so deplorable that at times I feel absolutely despondent.

Banker: Well, just you keep your despondency for the pulpit. We don't want it here. This is something that calls for quick sidestepping and solid punching. We've got action ahead, and plenty of it, or we're all sunk—you as well as me. The facts, as we know them, are that just at a period when the harvest had failed and made it probable—

Cereals: Certain.

Banker: Yes, perhaps, certain. If it hadn't seemed so certain you'd never have got those credits from me. Just as it appeared certain that a much higher price would rule for wheat, and the holders would make a big killing, this fellow blows in from nowhere and hands out as much bread as can be eaten.

Cereals: And gives it away for nothing. Don't forget that. That's the rottenest part of it. If he'd only been content to enter the market as an honest competitor, we'd have known how to deal with him and, believe me, we'd have done it. **Seafoods:** And what about us? We've been given just as raw a deal as the wheat men.

Banker: Yes; fisheries, one of our leading industries, is in the same boat. Fish handed out *ad lib.* to all comers.

Seafoods: If it goes on it means ruin to us.

Banker: We've tried to ascertain his methods of securing these enormous quantities of foodstuffs, but so far it's all mere theory. Possibly he's evolved some new method of irrigation or some new fertiliser. Possibly he's a plant wizard who can make two ears of wheat grow where one grew before.

Cereals: The scoundrel! (Hear, hear.)

Banker: Possibly he's invented some new method of catching fish, or of preserving the lives of those under length from their natural enemies.

Archbishop: If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, it should be a simple matter to approach him and secure the rights to his devices. He would probably hold us up for all the traffic would bear; but, although I don't like submitting to blackmail, it seems as if we'd have to do it.

Banker: But he wouldn't agree to anything of the sort. He doesn't care about money, only about feeding the starving, he says.

Police Chief: Yes, he gives everything away.

Archbishop: The unfortunate man must be mentally unbalanced. **Cereals:** Stark, staring mad. **Seafoods:** A criminal lunatic. **Banker (to Bill):** What do you think, Bill?

Bill: Too right; he's bughouse, all right.

Banker: You're all probably right. But that doesn't get us out of the hole we're in. If he provides everybody with food, clothing, housing and comforts for nothing a week, where are we going to get people to work for us?

Archbishop: We shall have to fall back on slave labour.

Banker: My dear Archbishop, if you had given a little of your time to the study of economics you would have realised that slave labour is far more costly than free labour. You can't get slaves for nothing. They have to be caught.

Cereals: And guarded. We lose a terrible number every year.

Seafoods: And depreciation is a heavy item. When a free man gets sick you can just boot him into the street and get another. You've got to pay a doctor to cure your slave, or else risk losing the whole capital value.

Police Chief: Anyhow the slaves'd get their cut of the good things just the same as the rest.

Banker: The outstanding fact is that we're threatened with such overproduction, as the world has never seen. We're liable to be overwhelmed, not only with bread and fish, but with

SIR STANLEY ARGYLE ON DEMOCRACY

Sir Stanley Argyle, ex-Premier of Victoria, was the principal speaker at the monthly luncheon of the National party of Western Australia on April 28, and, judging from the Perth papers, he gave what was in fact, though not in intention, a most comical address.

According to the Perth Daily News:—

"I am rather afraid," he said, speaking with obvious feeling, "that you in this State as in other States are inclined to be critical rather than helpful. You do not realise that the earnest politician, your representative, has to give up his home life; has to abandon all hopes of advancement in his own particular sphere; has to give no thought to economic security, and all the time is held up to ridicule." Then, with some modesty, he added: "Why are you not getting the best men in Parliament? You are, by your attitude, choking off the right men. Every citizen must take

all foodstuffs, clothing, housing and everything else. It's mass production gone crazy, and everybody who's got money invested in any industry is going to be ruined. I'm not an alarmist; that's the cold, sober truth we have to face. Now, it's up to us to get busy. And how?

Police Chief: I can shoot him in under the vag. right away.

Banker: No good, that. He's got too big a start. And how do you know he won't be able to engineer this business from inside?

Bill: Jest you gents leave him to me and my gang. He won't trouble yer no more.

Banker: That's no good, either. He's got the scheme under way. His following's becoming a public menace. What we want to do is not only get him out of the way, but smash up the belief in him that's growing every hour.

Cereals: Couldn't we denounce him as a revolutionary?

Banker: I thought of that. It'd be all to the good to spread around the yarn that he's going to make himself dictator. Look after that side, Bill. That'll turn a lot of waverers against him.

Seafoods: But you know what the Governor is; one of those easy-going sorts who lets people do what they like as long as his own interests aren't affected.

Banker: That's the very reason we must fit him with something that'll turn the crowd against him.

Bill: I heard him attacking religion onst or twice. It was fierce, I promise yer. I ain't a wowsler, but honest, it made me blood run cold.

Archbishop: Good gracious, a blasphemer!

Banker: Good! That's what we'll pin on him. You can help us there, Archbishop.

Archbishop: I shall be only too pleased to be of service.

Bill: Are yer going ter railroad him, boss?

Banker: Don't use such crude terms, Bill.

Bill: Frame him, then.

Banker: We intend to take such steps as will ensure that blasphemers are not countenanced in a respectable community.

Bill: That's what I said. What I was going ter tell yer was that if yer willing ter come acrost, I fancy I can git one of his backers ter turn dorg.

Archbishop: An excellent idea.

Banker: Then it's agreed that we secure evidence for a prosecution for blasphemy, at the same time suggesting that a revolution is contemplated?

All: Hear, hear.

Banker: And I would further suggest that the details be left to a small committee, consisting of the Archbishop, Bill and myself, to work out.

All: Agreed.

Banker: The meeting is now closed. Thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance.

(Curtain.)

an interest in public life; if you do not, you must not growl if the control of your affairs passes into other hands." To which the Daily News added:

"Now, while the public will not agree that the politicians' lot is such an unhappy one, it must be admitted that there is a good deal in what Sir Stanley says. It has become fashionable to ridicule politicians; people do not take enough interest in public life; there is a danger to democracy in that apathy."

The Reason

The purpose of Sir Stanley's little homily was, naturally, to persuade electors that their awakened interest in politics should turn itself in the direction of added support for the National party. But in the course of his boost for U.A.P.-ism he let the cat out of the bag, and proceeded, all unbeknown to himself, to give the explanation of electors' apathy. Here are a few of his remarks, as reported in the West Australian of April 29:

"It is notorious that Labor's parliamentary machine is controlled by irresponsible juntas, the members of which are not elected by the people. Surely that is not democracy." Assuredly it is not; but is the U.A.P. machine any more under the control of democracy at present than the Labor machine? What about the irresponsible junta of Collins Street?

Discussing the attempts of Labor parties in the various States to abolish their Upper Houses, Sir Stanley said of New South Wales: "... I do know that after Mr. Lang

STARVING TO PAY RENT.

A number of people in St. Kilda were starving themselves to pay their rent, and were suffering for it.

—Dr. Vance, Health Officer of St. Kilda, May 4.

had endeavoured to abolish the Legislative Council in New South Wales by appointing his creatures to it, the first act of the Stevens Government was to make the Upper House secure." Secure is the word—but secure for democracy or secure for the U.A.P.?

But Sir Stanley's best effort was this: "Another argument . . . was that the Labor party believed that all the safety and security required for the government of this State was to be found in the wisdom of the masses. In other words, the Labor party believes in mob rule. That most certainly is not democracy."

So, according to Sir Stanley Argyle, democracy and the masses must keep their distance. If the wishes of the majority were to be allowed to prevail, that would be mob rule. Democracy consists in protecting the people from themselves, the protectors being those earnest politicians of the U.A.P. who give up home life (on the rare occasions when Parliament sits) and economic security (basic wage earners, please note) in order cheerfully to be held up to ridicule.

And Sir Stanley wonders why the people are apathetic towards politics and why decent men will not put up for Parliament!

What the People Can Do

Had Sir Stanley been sincere, he might have said something like this:

The people have become apathetic towards politics and politicians as the result of a long series of disappointments. They no longer have faith in any political party, since whatever party they return to office, they seem to do little more than exchange whips for scorpions. The people are realising that they cannot control parties, and so they are beginning to look askance on the very parliamentary institution itself.

But it is in the people's hands to restore democracy. Not by starting another party, which

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(Continued from page 3.)

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only make confusion worse confounded, but by the electors in each electorate resuming control over their own individual member. Let the electors, for the time being, forget their old party allegiances. Let them find something on which a majority of them are in agreement and which is physically possible of performance. Then let them serve a united demand on their sitting member to have it done. If he disobeys their instructions, let them throw him into the political wilderness. If he does what he is told, let them look around for the next matter of policy on which they are in agreement. If they do this they will find that their agreements are many and their differences slight. And they will find that such a course will quickly and effectively destroy the power of the political junta. For the greatest pressure will always move the politician—and anyone else. And there is no pressure within the State that can equal the pressure of a united people. The people are the State. And democracy is the expression of the policy of the majority.

QUAINT IDEAS OF THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Burdens That Are Not Burdens

Readers of the *New Times* who are interested in our national debt, and who may not yet have accepted the invitation of the Bank of New South Wales to apply for its last circular, dated April 12, are strongly recommended to do so. The circular is devoted almost entirely to a discussion of the Australian public debt, and is worth preserving, if only for its conveniently tabulated figures of the growth of the debt, both internal and external.

As has several times before been remarked in these columns, the Bank of New South Wales has for some time been a praiseworthy exception to our other financial companies on account of the comparative frankness it displays in discussing finance, and it would often seem that Mr. Davidson, its general manager, aspires to emulate the chairman of the great Midland Bank in London, Mr. Reginald McKenna, in this respect. Another note of similarity is his desire, as far as is compatible with "orthodox" banking practice, to avoid the horrors of deflation. Thus we note in the current circular (page 4), "... the Commonwealth spent freely during the pre-depression period of expansion and severely economised during the depression—a policy which intensified instead of relieving the problem of unemployment. This policy—the reverse of what is now considered best..."

"Increasing Taxable Capacity"

Nevertheless, the Bank, as would be expected, approaches our national problems from an angle quite foreign, and even hostile, to the angle of the ordinary citizen. Here is an instance (page 1):—

"The term 'burden' as applied to public debt is convenient and commonly used, but suggests a strain on the resources of the community. There may indeed be occasions when it is misleading to talk of a burden at all. The most important consideration in ascertaining whether or not a debt is a burden, in public finance as in private, is to find out how the borrowed money has been spent. If it has been squandered the debt is likely to become burdensome very soon, but not so if it is spent on works that yield returns either directly as money income or indirectly by increasing taxable capacity and social satisfaction." (Our emphasis.)

There you have the typical banker's outlook. An increase of taxation, if accompanied by an increase of taxable capacity, is no burden! The reasoning is quite simple, though it may fail to appeal to us ordinary folk. It seems perfectly right to a bank that an increase in national assets should be accompanied by a similar increase in the national interest-bearing debt. As the overwhelming percentage of national debt proceeds from the creation of bankers' credits (customers' debts) and is therefore due, either directly or indirectly, to banks and allied institutions, this is equivalent to a claim that the benefit of all progress must be reaped by the same gentlemen. The people do the real work; the bankers provide the book entry records; and the latter levy toll forever on the people's "increased taxable capacity." (And don't forget in this connection that interest payments on our public debt already absorb half of the total proceeds of Federal and States' taxation—and the motto is "Excelsior!")

"Works That Yield Returns"

In the same quotation the Bank refers to "works that yield returns... directly as money income." What works? No works do any such thing. Such operations as the railways or the post office may be made to produce money incomes through charges for their services. But how? If the day-to-day operations of a

railway are to be conducted at cost, its disbursements may conceivably equal its charges, thus enabling the latter to be recovered (though even here there will be a time lag unless the railway makes all its payments in advance). But what of such capital charges as depreciation? If the railway was constructed through loan money (as approved by the Bank) the community may, somewhere, be holding the money, which must be recovered through charges for this item. But how can it pay the capital charges twice over—once for depreciation and once for repayment of the capital loan? And how can it automatically pay a perpetual charge of interest on the loan? We should like an explanation of this from Mr. Davidson's bank.

SOME ADMISSIONS

The Bank circular makes some useful admissions, which might well be noted for reference.

Interest and Income: "The debt per head of population has risen enormously since the war, but has been almost stationary in recent years. It doubled between 1914 and 1919, rising from £A.68 to £A.136. Nearly all this was Commonwealth expenditure for war purposes. Since then the debt rose to a high point of £A.207 per head in 1935... But this is rather a crude method of measuring the burden of the debt. What really matters is what we have to pay in interest, and the income with which we have to pay it" (page 6).

The circular then goes on to give a useful table of debt charges and national income, the latter estimated in accordance with Mr. J. T. Sutcliffe's method. Concerning this the Bank says that such estimates "do not pretend to accuracy, but give a fair idea of changes in the national income from year to year."

There is no question of repaying the debt. All that matters is how much of national income is required for interest. And what the Bank quite overlooks is that national income depends on prices, that prices depend on the quantity of money available, and that, in banker McKenna's words, "the amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. We know how this is effected. Every bank loan and every bank purchase of securities creates a deposit, and every repayment of a bank loan and every bank sale destroys one" ("Post-War Banking Policy," page 76).

So that, just as our interest-bearing national debt is due to bankers' control of our money supplies, the burden of paying the interest depends also on how the bankers regulate our money incomes. A nice position!

Tax-Free Loans: "The recent practice of issuing tax-free loans has a tendency to concentrate holdings in the higher income groups, as the tax-free provisions are of little if any benefit to subscribers in receipt of small incomes" (page 7).

Social Well-Being and Borrowing: "If we can spend the money usefully, there is no objection to raising it. Indeed in any progressive community, economic advancement and improvement in social well-being necessitate public borrowing" (page 7).

This is another addition to the recent admissions that the community income is insufficient to buy the community's output of goods. Most "improvements in social well-being"—such as schools, roads, bridges—are not put up for sale; their construction is carried out with goods already produced; physically, those in private industry provide for those engaged in public works (with food, clothing, beer, and other materials); if they cannot make the financial provision, then the money income of the community is not enough to buy its

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA.

Box Hill is set for a monster citizens' meeting to take place in the Box Hill Town Hall on Wednesday, May 19, at 8 p.m. The Mayor will preside, and the speakers will be Dr. John Dale and John Hogan. The Box Hill orchestra will play from 7.30 until 8 o'clock.

It is Time Now to Advertise, to talk of the Town Hall meetings, to make them a topic of conversation wherever one goes; to spread the news of this whirlwind Campaign that is to "do the job" in short time. This is the most momentous Campaign in all history. It is an exposition of the power of the individual—the unit force of democracy. Essentially this Campaign is one of the individual, and it is the purpose of the Town Hall meetings to provide opportunity for the individual to express his wish. This Campaign belongs to no organisation, sect or ism: it belongs to each and every individual, and each and every individual must recognise it as such and play his or her part. That is the point to stress. So talk about the Town Hall meetings—spread the idea far and near.

Speakers' Classes - - Will all those attending the Speakers' Classes please note that there will be no class on Tuesday, May 11; the Thursday evening class will meet as usual at Central House, Collins-street, at 8 p.m. Last Tuesday's class took the form of a debate, the subject being, "Can the U.E.A. achieve its objective?" As a method of bringing out speakers in their knowledge of the subject discussed, the debate was most successful. The tutor reports that the class has developed far beyond his expectations, and that he is already seeking new pupils.

John Hogan. —Mr. Butler is arranging a week of work for John in the Indi electorate previous to his arriving in Melbourne.

Ballarat. —A good man and true has arisen in Ballarat who is arranging meetings of various organisations for John to address—Chamber of Commerce, Toc H, Rotary, A.N.A., etc. These addresses are to pave the way for, and assure success of the monster civic demonstration to take place in the Ballarat City Hall.

Brunswick, Oakleigh, and Footscray are holding house meetings this week. A house meeting is the initial step towards organising a Town Hall meeting.

1000 Shilling Fund. —The shillings are not coming in as fast as expected. Still, when the individual wakes up to the fact that this Campaign is his or her personal bid to be freed from the fear mothered by insecurity—that it is actually and absolutely his or her Campaign, no doubt the coffers will be filled. But it is now that matters; posters are needed, thousands of leaflets for distribution, picture

physical output of food, clothing, beer, etc.—in which case, why borrow at interest, from the Bank of New South Wales or anyone else?

There are quite a number of other matters in the circular which would require too much space to go into here, but which will repay careful reading and digestion.

One thing becoming increasingly evident from this and similar publications is that our leading bankers, if really put to it under threat of suitable penalties, could quite easily evolve a way to rectify our present unsatisfactory financial position. The more their bluff is called, the more readily they make admissions, which a few years ago would have been regarded as revolutionary.

The motto, therefore, is: DEMAND RESULTS FROM THE POLITICIANS, AND LET THEM IN TURN DEMAND RESULTS FROM THE BANKERS.

screen announcements and what not.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide Division. —This Division so far has been working with the Rev. C. D. Brock as Divisional Supervisor, without any active Group overseeing the Division as a whole. Mr. Brock is hoping that in the near future a Secretariat or Council will be formed, so that the work can be spread over a greater area and among a greater number of individuals. The Boothby Council has proved itself, and has shown that great work can be done by such a body. Would all those in Adelaide give all the encouragement they possibly can to Mr. Brock and the Campaign Director (Mr. Dodd) in their attempt to form such a Council in the Adelaide Division?

Boothby Division. - - The Boothby Council met at Headquarters on Friday, April 23. Group Leaders reported on progress to date. While one or two reports indicated that some of their workers had not been able to accomplish as much as was hoped, the general feeling of Group Leaders gave an optimistic tone to the meeting.

Mr. Ottoway, of Colonel Light Gardens, outlined his system for recording the work of the canvasser from the time of going out with the Demand Forms to the actual checking up and marking off on the roll. Mr. Elphick, Chairman of the Boothby Council, said that whatever system was adopted, it should be uniform throughout. This suggestion was adopted by the Council. Mr. Elphick also said that he had pleasure in announcing that a worker in Keswick had offered to act as Director of Records, and was prepared to take on as much of that kind of work in Boothby as he could manage. Boothby, and the Campaign generally, owe that gentleman a debt of gratitude, for it has been proved that that side of the work is not only important, but also a task of considerable magnitude. But when men offer to take on such work, it augurs well for the cause generally, and Boothby in particular. This Division is determined to show what the Campaign means by putting a member out of Parliament if, that member does not sign up to abolish poverty. Such a demonstration of actual power would make the public realise what we stand for, and, incidentally, add to our prestige and popularity. We agree with Boothby, but we would like to see more than one member shown the back door of Parliament, unless a pledge is given to electors that poverty will be abolished.

Botanic Park. —On Sunday, April 25, Mr. C. Goode carried on the work at the Botanic Park, and addressed quite a good gathering. Interest increased as time went on, and towards the end of Mr. Goode's address he had a very fine following. This is a very important opportunity, and Mr. Goode is to be congratulated on the work he did for the cause.

Publicity Fund. —Great interest is being shown in the Publicity Fund. The only one thing wanting now is for everyone to push with their whole weight, and the thing will be done. Interest in the Electoral Campaign is spreading to other organisations everywhere, and the important thing now is to show those people that they are interested in something vital. The only way the public can ever know of an activity is for that activity to be placed before them so that they cannot miss it. We would remind those who have promised their financial support for this fund that the money is due and payable on Friday, May 14.

Council Meeting. —A Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, to discuss activities for the winter. This will be followed by a Rally on Saturday, May 22. At this Rally a report on the progress of the Publicity Fund will be given.

Lunch Hour Addresses. —Lunch hour addresses take place each

Australian Women's Movement Gets on the Job

The Australian Women's Movement for Social and Economic Research has joined in the demand for results. At their rooms in Sydney excellent speakers have been addressing splendid audiences each Friday. A feature has been the influx of new members from other women's organisations, who, as one new member put it, have become tired of running round to all sorts of women's movements and getting nothing concrete, tired of dealing with effects and leaving causes untouched.

The first quarterly social of the Movement was held on Friday, April 23, when the president, Mrs. Lillie Beirne, gave a short address in which she stressed that, although they were at all times ready and willing to join in with other organisations in fighting the present evil effects from which society was suffering, they must never forget that their main work was concerned with dealing with the cause of these effects, and that in point of fact they were the only Women's Movement who were so concerned. She went on to tell the women of the meeting held recently by the Standing Committee working for the elimination of maternal and infant mortality, which had been in existence for many years. There were no less than twenty organisations represented, including all Churches. Among all the resolutions passed, and which were to be presented to the Federal and State Ministers for Health, the main issue was ignored. Mrs. Beirne moved the following resolution, which was adopted and printed on the record: "That we demand that our governments order their paid experts, administrators, and officials to put in motion measures that will ensure to all mothers adequate incomes to provide food, shelter, clothing and education, and all other social services which we possess in abundance; and that security of tenure be assured to all parents in Australia."

Many of the representatives, said Mrs. Beirne, were quite bewildered at the form of this resolution, so that Miss Grace Scobie, O.B.E., hon. secretary, rang her up next day to say that she had slightly altered the wording—and, as a true Australian would say, "Too right, she had." The most important words, "that our governments order their paid experts," etc., were deleted, as also the words, "and that security of tenure be assured," etc. Mrs. Beirne insisted, however, that the resolution as passed be printed, and assured Miss Scobie that women attending meetings being held on all subject matters would become accustomed to hearing this resolution moved, and that their education with regard to its meaning had begun and would continue.

The women were urged to concentrate on this form of propaganda, and the various committees in the Movement—publicity, malnutrition, education, etc.—are to concentrate on a big drive to get new members to share their work and to collect funds for printing pamphlets and for expenses incurred in distributing them.

All women are cordially invited to join and help the great and noble work of saving us from hideous destruction. For particulars address the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Barron, Australian Women's Movement, Foreman House, 226a George Street, Sydney.

On May 7, at 3 p.m., Miss Grace Marsden, B.A., will address the A.W.M. on "The Electoral Campaign and What It Can Do."

Friday. Mr. C. E. Skitch gave the address on April 30. The gatherings on Fridays have been very fine of late. We should, however, like to see more people in during the week. The Electoral Campaign Rooms are yours—use them.

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