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Vol. 3. No. 22.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

Judge Dethridge Admits Arbitration Court Is A Farce

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(Continued on page 3.)

Judge Dethridge Admits His Court a Failure

"Examination of Requirements is of Very Little Use"

Court, He Says, Cannot Remedy Ill-health and Malnutrition

Any person who read with an open mind the newspaper report of evidence in the Federal Arbitration Court last Monday must have reached the conclusion that Chief Judge Dethridge is so hopelessly out of touch with facts as to be of little use to the community in his present position. The only other conclusion is that his Honour is insincere in his frequent protestations that he desires to fix the basic wage as high as possible—and far be it from us to cast aspersions on his sincerity.

Taking the evidence in the order reported, Dr. Cyril Dickson, secretary of the Victorian branch of the B.M.A., urged the court to include in the basic wage £5 a year for medical requirements. Pointing out that the 41/2d a week per family now provided was absurd, Dr. Dickson said that although industry made provision for wastage and repair of plant, machinery, buildings, etc., by depreciation, wearing-out, and other charges, no such provision was made for the human machine, although "sick and damaged human operatives are equally unprofitable as damaged or work-impaired wheels, axles, buildings, or beasts of burden."

To this Judge Dethridge said that the court would do its best to give the highest wage industry could afford. It did not, however, divide its award into appropriations for particular expenditure.

What did the Judge mean by this remark? Are we to take it that all the discussions of years past dealing with rent, food prices, and those other items which constitute the cost of living, have been undertaken simply to keep time from hanging too heavily on the judges' hands—or is it that Judge Dethridge does not want to discuss matters for which his awards have made no provision? He constantly speaks of "what industry can afford"—does he mean that industry cannot afford to keep its employees in the same good order and condition as its machines, because it costs money to buy new machines, but nothing to replace a worn-out workman?

A Judicial Impertinence

Dr. Dickson went on to submit statistics showing that the average weekly wage of fully employed persons attending the Melbourne Hospital was £3/4/10. "We feel," he continued, "that wages should be high enough to enable workers to pay for their medical expenses."

Judge Dethridge: "Most people will agree, but I do not suppose you are in commerce, or running your own business. If you were you'd realise the difficulties of meeting the basic wage."

The only thing to be said about this judicial remark was that it was a piece of gratuitous impertinence. As far as Judge Dethridge himself is concerned, he has no personal difficulty over meeting the basic wage. He is not in commerce or running his own business, and (as our esteemed correspondent, Mr. Bruce Brown, has pointed out in these columns) the only way a variation in the basic wage concerns him is that, since his own salary does not vary, he benefits every time he reduces the wage and loses every time he raises it, since the basic wage directly affects the prices of all commodities.

The report continues: "Referring to the fact that a young man, who should have practically no illness, was drawing the same wage as a married man of 45 with a wife and four children, the Chief Justice said that the poor man was figuratively being robbed to give to the comparatively wealthy. 'That is what a uniform basic wage means,' he added."

"Figuratively" is the word, but its proper application is to the employee, whatever his condition, whom the judge envisages as being "comparatively wealthy" on the basic wage.

The Source of Wages

His Honour proceeded to say that it appeared that some other means of meeting the medical needs of the community would have to be devised. The court could not devise it.

Mr. Crofts: "This Court has from time to time referred to that, but when we ask for anything from our legislators, they say: 'Go to the Court.'"

Judge Dethridge: "You do not get wages from this court or from employers. You get them from the total production of industry."

That last statement is definitely incorrect. The production of industry is goods; it is not money. Wages are money. Everybody—even Judge Dethridge—knows that industry could afford to pay its employees a far higher share than it does, and without serious opposition from employers, if the employee would only take as his pay part of the product he helps to turn out. The difficulties of industry arise simply because wage payments have to be met with money. And the money does not depend either on the court or on employers (in this sense the Judge was right); it depends on the policy of the banks in making

THE TELL-YOUR-M.P. IDEA IS SPREADING.

"There will be a Federal election at the end of this year. Motorists can help to get back some of their lost liberty if they write to the local member and tell him that, unless he does something about it before the election, they will not vote for him. If the Government persists in its stupid and mischievous policy of telling us what cars we shall buy and what cars we shall not, then send it about its business at next election."

—"Truth," May 22.

The politicians were just what the people made them. If they had not the right representatives in politics, it was entirely the people's own fault. They had the power at the ballot box to change the politicians, if it was thought necessary. —Archbishop Mannix, May 16.

more or less available.

If wages depended on the total production of industry, as Judge Dethridge pretends, how does he justify his action in reducing wages in 1931? Was industry less productive then than in the years immediately preceding? Of course it was not. Then why does his Honour talk such humbug?

The Judge Thinks

National Insurance "Very Desirable"

In concluding the examination of Dr. Dickson, Judge Dethridge asked him: "What authority do you suggest should come in to bring about your scheme?"

Dr. Dickson replied: "Possibly a system of national insurance. It will certainly come eventually."

Judge Dethridge: "Personally I think it very desirable that a system of national insurance should be introduced. But it is impossible for the court to do it."

Just what had his Honour in mind in advocating national insurance? Surely he knows, what has so often been pointed out in these columns, that the very elements of a so-called national insurance scheme are such as to lower rather than to raise the general standards of basic wage earners. Their own payments from wages must do this directly and immediately; payments by employers—in accordance with the Judge's "what industry can afford"—will be, for the most part, passed on in prices; and any State contribution will come under either one or both of the first two heads through the medium of taxation. Then why advocate what will not be even a palliative?

The "Desirability" of Enough Food

The second medical witness was Dr. H. Boyd Graham, who began by saying that he wished to emphasise the desirability of feeding the population generously to preserve health and prevent disease.

Well may the future historian rub his eyes! In this year of (doubtful) grace, 1937, in this age of so-called over-production a member of the Council of the B.M.A. gets up in court and pleads that the mass of the people be given enough food to keep them healthy! And the tragic madness is that the people are not getting sufficient nourishing food. What is still worse, the Chief Judge of our Federal Arbitration Court says that it is impossible for him to fix a scale of wages that will do this. Here are his words:

"The main thing to look at is what the income of the community can set apart for wage earners out of the total productivity. The examination of requirements

is of very little use indeed. . . . It is, however, beyond the court's power to remedy the unquestionable evil of lack of health and malnutrition. Appeals to our sympathy or to catch the ear of the crowd, are useless. Evidence as to requirements, pitiable as they may be, are practically useless, particularly when we are not initiating the system."

Nothing that we could say could add anything to that. The court, on the admission of its president, is to all intents and purposes powerless and valueless. True productivity is increasing by leaps and bounds; were it not for artificial restrictions it could be made to increase at an immeasurably faster rate; but, because the Arbitration Court works on a formula that bears no relation whatever to the real facts of production, "the examination of requirements is of very little use indeed. . . . It is beyond the court's power to remedy the unquestionable evil of lack of health and malnutrition."

Do workers want any more evidence of what the *New Times* has been telling them, week in and week out? They will never get anywhere while they pin their hopes to systems that were cunningly devised to trick them. They have one hope, and one hope only—that is, to serve a straight-out demand for results on their Federal Parliament. In the evidence above noted, their union representative, Mr. Crofts, said: "When we ask anything from our legislators they say: 'Go to the court.'" As long as they are content to ask they will get the same answer. Members of Parliament should never be asked; they should be told. The M.P. is the servant of the electors, just as Judge Dethridge is the servant of Parliament. The M.P. should be told to get results, or get out. If this is done, doubtless he in his turn will tell Judge Dethridge to do the same. In which case we might look forward to some surprising changes either in the opinions or the personnel of our judiciary, as well as in those of our parliamentarians.

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ABOUT FLEAS

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

Last week I was presented with a small volume as a token of esteem on the part of the working staff.

Its title gripped my attention from the start. It was:—

Economic Series No. 3.

FLEAS

As a Menace to Man and Domestic Animals.

Their Life-History, Habits and Control.

By James Waterston, D.B., B.Sc. Printed by Order of the Trustees of The British Museum.

* * *

Those of you to whom the flea is nothing but an irritation to blame the 'bus for, or an enemy to be summarily swatted or drowned, according to the terrain of the battle, are missing a most fruitful source of fascination and enlightenment.

I am no flea-fan. As pets or companions in lonely hours, fleas are not my money. It was not of me that the poet said, "He never loved a darling flea, but it was sure to die." It was not I who wrote to Mr. James Douglas asking if fleas went to heaven, and if so should I be allowed to take Augustus?

I have tried, but failed, to love fleas. In fact, my feelings towards all insects except the wasp that stung my mathematics master, is one of ineradicable class-antagonism.

Though not lacking, I trust, in reverend appreciation for the intentions and achievements of creation, it is nevertheless my conviction that the Architect of the Universe slipped up badly when planning the insect world, and trod on a particularly juicy banana skin prior to calling bugs, fleas, ants and beetles into being.

Fleas have, it is true, figured prominently in popular song and story. In

legend, parable, and folklore, the flea has played a part comparable with that of many nobler creatures, while the adventures and subsequent fate of lost or nomadic fleas have formed the basis of many immortal epics, without which our literature would be immeasurably poorer.

Yet of the true inwardness of the flea, and its social and economic significance, the general public is lamentably unaware.

* * *

It will be observed, from the title, that the book on fleas is classified in the "Economic Series." The reason needs little explanation; the flea is a parasite, and it is precisely in our economic system that parasites play their most noticeable part.

It is, indeed, true to say that parasites are indispensable to our economic system, and that if we did away with them the whole basis of our social order would be undermined. Pause, therefore, before you fling a flat-iron at a flea or seek to put a bullet through a bug.

* * *

Before one can arrive at a clear understanding of our economic system, it is necessary to grasp the important difference between the two most common parasites the flea, or *pulex irritans*, and the bug, or

hemiptera-heteroptera — Hetty, for short.

Some confusion prevails on this point. For example, it is frequently stated that

"Big fleas have little fleas Upon their backs to bite them. Little fleas have lesser fleas, And continue to invite them."

or words to that effect.

On the other hand, we frequently hear a person in an elevated or exalted position referred to as a Big Bug.

At first sight, this looks like contradiction. For one implies that



Big fleas have little fleas Upon their backs to fret 'em, Little fleas have lesser fleas, But I don't know why they let 'em.

the smallest is uppermost; the other, that the top dog is the biggest.

The fact is, both are correct. Reference to any entomological authority will show that whereas all fleas are parasites and bloodsuckers, all bugs are not.

The same distinction applies to our social system. Many of our Biggest Bugs cannot justly be termed parasites at all, still less bloodsuckers. Some attain their bugitude by hard work. Other Big Bugs, who do nothing that could be called work without a laugh, suck nobody, but are fed voluntarily, to the extent that some people call the English a race of Bug-feeders.

The fleas, on the other hand, are all parasites, and depend exclusively upon blood sucking for their existence, and the most irritating and poisonous of these insects is the *pulex finans*, generally known as the financier, or money-flea.

The public knows little of the money-flea, its life history, habits and control. Living in obscure City offices or the back rooms of banks, this, the most deadly of the parasites, is so small in size and numbers as to be seldom noticed.

For this reason, it is, perhaps, natural that many sociologists make the fatal mistake of confusing the

KING-MAKING IS CLASSED WITH BOMB-MAKING

They Both Make Work

By D. BEAMISH, in "Social Credit" (London)

There has been some correspondence recently in my local paper on what is called "Coronation Fuss." It started by somebody condemning the ceremonial and pageantry of the coronation on the ground that it was wrong to spend so much money on "fuss and ostentation" while so many were living in poverty and misery.

Of course someone else promptly wrote contending that it was a very good thing to make a fuss because it made work and thus benefited the underdogs; it also attracted foreign visitors, which was good for trade and brought prosperity.

The fact that the coronation necessitated by the death of one good king and the abdication of another seems as artificial a cause of prosperity as does the menace of war and consequent employment in making tanks and bombs, has escaped the letter-writers.

Why cannot we just have prosperity due to our ability and willingness to produce all the good things that constitute material well being?

* * *

If coronations bring prosperity,

money-flea with the larger and less harmful flea, the *pulex profitans*, generally known as the industrialist, or boss-flea. Because this insect is more numerous and makes more noise, it is frequently blamed for the depredations of the money-flea.

Yet the boss-flea lives permanently with the irritating money-flea on its back, sucking hard; and if its own power of suction often appears to be excessive, it is only fair to remember that its itch is often greater than it can bear.

Finally, upon the ground floor, or rough island storey, we have the *pulex prole tans*, or worker flea.

This, though the largest and strongest of the fleas, is so cumbersome in its movements that it cannot catch anything to suck, and never irritates anything but its wife.

I am, indeed, puzzled as to why it ever came to be called a flea at all, unless it is because the parasites cling to it so persistently, and appear so dependent upon it, that observers concluded that it must be one of the family. Or it may be due to a misinterpretation of the word "Sucker."

* * *

In his concluding section, entitled "Flea Control," the author says that to get rid of these parasites we must control their hosts and destroy their breeding centres.

Half of this process is well under way. Owing largely to the Means Test, the hosts are already pretty well under control, and give the police little trouble.

And the destruction of the parasites' breeding centres may not be necessary. For, as we know, the birth rate is declining rapidly among the more comfortable classes.

then logically the more coronations there are the better. A succession of short-lived monarchs occupying the throne for a year or two and then making way for their successor would make trade boom.

When a good king dies, most of us feel a sense of regret and loss. But if prosperity is to depend on such things as coronations, one can imagine businessmen who have not been doing too well, rubbing their hands and exclaiming, "Ha, another coronation! Now perhaps business will begin to look up a bit."

And then there is the prosperity due to armaments. We are assured that the armaments boom provides employment and thus indirectly prosperity. Some say, on the other hand, that we cannot expect prosperity while it continues because one cannot have both butter and bombs. This, however, does not appear to be true, as many are today eating butter because we are making bombs, and the cessation of bomb-making would mean for them to return to margarine.

A friend of mine recently visited a workshop for disabled soldiers. One of the men said that he dreaded the thought of another war unspeakably, but he thought the rearmament programme was a good thing because it made work!

* * *

Consider what this means. Either the weapons of war are never used, in which case those engaged in making them have been wasting their time, or—they are used. We all know what that means.

It means fine, strong young men, the flower of a nation,

BUT WHAT ABOUT WAGES?

Individual rental increases of from 60 to 70 per cent, and an average rise of nearly 20 per cent, from the depression level, were reported today by a leading Richmond estate agent. —Melbourne "Herald," May 21.

lying bleeding to death on the battlefield, or being carried off it to hospitals whence many of them will emerge minus arms, legs, a part of their face or their body, or minus their reason.

It means broken limbs, broken hearts, broken faith and broken homes, terror, demoralisation and, next time, will probably mean the end of anything which might be called civilisation.

That it is necessary to be armed does not alter the facts. A necessary evil cannot be regarded as anything else but an evil.

And it is this great evil, which we are invited to regard as a promoter of prosperity! It makes work. Coronations also make work, so making kings is placed in the same category as making bombs.

* * *

Supposing there were no danger of war; that a strong young king were on the throne and there was, therefore, no probability of a coronation for decades to come; supposing houses had been built for all and enough factories to turn out more than sufficient for the requirements of the whole population?

According to the economists, rearmament and building are the two most important factors in providing employment, so we should then plunge into the depths of depression because we had produced all we wanted. Could anything be more absurd?

It is time that work was put in its place as something we do, either (a) because it is necessary, or (b) because it is pleasurable.

We are oppressed by a new industry—the manufacture of work. It is really an age-old tyranny in a new disguise. Another name for it is—slavery.

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(Continued from page 2.)

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Mr. Stanley S. Addison, Secretary, Empire Trade League, and Secretary, Sound Finance League of Australia (late League for the Maintenance of Sound Monetary Conditions), Temple Court, Melbourne.

Dear Mr. Addison,

In the first of your two capacities named above, you are reported in Monday evening's press as saying: (1) "The publicity which we are organising will stress that if we are to sell our goods to Great Britain we must buy from her."

(2) "The defence aspect is also being emphasised with the statement that our main contribution to Empire defence must be in terms of trade."

The first of these statements is so obvious that there should be no need to stress it. And we would remind you that the principle applies, not only to our relations with Britain, but equally so to our relations with every other country—Japan, for instance. Yet we don't seem to notice that either yourself or any other prominent Empire Trade Leaguers or Sound Finance Leaguers have ever exhibited any concern when we have endeavoured to sell Japan £5 worth of goods for every £2 worth we bought in

exchange, or when we have tried to trade on even more unequal conditions with our big European customers.

We would point out to you, Sir, that this affects you in both of your secretarial capacities, and that it is closely connected with both of your statements above. For, unless our overseas trade in general is conducted on the basis which you rightly postulate for Britain, this must be happening either through deliberate action on our part or through circumstances over which we have no present control.

If it is deliberate, then we are waging the economic war that provokes military war; which means that we are wilfully neglecting or violating the defence aspect.

If it is imposed upon us, then this means that there is not enough money in Australia to buy the whole of our own production (or, what is the same thing, imports up to the full value of our exports).

In the latter case, your League to uphold Sound Finance is propping up a corpse. So, by the way, is your first League—constitutionally, we haven't an Empire any more, but a Commonwealth of Nations. Don't you think you had better bring your ideas up to date?

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FRIDAY, MAY 28.

The Public Service and Moneylenders

Last week the Director-General of Postal Services, Mr. H. P. Brown, issued through the service journal a warning to its members against the depredations of usurious moneylenders. "Many heart-rending cases," he said, "have come under my notice, and the concern I have felt at the distress suffered by members of the staff, their wives and families, is my reason for directing special attention to the dangers and demoralising influences attending transactions with moneylenders."

Mr. Brown pointed out, what is only too well and too sadly known, that the usurer specialises in the public service because he has no difficulty in getting a garnishee order against the defaulter, and he can therefore combine first-class security with outrageous interest charges.

The rates of interest that Shylocks in this country may exact with impunity are nothing short of a frightful scandal. Any day in the daily papers you may see the advertisement of the New South Wales Mont de Piete Deposit and Investment Company Limited—sounds almost like a bank, does it not?—which sets out that "we lend £5 for £1, repay 24 weekly payments of 5/-", and so on. This works out at an annual interest rate of over 80 per cent—and the company unblushingly adds: "You need only the ability to repay to secure a loan from the N.S.W. Mont de Piete, the only firm openly advertising its rates of interest and repayments — DEFINITELY THE LOWEST IN MELBOURNE."

If such rates are the lowest, what in Heaven's name must the highest be like?

Mr. Brown is to be commended very heartily for his action in de-

nouncing the evil wrought by usurers amongst his staff, and also for the offer of sympathetic advice to postal workers from departmental heads. But he would deserve far higher commendation if he were to denounce as openly the abominable conditions, which *cause* his staff to be a prey for moneylenders. Very few people will suggest that the average postal employee is thriftless or extravagant; why, then, is he so often in debt?

He goes into debt mainly because his salary will not permit him to buy the ordinary necessities of life in addition to meeting the occasional calls of sickness and the like. Not that there is any shortage either of material goods or of doctors' services; the only shortage is the money to pay for them. But it is a singular fact that even the very man who denounces the usury of the petty moneylender either cannot see or has not the spirit to denounce the swindle of the wholesale usurer who not only lends the nation's supply of money at usury, but actually creates it by a stroke of the pen. This man, the private banker or money manufacturer, is the father of all the Shylocks. And until his ramp is dealt with it is a waste of time to tilt against the others.

"It Needs Money to Build a Hospital"

A perfect example of money mesmerism was given to the Victorian public on Monday evening, when the Melbourne *Herald*, under the above heading, devoted its editorial to a plea to "hammer out a scheme of finance" for the building of the projected new Melbourne Hospital.

The hospital, it said, is estimated to cost £1½ millions—"the new building, when complete, will contain about 1000 beds, which means, according to the £1½ million estimate, an annual capital cost of £1500 per bed—from 25/- to 30/- per week per bed for interest." When the *Herald* says "an annual capital cost of £1500 per bed," it means a *total* cost; but as it is used to thinking in terms of annual interest, and as interest tends so to raise capital costs that they are repeated over and over again, its confusion of terms is quite natural.

How is the hospital to be built? There is a little money in hand; there is a prospect of a loan from the Victorian Government; and there is the chance of selling the site of the existing hospital for a few hundred thousand. Concerning the latter, the *Herald* says: "It is unfortunate, to say the least, that the erection of an institution necessary to the health and life of a large section of the community should depend upon the sale for commercial uses of a valuable block of public land—one of the few blocks still available for civic purposes." But the *Herald* does not suggest that this block should not be sold. Indeed, it makes no practical suggestion at all except to throw

AUNT BERTHA DOESN'T SEE THE CORONATION

Dear Little Children, —

Here I am, still alive, and so pleased to have heard from so many of you. It was so sweet of you all to send me the Melbourne papers, because you have no idea how I like a good laugh now and then. I thought those articles of the *Argus* on the Communists were just too cute. And they handled the case so beautifully; you know—long articles about insidious propaganda and all that sort of thing, and then, just to see it in action, all you have to do is read the Spanish war news.

And didn't the *Age* go crook about the *Argus* for writing that way? I think the *Age* was quite justified, anyway. How can a paper go on nicely when another paper keeps grabbing all the good stuff? But I suppose it will be all right, because the *Age* can keep on telling us what a bonzer State Government we have, and how the *Age* fought for protection in the year umpteen-two, and what a good thing it is that Mr. Lyons and his cobbers are going to lower all the trade barriers; and then they can fill up the Saturday supplement every week by letters about whether the "Owatawetness" passed Teneriffe inwards or outwards in 1860, and who was the headmaster at the Reilly Street school in that year—it must amuse the Editor, and it doesn't cost anything, and of course that is the main thing, dears, isn't it?

I am very sorry to have to tell you, children, but I never saw the coronation at all, although I heard all about it. I would have seen it only I got into a fight with a man in the crowd—a rude creature who said that our Joe was "nothing but a----- cockatoo." Certainly he had got a look at Joe, but you wouldn't expect me to stand that, would you, dears? I asked him if he had ever seen a cockatoo that could say "orderly marketing" and "Langism" and "overseas obligations" and "financial stability," and he had to admit that he had not so I told him *he* was "nothing but a --- liar," and I said also that he never heard of a cockatoo that had a wife who could write lovely articles for

hint that "in the case of both public and 'intermediate' hospitals our ideas are becoming unduly luxurious. Patients will not suffer in the slightest—indeed they will gain advantage—if building and appointments are not quite those of a ducal mansion"—on the principle, doubtless, that if we don't make convalescence too attractive people will get better more quickly.

Though the *Herald* pleads for a scheme to enable the work to get under way, nowhere does one see the faintest glint of realism. What is required that the new hospital may be built? The land is already available. Architects will be needed, and contractors; workmen and tools; materials of various kinds; furnishings and general interior equipment; supplies of consumable goods (food, clothing, etc.) for the workers while they are on the job. Of all these there is only one that occurs to us offhand of which there may possibly be a local shortage—and that is radium, which we understand is rather difficult to obtain. Still, even facing a possible dearth in this and one or two minor directions, is there any good reason, provided we behave ourselves as sensible beings, why we should not get our job in hand immediately?

There is not, except that we cannot conceive of the accounting part of the process being carried out unless we either borrow the book entries (at 25/- to 30/- per bed per week) or else dispose of some of our all-too few unpledged civic assets. "It needs *money* to build a hospital."

Keith Murdoch, and besides, even if Joe was a cockatoo, he represented a people who had got together the biggest national debt without trying or getting any benefit from it; and who was Montagu Norman, anyway? —I'd just as soon fight for King George. So I got arrested and charged with sedition or innovation or something, but anyway I missed seeing the King crowned.

It was a lovely ceremony. The King sat on a piece of stone that was stolen from Scotland or somewhere and is a Symbol of Empire. He was crowned with a gold crown that has come down for hundreds and hundreds of years without a break, except for a couple of occasions when it was stolen and never recovered. He was crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who calls himself by the same name as all the other Archbishops of Canterbury—I think it is real thrilling. He had a guard of "beefeaters"—they call them "beefeaters" because they have a government job and get one good feed a day, which distinguishes them from the common people. And the Duke of Norfolk directed the traffic and Mr. Casey turned up without his sword. There was no excuse for that, because he used to be a soldier—of course, had it been Mr. Menzies, we could have overlooked it. And I believe our Joe had a sword, but

couldn't manage it, and he had to let go his sword and hold on to his trousers with both hands, but that was child's play to Joe, because, as you know, Joe once had to let his party and his principles go so that he could hang on to his seat.

Anyhow, everyone had a bonzer time, and they all went to the Imperial Conference, where Joe told them how we were all going to get together in the Pacific, and how Australia had started the getting together by putting the boot into America and Japan; and there was a bloke there from Canada who said that the United States would do him, and Joe nearly let the cat out of the bag by telling how Lord McGowan and Mr. Norman had done us; and there wasn't anyone there from Japan, but Archy Parkhill tells me that the Japs, are all in favour of getting together in Australia, and he doesn't know what he can do about it; but, as he is only the Minister for Defence, he is going to suggest that Mr. Paterson get some time off from his farm so that he can give them a dictation test. He says it's the only one of Australia's defences that has proved impregnable, and I told him not to be dirty, because, no matter what he thought of Paterson's monkey business, that was no way to speak to a lady.

And now, dears, you rest assured that long before your wandering politicians have returned to Australia you will have had the privilege of reading some more hooey from

Your loving,

AUNT BERTHA.

HE WOULDN'T PAY ARMAMENT TAXES

So Pacifist Went to Gaol

Walter James Clayfield, pacifist, a London laundry mechanic, has gone to prison for his convictions in time of peace, the first pacifist to refuse to pay his taxes while they are used to prepare for war.

Pacifists (says *Social Credit*, London) have often been challenged to take this action. At last one has acted instead of talking, and, like most pioneers, is suffering for his bravery.

W. J. Clayfield, of Booth Road, Hendon, was summoned at Clerkenwell on April 2 for non-payment of £2/14/9 income tax.

"As a conscientious objector to war, I have no intention of paying," he said. "I have a conscientious objection to paying income tax toward the murder of human beings. You must do as you please about it."

"It is not as I please," protested the magistrate—a significant protest.

"I do not intend to pay this," added Mr. Clayfield, "because I should be guilty of the crime of getting other people to commit murder."

So he went to prison for five days.

Challenge to Pacifists

On October 9, 1936, *Social Credit* reported a challenge to pacifists by Dr. G. G. Coulton, of St. John's College, Cambridge. He said: —

"We have in Great Britain probably hundreds of thousands of people who are willing to speak of war, in any circumstances, as murder, and therefore of the soldier as a potential murderer.

"Among all these thinkers, why has it not occurred to a single one to bear witness to his faith by refusing to pay any taxes, so long as any proportion of these taxes goes to hire potential murderers and equip them with murder tools?"

"A person thus resisting, to the bitter end, would attract immense attention; a few thousands of them—and there must be thousands who hold this faith—would impress the world."

Clayfield has given a lead, and gone to prison, but it does not cancel his debt, so he may be imprisoned again. Conscientious objectors in the last war were not

imprisoned, but Clayfield has attacked the financial system, which is the main cause of war today.

It is the struggle for export markets—to sell goods, not for goods but for money—which is the cause of war. It is in fact an economic war from which military war is only a change of method. Its casualties are unemployment, bankruptcy and suicide.

If Taxes Aren't Paid

A united stand by a sufficient number of people like Mr. Clayfield would force the Government to *make* the money for rearmament.

If people would not pay their taxes, the Government could not borrow, as it could guarantee neither principal nor interest to the lenders.

By the example of Mr. Clayfield and the determined exertions of his fellows the stranglehold of finance might thus be ended, and with it the chief cause of war.

ROCKEFELLER.

Death has at last claimed John D. Rockefeller. "God gave me my money," he used to say. Well, however that may be, at all events God has taken it away from him again.

Zaharoff has gone. Rockefeller has gone. And J. Pierpont Morgan is 69.

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RESURRECTION OF THE MONETARY COMMISSION

A Letter to the Editor, from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,
Newspapers have begun to prepare us for the report of the Monetary and Banking Commission. The *Age* was the first with the latest, and the wording it used suggested that it had obtained inside information. Whatever the source, it announced that the Report was nearing completion and that no important changes would be recommended. It may be news that the Report is nearing completion after nearly two years, but it is *not* news that the existing fraudulent system of finance will probably be white-washed. The public was warned of this at the time the Commission was set up, when the *New Times* pointed out that not any of the commissioners had an understanding of, or an open mind on, the all-important subject of money, and that no matter how conscientious the commissioners might be their judgment was already seriously handicapped by their personal interests and public declarations. It was also pointed out that these very circumstances made it all the more imperative that definite evidence be obtained on the following:—

What is the objective of a Production System?

What is money?

Who manufactures money and out of what is it made?

What should be the true function of money?

Who should own money at the time of its production?

Who should control the quantity of money in circulation? and that in order to ensure satisfactory consideration of these important and vital questions there should be a thoroughly competent representative of the monetary reformers on the Commission as official interrogator. "Failing some such precaution," it was written, "we fear the work of the Commission will be confined to consideration of the movements of money after the money has been manufactured by a private monopoly and passed out to the Government and people as debt. That would be quite useless, and would oblige us to repudiate the whole thing." An interrogator was *not* appointed, and the Commissioners quickly showed themselves quite incapable of examining witnesses as they should have been examined.

Report No Surprise

From what has been published, and from the impressions of those who understand the swindle and who personally attended the sittings, it is clear that the Commission has proceeded just as we thought it would, and as the selectors intended that it should. Had the subject of reference been less important we could have disregarded the Commission altogether, but the question at issue affects the welfare and future outlook of all members of the community so vitally that every thinking person should make it his business to obtain a copy of the Report as soon as he can and study it thoroughly with a critical mind. When making this study it is important to have regard to the type of men who prepared the Report, and for this purpose I propose to give the names and interests of the Commissioners and to follow it up with a simple basis by which the actual work of the Commission and the value of its conclusions may be assessed. The Report should be ready early in June.

The Commissioners

It was on October 3, 1935, that Mr. Lyons announced the personnel of the Commission and said, "they would command the confidence of the public and would ensure an impartial inquiry." There was a Supreme

Court judge, a Director of Finance (so-called), a professor of economics, a grazier, a chartered accountant, and a former Labor Minister, and they were selected by the Federal Cabinet—not by Parliament. Just here we should call to mind again the warning issued to Mr. Lloyd George by the *Financial Times* that all governments hold office at the pleasure of the heads of the banking system, and we must assume from this that the members of the Commission were approved by the heads of the banking system before their identity was announced to the public. It is rather singular that there was no representation at all of the most important sections of the community—viz., the primary producers, the manufacturers, and the consumers; and consequently it was hardly to be expected that the *real causes* of the difficulties which so sorely beset these important sections would be laid bare. On the contrary, it was probably the intention that *causes* should not be brought to light at all. But time will tell, and perhaps some day we might find out who actually nominated the several Commissioners.

Without expressing any personal opinions on the value of the assurance of Mr. Lyons that the gentlemen selected "would ensure an impartial inquiry," the following particulars concerning the several gentlemen will be quite sufficient for readers to arrive at their own conclusions in this regard.

Justice Napier

Mr. Justice Napier, the chairman, is a member of the Supreme Court Bench in South Australia, and is stated to have been for-

BOMBING FROM THE AIR

Britain had proposed that the Non-intervention Committee should appeal to both sides in the Spanish war to abolish bombings from the air. The views of the various Governments on this proposal were now being considered.

—Associated Press cable, May 25.

Did anyone say, Waziristan?

merly a partner in business with Senator A. J. McLachlan, a member of the Ministry which selected the Commissioners, and a director of several financial institutions whose success depends largely on the continuance of the present financial arrangements which are so unsatisfactory from the community point of view.

E. V. Nixon

Mr. E. V. Nixon is a chartered accountant of Melbourne; associated at the Melbourne University with Professor Copland, who took such a leading part in the Premiers' Plan outrage following an artificially-imposed shortage of finance; connected with the Taxpayers' Association, which advocates cuts and economy despite increasing wealth; financially interested in companies directed from Collins House, which is the headquarters of important financial groups operating the existing monetary system; employed by members of these groups as auditor; obtains business support from banking and financial institutions, and generally moves in the circle directly interested in the maintenance of the financial system as we now have it.

R. C. Mills

Professor R. C. Mills is dean of the Faculty of Economics at the Sydney University; in 1932 recommended to the Federal Government that wages should be further cut and that public works should be postponed until costs

had been brought low enough to make it possible for such works to earn interest (interest was more important than the necessities of life!); publicly advocated and recommended a general lowering of Australia's living standards so that "costs" will be brought into harmony with "export prices;" publicly identified himself with the deflationary policy of the privately-owned Bank of England; signed his name to the inferential lie that we must depend for our financial incomes on the sale of goods in other countries; publicly opposed the principle that the nation should control its own credit and supported the usurpation and misappropriation of such credit by a private monopoly; and although publicly admitting that the activities of our governments are controlled by finance, has continued to support the control of this all-important thing, and through it the control of governments, by a private monopoly.

J. P. Abbott

Mr. J. P. Abbott is president of the Graziers' Association of New South Wales; publicly advocated that Australian price levels should more closely balance with prices in other countries; associated with Sir Frederick Tout, his predecessor in office, who is a member of one of the bank-owning monopolies and a director of Associated Newspapers Ltd.; also associated with Sir Norman Kater, another ex-president of the Graziers' Association, who is a leading member of the same monopoly with Sir Frederick Tout.

J. B. Chifley

Mr. J. B. Chifley was formerly a member of Cabinet in the Labor Government, and strongly opposed State Labor in New South Wales, which had attacked the private money monopoly and advocated monetary reform.

H. A. Pitt

Mr. H. A. Pitt is director of Government finance in Victoria; was a member of the committee of Treasury officers in 1931 who prepared a report "preserving much of the deflationary tone of Sir Otto Niemeyer's statement and strongly urging the curtailment of Government expenditure;" was a member of "the committee of economists and Treasury officers" whose report formed the basis of the Premiers' Plan (the chairman of the Associated Banks was also a member of that committee!); a year later reaffirmed his support of the Premiers' Plan and called for strict adherence to its deflationary provisions; for many years has attended meetings of the Loan Council; and in 1934 told the Arbitration Court that "the quickest way to financial recovery is to cut down expenditure of all kinds." He did not explain, of course, what he meant by the term "financial recovery," but whatever it was it was more important to him than the happiness and welfare of his fellow-citizens.

There is only one problem before the Commission, Mr. Editor, and that is to show how our system of finance can be made the community's servant instead of its master. The essence of the answer to this question is the source and origin of money, and it is too much to expect the members of the Commission to expose the falsity of their previous attitudes by now declaring that they were guilty of assisting to inflict tremendous and needless hardship on the Australian people when such hardship could have been easily avoided by better bookkeeping methods in the Finance Department.

"Honours" For M. Pitt

As an individual citizen, not one of the men selected was acceptable to me either from the viewpoint of inspiring

confidence or as ensuring impartiality, but of the members chosen, Mr. Pitt and Professor Mills were the least suitable of all. With prominent headlines, the Melbourne *Herald* of March 5, 1934, informed us that this same Mr. Pitt had opposed an increase in the basic wage on the ground that "the quickest way to financial recovery is to cut down expenditure of all kinds." He admitted that that would be an unpopular remedy, but said it was necessary to do that or increase taxation to secure the balancing of the Budget. Such an attitude revealed complete surrender to the dictation of the money monopoly, and was an open admission that he did not know what money really is or how it is brought into existence. He showed himself bereft of all appreciation of the sovereign rights of the citizens, and was merely repeating the dictum of Sir Otto Niemeyer and his friend, Colonel Cohen, that the lives and progress of the people must be confined within the limitations of financial figures fixed by private persons. In total disregard of increasing wealth, he had the audacity to say that we should be compulsorily made poorer merely to fit in with a set of figures dictated by private interests. It is my belief that in the great majority of cases "honours" are bestowed on persons who have found favour with the money interests, and consequently it was not surprising to see Mr. Pitt's name included in the

RAYON

From the era of high wool prices following the conclusion of the war, further opportunities arose to exploit and extend the use of cheap substitute fibres. It was in this latter period that rayon production became an established and recognised factor in the world's textile manufactures. The following statistics illustrate the growth of rayon production:—

Year.	Production in 1000 lb.
1896.....	1,350
1913.....	27,000
1922.....	78,000
1927.....	270,368
1932.....	518,573
1934.....	786,950
1935.....	966,380

Returns for 1936 are not yet available, but it is expected that further substantial increases will be recorded. The formidable growth and popularity of staple fibre apparel will be realised when it is understood that the total world production of greasy wool is approximately 3500 million lb. Reduced to clean scoured content, this volume dwindles to about 1750 million lb., or slightly less than double the rayon production.

"Honours" list three months later, with such financial notabilities as Sir Claude Reading (Commonwealth Bank), Sir Robt. Knox (Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney), and Colonel Cohen (bank-owning metal monopoly). Reporting these "honours," the *Argus* gave the following particulars concerning Mr. Pitt:

"He played a leading part at the conferences which led to the institution of the Premiers' Plan. He is a representative of the States on the National Debt Commission, and in 1927 went to London on a financial mission for the Victorian Government. In the last four years of financial stress his duties have been most arduous, and members of each of the Ministries which have been in power" (?) "in that period have acknowledged the soundness of his advice."

In a financial emergency, deliberately engineered, the only advice Mr. Pitt could give was to attack everything *except the cause!* He has been directly associated with the private bankers and other representatives of the financial monopoly, and has been partly responsible for the imposition and the intensification of suffering and hardship on the community during the years since 1930. Actually, he has been one

of the high priests of the *debt* system, and yet was selected to sit in judgment on his own ideas and conduct!

Professor Mills of the Coolie Standard

Professor Mills has been called the Professor Copland of Sydney. On March 12, 1932, the Prime Minister informed the State Premiers that a committee would be appointed to investigate unemployment, and that this committee would consist of Sir Claude Reading, G. S. Colman, and Professors Copland, Giblin, Melville and Shann. Sir Claude Reading was replaced, however, by Sir Wallace Bruce of the bank-owning metal monopoly, and Professor Copland was replaced by Professor Mills.

All of the men on the committee had taken part in forcing a lower standard of living on the Australian people, and from start to finish their report dealt only with *effects*. It said nothing whatever about the *cause*. Paragraph 4 read as follows:

"The restoration of employment, as opposed to temporary stimulants, is to be found in bringing into harmony the costs and prices of *export industry*. This adjustment must involve for a time, a general lowering of standards in agreement with our loss of real income."

That was signed by Professor Mills, who wanted a coolie standard in order to bring everything back to an insufficiency of money figures instead of bringing the money figures into proper relation with the needs of the people. It was simply the repetition of what Sir Otto had said for the privately owned Bank of England. I have emphasised the words "export industry" to show that, in the opinion of the impartial Professor Mills, if our goods are not wanted in other countries we must not be allowed to use them ourselves. This Professor has publicly declared, almost in the identical words of Professor Copland, that if prices do not rise we are doomed; but, also like Professor Copland, he shies completely away from a discussion of the actual *cause* of the *fall* in the prices. Both have overlooked the fact that money used in Australia is made in Australia—not overseas, and that from time to time we read of items being "marked down" or "marked up" at a certain institution. One of the measures re-commended by Professor Mills as a cure for unemployment was for the fixation of wages to be placed more definitely under the control of the private money monopoly by empowering wage-fixing tribunals to act strictly in accordance with economic conditions, which, of course, are determined by, the controllers of finance.

Other recommendations to which he signed his name were the balancing of Budgets and the direct cutting of costs and increased efficiency throughout industry. All of which could result only in making the unemployment position worse than ever.

This same Professor, on the very day on which the Commission commenced its public sittings, committed the serious impropriety of giving an interview to the Melbourne *Herald*, expressing dogmatic views on a matter which properly came within the scope of the Commission's work. Not only so, but on other occasions he publicly attempted to ridicule those who are seeking monetary reform.

Unless the Commission faces up to the fundamentals mentioned earlier in this letter, its work must be wholly abortive, but irrespective of what the Report may contain there is no power of the people, and it is for us unitedly to tell Parliament what we want and then see that we get it.

Yours faithfully
BRUCE H BROWN

CRISIS IN INDIA

Gandhi's Forces, Triumphant at Elections, Are Determined to Smash New Constitution

Our daily press has had very little to say about Indian affairs since the bare announcement was cabled some weeks ago that Mahatma Gandhi's party had won considerable majorities in the recent elections. Nevertheless, India appears to be on the verge of what may be its greatest anti-British outbreak since it became a part of Britain's possessions.

The article below, which is reprinted from the American news-magazine, "Time", of April 12, summarises today's position and the events, which have led up to it.

About 270,000,000 people, nearly six times the population of the British Isles, live in British India and last week they were given an entirely new setup of their provincial governments. The province called "Bombay Presidency" is by itself two-and-a-half times the size of England and five times more populous than Scotland. Thus a change of greatest magnitude was performed last week at New Delhi by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, an able Scottish banker, his Excellency the Most Hon. the Marquess of Linlithgow. Instead of saying presto chango, the Viceroy caused his weekly *Gazette* to swell up for the occasion into a big book.

By a few choice pages the huge province of Burma, nearly seven times the size of England, was detached from India altogether and set up as a separate British realm. Its ruler was appointed last week by the Emperor, George VI, his choice for Governor of Burma lighting upon Sir Archibald Cochrane, Knight Commander of the Star of India, D.S.O. Also detached from India and set up last week as a Crown Colony was small, highly strategic Aden, only 80 square miles in area.

April Fools' Day

Long in advance his Majesty's Government chose to make this epochal change on April Fools' Day. Not thousands but millions of the Indian people rose that morning last week to don black armbands and break out black flags and bunting. They thus went into nation-wide mourning to emphasise the Indian view of what has been taking place since the Mother of Parliaments enacted in London a new Constitution for India.

The most recent key event was for the Indian National Congress Party, long headed by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, to win elections giving it a majority in the legislatures of Bombay Presidency, Madras, Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces. Together these make up three-quarters of the population of British India. Taking returns from all provinces into account, the Party of Gandhi won a nation-wide majority as impressive as that won last autumn by Franklin Delano Roosevelt.*

This popular mandate went to a party, which had gone to the polls with a platform of opposing the new

*Of votes cast in the U.S. about two-thirds were for Roosevelt and Garner; of votes cast in India about two-thirds were for the party of Gandhi and Nehru.

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Constitution. In Indian eyes the feature of this document which permits the white British Governor of any province to act not only with the advice of the local native Cabinet, but also without their advice or against their advice, is the feature most open to question. In British eyes it means that each white Governor can be trusted to allow each native Cabinet all proper latitude and scope toward development in India for the first time of representative democracy, while vigilantly curbing any Cabinet activities of an unfortunate or subversive nature.

To most dwellers in Great Britain this translation of "Mother Knows Best" into a system of government for the Indian Empire is just about the most admirable achievement of modern times, if indeed his Majesty's Government have not been too generous with the Indian people, those "Lesser Breeds" as Poet Kipling dubbed them in Queen Victoria's day.

Demand That Governors Accept Cabinet Advice

In 1937 passive Mr. Gandhi, as the guiding spirit of the Indian National Congress, and active, socialistic Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, its operative President, consulted with Congress leaders promptly after the provincial elections. Adopted was a nation-wide policy that no Indian National Congress party man will accept office in one of the new provincial Cabinets unless the British Governor of that province gives and keeps a formal pledge to act only on the advice of the province Cabinet—just as the Emperor himself may act only on the advice of the British Cabinet.

Last week every British Governor of an Indian province in which the Gandhi Party has a majority refused to give the required pledge. Therefore, in provinces comprising over two-thirds of British India, no Governor was able to assemble a Cabinet commanding a majority. The new legislatures do not meet until summer, but at their first meetings the logical thing will be for the Gandhi majority to vote down the minority Cabinet of the Governor. This will lead, as "the only real alternative," to "violence and revolution" and to its "repression," according last week to the Marquess of Lothian, one-time Under-Secretary of State for India and prominent in drafting the new Constitution.

"Ruled by the Sword"

Said the Mahatma last week at Madras: "India is now not to be

ruled by the pen, or by an indisputable majority of the population, but ruled by the sword. I am the sole author of the 'office acceptance clause' and I am the originator of the idea of attaching conditions to the acceptance of office. Acceptance of my formula might have prevented the present crisis and resulted in a natural, orderly and peaceful transference of power from the British Indian Civil Service bureaucracy to the largest and fullest democracy in the world. The British Government has now abolished that provincial autonomy which it asserted the new Constitution had given. It seems to me that the British Government has once more broken a pledge it had given to India."

"We Will Fight to the End"

After passive Mr. Gandhi, active President Nehru repeated his hot charge that it is "Fascist" to invest provincial governors with the over-riding powers they have been given: "We will fight this Constitution to the end. The democratic veil is rent and the reality stands exposed in all its ugliness."

This was not what Londoners wished to read last week and they found crumbs of comfort reading the proclamation cabled on April Fools' Eve from Buckingham Palace to New Delhi: "Today the first part of those constitutional reforms upon which Indians and Britons alike have bestowed so much thought and work comes into operation. I cannot let the day pass without assuring my Indian subjects that my thoughts and good wishes are with them on this occasion. A new chapter is thus opening and it is my fervent hope and prayer that the opportunities now available to them will be used wisely and generously for the lasting benefit of all my Indian people." (Signed) "GEORGE, I." (for Emperor, Emperor).

The Hartal

As his Majesty went to bed the sun was around on the other side of the world, about to rise on India. It came up on a nation-wide one-day *hartal* or "passive halting of work" ordered by the Indian National Congress. Nearly every shop in New Delhi failed to open that day. Bombay business transactions ceased, although some shops and markets opened "not for business." Stoppage was complete at Ahmedabad, partial at Poona, Lucknow, Lahore. In Calcutta myriads of Indians in mourning jammed the business district, carrying the tricolour flag of the Indian National Congress, chanting, "Boycott the Constitution. Boycott the Constitution."

"A Setback of the First Magnitude"

Since the Congress is largely Hindu, its *hartal* was of course not joined by many Moslems. In provinces where the Congress does not have an absolute majority no other party has one, but coalition Cabinets were formed last week which have a chance of not being voted down in the provinces of Bengal, the Punjab, Sind, Assam and the North-West Frontier. Meanwhile, at the India Office in London and up and down Whitehall, correspondents gleaned the feelings of his Majesty's Government this week. Cabled Ferdinand Kuhn, jr., of the New York *Times*: "At the moment when Britain is engrossed in rearmament and is grappling with dangerous international problems in Europe her imperial policy has just suffered in far-away India what may be a setback of the first magnitude.

"No government ever gave so much time and thought to a single problem as Britain gave to India during the three Round-table Conferences, the sittings of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament and the interminable debates in the House of Commons that preceded passage of the India Bill in its final form. The controversy shook the Conservative Party to its foundations; Stanley Baldwin staked his political future upon pushing the new Constitution through.

"Now, unless some miracle of

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO

NO. 4 By

"JESSICA."

According to the cabled news served up to us by the money-controlled press, there is a mysterious volume called "Britain's War Book," locked up in a steel-lined vault in London. The book is said to contain the detailed plans of what will be done by the British Government should war break out; how the people will be regimented; how their food will be rationed; their movements regulated and controlled, etc. The cable states that there is only one key to the vault which guards the "Book", and that this key is held by Sir Maurice Hankey.

Now, the mention of this gentleman's name calls to mind the long list of overseas "brass hats" of the military, diplomatic, industrial and financial worlds who have appeared in Australia from time to time in the last few years. The arrival of each of these personages was heralded by a press report to the effect that "his visit was of no political significance." The respective lords, baronets, knights and plain "misters" were here on holiday or for some centenary celebration, or to inspect the Australian branches of their businesses, and so on. And very nice, too; but a glance at the military and diplomatic positions, also the company directorships held by these disinterested holiday-makers, does not help out the atmosphere created by their publicity agents. To get right down to tinctures, *every single one of the imposing array of "distinguished" visitors is a link in a hard and closely woven chain of financial high-hat domination of Australia.*

Ties That Bind Us

The expression, "the ties that bind us to the Motherland," has assumed a new and sinister meaning. Those of us who are mothers know that the ties which bind us and our children together are ties of love, and that is the kind of relationship which should exist between Britain and Australia (and *does* exist among the people themselves); but the men who are forging the new ties, men with brows of brass and hearts of flint, know only one kind of love—the love of self. Australia means only one thing to them—a source of profit, a place from which to extract usury.

And the cruelest part of the tragedy is that the system which the men represent is being supported and encouraged to the limit by Australians in high places whose fawning speeches at bankers' dinners, Chambers of Commerce luncheons and similar functions, both here and in London, are enough to make any decent Australian sick.

The urgency of the situation is almost beyond the power of words to express. The position is desperate. Under our very eyes our country, together with all its resources—*its real wealth*—is being handed over, body and soul, to overseas financial interests, to be held by them in perpetuity. For the sake of ourselves and our children I do plead with you Australian sisters of mine to rouse yourselves to a realisation of what we are up against. Yes, I know you have enough to think about in managing and running the home; I know your hands are full—so are mine—but we simply *must* give our menfolk a hand

persuasion occurs, officials here fear that their efforts of the past ten years may be wasted and that their hopes of a peaceful, contented India will be shattered."

The "miracle of persuasion," to which dignitaries of his Majesty's Government looked this week to bulwark the prestige of Stanley Baldwin on the eve of his slated retirement from the post of Prime Minister next month, must now be worked by Viceroy the Marquess of Linlithgow, and great should be his Excellency's reward for quick success.

in this fight against the powers of darkness.

No Hope From Party Action

And, make no mistake about this *no single political party can bring about our salvation.* No matter what party label your representative pastes in his hat—U.A.P., Labor, Country Party, or Independent—the only way to deal with him is to make him realise that he is in Parliament for one purpose only, and that is to carry out the will of the people.

I have lived in other countries, so I know what I am talking about when I say that we have here a country, which, in its opportunities for life as it should be lived, is second to none in the world. Which do you want it to be—a *home of happiness and economic security for all*, or a *property of inestimable value mortgaged for all time to a body of scheming international financiers?*

Remember Homer Bennett's maxim: "Don't ever wear your wishbone where your backbone ought to be." Let your watchword be "Up and Doing." Apply to the *New Times* for all information about the Electoral Campaign to Demand Results from Parliament, and then get busy. Make a start with two or three neighbours gathered together, and you'll find that, with enthusiasm and organisation, your example will create a dynamic force, which nothing on earth can stop.

I was listening in at the moment when, at the last Test, it was announced from the Melbourne Cricket Ground that Australia had won the toss. The roar that went up from the crowd nearly shivered the receiver. That's what we want today—a *United Voice*; a voice that will shatter the walls of Canberra, and give our politicians no respite till they accede to our wish-our *demand—that Australia shall be controlled from within, and that its citizens shall have access to its teeming abundance.*

And that Voice means *You!*

A REALISTIC REHEARSAL

By DYNAMICS

W. B. Courtney in a recent article in *Collier's* displays his fine powers as a dramatic critic. He has been to see the rehearsal of a drama now being tried out in Spain, and his impressions of the performance are worthy of note by all who are wondering just what to expect when they are permitted to note the effect of a long-run public performance by a complete caste on a large, modern stage.

One curious aspect of this play is the terrible effect it has upon the civilian onlookers. The actual players carry out their contest with considerable caution, though they do have a few casualties. The audience takes sides for and against in this odd theatre, and it is upon these people that the main efforts of the promoters of the grim play are centred.

Broadcasting to the audience transcends the din of the stage scrap, and, once the escape doors are shut, bird fiends fly over the audience and keep them in a frenzy of fear as to the likelihood of death from overhead.

Having heard Mr. Courtney's description, we may prefer to stir ourselves to keep this particular drama away from our land, for Mr. Courtney warms to heights of eloquence which you may think too realistic for a dramatic critic, but hear him to the end, I beg you.

"Rehearsal in Spain," he says, "has made the war birds letter-perfect, and in future in time of war each country will become one vast exposed nerve quivering with anxious expectation. The air plane has grown into a sphere of its own as the lance of passion, hatred, cowardice and bestiality."

"THE PART THAT IS NOT FOR SHOW"

War That Women Could Have Stopped

By M. R. WENTWORTH-LEE.

"You can lay him down on the table, so. Easily—gently! Thanks—you may go. And it's WAR! But the part that is not for show."
—Edgar Wallace.

War that women could have stopped! Then why in the name of all that is, did they not do it? All the misery, all the bloodshed, all the hell resulting from torn limbs and torn hearts—all the lives that were snuffed out with no more consideration than we might use in switching off a light: all could have been stopped. But no one stopped it. Why?

For a moment let us peer into the mind of a writer of the War. "Men in Battle," written in 1918 by Andreas Latzko, written of the second year of war, lets a little light fall on this pernicious "patriotism" that threatens to again send men to the scrap heap.

* * *

The opening of the story is set in the garden, of a War hospital in Austria. They are deep in the shadow of war. Three convalescent officers converse with two ladies, one a sister at the hospital. A fourth officer, one time a well-known composer, sits apart, silent, brooding, in despair. The second woman is his wife. She, too, is in despair, stricken with great grief. Having come up to the very front lines for the sake of her sick, melancholy husband, she only meets with hostility and is repulsed in horror when she tries to show her affection.

The other officers discuss "the finest thing of all!" in the War.

For the Cavalry Captain it is "for five months to see nothing but men—and then all of a sudden to hear a clear woman's clear voice."

To another officer the finest thing was "a clean, white bed," and rest. The third man, known as the "Philosopher," after being where "every shot is echoed five times," desires nothing but a "glorious quiet that you can listen to as a piece of music."

* * *

But Sister Engelberta sends them on a new line of thought. "But, tell me," she says, "what was the most awful thing you went through out there?"

The Philosopher did not reply. No one replied—until suddenly the sick lieutenant shrieked at them:

"What was the most awful thing? The only awful thing is the going off. You go off to war—and they let you go. That's the awful thing."

The sister, having seen the shell-shocked lieutenant come to the hospital, was afraid of a fit of insanity. She was going immediately. The wife was to go, too. She wanted to say goodbye to her wretched husband. But she knew those words of his had a sting in them for her. She felt the terrible reproach. She felt her husband draw back as she kissed him.

* * *

The two women were gone, the one relieved, the other sobbing. The Captain, wishing to soothe the tortured man, congratulated him on having a pretty wife.

The sick man jumped violently. "Fine wife? Oh, yes. Very dashing!" he cried in his fury. "She didn't shed a single tear when I left her train. Oh, they were all very dashing when we went off. Poor Dill's wife was, too. Very plucky! She threw roses at him in the train, and she'd been his wife for only two months . . . Roses! He-he! And 'See you again soon!' They were all so patriotic!"

The sick man then tells them how his friend, Dill, was killed by the spur on the leg of a man blown to pieces a hundred yards from where they stood. Dill had been showing him a new photo of his "restrained wife." He fell... "and only turned up the whites of his eyes a little and looked sadly at his wife's picture, as though reproaching her that she had permitted such a thing as that."

And the lieutenant told them all the awful details, the sight of which had brought on his own shell shock.

Again, he cried out: "We tore her out of him, his dashing wife . . . I got him rid of her. Out with her! She's gone. All of them are gone. Mine is gone, too . . . There's no wife any more! No wife any more, no—"

The doctor comes, and orders him to bed.

"Must go, of course," he repeated eagerly. "We all must go. The man who doesn't go is a coward, and they have no use for a coward. Don't you understand? Heroes are the style now. The chic Mrs. Dill wanted a hero to match her new hat. Ha-ha! That's why poor Dill had to go and lose his brains. I, too—you, too—we must go, die. You must let yourself be trampled on—your brains trampled on, while the women look on—chic—because it's the style now."

"Isn't it sad?" he asked softly. Then he shrieked again. "Weren't they deceiving us, eh? I'd like to know—weren't they cheats? Was I an assassin? Was I a ruffian? Didn't I suit her when I sat at the piano, playing? We were expected to be gentle and considerate! Considerate! And all at once, because the fashion changed, they had to have murderers. Do you understand? Murderers!"

He broke away from the doctor and went on.

"My wife was in the fashion, too, you know. Not a tear! I kept waiting and waiting for her to begin to scream and beg me at least to get out of the train, and not go with the others—beg me to be a coward for her sake. Not one of them had the courage to. They just wanted to be in the fashion. Mine, too! She waved her handkerchief like all the rest."

"You want to know what was the most awful thing!" he groaned. "The disillusionment was the most awful thing. The war wasn't. The war is what it has to be. Did it surprise you to find that war is horrible? The only surprising thing was the going off. To find out that the women are horrible—that was the surprising thing. They can smile and throw roses, they can give up their men, their children, the boys they have put to bed a thousand times, and petted and brought up to be men. That was the surprise! That they gave us up—that they sent us—sent us. Because every one would have been ashamed to stand there without a hero . . . Do you think we should have gone if they had not sent us? Do you think so? . . . The women sent us. No general could have made us go if the women hadn't allowed us to be stacked on the trains, if they had screamed out that they would never look at us again if we turned into murderers. Not a single man would have gone off if they had sworn never to give themselves to a man who has split open other men's skulls. Not one man, I tell you, would have gone . . . Once they had the chance to protect us, but all they cared about was being in the style—nothing else in the world but just being in the style."

The doctor told him he must go to sleep and forget it. "That's the way women are made, and there's nothing to be done about it."

"That's the way women are, once for all, is it? Since when, eh? Have you never heard of the suffragettes who boxed the ears of Prime Ministers, and set fire to museums, and let themselves be chained to lamp-posts for the sake of the vote? For the sake of their men? No. Not one sound. Not one single outcry! . . ."

"Have you heard of one woman throwing herself in front of a train for the sake of her husband? Has a single one of them boxed the ears of a Prime Minister or tied herself to a railway track for us? There wasn't one that had to be torn away."

SELLING TO STRANGERS

By "DYNAMICS."

In the writings of Thomas Mun (1571-1641) we find the following:

"The ordinary means to increase our wealth and treasure is by Foreign Trade, wherein we must ever observe this rule: to sell more to strangers yearly than we consume of theirs in value."

This sentence is cited in a ponderous historical volume reviewing the Science, Technology and Philosophy of the 16th and 17th centuries, by A. Wolf, of London, who considers that the idea, which Mun expresses became crystallised as a popular belief before it was included in any treatise.

There is just a vestige of excuse for that erroneous belief back in the days when something tangible, as gold coins or the equivalent, did tend to flow back into a country in exchange for the excess of useful goods exported; but there is no excuse for us today if we fail to

However complicated these difficulties may seem, the complexities are due almost entirely to the old superstitions held loosely by shallow-thinking people and definitely kept alive by the false innuendoes of those who should (and perhaps do) know better.

Ready political agreement, by which remedial action on *common ground* can be expected, will not be found in any school wherein methods or technique is considered as a necessary part of popular activities; for opinions will differ and arguments be rampant as to details of procedure.

Agreement amongst a large majority, however, is possible, and likely, if people can be shown that their interest as consumers is a unifying factor as no other can be. Every person is a consumer; and standards of living depend upon the quantity and quality (don't forget the importance of quality) of goods which each can purchase for use.

Consumers, as such, are concerned neither with the technical process by which articles are produced, nor with the technique of the distributive system.

As Australians, instead of allowing ourselves to follow 17th century fairy tales about "Foreign Trade," we should realise the privilege of making the produceable goods available to our own inhabitants to the extent necessary to satisfy their wants. Real surpluses can then be offered for export on a barter basis of goods for goods, which is, of course, the only sensible and continuous basis possible.

Once these simple and almost axiomatic ideas are accepted, it will be more readily realised that there is a wonderful and sure market here in our midst waiting to be made effective as soon as consumers of both primary and secondary products make a concerted claim with sufficient vigour for an alteration in the distributive system, so that all actual and potential production, if wanted, can be "placed" satisfactorily.

Again, the very phrase "sell to strangers" (namely, to overseas customers) does tend to lead the unwary into error if they think loosely of all selling *merely* as a means of laying hold of so much money. In overseas transactions there is, or should be, simply an exchange of goods for goods; for currency does not cross national borders.

It would not be necessary to repeat these kindergarten truths if it were not that the bogey about cheap imported goods being a menace to "our standard of living" is still propounded by some of our false prophets, and accepted by some who ought to know better.

If we have at home a community of satisfied producers and consumers, and a real surplus to spare,

PALESTINE

"The constitution of the Holy Land as a British Dominion is part of the plan evolved by the Royal Commission on Palestine, according to the 'Sunday Dispatch.' The peace and protection of the country would be the responsibility of a British garrison for a number of years. The Commission's plan proposes the end of the British mandate by agreement with the League of Nations and the constitution of the Holy Land as a British Dominion with a central government responsible for customs, communications, public security, financial relations, immigration and land problems."

So said a weekend cable from London—to which might fittingly be added the pious remark made on Monday by his Grace the Archbishop of York: "The Empire had its place in Divine Providence, and its very existence constituted the holy vocation of its citizens."

shake off this old superstition. If we continue to try such a bogus faith we show a worse degradation than those who "bow down to wood and stone," for we bow and scrape before mere tally-figures in the ledgers.

With the prospect of general elections at hand, there is urgent need for electors to find some *common ground* on which to meet in facing up to the difficulties which seem to be confronting us as a community concerning commercial activities generally.

Not one moved a little finger for us in the whole wide world! They drove us out . . . They gave us the spur, like poor Dill. They sent us to murder, they sent us to die—for their vanity. Are you going to defend them? No! They must be pulled out! . . . Are you the doctor? There! Do it to my head. I don't want a wife! Pull—pull her out!"

The ravings, of course, of a shell-shocked man. But, sometimes, when certain screens of the mind are torn away, things are seen which would otherwise have remained hidden. Bear in mind that the "vanity," the "style" of these women the lieutenant referred to, their desire for a "hero," all these things were born in that feverish "patriotism" that itself was the child of those hellhounds who have recourse to war in order to cover up their own misdeeds. When the world groans with abundance, it is then necessary, so it seems, to set brother-man against brother-man—in order to prevent man from seeing that there is abundance.

Women, in the last war, were sacrificed on the altar of the god of "nationalism," whose slogan is "patriotism." All were sacrificed, men, women and children, to that god. But now that women, perhaps rather quicker than men, are realising that a narrow, pernicious patriotism paves the way to HELL, there is no doubt that if they refuse to let their men be so sacrificed the next war will of necessity be waged between munitions makers with too much money and warlords and generals with too little brain matter.

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(Continued from page 3.)

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then, concerning the goods which we receive by barter for those exported, the cheaper they are the better off we must be materially.

In the past, in straining to sell to strangers, we have been "sold" by the masters of the commercial system; and "serve us right" if we do not wake up and insist on a sensible change.

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA.

The Campaign to Abolish Poverty is assured of success. The Box Hill and the Caulfield Town Hall meetings have emphatically said so. It is admitted that there have been shortcomings in the staging of the meetings, but these mistakes are being eliminated. South Melbourne is the next major meeting, and will take place on Thursday, June 3, and the experience of the previous two meetings will allow the programme to be carried out at South Melbourne in a smooth manner. But undoubtedly the Town Hall meetings have already proved that they will DO the job.

Prahran Traders' Association—At a luncheon hour address held in the Prahran Town Hall, John Hogan had an audience of sixty prominent citizens, and he had no difficulty in conveying to them the idea of the Campaign, with the result that a group from among them will willingly co-operate in organising a Demonstration meeting to be held in the Prahran Town Hall.

Organisations.—Three hundred and fifty organisations in the suburbs have been circularised this week with an invitation to receive a speaker to place before them the objective of the Campaign, and they will be solicited to assist in organising major meetings of citizens in their respective districts. This is a further development in the technique of the Campaign. It is the using of existing bodies to undertake local organising for the major meetings.

Lunch Hour Addresses.—A speaker is to address the Williamstown Railway workers at noon on Wednesday, and from there to rush to the Wharf Labourers' Union of Williamstown at 1 o'clock. Arrangements have also been made for an address to be delivered to the staff of the Melbourne Technical School. There are two speakers now devoting their time to lunch hour addresses. **READERS ARE REFERRED TO THE DAILY PRESS FOR LONG DETAILED REPORTS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMONSTRATIONS OF PUBLIC OPINION VOICED BY LARGE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AT BOX HILL AND CAULFIELD.** (If there were no reports, ask yourselves—and the press—why.)

A result of the Box Hill meeting is that a permanent Group to pursue the activities started by the Town Hall meeting is to be formed on Thursday, May 27.

BOX HILL MEETING

On Wednesday evening of last week the Box Hill Town Hall was filled with citizens gathered to hear Dr. John Dale and John Hogan address them on the disturbing condition of poverty existing in a land of abundance. The Mayor occupied the chair, and the Box Hill orchestra rendered selections prior to the addresses. Dr. Dale explained that he was a Health Officer, and that it was his duty to combat conditions adversely affecting the health of the community. He considered poverty as a disease—and the most deadly in our midst, as it is consequent upon this spectre that most other diseases arise. Malnutrition, bad housing, a worried mind, are instances of conditions existing among us that are having a serious effect on the health of the nation. His work made him intimate with conditions in certain sections of the community that were not understood by such a gathering as was there that night. The actual existence of poverty could only be brought to the mind by statistical figures, and such figures as had been supplied by Sir John Orr in regard to England should be sufficient to rouse the indig-

nation of all decent citizens. Similar conditions existed in Australia, as had been shown by our recent census figures, and as was borne out by the numbers dependent on dole pittances, to which must be added the evidence of blanket appeals and the like in our papers every day.

Dr. Dale confined his address to the health standpoint, but ended with an appeal to all to accept their responsibility as citizens to remove these unnecessary conditions from this land of abundance.

John Hogan followed Dr. Dale, and outlined a plan of action that will enable every elector to play his or her part in abolishing those unsatisfactory conditions in our social order that Dr. Dale had so clearly placed before the meeting. The principle of democracy had to be put into practice. The same force that abolished from the world such abuses as slavery and child labour can, and will, sweep from this land the disgrace of poverty and destitution. It was the voice of the people that DEMANDED that slavery and child labour should be banished from the earth. We, as electors, he said, are going to do our part in voicing our protest against the unnecessary existence of poverty in our midst. We can do so in documentary form by signing the Demand Form that each had placed in his or her hand when coming into the hall. The signing of the form is a demand that your paid representative shall make it his business in Parliament to arrange that poverty be abolished. This is exercising the right of a citizen to express his wish, and the expressed wish of a majority of the electors is the sovereign law of the country.

There were 280 forms signed at the meeting. Considering that previously there have been obtained in the Box Hill district over 1000 signatures, this number is satisfactory and indicates that the idea of the Campaign is accepted and is doing the job. This is borne out by the wonderful success of the Caulfield meeting, which emphatically showed that there is no doubt the Campaign is accomplishing the task before it.

The following resolution was carried and the Mayor requested to forward it to the member for Flinders, Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, M.H.R.:

"We, this representative meeting of electors in the constituency of Flinders, express our active sympathy with the Electoral Campaign to Abolish Poverty now being launched throughout Australia and request the Chairman to communicate with our Federal Representative, Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, and ask him whether he will be prepared to act promptly according to the wishes of a majority of his constituency conveyed in documentary form."

CAULFIELD MEETING

The substance of the Box Hill report can be applied to Caulfield, where nearly 600 citizens attended the meeting held on Tuesday night last in the Caulfield Town Hall. The special significance of the Caulfield meeting is that it was a fairer test on account of the area not having been previously canvassed on the Electoral Campaign issue, as had Box Hill. The speakers were especially clear in their addresses and the response was spontaneous. The actual number of Demand Forms signed has not yet been ascertained, but a good criterion by which to judge was the remarkable rapidity with which the hands were raised when asked for the approval of sending the resolution read to the Balaclava Representative in Parliament. Altogether the Caulfield meeting

has definitely assured the U.E.A. that the right course has been adopted and full speed ahead is the order of the day.

The Caulfield Council is to be commended for its civic spirit in making available the Town Hall free of charge.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide Division.—The good work at the Botanic Park goes on. On Sunday, May 16, Rev. C. D. Brock again held the crowd for two hours. So successful have been these meetings that people have deserted other rings and crowded around Mr. Brock to hear about the Campaign that will abolish poverty. Frequent inquiries at headquarters make it evident that these Sunday afternoon talks have done a good piece of work, and should further the Campaign to a considerable extent. Some of the enquirers are men of undoubted ability, and who must surely, as soon as they settle into the positions waiting for them, help us to push out into a wider field.

Barker Division.—During this week, a member of the Executive will visit towns in the south, including McClaren Vale, Willunga and Myponga. A certain amount of preliminary work in this district has been done. This visit should further stimulate those southern towns into action.

Disease in Mildura Bag Hut Camps

The bag hut settlement along the banks of the River Murray was described as the open sore of the Sunraysia district by a meeting of Mildura citizens.

Alarm was expressed at the conditions in the camps of the unemployed who settled on Crown lands along the riverbank.

Investigation proved that many of the campers were stranded without the possibility of employment once the fruit-picking season ended. Because the shire council had no authority over people camped on Crown lands, sanitary and general conditions gradually from lack of proper inspection and control by the health authorities degenerated into conditions presenting a constant menace as a breeding ground of disease and pestilence. From time to time Mildura Base Hospital authorities have given notice of diseases found among the river bankers, but because there is a feeling that it is a State responsibility the position gradually grows worse.

—Herald, May 24.

that will hasten the day when this widespread Division will be thoroughly organised.

Toc H. Interested.—On behalf of Boothby Divisional Council, Rev. C. D. Brock addressed 37 members of the Edwardstown Group of Toc H. on May 17. The interest, questions and discussion were most encouraging. Mr. Brock stated that we do not want the Toc H Movement to come behind or with us; but we do want every Toc H member to be with us as a worker and/or supporter and member. It is a far nobler thing to abolish poverty and make Widow Smith and family economically secure for life than to paint her front verandah, leave her as insecure as ever, deprive a tradesman of his useful service as the expert, and maintain the insecurity of his family. The spirit of Toc H, together with its ideals of brotherhood and service, if harnessed freely to the Electoral Campaign, would provide a splendid example of dynamic action.

Other Organisations.—Mr. D. J. Amos has undertaken to concentrate on other organisations, such as Australian Natives' Association, Society of Friends, Y.M.C.A., the Housewives' Association, and others. The first report Mr. Amos gave to the Executive was very encouraging. This was from the A.N.A. where he found very considerable support and

interest. Recent developments make it almost certain that other organisations will also give Mr. Amos encouragement to proceed with his valuable work.

Council Meeting.—At the Council meeting on May 19, the winter activities were discussed and planned. Councillors were agreed that some activity, such as the proposed Publicity Campaign, was necessary at the moment to take advantage of the awakening public interest. All were united in urging that many of those people who supported similar objectives in the past, and those who believed in demanding the results we are demanding, would thus be reached, and would themselves work so that others could be brought into the Campaign. The Councillors resolved that this matter of reaching a wider public through publicity should be stressed by them at the Rally on May 22.

Director of Social Activities.—Mrs. C. D. Brock has accepted the position of Director of Social Activities. Her efforts up to the present have proved her capability for the position. As there is room for such activity, and as it has already assisted the Movement financially, there is no doubt that Mrs. Brock will be able to produce the results.

Director of Advertising and Publicity.—This position has been accepted by Mr. A. L. Daiwood, editor of "Building and Construction," and of wide experience in publicity work.

Lunch-Hour Address.—The address on Friday, May 21, was given by Mr. Alex Walker, who in 1921 was a delegate to the Geneva Conference. In his talk he dealt with current world affairs, and the development of Colonial, Commonwealth and Imperial Conferences. Mrs. L. Polkinghorne, who arranges these addresses, has arranged for a surprise speaker for Friday, May 28.

Women's Auxiliary.—On Thursday of last week, a "Discussion Afternoon" was held at the Electoral Campaign rooms. Short addresses were given on "Anti-Peace Forces" and "The Fellowship of Silence." Interesting discussion followed each paper. The gathering was among the most successful yet held by the Auxiliary. It will be repeated, with other addresses, on Thursday, June 3, at 3 p.m.

On Friday last a "Children's Fancy Dress Party" was arranged and conducted by the Auxiliary. Thirty-eight children arrived, mostly in fancy dress. Games, high tea, and an impromptu concert, concluded with a gift of balloons and bonbon of sweets to each child, made a very happy afternoon. Several of the mothers present (26) and all the children desired a repetition later on. Each child and adult gave 6d towards the Electoral Campaign.

Coming Events.

Saturday next, May 29—Dancing, 8-11 p.m., at Hanson Street Hall (five doors S.W. of Wakefield-street). Good orchestra; old and new style dancing; novelties. The success of this and further dances will depend on your support. So come along and bring your dancing friends. Tickets at door, 1/2. Basket supper.

Monday, May 31—8 p.m.: Public lecture and discussion on the Electoral Campaign to abolish poverty, at 17 Waymouth-street, Adelaide.

Thursday, June 3.—3 p.m.: Women's "Discussion Afternoon" at 17 Waymouth-street. Interesting subjects, afternoon tea, collection.

Monday, June 7.—8 p.m.: Public lecture and discussion on Electoral Campaign at 17 Waymouth Street.

A Bridge afternoon will be announced as soon as arrangements are completed.

"A MOST FAVOURABLE SYMPTOM"

After telling us that overseas "interest on central and local Government debt for 1936-37 will be about £23 million sterling", a Canberra press message on Monday went on to say that "a most favourable symptom of the general economic health is the flow of capital into Australia estimated in the current year at about £6 million." It appeared later that "the inflow of new capital will have a most beneficial effect upon the internal position by stimulating employment and the consumption of commodities within Australia . . . The liquidity of the Australian banking position will be greatly increased also."

All this talk of liquidity and economic health sounds very refreshing, but translated into cruder terms, what has happened is this:

Instead of going to the payment of public interest bills and/or dividends on private investments, £6,000,000 has been left in Australia for reinvestment. As a result, our alleged overseas obligations next year, and forever after, will be in-

VENDETTA

According to the special correspondent of the "Daily Mail" at Tours, the Duke of Windsor has been informed from London that no persons occupying Government or Court positions in England can attend the wedding. It is understood that the decision against their attendance is animated solely by a desire to avoid giving even an appearance of official sanction to an occasion which, it is thought, in everybody's interests should be as private, informal and unofficial as possible.

creased by a sum equal to the interest or dividends expected on this additional sum. At five per cent, this works out at £300,000 a year, which means that we Australian wood and water joys will have to forfeit another £1000 every working day of the wealth we should be producing for ourselves. Only in this way will employment be "stimulated"—the employment of slaves breaking their backs for a taskmaster whose load grows heavier every day and every hour.

That is what this type of overseas investment means—the compounding of usury—for it does not furnish us with a single man or a single tool; only book entries piling up in Shylock's ledger. A most favourable symptom—for Shylock!

MELBOURNE'S APPALLING SLUMS

To obtain exact information of the state of houses in the inner suburbs, the (Slum Abolition) board has had a staff of census-takers making a house-to-house survey. They have now completed their work, except for Richmond, where they will finish soon. Conditions revealed, a member of the board said, were in many cases appalling.

Information that the board has received of slum clearance work overseas indicated that Victoria is the most backward part of the British Empire in dealing with this problem.

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