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Vol. 3. No. 23.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1937.

Every Friday 3d

# The Directorships of R. G. Menzies

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# The Hypocrisy of Sir James Elder

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# SHOULD MARRIED WOMEN EARN?







## THE NEW TIMES

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

Telephone: M 5384.

Vol. 3. No. 23.  
FRIDAY, JUNE 4.

### What Shall We Fight For?

Amid the hush-hush surrounding the vital matters now being discussed at the Imperial Conference in London—vital because an attempt is being made to set out the conditions under which we may all be asked to sacrifice our lives—it has been disclosed that "Empire" commitments (presumably including those of Australia) are to be limited to four directions in the immediate future. These are: (1) Defence against armed invasion; (2) the defence of France and Belgium; (3) the defence of the Suez Canal; (4) the defence of Iraq.

That we shall, if subjected to physical violence, do our best to repel it, is rather obvious; but what about the other three commitments, at least in so far as we in Australia are concerned?

Why should it devolve upon us to defend France or Belgium any more than Lapland or Liberia?

And, seeing that we have no interest in India—except to keep Indians out of this country—is it worth our while to go to war in order to protect the financial interests in the Suez Canal of certain British-domiciled magnates? Supposing that the Canal were entirely vested in some foreign Power, would our own wool and wheat be refused the opportunity to pay toll at existing exorbitant rates for the privilege of passing through? And, even if they were, would it make such a great difference to us if all freight had to go round the Cape?

While, as for Iraq, are we so beholden to the profiteering oil monopolists that we must shed our blood to preserve their concessions there?

These are not mere questions for academic interest or discus-

sion. Because we are a long way from the Conference chamber, the issues may seem remote. Nevertheless, the Bruce-Lyons-Casey-Parkhill combination is at this moment probably committing us to secret obligations in these and similar matters. Soon the last-named three will be back in the Commonwealth, and a few weeks later they will be stumping the country trying to work up sufficient emotions of fear and enthusiasm to secure their return to office on a programme of so-called defence. Concerning that programme, it is perfectly safe to forecast that they will be vague and evasive. And if electors are satisfied to vote for such an indefinite programme, then they deserve all they will get from it. Unfortunately, however, even those who reject it will be involved—unless they exert themselves immediately to make sure that they will be in the majority.

### Concerning Royal Commissions

It is not too often that we find ourselves in such complete agreement with the views of the Melbourne *Herald* as we were on Monday night. Let us, therefore, hasten to pay our meed of tribute.

The *Herald* was discussing editorially the proposal to re-establish the Interstate Commission (which we infer is being contemplated with one eye on alarming possibilities facing certain—or uncertain—prominent politicians at the looming elections). And the editorial concluded with these excellent words:—

"The Royal Commission, as a useful instrument of Government, has almost lost its value. It is often a convenient way of shelving questions, which embarrass either Ministers, or outside rail-sitters. The hundreds of thousands spent by the Commonwealth in collecting voluminous reports, for prompt burial in the cemetery of official documents, has been largely wasted. If a Government need assistance in difficult matters it is easy to call in the advice of experts and get all the information it needs at a cost comparatively trifling. A 'universal commission' to deal with all matters whatsoever would be as futile as Royal Commissions in general."

We hope the *Herald* will keep these words in mind when the report of the Monetary Royal Commission is presented—as we long ago forecasted it would be—in nice time to assist the next U.A.P.-Hands Off the Banks electioneering campaign. And, when the Fink-Murdoch press is forced to take official notice (as it soon will be) of the campaign to abolish poverty by demanding results of Federal

Parliament instead of dictating methods to it, then, we hope, it will be mindful of its own dictum: "If a Government need assistance in difficult matters, it is easy to call in the advice of experts and get all the information it needs at a cost comparatively trifling."

### Apples and Shoddy

Probably not since the time when Eve was forbidden to use the local supply for home consumption has the position of the apple market been more exasperating. We have been officially told that we have a glut. We have been implored to cement more firmly our alliance with this friend of Satan and enemy of medical men. But the question arises: where to find a decent apple?

We know that, in accordance with the principles of sane finance and insane economics, the best of our crop goes direct from the orchard to the shipper. But what about the balance, which, however irregular in size or blotched in complexion, still contains the juices of the new harvest? You will not find many such at the suburban fruiterer's; on the contrary, housewives are complaining bitterly that this fruit was never worse in quality than now, and that it is usual rather than exceptional to find most of the innards of a greyish colour and a tasteless softness that would seem to signify very ancient lineage. Apparently the explanation must be either that the cold stores are disgorging the dregs of last year's supplies or that we are now getting the fruit that was picked before it was properly ripe—after which, it is hoped, we shall be allowed to consume the balance of the non-exportable, second-rate section of this year's crop.

Meantime, even if the Englishman is happily munching the best products of Australia's orchards, let us console ourselves with the reflection that, while the Bradford mill hand goes to work in shoddy, we can attire ourselves in his most exclusive worsteds.

Provided, that is, he has the money to buy our apples and we have the money to buy his cloth. Failing which, we both have gluts, and he carries on in shoddy while we try to eat bad apples.

### Police or Thugs?

We have more than once commented recently on the manner in which the police, acting presumably under the orders of their superior officers, have behaved after the fashion of thugs rather than of those who are supposed to uphold respect for the law. A fresh instance of this sort of thing came to light on the weekend, when a raid was made by Melbourne police on premises in Malvern and Footscray suspected of being used for purposes of betting. In the Malvern case 95 persons were arrested, and 20 at Footscray. Here is the description, as given in the *Argus*, of the manner in which the two raids were conducted:—

At Malvern: "A cordon of police was placed round the club, which is on the first floor of an 'island' building, and men who tried to warn the patrons were repulsed. Long ladders were placed against the rear wall of the building and the police broke the windows with hammers. Another party pushed past a man at the front door, and then attacked a heavily barred inner door with

axes and a sledge hammer."

And at Footscray: "Smashing two windows and a door with axes and a sledgehammer, gaming police forced their way into a social club in Footscray late on Friday night and arrested 20 men. The police allege that 'two-up' was being played."

From using sledgehammers against doors and windows to using them against human skulls is no long step, as the police have lately shown by firing, not even after escaping criminals, but after mere suspects, and suspect only of infringing revenue legislation at that.

There is no question but that the activities of the police are being prostituted in this matter of seeking arrests and fines for technical gambling offences. In the first place, gambling is accepted by the State as being a perfectly legal and moral occupation, as witness the revenue derived from the various racecourse taxes. And, in the second, action taken against those who seek to gamble without paying their toll to the tax gatherer is an excellent example of the old saying that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor. How often do we hear of our select clubs having their doors and windows smashed with sledgehammers, and their occupants taken off en masse in the Black Maria? Yet everyone knows that drinking and gambling are amongst the chief attractions of these places.

Again, on pretty well any evening you please, you can go into almost any of the leading hotels—not only in Melbourne, but throughout Australia's principal cities—and see non-resident visitors openly drinking in the lounges hours after legal closing time. Rarely is a question asked, and not once in a blue moon is there a raid. Why? It is commonly said that the police are "squared" by these wealthy establishments, and that it is only the smaller houses, whose after-hours turnover is insufficient to justify the expense of bribery, which are usually prosecuted.

It is high time that the new broom at the head of the Victorian police force did a bit of sweeping in this direction. If he will not do so, we suggest that some of those clergymen who are so upset about skill ball games at St. Kilda might prove their sincere detestation of gambling and drinking by moving for action against some of their wealthy parishioners.

It is not that we are offering the least objection to any man having the right to his drink or to his little flutter; but we do most emphatically protest against discrimination, and against the contempt of the law, which it provokes.

### A Note on Bicycle Loads

It is a long established habit of the Melbourne *Argus* to make a *conscious* effort to be funny in its last editorial each day. We don't know whether, as part of its policy to put its rivals out of the way, the *Herald's* morning paper, the *Sun*, is trying to outdo the *Argus*. But, whether intentionally or otherwise, it certainly succeeded on Monday.

The *Sun's* final leader was headed, "Pedaling Dangers." And its theme was the peril to the community arising from overloaded pushbikes. Here's the finish of it: "A heavy load behind the seat is bad enough, but too much top-hamper in front of the

handles spoils the balance. Nasty spills have resulted, to the danger of the pedaling youth, and to other traffic trying to swerve from such an upset. Now that the R.A.C.V. secretary has directed attention to possible dangers of the practice perhaps something will be done to limit bicycle loads."

The problem of the overloaded bicycle boy, we would remind the *Sun*, is not a serious engineering difficulty. The stresses and strains involved could be done away with, (a) by increasing the numbers of messenger boys and of bicycles, or (b) by doing away with them altogether and substituting light car deliveries. A reference to its own columns should assure it that there are plenty of bicycles for sale, plenty of unemployed youths available, and plenty of light cars on the market.

Having ascertained that the engineering difficulties are readily capable of solution, the *Sun* might then probe into the real obstacles. And it would find that the hold-up is the financial cost involved. Most employers who use the boy-on-a-bike for their deliveries do so because they cannot find the money for more modern transport, or, if they can, the extra cost involved would require an increase of prices, which their consumers could not pay. So the difficulty is not physical, but financial. Hence the remedy will not be found in limiting bicycle loads, but in lightening our financial burdens. This, and this alone, is the top-hamper in front of our steering gear, which is spoiling the balance of all our lives.

One vexatious piece of top-hamper is that far more than half the total national and local taxes which both the shopkeeper and the consumer have to find proceed from interest payable to private persons for money which the State itself should have issued free of interest. A demand for the removal of this over-burden would come better from the *Sun* than any amount of twaddle about taking a lb. or two out of the errand boy's basket.

### SIR FREDERICK IN DREAMLAND

"I am sincerely hoping that the personal acquaintance with the beneficent operation of social insurance in Great Britain now possible to both the Prime Minister and the Treasurer will result in placing them amongst its most ardent advocates, and will result in prompt legislative action."

—Sir F. Stewart, M.H.R., at Parramatta, May 27.

\* \* \*

Has Sir Frederick hypnotised himself? Has he never heard of the reports of Sir John Orr and others on the deplorable state of the masses in England? Can social insurance be said to be operating beneficially in a country where it is admitted that half the population have not even enough to eat?

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## SHOULD MARRIED WOMEN EARN?

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

Should married women earn? This is just another of the many questions that cluster round our economic system like flies round a piece of decaying meat—the greater the decay, the thicker the flies.

There are so many others that all sorts of things are being done about them: arranging conferences, writing to the papers, having indignation meetings at Town Halls, forming defence societies, such as Taxpayers' Associations, and even spending a million of money to meet on the other side of the world in order to find out that nothing can be done about anything (*vide* Economic Conference, 1933). Of course, innumerable books and pamphlets are being issued, while hundreds of charity drives, sermons, radio appeals and other attempts to meet the situation and get rid of the flies are in operation, but hardly anyone seems to think of throwing away or burying the meat. That is too simple.

### Calling Strawberry

Among other works, we have, as we all know, Miss Muriel Heagney's carefully prepared book on married women's right to work. But no one challenges that. That is one right that has never been filched from us. Married women, in particular, are not robbed of their opportunities in this direction. On dairy farms they can don the old wrapper at 5 a.m. and call Strawberry to the bail and keep going till midnight with this and that, without a single protest being made. Most of them, indeed, are still keeping on when the more fortunate half of humanity has its feet on the mantelpiece smoking the pipe of peace.

What, then, is all the fuss about? Why, just that Miss Heagney should have substituted the word earn for work. That is the snag. As unpaid toilers, women have our whole-hearted approval, but when they begin to ask to be paid for it, it is clearly seen that they are out to wreck society, and to overwork newspaper staffs printing letters of protest. It is just the old trouble, the one that makes women one of our major problems. They will insist on being human beings, while it is perfectly clear that our economic system has little room for human beings as such. They do not fit in, even the men. They want food and clothes and houses and amusements, and even desire to marry and raise families. Some of them even desire to have opinions and express them, but the system frowns on all that. The question of marrying, for instance. In two separate issues of *Harper's* magazine, this question has been seriously dealt with.

### Love Among the Ruins

One of them is called "Love Among the Ruins," and both show with the utmost clearness the absolute impossibility of thousands of young Americans marrying, simply because they cannot afford to. Many pathetic instances were cited, and one of the articles concluded with three alternative suggestions: (1) To wait indefinitely "till things are better"; (2) to have each other without marrying, as a great many do but find exceedingly unsatisfactory; (3) to marry and live with parents.

This can scarcely be called ending on a note of hope, but that is where the matter is left. As to married women earning in the United States, it is a well-established fact, because they have to. In Australia, however,

the battle still rages, and Government departments have taken the stand that married women shall not take paid positions. Why? Because the home might be neglected? No; it is because, as even the economic fundamentalists admit, there is a shortage of purchasing power, and that shortage is the root of all our economic troubles. So the more people who lay claim to purchasing power, and the more purchasing power that is distributed, the worse everything will be. You can't see it? Well, well!

### The "Kept" Woman

The feeling about it is very strong, as even those who grudgingly admit that single women should have some alternative to the dole or to living on the earnings of some underpaid male, or to suicide, are opposed to married women having any money of their own. If you ask why, they will tell you that, as they are already being "kept", it is unfair that they should compete with those who are not "kept" for the elusive job. If you are one of those; nasty feminists, you might then ask whether a man who marries a rich woman and is kept by her should be prevented from earning money of his own, and the reply to that will be probably that man has a right to independence (no matter how congested the labour market) and woman has not, so that's that, and the argument is ended.

Yet so ill regulated are the minds of women that they persist in desiring the moon, that is, a small measure of financial independence. To return to the farm, where we have seen that no interference is offered to woman's right to work. (In fact, the farmer who exercises the greatest care of his mare or his cow at certain periods never thinks of taking any of the load off his wife till it becomes clear that the doctor must be sent for, or, more likely, good Mrs. Jones, who is so much cheaper.) But here, some source of income apart from the crop is available to the farmer's wife or daughters in the sale of eggs, butter or poultry. It is true that this often goes to liquidating the storekeeper's account, but sometimes it is spent on toys or Christmas cheer for the children, or, more reprehensible still, a frock or hat nearly as nice as the school-teacher's.

### Concerted Action

In South Australia, when the farmers' assets passed into the hands of the banks during the depression, and the Government took over in order "to keep the farmer on the land" (to provide more wheat at a loss), there was an attempt to take also these coveted butter, egg and poultry funds. Did it come off? It did not. Those downtrodden women rose as one, and with no uncertain voice dared the government to do anything of the kind. Unaccustomed hands took the pen from the shelf and wrote letters to the paper, others attended the debate in the House, and one (a university graduate, by the way) even dared a protest from the ladies' gallery, to the joy of the afternoon papers. In short, the women declared that, though they were willing to work for their families, they did not propose slaving for the banks. It is just an instance of what concerted action may do, even among the unorganised.

As to whether married women should be "allowed" to earn, we have not yet settled that, but we can suggest that married and single women alike shall get behind the electoral campaign and demand that the politicians should be given the job of burying the meat that attracts this and all the other flies.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TROTTLING OUT THE BOGEY MEN

Observers of current events have often expressed amazement and admiration at the enterprise and resource of the modern newspaper press.

A striking example of this has recently come under notice. It is held in some quarters that a diet of fish is good for the brain, and one of our Melbourne dailies, realising that its readers must be wanting in necessary grey matter, undertook to supply the deficiency by providing them with "Red Herrings" each morning. The effect of the experiment was amazing. People who obviously had never had any brains began to write letters to the paper, asserting that they had seen indications of the "Red Peril" in all the political or religious parties they were opposed to, and, in fact, in anybody they didn't like. Experienced campaigners merely smiled cynically, and said it was the usual propaganda stunt, to divert attention from the real issues at the forthcoming elections. However, "Pro bono publico", "Electors, Wake Up", "Mother of Six", and many others, apparently fell for it, and filled *Granny Argus's* columns with horrified demands that *something* drastic should be done.

Some nasty folk were unkind enough to suggest that the letters were all the work of one person, but this is obviously wrong. No one man outside a lunatic asylum could possibly have written such reams of piffle. There must have been at least two or three at it. The newspaper stated that so numerous were the letters from its bemused correspondents that many items of news had to be sacrificed to give space for them. Some of the more important of the items, which were crowded out, are given below:

"The Melbourne Hospital staff reports an abnormal outbreak of Cervix Crickitis (crick in the neck), due to people watching around for signs of the Red Peril. Observations showed that the complaint was most prevalent amongst people of low mentality, and whose skulls were abnormally thick."

"An alarming incident occurred at Windy Grammar School yesterday whilst the School Council was sitting. The Head, who had been hastily summoned away by the teaching staff, returned wearing an expression like an Archbishop who had unexpectedly met a female clad in a modern bathing costume. In horrified accents he told the Council that the Senior Form had been requested to write a short essay on How to Combat the Red Peril. A young scamp named Bob Simpkins had written: 'The Red Peril couldn't lift its ugly head if the people had decent living conditions, and were given a fair go.' The Council members unitedly declared that they had never before heard such an outrageous suggestion, and ordered that Simpkins be immediately expelled."

"Recently the Biological staff at the Melbourne University received from the Federal Government some 'cultures', accompanied by a request that if possible an attempt should be made to isolate the germ of Communism. Two research science students undertook the dangerous experiment, and have issued some interesting progress reports.

"The first was that the experiment had almost come to an abrupt and abortive conclusion. They had incautiously left the germ in an atmosphere of reasonable security and comfort for a time, and on returning had found it almost in the last throes of death.

"The second was that on placing the germ in a decoction made from

the *Argus* articles on the Red Peril it had revived instantaneously.

"The next was that, when placed in a solution made by boiling down the lectures by the University Professors of Economics, the germ had grown enormously, burst the testing tubes and Lab. windows, and escaped.

"They further stated that, when informed of what had happened, the economic lecturers and students had fled in terror, but a number of medical students who asserted that they knew a likely 'spot' had joined in the search. They promised to report progress later.

"Some hours later they rang up the Acting Prime Muddler, and informed him that they had found the 'spot', in fact, lots of 'spots', and invited him to join them at a well-known hotel in Carlton. In response to his enquiries about the germ, the senior research student gave the extraordinary reply that he was the Queen of the May and was going to marry Monty Norman. The matter will shortly engage the attention of the University authorities."

W. E. P.

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

In an article with reference to the payment of armament taxes, your writer of last week makes the astonishing statement that "conscientious objectors in the last war were not imprisoned." As the wife of a pacifist who was imprisoned along with hundreds of his kind and who suffered privations and ill treatment at the hands of the military and civil authorities, I should like vehemently to protest against such an impression being circulated. My husband not only lost his freedom for years, but, in addition, his business was closed and rendered valueless during his incarceration. Had he been less scrupulous he could have attained wealth and power by reason of the contracts offered to him by the naval department. It is a matter of opinion as to whether "a person thus resisting" does attract immense attention. Certainly the violence of the mob on handcuffed martyrs can be thus classed, but its apathy with regard to the fate of these faithful ones does not encourage one to suggest this course to others.

In our subsequent struggle for existence, we have not noticed the special blessings accrued to us, except in the satisfaction derived from following the dictates of conscience. Before any individual suggests the martyr's way, he

should take it himself by way of experience. Certainly, the imprisonment of C.O.'s did lead to considerable reforms in the prison system, and their attitude was ultimately proved sane, but this does not imply that everyone is fitted to take the way of hardship and active resistance. It has not been our lot to find the general public interested in the plight of the dispossessed; in fact, the tendency of the majority is to feel affronted by any revelation that all is not well with things as they are.

PORTIA.

(The article to which our correspondent refers was a reprint from an English publication, and was acknowledged as such.—Ed.)

### A HINT FOR THE P.M.G.

Some months ago the London G.P.O. authorities installed a speaking clock, "Tim," which automatically tells telephone subscribers the correct time when they dial "his" number. As a result, Tim is proving a highly successful tax gatherer, his record to date being 288,751 calls in one week, and his average earnings over £1000 a week. It is now announced in London that Tim is to be introduced to the provinces, and that Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool will soon have their own Tims.

Surely this should give an idea to our own Postmaster-General, who does not appear to have made any really serious attempt to exploit this avenue of extracting more of our pennies. All he need do to make an overwhelming success of it is to arrange a little intelligent co-operation in a few quarters. He can himself control the Post Office clocks, and our municipal timepieces are already entirely satisfactory, since they are thoroughly undependable. It only remains to have the Government railways follow suit and to have an understanding with the broadcasting stations either to cease giving the time every minute or two, or, as this would entail the provision of a considerable amount of extra entertainment, to have the various studios set their clocks differently.

If the idea were carried out with the same enthusiasm as "Send your greetings by telegram," it should not be difficult to squeeze enough additional revenue out of the public to furnish the interest on another million or two of national debt.

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## HOW TO CHECK UP ON THE MONETARY COMMISSION

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—

Having reminded ourselves last week of the type of men who were selected for the Monetary and Banking Commission, it is now necessary to prepare ourselves for a thorough examination of their report as soon as it is released for publication. As previously pointed out, there is only one question before the Commission, and that is to tell us how the money system can be made to serve the community instead of enslaving and hindering it. The official terms of reference are as follows:—

"To inquire into the monetary and banking systems in Australia and to report whether any, and if so what, alterations are desirable in the interests of the people of Australia, and the manner in which any such alterations should be effected."

That fundamental alterations are desirable is obvious from the fact that the harder the community works and the more it produces the further it goes into debt. But in addition to this there is the important fact that without financial independence no government can be a "sovereign" government and the practice of democracy is impossible. In this respect let us hear what the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, P.C., K.C., company director, advocate for oil companies, Federal Attorney-General, Acting Commonwealth Treasurer, etcetera, has had to say.

### "Federal Structure a Mockery"

On June 30, 1934, as Deputy Premier of Victoria, he publicly admitted, "there can be no true solution of the Federal financial problem unless each government enjoys financial power connoting independent financial responsibility in relation to the functions which it has to perform."

He had said the same thing at the Premiers' Conference the previous February in these words: "If the States lacked financial independence they could not achieve administrative independence, and the Federal structure became a mockery."

Well, as the States *do* lack financial independence, and all their difficulties arise directly from this lack of financial independence, Mr. Menzies should be asked to explain how it is possible for a State to be the home of democracy and yet have no financial independence. And if he was sincere when he spoke in 1934, why is he not fighting for financial independence for our governments now? It would be interesting to know the real reasons for his silence on this vital matter *since* the end of 1934, when he was elevated to Cabinet rank in the Federal Ministry. Even the Federal Parliament, as he well knows, has no financial independence, and, as he also well knows, he himself is now one of the obstacles to the acquisition of that independence. However, the point at the moment is that alterations of the monetary system are imperative and that we, as a united people, must see that they are brought about.

### Questions To Be Answered

Whether we are prepared to admit it or not, no one is competent to come to a correct opinion about the economic problem or any solution put forward to meet it unless he is familiar with the true answers to the following questions:—

1. What is the purpose of production?
2. What is money?
3. Who manufactures money and out of what is it made?
4. What is the true function of money?
5. Who should own money at the time of its manufacture?
6. What should determine the quantity of money in existence?
7. What are the usual forms of money?
8. What is meant by "price"?
9. What is meant by inflation?

### The Answers

Every one of these questions is of the utmost importance, and the value of the Commission's report will depend upon the manner in which they are dealt with. In order that we may check this for ourselves it is necessary to know the true answers or to have them handy for reference. So here they are:—

**Question 1.**—The objective of the production system is to produce goods for the people and not, as we are sometimes told, to provide work. We should work in order to live, not live in order to work.

### Figures and Tickets

**Question 2.**—Money has been defined by Professor Walker (who is the authority usually quoted by students of economics and commerce at the Universities) as anything, which has reached such a degree of acceptability that, no matter what it is made of, and no matter why people want it, no one will refuse it in exchange for his goods or services. The chairman of the Midland Bank in London has also given a definition. He says: "Money is all currency in circulation among the public (what we commonly regard as 'cash') and all bank deposits drawable by cheque." Our money consists of notes, coin and cheques, and is nothing but a system of figures and tickets.

### The Money Factories

**Question 3.**—Money comes from the banking system. The banking system is a worldwide entity, and is represented in Australia by the Commonwealth Bank and the private banks. Ninety per cent, of our money is *not* created by the Government, as so many people erroneously believe, but by the private banks, and, except for the materials used (pens, ink and paper) and the expenditure on accounting, the money is created without cost. It is done through the granting of overdrafts, and the cheques used in operating the overdraft are money. As a matter of fact, more than 99 per cent, of our money transactions are settled by cheque, and it is through the control of this agency that the banks control the nation. Cheque money is created by the simple process of writing figures in bank ledgers, and is the only kind of money banks lend or governments borrow. Our national debt therefore consists of book-entry or fictitious money, and our progress is held up in all directions because, instead of writing sufficient money figures in the books of the nation without cost, we stupidly permit the money figures—and an entirely inadequate quantity at that—to be written in the books of private concerns and to be charged up as interest-bearing debt against us.

**Question 4.**—The function of money is simply to act as a voucher—i.e., a ticket—to enable goods to be transferred from one industry to another within the productive system, and to enable the community as consumers to claim or "purchase" goods.

### Ownership of Money

**Question 5.**—No private person or group of persons should be permitted to write their own money, and all money rightfully belongs to the community at the time of its production. Hitherto it has been written up *against* the community as debt. When we say "the community" we mean the people as a whole whose collective activities furnish the goods and services, which alone give money its value and use.

This ownership must be acknowledged by decreeing that all money created and lent by the banking system is a loan on behalf of the community and must be accounted by the banks as such. It must not be regarded as a loan from the banking system. The banks must be treated

merely as agents lending the community's credit.

It must be decreed also, as part of the policy, which should govern the operation of the banking system, that a national credit authority shall be directed to write up all appreciation of the community's assets as well as all depreciation of them, and by that means furnish a statement of the nation's true economic position.

Under these provisions the community at all times would have at its disposal a financial fund equivalent to the capital value of its assets and productivity, which, if drawn upon in a common-sense way, would permit the community, as a collection of consumers, to acquire or "buy" the whole of the output of industry.

### How Much Money?

**Question 6.**—The quantity of money in existence should be determined by the wealth of the country in goods and services combined with the capacity of the country to produce more wealth as required, when required, and where required. At present the amount of money in Australia bears no proper or adequate relation to the wealth of Australia, but is determined by the unfettered discretion of the banking system, which manipulates the manufacture of money, *not* with the object of achieving the maximum distribution of the goods procurable within Australia, but for profit and power and to retain control over the economic activities of the people and their well-being.

### Forms of Money

**Question 7.**—The usual forms of money are cheques, notes and coins, in approximately the following proportions in Australia:—

Notes and coins (legal money) .....	£55,000,000
Bank credit (cheque money) .....	500,000,000

### Price

**Question 8.**—The question of price is most important, for at present it reflects out-of-pocket costs, plus interest, plus profit, plus whatever else can be got. "Price" is the money valuation of the goods available, and therefore is the means by which money is related to goods. Before the people are able to buy the goods they produce they must have money in their hands equal to the total of the prices. The present inability of the people to buy the whole of what they have produced is due to the fact that the money supply is inadequate and prices are in no way regulated. The money-issue is controlled by private banking corporations, but the price-making is totally uncontrolled, with the result that money is withdrawn from the community through prices at a faster rate than goods are consumed, leaving quantities of goods still in existence without there being money to buy them. Prices and money-issue must be brought into equal accord.

### Inflation

**Question 9.**—Inflation does not mean what the servile press would have us believe. It is a rise in prices in consequence of an increase in the supply of money. There is no inflation if prices do not rise. Under existing methods prices rise because there is no control, but under proper monetary policy an expansion of money could take place without permitting prices to rise, and therefore inflation could not occur.

With this information before us we should be in the position to determine whether the report of the Monetary and Banking Commission is a genuine effort to meet the needs of the community by pointing the way to the restitution of sovereignty to our National Government, or whether it is a still further surrender to those who control the private money monopoly. Anything less than financial independence will be useless and will make it impossible for the people to gain access without bloodshed to the benefits of science, mechanics and solar energy. Scientific rearrangements of the money system however will

## "WHAT CAN THE GOVERNMENT TAX NEXT?"

### Municipal and Shire Councils' Burdens

Mr. Stanley F. Allen, F.C.A. (Aust.), Chartered Accountant and Local Government Auditor of 29 years' experience, asks:—

What can the Government tax next or how can it pass on its responsibilities?

This has become the burning question engaging the attention of political and financial experts, and, without doubt, the narrowing field of taxation and the rising embarrassment of the increasing national debt actuates the New South Wales Government in its crafty move to pass added burdens of public debt on to the Municipal and Shire Councils.

The President of the Shires Association has in his annual report shown the serious position of the State's finances and the reason for the Government's determination to balance the budget at any cost.

It is only right that the people should be made aware of the price being paid in order to enable the Government to present figures on a cash statement (called a budget), which does not represent a true reflex of the State's finances.

It is not only Local Government bodies that are being forced to carry the load, because we find that our hospitals, schools and other social services are being starved in order to enable the Government to balance its Budget and present a "make-believe state of affairs."

### "Exhausted Our Resources"

Mr. Bruxner, when acting as Premier in 1936, admitted at the Premiers' Conference "we have exhausted our resources in dealing with the problem of unemployment, which is still with us."

New South Wales, the pride of the Loan Council (possibly because of its ability to borrow and spend more) collects 39 per cent, more taxation than the aggregate collections of Queensland, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania. Is it any wonder that the N.S.W. Government is urging the Municipal and Shire Councils to increase their loan commitments, and, by so

make these benefits available to every person without violence or loss to any other person, and it remains to be seen whether the Commission will have the sense and the courage to recommend this course. The probability is that it will not, for even kings are not secure against the dictates of the financial oligarchy.

### What Edward Said

Speaking to two thousand British architects in London in November 1934, the Prince of Wales said this: "The great majority of our people should, and *can* have better living conditions. ... I feel most strongly about this. You must consider the greater and more important ideal of working for the great majority of our people instead of studying the needs of the minority. I am anxious to see the living conditions of the great masses improved as quickly as possible."

As the only way in which that can be done is through a change in our financial methods, the Prince had thus disclosed himself as an opponent of the financial oligarchy in the interests of the people. Such a man as king would be an ever-present menace to the people's oppressors, and it is not surprising that an opportunity was found to dispose of him.

Although I have no faith at all in the Commission either collectively or individually, I shall be happy to have to admit that my apprehensions were without warrant.

In the meantime let us remember that the will of the people is all-powerful and that Parliament dare not refuse what the people demand provided it is physically possible to comply with the demand.—Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE H BROWN

doing, to enable the Government to ease theirs and also to permit the Government to retain as much as possible of the wages tax?

The increase in Municipal and Shire rates that must eventually take place will be the responsibility of our Local Government bodies, and not of the Government.

To realise the seriousness of this move and the continued passing on of financial responsibilities to our Municipal and Shire Councils, it is well to present a few facts as reported in the official records.

### Tragic Figures

At the end of 1925, the amount outstanding and due by the people for rates and interest (including those due to the City Council) was £470,000, or 10 per cent, of the total rates levied in that year, whereas at the end of 1934 the total amount outstanding was £2,600,000, or 49 per cent, of the amount levied for that year.

The fact that the State debt of N.S.W. exceeds the unimproved capital value of all the land in all the Cities, all the Municipalities and all the Shires of the State, which is set down at £310,000,000, makes the position look not only stupid, but tragic—when such social debt could be replaced by a policy embracing Social Credit.

There are many ratepayers not aware of what is taking place or of what is involved under the Local Government (Further Amendment) Act 1935, which states that "Councils are now permitted to borrow by way of ordinary loans subject to the approval of the Governor without the necessity of following the special loan procedure involving notification of the proposal and possible poll of the ratepayers." This means that the right of the ratepayers to approve or disapprove has been taken away.

The greatest objection, however, to the policy is that the Councils are almost compelled, of necessity, to find a means of helping the unemployed and are left with practically no other alternative but to get deeper into debt and thus relieve the Government of its responsibility. The Government has told the Councils that the scheme is only applicable until June 1938, and not to "unduly delay."

### Debt and Tax Increases

Is it not time that we took stock of the position, particularly when it is realised that the public debt of Australia has increased by over £1,000,000,000 in 25 years and taxation by over £87,000,000 in the same period?

In the six financial years from July 1928, to June 1934—during which time both Mr. Lang and Mr. Stevens were in office—the gross increase in the State public debt amounted to £74,143,677 (£32,000,000 in the first three years and £42,000,000 in the last three) and it is still increasing.

The Auditor-General has said: "Emergency measures which entail large expenditure from borrowed money on which the interest is paid by further borrowing are no more than a stop-gap, and the position calls for more extensive survey and financial planning than is embraced in an annual budget."

A noted visitor to these shores has stated, "Australia is but a prosperity man living on borrowed money." This policy of Borrow, Boom and Burst will end us if we do not end it.

With the increasing social debt of both Governments and Local Government bodies, is it any wonder that the question is asked: "What can the Government tax next?"

**DON'T SPEND A PENNY—**  
Without consulting the "New Times" shopping Guide.

## IT CANT HAPPEN HERE

*I certify that any one of the under mentioned events is so unlikely as to warrant the use of the above title.—W. Blackstone, Minister for Men-dacity.*

A sensation was caused in the Supreme Court of Victoria today when the case of McDoodle v. Wallop was called on. Mr. Dimwit, K.C., leading counsel for the plaintiff, informed the presiding Judge that he did not feel inclined to act as counsel for the plaintiff. Speaking with great feeling, Mr. Dimwit informed his Honour that he had no doubt that the plaintiff, for whom he acted, had an excellent case and was bound to obtain a decision in his favour, and he felt that the plaintiff's evidence would be accepted by the Court, but he, Mr. Dimwit, was compelled to admit that at least nine-tenths of the plaintiff's evidence (including all the really material parts) had been concocted by him, Mr. Dimwit. In addition, he felt it incumbent on himself to intimate to the Court that the plaintiff's responses to questions asked in cross-examination, while being such as might indicate absolute truthfulness, would, in fact, be the result of careful coaching by himself and his learned Junior. In all the circumstances he felt that his conscience would not allow him to continue to act as counsel for the plaintiff.

His Honour stated that Mr. Dimwit's utterances did him credit; and he was sure Mr. Dimwit was acting in accordance with the highest traditions of the Bar, especially as he assumed that Mr. Dimwit had been paid in advance. Mr. Dimwit stated that he had not been paid in advance. His Honour expressed incredulity and allowed the trial to proceed.

At the Whosit Court this morning, Mr. Hokus, J.P., stated that he felt that the cases coming before the Court were so involved that the Court should have the assistance of a Police Magistrate. The decisions that were being given by Justices of the Peace were so nonsensical that the whole system of administer-

ing the law was being brought into disrepute. He himself would refuse to adjudicate upon further cases unless he had the assistance of a trained magistrate.

His remarks were warmly applauded by his colleagues on the Bench.

At the meeting of the Old Public School Oarsmen's Association, Mr. Whacko, the president, stated that he regretted that so much publicity was being given to the spectacle of a few lads assisting in pulling a barge up a creek. His own opinion was that most of the lads who took part in the Head of the River races were of an age when they would be better occupied in trying to earn a living and to assist their parents. The rowing was of a very poor class and he felt that the interest of the community would be well served by discontinuing this nonsense.

The proceedings were, for a considerable time, interrupted by the vociferous applause of the headmasters of the various public schools.

At the meeting of the Commonwealth Cabinet this afternoon, Dr. Earle Page stated that the present Cabinet presented the terrible spectacle of a number of round pegs in square holes. Honesty compelled him to refuse to admit the possibility of their being square pegs in round holes. He himself was a doctor, but he was supposed to act as Minister for Commerce; Paterson, who acted as Minister for the Interior, was a pig farmer; Casey was he didn't know what; Joe Lyons was a schoolmaster and pupil to a schoolmistress. The only one who seemed properly cast was Archie Parkhill, who, as Minister for Defence, was busily occupied in defending himself from attacks by Stewart and persons like him. On the whole he considered that it would be a good idea to reshuffle the Cabinet and allot the portfolios to persons who might be competent to handle the job.

His remarks were received with cheers.

## SYDNEY WATER BOARD SCANDAL

### Premier Stevens Gets His Wish for "London Money"

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of last Friday reported, "The Metropolitan Water Board has entered the London market with an issue of £2,000,000 (sterling) of 4 per cent, debentures. The issue is being offered at par, and the debentures will mature in 1957. The State Government guarantees the interest . . .

"The money will enable uninterrupted progress to be made with the work of servicing the whole of the metropolitan area with water and sewerage facilities, and of making the water supply secure against any possible drought."

The newspaper went on to report N.S.W. Premier Stevens's remarks on the loan, in the course of which he said:

"Apart from the fact that this loan ensures continuance of new water and sewerage works, and is at a lower rate of interest than would be paid for new money in Australia, the loan will further strengthen the Australian money market, and will render it unnecessary for the Water Board to approach the local market for a considerable period. In addition, it will accentuate the tendency towards lower interest rates on Government securities in Australia."

#### The Facts

It is admitted that the purpose of the loan is to finance progress in "the work of servicing the whole of the metropolitan area with water and sewerage facilities, and of making the water supply secure against any possible drought."

Viewing this project as a physical one, what will happen will

be that the men employed will all be Australians. The pipes, earth-works, etc., will be constructed of Australian raw materials and fabricated in Australia. The money with which the men will be paid will either be Australian legal currency—in the form of Commonwealth banknotes and coins—or cheques (printed in Australia) giving access to book entries in Australian ledgers in Australian banks. The money so paid out will be spent, almost in its entirety, upon goods produced and manufactured in Australia. If a small portion is diverted to imported articles (for example, Japanese rayon) these will already have been paid for by the export of other Australian produce.

#### Why Borrow Abroad?

Hence the question arises: Why seek London money (which, incidentally, will never appear in the operation from first to last) to carry out an all-Australian project?

There is no satisfactory answer, and Mr. Stevens, unless he is a hopeless dolt, knows this. Therefore the people of New South Wales are entitled to draw the conclusion that their Premier is deliberately betraying them into the hands of a gang of usurers.

And they might ask him what exactly he means when he says that "the loan will further strengthen the Australian money market"? What is this vampire money market, which draws its strength by sucking the lifeblood of the Australian people and battenning on the product of their labours?

## THE OUTLOOK OF AN HISTORIAN

By "DYNAMICS."

It is understood that amongst the administrators of the British Civil Service there is one whose duty is to prevent the true significance of the financial manipulations underlying commercial and State operations from becoming known through the regular channels of summarised knowledge, which we expect from the professional historians.

One needs to keep this in sight in criticising "The Harvest of Victory, 1918-1926," by Esme Wingfield Stratford, D.Sc., M.A.

There can be little doubt about the ability of this author; the many excellencies of "New Minds for Old" are enough to establish this opinion, and so we expect to find that his descriptions of the harvest fields are apt and masterly. But beneath those fields where the various crops develop there is an influence corresponding to a network (of which the onlooker is not aware) such that brackish salts can be introduced to cause wilting and

done what we want to know is what Curtin is going to do. We don't want vague promises about nationalising credit. We want to know how Mr. Curtin is going to nationalise credit, and when. And we want to know whether Mr. Curtin will carry out the recommendations of the Federal Wheat Commission. If Mr. Curtin will place concrete proposals for economic and social reform before the people, the people will vote for him. But if he intends to mislead people by generalities and vague promises the people will be faced with the choice of voting for the Government which has been tried and found sadly wanting, and voting for a Labor Party equally derelict in initiative and ideas.

failure. No wonder, then, that many of the explanations given will seem inadequate or faulty to those who know the subversive influence which the accepted policies of finance wield, more or less, in all the community intercourse of the world today.

#### Effect of the War

Speaking of the immediate position at the end of the war period, the author says (p. 16), "since not only had wealth been destroyed, but also the means of renewing it." Now, this is surely an inexcusable statement because, in spite of the enormous and definite losses through the war, the possibilities for the production of an abundance of material things were enormous as compared with any previous periods in the world's history.

The reading of page sixteen as a whole helps one to realise the all-pervasive heinousness of the generally accepted ideas that the banker is the proper arbiter of our fate, and that somehow we must force upon outsiders such goods as we have not money to buy, or perish in the attempt.

At one stage of his writing some inner light must have come as a guiding star to our historian, for we find him saying (p. 95), "The worker who felt his standard of living threatened, had sought instinctively for the cause in the greed of the Capitalist and visualised the conflict as one between himself and his employer, rather than as one in concert with his employer to prevent the shrinkage of that total dividend out of which both wages and profits were derived."

Only very slightly would one need to alter the wording of this expression of sentiment in order to make

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### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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## "WHAT DOES LABOR STAND FOR?"

Commenting on Labor's success at the Gwydir by-election, and the prospect it unfolds, the *West Australian Wheatgrower*, in its issue of May 27, says:—

The defeat was bad enough, but for the Country Party and its supporters to ascribe defeat to any other reasons but the right ones, shows that the party has not learnt its lesson. Gwydir voted out the Country Party, and voted in Labor, not only because the Country Party has done nothing constructive, but because the things it did were coercive, dictatorial, anti-democratic. Not one constructive achievement can be placed to the record of the Federal Government—the U.A.P. admitted this by attempting, at the last minute, to bribe Gwydir by a promise of a £10,000,000 water scheme. But the Government's failures and mistakes are legion. Gwydir's no confidence motion is a foreshadowing of Australia's no confidence motion which will be passed at the general elections this year—unless, of course, the U.A.P. machine thinks out some stirring slogan like *Curtin Means Communism!* or *Nationalising Banks Gives the Nation's Credit to Cranks!* and thus misguides the electors into voting for *Lyons and Lethargy*. The fact is that the U.A.P. has won its every election, not on a constructive policy designed to deserve the public's vote, but on some slogan designed to stampede the electors into voting against Labor.

But you can cry "Wolf" once too often and the indications are that, whatever the Government's tactics, the

people will prefer Labor. But what does Labor stand for? Mr. Curtin, unfortunately, is rather vague. He talks about the "national use of credit." (N.Z. Labor got in on the same empty promise, and then told the disgusted electors that vested interests wouldn't let the government control credit!) "Freeing of the monetary machine" is another of his vague phrases. Dealing with farm problems Mr. Curtin said:—

"Two years ago it had passed a Farmers' Debt Adjustment Act. Twelve million pounds was to be made available, of which the share for the State of New South Wales was £3,450,000. Of this amount, so far only £225,000 had been paid by the Commonwealth to the State, and on this basis it would take another 25 years before the full amount is expended.

"Dr. Page had said that the Act was introduced to assist distressed farmers to recover from the desperate plight into which the slump prices had forced them, but Dr. Page had failed lamentably to do anything substantial in the matter, and, so far from rehabilitating the rural areas, he had only accomplished a miserable debt adjustment in respect to a number of unsecured creditors."

This is quite true. The Debts Adjustment legislation was said by Page to be only a part of the Government's farm rehabilitation programme, and the Government has only performed a small part of this small part of its alleged Rural Rehabilitation programme.

But while we are only too well aware of what Page hasn't

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA.

**Headquarters Office**—The big event of the week is the U.E.A. settling into rooms in McEwan House, Rooms 8a and 9, 5th Floor, 343 Little Collins-street (corner of Elizabeth-street), Melbourne. Everything is in a muddle, but soon everything will be lovely. There are two rooms; the smaller one to be used as the office and the larger to be furnished with a view to providing rest and comfort to visitors who are seeking information and discussion. Visitors are welcome. If you come tomorrow you will see poverty; come again in a week's time and you will see poverty has been abolished. The rent for these two rooms amounts to 32/6 a week. It is suggested that some person wishing his name engraved on the scroll of history might like to provide the rent; failing an aspirant for immortal glory it is thought that a few good folk and true might contribute a small weekly amount to be devoted solely to meeting the rent charge. There is a list prepared ready to receive names and amounts and the secretary is willing to devote tomorrow morning to entering those received through the mail.

South Melbourne Town Hall meeting is Thursday, June 3. There may be a few deaf people in South Melbourne who have not heard of the meeting, but it is hard to conceive that there are any persons who do not know of it; 12,000 leaflets have been distributed, and the amplifier was busy on Friday night last in the proximity of the Market and on Saturday announcing to the football crowd. On Tuesday and Wednesday a loud voice astonished thousands of workers when filing out of factory gates. This evening a final tour of the busy streets and thoroughfares will be made announcing the Monster Citizens' Meeting to consider the abolition of poverty from our midst. Dr. John Dale, supported by other speakers on the platform, will address the meeting.

**Where Next?** —There is a little contention as to whether the next Demonstration will be at St. Kilda, Camberwell, Oakleigh or Brighton. The Campaign Supervisor for the Balaclava Electorate wants to follow up the success of the Caulfield meeting at once, and declares that St. Kilda must come next, as the meetings held on two sides of it will have accomplished half of the advertising and make St. Kilda an assured success. It appears that there is sense in what he says, so LOOK OUT FOR ST. KILDA NEXT. There is portion of Brighton in his electorate too, and a meeting at that centre would about complete the obtaining of a majority of electors' Demands in the Electorate of Balaclava. Still, it is thought that one or two small meetings may serve that area, as throughout the greater portion of Brighton there has been an earnest group of workers systematically canvassing from house to house and a major meeting would probably only mean duplication, as well as unbalancing the systemised work those stalwarts have almost completed in a section of the Henty Electorate.

Thorpdale communicated by Tuesday's mail, saying they had formed a group to work that district, and requesting a supply of the necessary propaganda leaflets and Demand forms. "There is no trouble in getting a majority to sign. A try-out over a selected area gave an 85% tally." Of course there is no trouble. That is why the Town Hall meetings are such a success. The "Idea" is so childishly simple that when it is placed in all its simplicity before a meeting, 80% immediately become

workers in their small way, collecting additional signatures.

Cranbourne. - Two speakers went to Cranbourne on the invitation of the Rev. Mr. Pye to address a social gathering he had sponsored. One of the speakers handed in the following report:

"Monday evening, May 31, was cold and wet, but nevertheless the country folk round Cranbourne gathered to hear the speakers outline the Campaign to Abolish Poverty. The first speaker pointed out the facts of poverty—its existence, and how unnecessary that it should exist in an age of plenty. The second speaker treated the nature of democracy and linked up the activities of the U.E.A. with putting into practice the principles of democracy. The meeting was in every way a success, and will prove a help in obtaining publicity and helpers for the Dandenong Demonstration meeting, which will take place before this month is past.

Democratic Government. —The Coburg Heckle Hour is to be held at the Coburg Town Hall on Tuesday next, 8th inst., at 8 p.m., the subject to be debated being "That the Party System of Government is Democratic."

Mr. J. H. Trotter, of the Young Nationalists' organisation, will speak to the affirmative case, and Mr. Eric Butler, the young Wangaratta Crusader, for the Electoral Campaign, will take up the negative argument. A great deal of local interest is being shown in the event.

Speakers' Class —Please note that the Tuesday night speakers' class will be resumed and held in future in the U.E.A. Headquarters, Room 8, 5th Floor, McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street, City, commencing on Tuesday evening next, June 8, at 8 p.m.

Lord Mayor's Fund—"Already £93,459 has been collected this year," says the daily press. Seems a feeble way of dealing with poverty, but it shows that people sincerely wish that poverty did not exist.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide Division—At headquarters on Thursday, May 27, a general meeting of workers and supporters was held Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., was in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Mr. M. E. Dodd, Campaign Director, and the Rev. C. D. Brock, Divisional Supervisor. Arrangements were made to organise throughout the division for social activities and financial support, and the more active conduct of the voluntary, unofficial referendum. Miss Briskam was appointed Hon. Treasurer and Mr. Kerr, Divisional Recorder. A Social Committee was also formed. It was decided to devote the next three months to a steady and more concentrated effort, with a view to securing an added impetus which will guarantee the completion of this first phase of our work.

Barker Division—The efforts of an enthusiast from headquarters, in an attempt to carry the idea of the Electoral Campaign into several of the southern towns during last week, proved very successful. Towns that were touched were McClaren Vale, Willunga, Aldinga, Myponga and Yankalilla. In every case the idea of giving our members of Parliament a job was continually emphasised until it was recognised as being logical and common sense. It was found that men would eventually listen to this idea of giving a job to politicians; and it is confidently anticipated that this visit will bear good fruit in the form of enthusiastic groups getting on the job—that they give themselves. In each district it was found that there was a general desire to have poverty

abolished. A small effort toward organising in these southern districts should soon bring them into line with the rest of the movement.

"The Rally—At headquarters on Saturday, May 22, a very enthusiastic crowd gathered to hear about and discuss the plans for the winter. The President, Mr. C. L. Tucker, demonstrated that the time was now ripe for action; this was evident because of the increased interest, which outside organisations are now showing in the Campaign. Everywhere there is a marked inclination on the part of individuals and organisations to listen to the simple idea of the Electoral Campaign. This growing tendency must be capitalised, Mr. Tucker said, and, as far as he could see, the only way to do that was to carry on the publicity campaign. He appealed to the old members to make further sacrifices so that these interested people could be brought right into the movement. Others spoke in similar terms, making an appeal to members to realise that the time was short, and that to get through at all, we must get through soon. Great enthusiasm was shown for the publicity campaign, and the publicity fund was placed well on the way. All those who have promised to assist are thanked; all those who have not promised up to date are asked, if it is anywhere within the bounds of possibility, to

Another Solution for Palestine?

To make Palestine an independent Jewish State, under British protection, seemed one of the best solutions to the complex problem of its political control, Major C. V. Quinlan told Constitutional Club members in a luncheon address yesterday. The Arabs would have to pack up and go to Transjordan, from where they came originally.

—Melbourne "Sun," June 1.

Following the same principle, the white population of Australia should pack up and return to Europe.

And if we are to restore the status quo all round to the time when the Jews arrived in Palestine, would the Major put Britain back under Italian protection?

advise us at the earliest date of the extent of their ability to support us in this way. Remember, if what we say is going to happen if this Campaign does not win through, actually does happen, then it means that anything else is very small in comparison.

Luncheon Address—The Rev. N. Crawford, recently from England, delivered an inspiring address at headquarters on Friday, May 28. In England Mr. Crawford had a wide experience in social work, and it was found that for some considerable time past he had been touring up and down that country, lecturing on vital matters and striving after identical objectives as ourselves. In the Old Country there has been great work done by the Christian Social Council, a body of enthusiasts who set out to solve the tragic problem of poverty in the midst of plenty. Although Mr. Crawford said that the Church had been "doing ambulance work," he made it quite clear that a considerable section of the Church in England had been setting out to stress the injustice of usury and the increasing tendency of men to draw more and more of this world's goods to themselves, and away from their brother-man.

Our Library. — It is desired to extend the Headquarters Library to include books on fiction, travel and biography. We shall be glad to receive gifts of modern, clean books.

Subscription by gift of a book. Charge of 2d per book per week. Any books may be left at 17 Weymouth

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR BASIC WAGE EARNERS

By R. E. de NEVATT.

At a Women's Non-Party Association conference in Adelaide on May 29, family endowment was discussed. As reported by the *Advertiser*, the case for incomes for women was put by one speaker as follows:—

"One of the worst aspects of our present wage system," said Mrs. A. C. Molineux, in advocating family endowment, "is the mental effect the dependence on another person has on women."

Women were co-workers with men, the speaker continued. Children were their product, and food, clothing, and other necessities their tools. Why, then, should one woman have better tools, and more education in their use, than another, and why, given such poorer tools, was the other woman expected to obtain as fine a product? She further suggested that incomparably more time and study were given to the scientific raising of stock, the cost of its production, and the results of breeding, than had ever been devoted to the problem of a first class race of children. Direct provision for children would result in the withdrawal from the labour market of a large percentage of women who eked out a starvation allowance by earning a little.

Discussing the present wage system, another speaker said:—

The man suffered because the wage he received at 21 years (£3/9/-) was the same on which he had to support a wife and family. "We see the home increasing in numbers until, in 12 or 15 years' time," said Miss Glasson, "with five children under 14, the family is in real poverty."

In putting the woman's point of view, she said that it was always assumed that a man had a wife and three children to support, and that a woman worker had only herself. This was not true, as many women had dependents. She suggested that young men and women should be paid an amount sufficient to keep them

in modest comfort, and wages be added as dependents materialised—wife, children, parents, or younger brothers and sisters.

Whilst supporting the women's claim to a personal income, the thinking man is disappointed to find among the views reported nothing more constructive than suggestions for a redistribution of the basic wage, or, in other words, a redistribution of poverty. If single men and women are to receive only "sufficient to keep them in moderate comfort"—i.e., to be on the breadline, since the amount is to be less than £3/9/- per week—how can they put aside enough to qualify for stud purposes? And what of young men whose wages go to pay off the overdrafts on the farms, which lack of markets has forced them to forsake?

Wages as Goods

If the well-meaning W.N.P.A. could think of wages, not merely as a sum of money, but as a quantity of goods and services, they would surely see that there is no need for cheesparing. Our heritage of knowledge, if fully used, would enable us to produce a sufficiency of goods to progressively increase every man's share and bring the woman's up to the same level. What is physically possible can be made financially possible. There is evidence to show that economic and financial experts can work out a system of national accountancy, which will serve the purpose. But they will make no move until they receive instructions through Parliament from the real source of political power—the electors.

It is to be hoped the W.N.P.A. will quickly realise that more for all is better than a redistribution of what is already inadequate, and that the shortest way to their objective—economic security—is via the Electoral Campaign to abolish poverty. In the meantime, basic wage earners who have hitherto been apathetic may be goaded into fighting for their rights when faced with the prospect of losing half of their £3/9/- per week.

Street, Adelaide.

Picture Competition. —We are pleased to announce that Miss V. Briskam was the winner of the picture donated by the artist, Miss Gwen Barringer. Mrs. C. D. Brock received the £1 prize for the person who sold the most tickets. The competition realised £6.

The young lacked education in Empire ideals. On Coronation Day he had heard a schoolboy describe the event as a "lot of hooley"—a fair assessment of what youth thought of the Coronation.

—E. G. Hicks, secretary of Lord Mayor's Fund, to Constitutional Club in Melbourne, May 24.

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Printed by H. E. Kuntzen, 143-151 a'Beckett Street, Melbourne, for New Times Limited, Elizabeth House, Melbourne.