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Vol. 3. No. 27.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1937.

Every Friday 3d

The Delusion of Higher Wages

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A Broadcast Lie From 3UZ

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DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT
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(Continued on page 3.)

The Delusion of Higher Wages

New Award Will Make Workers Worse Off Some Figures Which Every Unionist Should Study

Judging by their photographs, which appeared in the weekend papers, leading union advocates seem to be pretty well pleased with the result of their efforts before the Federal Arbitration Court. Actually, though their motives were doubtless of the best, they have done a great disservice to the workers of Australia and have helped still further to lower their real standard of living.

Those who believe that they have gained something by the wage increase granted by the court will very soon find that they have a few more shillings to handle every week; but they will also find that those few extra shillings will buy just a little less goods than before. And it is significant in this respect that the very evening papers which brought the first announcement of the court's award also contained notices of serious impending increases in prices—amongst these being 17½ to 22 ½ per cent, in men's and

buying power of a pound varies from day to day, he shows, secondly, the real wage, as expressed in what the money will secure for its possessor in terms of goods. And in the third place he takes account of the percentage of unemployment, thus arriving finally at as near an approximation as possible of the true standard of living of the average wage earner in Australia. "In the figures that follow, which are all taken from the Official Year Books, the wage is that of adult males. And for convenience, in each of the above classifications, the reckoning is based upon the wage of 1911 being expressed as an index number of 1000. (That actual nominal wage, as denoted in money, was £2/11/3.)

The Nominal Wage

"Let us first take the average nominal wage. Here are some figures:—

Year	Nominal Wage
1901.....	848
1907.....	893
1911.....	1000
1914.....	1081
1918.....	1270
1921.....	1826
1929.....	1972
1932.....	1639
1934.....	1592
1935 (1st quarter)	1604

"The story thus far represents more or less the striving of every trade unionist, of every Labor politician—the striving for higher money wages. As far as it goes it indicates, from 1901 to 1929, a steadily increased standard. And, because the ordinary unionist and the ordinary Labor M.P. believed that the money wage was the real standard, they accepted with hardly a protest what was handed out to them from 1930-31 onwards. Never was there a greater deception put upon them.

"For this first table means nothing at all. It is merely the table of wages in Montagu Norman jargon, in bankers' figures, whose meaning alters from day to day to suit bank policy. Money is worth only what it will buy. And the table, which now follows, translates the fiction into fact.

The Real Wage

"Here is the same table again, but expressed now in relation to the purchasing power of wages:

Year	Real Wage (if all had full-time work).
1901.....	964
1907.....	996
1911.....	1000
1914.....	975
1918.....	932
1921.....	1076
1929.....	1082
1932.....	1168
1934.....	1148
1935 (1st quarter)	1145

"What a different story these figures tell! Where now is the wonderful rise in living standards, the war-time luxury, the post-war extravagance to atone for which the wage earner had to tighten his belt at the behest of the Big Four, of Otto Ernst Niemeyer and all the rest of the Bank of England gang? From 1901 to 1929 the average real wage standard rose only 12 per cent. Even that rise, as every

wage earner knows, was mainly fictitious, for the intervening years saw large additions to the inevitable expense which accompanied wage earning. As one instance, the growth of our cities generally meant that workers had to live further from their jobs, and the extra fares paid in 1929 probably took away at one blow any little gain that had accrued.

"But even these figures do not tell the whole tale. For they take

1914 than in 1918, and in 1932 than in 1929.

The Reason

The reason is not far to seek. Most employers work—and generally have to work—on a system whereby all their goods are priced to include total costs plus a percentage. Suppose, for argument sake, this percentage to be ten. Then every wage increase of £100 appears in prices increased to £110. And, if 2½ per cent, be allowed for bad debts, the extra wages will carry this, too. And they will carry extra interest for the bank if, as so frequently happens, the industry is working on an overdraft. And there will be quite a number of other similar items. All of which helps to explain why a lowering of money wages may bring about an actual increase in the real standard of living of those who still keep their jobs—added to which, of course, is the price slaughtering which is forced upon many sellers.

Other Injustices

Apart from its general hurtful effect, this latest increase in nominal wages will affect most bitterly those who have fixed incomes. It will be particularly cruel on the unemployed who are drawing the dole. It will make still more grinding the poverty of pensioners of all descriptions. And it will immediately reduce the effective dividends of those living in retirement upon the income of their life's savings, if those savings are invested in such things as Government and similar loans. (Property owners, of course, will mostly push rents up.)

The Lesson

There is only one lesson in all this. And it is a lesson, which must be learnt both by employers and by employees.

The ordinary employer is neither a profiteer, a sweater or a monopolist. He would rather see his staff happy and prosperous than poor and discontented. And, from a purely selfish businessman's point of view, he has only one pressing need. He has little worry on the score of supplies; what he does want to see is more customers with more money in their pockets. Hence his vital interests are the same as those of his employees—he wants bigger real incomes for consumers.

Bigger real incomes, as has been seen, do not come from increases in money wages, which are passed on into prices. Nor can any substantial wage increases be granted without the necessity to pass them on. There may be a few exceptions in the case of monopolists and profiteers, but business in general is not being carried on at an inordinate rate of profit.

There are only two other ways available of increasing consumers' real incomes. One is by getting bankers to issue additional money as national debt, which soon becomes self-defeating through the accumulation of interest charges—as is illustrated by our own history in this generation. The other way is by issuing this money from the sovereign government, carrying no burden of interest at all. And until this is done both employees and employers will spend all their days chasing their own tails in vicious spirals.

PRESENCE OF MIND

Somebody substituted a red flag for a National Socialist flag, which a big wig was to unfurl in Dusseldorf. The flag was cased, and when the string was pulled, out floated the hated emblem of Communism. Consternation? Not at all! The hero pulled out his revolver and shot the flag! —"Why," N.Z.

no account of unemployment—of the individual worker's periods out of a job or of the unemployed dependents to be kept by those who still held their jobs.

The Real Living Standard

"And so we come to the third set of figures:—

Year	Real Wage (allowing for unemployment at each date).
1901.....	945
1907.....	986
1911.....	1000
1914.....	970
1918.....	921
1921.....	1002
1927.....	1075
1929.....	1009
1932.....	870
1933.....	926

(In this last table, 1927 has been added, as that year marked the high water mark of real living conditions. Figures later than 1933 are not yet available.)

"And now we have the truth. Now we have the figures that every worker with any sense should carry pasted in the inside of his hat. Look at those figures again: 1901, 945; 1933, 926. No increase in the standard of living at all. Not a blessed penny in 30 years." Since we published the above the same process has continued. Whereas the nominal wage was 1604 in the first quarter of 1935, it had increased to 1617 in the December quarter of that year, and to 1656 in the December quarter of last year. And while this was going on, the buying power of the same wage, calculated on the basis of full-time employment, had decreased from an index figure of 1145 in the first quarter of 1935 to 1125 in the December quarter of 1935, and to 1111 in the December quarter of last year. And so it goes on forever—or it will until unionists wake up to the fact that an increase in their standard of living will never come by an addition of nominal income that is also a cost in industry. Actually, as will be seen by a glance back at the figures already given, the average wage earner (provided he had a job) was better off in

THEY MUSTN'T KEEP DOGS

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

"Unemployed men should not be allowed to keep dogs."

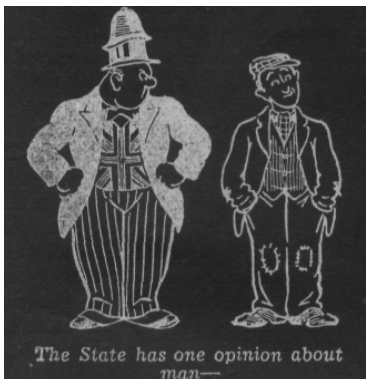
These profound words, pregnant with humanitarian zeal, magisterial probity and civic responsibility, were uttered by Major Randolph, chairman of the Druxford, Hants, magistrates.

They are worthy of serious consideration and analysis, for they epitomise, within the limits of one short sentence, the whole truth about the relation of modern man to the State.

* * *

We have long awaited a concise definition of modern man. Major Randolph has given us one. It is: A creature who, when unemployed, should not be allowed to keep a dog.

Large-hearted men are modest, and I doubt if the gallant beak is conscious of having said anything historic. Nevertheless, I should not like him or his words to be forgotten. I would support a proposal to erect a statue of him saying it. Or, if the local subscriptions do not



reach the cost of a permanent effigy, there might be some form of temporary structure, to be renewed every November the Fifth.

* * *

The relation between man and dog is as important as that between man and the State, and you cannot understand one unless you understand the other. In historical order, man had a dog before he had a State; let us, therefore, first briefly review the dog days.

Man has always kept a dog ever since he was a man. Indeed, keeping a dog is one of the proofs that he really is a man, and not a trousered ape or an unfeathered ostrich.

You cannot imagine any other animal keeping a dog. Even if some other animal, such as an elephant, a field mouse, or a wapiti, did wish to keep a dog, the dog wouldn't stand for it. Were any such arrangement mooted, the dog would reply, "With all due respect, you haven't got what it takes." Unless it were a Pekinese, in which case it would simply say, "Huh!"

The choice was mutual right from the start. But it is probable that the dog made it first. As soon as he set eyes on man he gave up being a wolf, saying, "This is where I get off."

As soon as the dog approached the human family he recognised the wolf-pack for what it was—a Fas-

cist State—and found he didn't like it. So he sold his corporate birth-

3d. A WEEK

For the next few months Australia will be flooded with every imaginable kind of lie, for only by lies can those who now control us hope to keep us in subjection for the period of a further Parliament.

During the past three years blow after blow has been struck at our freedom, while taxation has been heaped higher and higher upon our unhappy heads. Are you content to sign a blank cheque for a further three years of the same process, with the probability of war and conscription being included? Or do you value your life and security sufficiently to put up a scrap on your own behalf?

You have only one way of striking an effective blow. That way is to convince as many as possible of your fellow citizens, BEFORE the elections, that they are being imposed upon by unjust servants, and that they must reassert their own authority before it is too late. You must marshal before them arguments supported by facts.

Where in the daily press will you find a running commentary on current events that will assist you? Where, outside the columns of the New Times will you find presented the truth about such red herrings as national insurance and the basic wage increase?

Then why not put the New Times into the hands of as many electors as possible between now and the date of the Federal elections? If you run out of personal acquaintances you can select names at random—from telephone lists, from directories, from any source that will give you the names of voters. IS THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY WORTH 3d A WEEK TO YOU?

Order a second copy (more if you can) from your newspaper, beginning next week, and mail it to a different elector each week until Election Day.

Day after day, month after month, the mails bring us in letters from new subscribers and supporters in our campaign for truth and justice. These people say, "I have just read a copy of your paper for the first time." There are millions more in Australia who have not yet read a copy of the New Times.

WILL YOU HELP US TO GET TO THEM — FOR YOUR OWN SAKE?

right for a mess of private ownership.

But it was not the temptation of an easier life and more to eat that drew him into the human circle. That idea, as Darwin used to say, is all wet. He found in man two things he had felt the lack of in the wolf pack; something to make a fuss of, and something with a name of its own. You cannot make a fuss of anything in a Corporate State, except the Corp. And you cannot have a name, only a number.

And then, as the aeons went on, and his intelligence developed in inverse ratio to his weapons, he discovered something else, which had only been suspected hitherto by the theologian and the poet: that man was a god. It was this discovery, which afterwards brought him into conflict with the State. But I will come to that later.

To return to man. At first, he regarded the dog mainly as a convenience. It ate the leavings, kept the rats off, and minded the baby and the sheep. But as man fell out of Stone Age arcady into law and order, progress and the State, he found another use for the dog. He discovered that the dog re-



garded him as having some importance.

For the State devotes itself chiefly to the task of convincing man that he is of no importance except in so far as he is able (a) to make money for someone else; (b) to pay taxes for the support of someone else; and (c) to stop a bullet intended for someone else. And that goes for his missus, too.

When man is doing none of these things he is regarded officially as less than the dust beneath the State's chariot wheels and less than the rust that never stains the corporate sword.

* * *

But the dog says the opposite of all this. He breaks all the rules and regulations. He ignores social distinctions and national barriers. He is lamentably indifferent to class, occupation, prison record, income, assets, liabilities, education, school tie, age of suit or political opinions.

He does not care what daddy did in the Great War. He does not even care whether he is a member of the Union.

His nose tells him that all these things are irrelevant. His smell goes down through the dirty clothes and unwashed body to the soul beneath, and he says, with the theologian and the poet. "This is the goods."

And whether the man is the

guest at a City binge or lying blotto in the gutter, it makes no difference to the dog. All he can see is the trailing clouds of glory, mixed up with a few unimportant whiskers and a broken bootlace.

To the modern man, this has compensatory value. His children sauce him, the copper moves him on, the gaffer calls him a fool, the boss shuts down the works, the Public Assistance Committee tells him not to come again till he's sold the harmonium, the paper tells him to learn how to get shot.

The whole social order seems to be regarding him as something that fell off a dustcart, and the State treats him like a convict on parole.

He goes home wondering why his parents made such a bloomer, and then he meets the dog, who looks up into his face and says: "Gosh, what a piece of work is old George! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving, how admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god!" And he pulls himself together again and says; "Perhaps there is something in it."

* * *

Now the State cannot stand for this. It cannot afford to let unemployed man have any opinion of himself. It would unbalance the Budget.

He must not be allowed to keep a dog.

* * *

The Cat: And the moral of all this is that neither of you have any self-reliance.

Well, you don't seem anxious to leave.

The Cat: Not while you behave yourself.

Balancing the Budget

By R COSTIN

The Budget is really a statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with the people's business. When governments receive, by taxation, from the industrial section of the community—such as farmers, manufacturers, wage earners, business people, traders, property owners, etc—a certain sum of money, say £20 millions, it would be too foolish to pay this money back to the people. But there is another section of the community who depend on this revenue for their income. This consists of politicians, Governors, judges, military, police, boards of all descriptions, bondholders, Education Department, unemployed, pensioners, etc.

When £20 millions has been distributed to this section, the Budget is considered to be balanced. So it is—but it is obvious that one section is minus while the other section is plus.

"Highly satisfactory," is the opinion of the press, politicians, economists, etc. Clearly we take from Peter to pay Paul, who is plus all the time, while Peter is minus.

When governments have a deficit we are badly off; a balanced Budget is worse, and a surplus is infinitely worse than ever.

We also note with great satisfaction and comfort that the British Prime Minister, Earl Baldwin, has retired from his labours on a salary of £5000 per annum as a reward for bringing about budgetary equilibrium.

As the national debt is now about £1250 millions, due to an accumulation of both surpluses and deficits, the industrial section of the community does not view the situation with that calm complacency which our governments would ask us to observe.

Recently Mr. Montagu Norman, Governor of the Bank of England, admitted he did not know where the ship of State was drifting to. One of our Premiers seized on this as an excuse that, as Mr. Norman did not know whether he was going, how could we expect our leader to know where he was bound for? But the gentleman drew his salary just as usual (at Peter's expense).

Is it not time that we, the people, take a hand in the matter of bringing this shameless farce to an end and demand results from our servants, the politicians?

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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

(Continued on page 7.)

Mr. W. Forgan Smith, Premier of Queensland.

Dear Mr. Smith, In an address in Sydney on Tuesday we understand you to have said: "Every day Australia is being brought closer to the rest of the world, and, whether Australians like it or not, they are being drawn into the maelstrom of world finance and politics." Undoubtedly this is true. You yourself are so excellent an example of our being brought closer to the rest of the world that we believe it is now customary in your own State to say "the Premier is paying one of his periodic visits to Australia." But merely because a thing is a fact it does not follow that it is desirable or even defensible. You, naturally, are anxious to perpetuate a state of affairs which gives you so many pleasant trips abroad and so many opportunities of dodging, for months at a time, your local responsibilities. Hence your plea that "Australia could not live in a state of splendid isolation." Hence also your plaintive cry "criticism of the visits of Ministers to other countries was shortsighted." But you don't appear to have given any convincing reasons.

Australia's real international position, Mr. Smith, as you must very well know, is this: We raise annually quite a lot of produce for export (of which, in passing, a considerable percentage could very well be used by our own citizens). People in other countries are genuinely anxious to buy that produce, and are quite willing to pay for it with things they produce and which the people of Australia would be glad to have. These people of other countries send their ships to Australia to bring their goods and to take delivery of ours (hence we have no real need to worry about trade routes, the Suez Canal, and so forth). None of our overseas customers want our territory; they want only our goods in peaceful trade. And finally, we are quite capable, without outside assistance, of keeping up and if necessary of multiplying our production.

Where, then, is the need for us to be drawn into what you call "the maelstrom of world finance and politics"? There is no need at all, and it is only because political servants like yourself are grossly dishonest to their masters, the electors, that any questions arises of our mixing ourselves up in other people's troubles.

THE NEW TIMES



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FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1937.

British Business Leaders Support Our Campaign

Reported in last Saturday's cables, but with hardly as much prominence as would be given to Princess Elizabeth's joining the Girl Guides, was one of the most notable and weighty statements on current problems that could possibly have been made. The statement was part of the annual report of the Federation of British Chambers of Commerce, which may surely be described as the leading body of businessmen in the world. Here is the statement as cabled, and described as "the feature of the annual report":—

"It is evident that if the people of the United Kingdom had greater purchasing power they would gladly consume more food, and if the people of the Dominions had greater purchasing power they would be pleased to import more manufactures. The Dominions could certainly produce more food and take more immigrants, and the United Kingdom could use the unemployed to produce more manufactures, but this trade is not developed because importers on both sides know that *the people have not the money to buy additional goods.*"

There, in a nutshell, is the problem with which we are faced, and there also is its solution. *The people must be provided with the money to buy additional goods.* They will not be provided with this money by national insurance or any other form of taxation, which merely redistributes an existing shortage. They will not be provided with it by raising wages, since this also raises the price of goods. They will not be provided with it by increasing the national debt, since this is only momentary in its benefit, leaving the debt (and taxation for interest) outstanding. The only solution lies in the regulated issue of

more national money up to the full capacity of industry to deliver wanted goods.

No longer can the private bankers, desperately anxious to keep their monopoly over the issue and recall of interest-bearing money, cry out that our demand is that of cranks or visionaries. Such terms can ill be applied to the hardheaded industrialists of Britain.

Writing to the London *Economist* on May 22 last, Sir A. Verdon-Roe—one of England's leading business men and pioneer manufacturer of planes (Avro)—said: "There is no doubt that Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, hit the nail on the head when he said recently: 'Until the control and issue of currency is restored to the State, recognised as the Government's most conspicuous and sacred responsibility, all talk of the Sovereignty of Parliament and Democracy is idle and futile.'"

"... The world has got into the present appalling economic and debt tangle through the departure from using tangible State currency, which it could now do in a new and modern way. This has prevented the State from exercising its prerogative over the creation and issue of the currency, thus depriving the people of incalculable benefits and the enjoyment of a progressive civilisation. It is quite conceivable that the amount of new money that would have to be added to the existing money each year in order to keep prices at their desired level and enable the people to buy to the extent that they can produce, would make taxation unnecessary.

"The British Government has a wonderful opportunity of adopting a 100 per cent. State-money system. If it did, we would rapidly become strong financially, industrially and in many other ways. Other nations would soon follow our example and there would be a chance to settle international disputes by mutually beneficial agreements. Insane destructive wars would become the follies of a bygone age."

This is no dream. It is no unsound scheme for a visionary Utopia. Abundance is *here*—and it is an abundance that could be doubled and trebled tomorrow if we were allowed to use our physical powers to their best advantage. Finance, and finance alone, is holding up both private industry and social enterprise. And finance is a matter only of tokens (coins), of printed stationery (notes and cheques), and of book entries (bank deposits).

Civilising Police Methods

Repeated protests have been made in these columns against the growing practice of some of Victoria's policemen to use firearms in a manner contrary both to public justice and to private safety. In particular we have protested against the habit of firing after escaping suspects including those

suspected merely of committing technical offences against the gaming laws.

It is satisfactory to see that the gravest of these abuses will henceforth stop, as a result of new regulations approved by the Executive Council of Victoria on Tuesday. In accordance with these, firearms may in future be used by police only (1) when they are actually attacked by someone in possession of a dangerous weapon, (2) when their own lives are in danger, or (3) when a felon is escaping—and in the latter case only when the lives of innocent persons are not endangered.

We would point out, however, that the third of these conditions still leaves room for abuse. The person who abstracts a packet of cigarettes from what the *Herald* would call "a city emporium" is legally, we understand, a felon just as much as is a murderer. Should such a person attempt to escape from the custody of the law, is it right that he (or she) should be entitled to be shot down in the street by a pursuing copper?

"A Proposal Was Made"

It is reported that at a meeting of the Melbourne potato merchants on Monday "a proposal was made" that merchants discontinue taking delivery of potatoes into their stores transported by road within about 20 miles of the city. After mentioning that the proposal found little support, the *Argus* report goes on to add: "A representative of the Railways Department was present."

From what source the proposal to restrict the liberty of merchants, suppliers and road hauliers came was not disclosed, but in view of the presence of "a representative of the Railways Department," readers are offered two guesses.

This is only another of the daily illustrations of how the private stranglehold over finance is robbing us of what little is left of our liberties. The Railways Department, like every other government department, is compelled to act as an agent of Fascism. And why?

Because it is staggering under a burden of interest-bearing debt. Since our railways were built through the use of borrowed money, instead of interest-free national money, they are forever faced with a physical impossibility. They have to recover for the bankers their full capital cost plus perpetual interest; and at the same time they have to try and recover the capital cost again through depreciation charges to keep themselves in running order. So twice, the capital cost (plus interest) must be withdrawn where at most only the original capital cost has been disbursed.

In the vain endeavour to do this it is, and must be, the policy of railway administrators to crush all competition, no matter what injustice or inconvenience is caused thereby.

SOCIAL EVENING.

The Women of the Douglas Credit Movement will hold a Social Evening on Thursday, July 8, at 8 p.m. at the Centenary Club, Block Arcade, Elizabeth Street, City. Admission 1/-, Ladies are requested to bring refreshments.

THE "WEST AUSTRALIAN" DISCUSSES THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY

And Professor Murdoch Replies

The progress of the Campaign to Abolish Poverty from Australia is already so significant that the great metropolitan dailies are being forced to take notice. Needless to say, the notice is of as disparaging a type as the controllers of these newspapers feel it safe to indulge in.

We reprint below the case of the Perth *West Australian*, which is largely controlled from our old friends in Collins House, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne (home of the Baillieu-Robinson, etc., group).

The *West Australian* is the so-called leading newspaper of Western Australia. Among its shareholders, a Perth correspondent informs us, are the following:—

Preference:—	
Norman Baillieu, Collins House	1750
Sir A. Robinson and G. F. Davies, Collins House...	3000
L. L. Ashton and A. E. Young, clerks, Collins House...	1000
L. L. Ashton and A. Armstrong, clerks, Collins House	7000
Ordinary:—	
A. S. Baillieu, Collins House	980
D. G. Landale, Melbourne Club.....	560
W. Landale.....	7000
Sir Frank Clarke, Collins House	700
W. L. R. Clarke.....	700
Ernest E. O'Sullivan, Collins House.....	1400
Sir A. Robinson and G. F. Davies, Collins House.....	7000
W. S. Robinson.....	700
Sir Alex. Stewart, Collins House.....	2100
H. St. John Somerset, Collins House.....	700
Estate E. H. Shackell.....	2100
Securities Pty. Ltd., Collins House.....	67,970

The above list may give some idea of what is likely to be the policy of the paper.

An Editorial

In its issue of June 24 the *West Australian* published an editorial, headed "Abolition of Poverty," in which it discussed a public meeting held at Subiaco on June 22, and at which the speakers included the local Mayor, the president of the Wheatgrowers' Union of W.A. members of other men's and

women's organisations, and Ministers of religion.

The *West Australian* said:— "No political candidate would be embarrassed by being asked whether he was in favour of the abolition of poverty. All shades of political thought - - Nationalist, Country Party, Labor, Socialist and Communist—will be found in accord on this subject. A year or more ago a public meeting held in the Perth Town Hall declared that poverty should be abolished; but no noticeable improvement in the social conditions of the State followed the resolution. The subject was revived at a public meeting held at Subiaco on Tuesday night to inaugurate a political campaign for the abolition of poverty. The chairman explained that the idea of the campaign was 'to put into Parliaments members who would conform to the will of the people by making the abolition of poverty their first consideration and to put out those members who would not conform to the people's will.' This 'remedy' suffers from over-simplification. Perhaps anticipating a natural question, the chairman of the meeting added that it was not the duty of the people to suggest methods by which poverty could be abolished; it was 'up to the politicians to find ways and means.' Another speaker did not shirk the explanation of the prevalence of poverty: he said that poverty was due to the fact that members of Parliament did not understand true social reform, that the party system had broken down, or that the members failed to carry out the desires of the electors of

RESURRECTING A HOARY BANKERS' LIE

Listeners to Station 3UZ on Monday night were treated to an amazing statement by Mr. Stanley Simpson Addison, one-time general secretary of the Australasian Student Christian Movement, and assistant registrar of Melbourne University, but better known of late as the secretary of the Sound Finance League of Australia (successor to the League for the Maintenance of Sound Monetary Conditions).

In his present capacity it is only to be expected that Mr. Addison should deem it his duty to defend in every way permissible the interests of those who originated and who are the chief beneficiaries of the system of so-called Sound Finance—namely, the private banks. But there are limits to the permissible; and Mr. Addison far exceeded those limits when he declared emphatically that banks do not create credit, but merely lend their deposits. Such a statement, as anyone with the veriest smattering of financial knowledge is now aware, is nothing but a crude lie.

For many years this lie worked successfully in keeping the peoples of most countries in bondage to their hidden taskmasters. But the huge increases in debts during the last war helped to make patent to many what had till then been known to but a handful; and in the post-war years the process of education has continued. There is no longer need for us either to cite authorities or to appeal to facts on this point. It is now conceded by every economist or banker (even in Australia) with a shred of a reputation. Our very own Professor Copland, as we pointed out in our issue of April 23 last, was quite candid about the matter when he wrote, in the *Vacuum Country Journal* for April, "in making advances banks create credit, and they also create deposits..."

What, then, are we to deduce from Mr. Addison's attempt to again foist on the public so mischievous a falsehood? There are two possible conclusions. One is that *those who stand to gain by confusing the ignorant on this issue* have given instructions to their servants that any lie, however vile, is to be used for electioneering purposes—since such people retain their malignant power only through confusion of tongues. The other is a more generous one. It is that Mr. Addison's mental health is breaking down under the strain now being put upon it.

THE PRINTED WORD in

Pamphlets, Booklets, Leaflets, Weeklies, Monthlies, Annuals, Newspapers, Magazines, or Books EXCELLENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY PRODUCED

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Australia. In his opinion the last-mentioned was the cause. A woman speaker believed that poverty was one of the principal causes of war, and she considered that the first duty of Parliaments in Australia was to organise the social forces in order to give the people a standard of living commensurate with the producing capacity of the country.

"Without waiting for the next general election a questionnaire would doubtless show that every member in both Houses of the State Legislature would declare with unquestionable sincerity that he would welcome the disappearance of poverty, not only from Western Australia, but from the world. So far the wishes of the convenors of the Subiaco meeting will be found to have been met; Parliament being composed wholly of members desiring the abolition of poverty. But the stubborn fact remains that poverty is not peculiar to this State or Commonwealth. It is common to Republican America and Nazi Germany; to Britain with its traditional form of party government and to Communist Russia with its 'dictatorship of the proletariat'; to France where the forms of parliamentary government still survive, and to Italy where the word of Mussolini is law. Legislators may justifiably join issue with the chairman of the Subiaco meeting on his view that the responsibility for poverty and its cure rests wholly with them. It is a vast and complex question, and without discounting the good intentions of the movers in the campaign it may be said that it is not 'up to' a handful of legislators alone. If the convenors of Tuesday night's meeting have any solution of the difficult problem they will be expected not to keep it up their sleeves, but to inform and instruct their parliamentary representatives, who are the instruments of the popular will. It is not sufficient to say, as one speaker did, that the continuance of poverty is due to the failure of members of Parliament to carry out the desires of the electors of Australia.

"Legislators and electors are at one in desiring that poverty be abolished; and if it could be done by a stroke of the pen poverty would, no doubt, disappear forthwith. But if the questionnaire went a step further and asked by what means the desire of electors and legislators could be translated into practical effect the majority, if they replied honestly, would admit that they did not know. No one with a spark of decency in his composition could fail to deplore the fact that a considerable percentage of every community endures an insufficiency of the necessities of life. In many instances the deficiency is a grave one; but no useful purpose is served by presenting a nebulous case and making impracticable demands on politicians. If the sincerity of such procedure is not to be impugned it may certainly be questioned on the ground of common sense."

Mr. James Replies

A brief rejoinder appeared in the *West Australian* the following day from a well known Perth citizen, Mr. V. James (James taxi services and taxi-planes), as follows:—

"I cannot agree that members of the public should instruct members of Parliament in the necessary technique for the abolition of poverty. If the Government of the day decides to build a railway or a reservoir, it does not ask the public for technical guidance; instead it goes to the experts. When the present Federal Government appointed the Royal Commission on Banking, it did not ask the public to choose the personnel, but went to the banking experts.

"If the present Government is desirous of solving the mystery of how to abolish poverty, let it make inquiries into why there is prosperity in peace time. If we can be prosperous when we are about to die, surely we can be prosperous when we desire to stay alive.

"I have before me an article which states that the total amount of money in Australia (notes and coins) is approximately £55,000,000.

Of this, there are about £20,000,000 in the banks; the rest is in the tills and pockets of the public. But, strange to relate, the bank deposits are not shown as £20,000,000, but as the colossal figure of £567,000,000, consisting of £343,000,000 in the cheque paying banks, and £224,000,000 in the savings banks. How then does this come about? If the present Government or any other Government can solve this, they can also solve the problem of how to abolish poverty. If they cannot solve it, then they have no light to represent that they are 'a Government for the people, by the people.'"

PROFESSOR MURDOCH CASTIGATES THE "WEST AUSTRALIAN"

On June 26 Professor Walter Murdoch, of Perth University, answered the *West Australian's* attack at considerable length. The Professor wrote:—

"I deeply sympathise (as the Walrus said) with your remarks on the Abolition of Poverty campaign lately launched in our midst; but I still more deeply disagree with them.

"You are doubtless perfectly right in asserting that every politician wishes for the abolition of poverty (though some, I fancy, desire it a little more ardently than others). Politicians of all parties will doubtless say to the campaigners, with great affability and possibly with sincerity, 'My dear, good, well-meaning people, why address these remarks to me? Of course I am with you heart

DEATH—OR—?

Germany's official statistics show that 19,000 Germans commit suicide rather than face life in the Nazi State.

During the first five weeks of this present year there were no fewer than 581 suicides in a group of 57 of Germany's big towns. Every day throughout Germany, 52 Germans take their own lives, and most of these are between the ages of 15 and 25.

In Great Britain only about 6000 a year commit suicide . . . ONLY!

—**"Social Credit."**

and soul; I should simply love to see you all prosperous and comfortable and happy. I grieve for the poor all day long; by night my pillow is bedewed with tears of compassion for their misery; but—what can I do? Australia is not the only country that is poor; all the world is in the same boat. The subject of finance is so vast and tangled and complex that, with the best will in the world, I can do nothing for you—except, of course, sympathise. My sympathy you have; yes, in enormous quantities! Something like this politicians of all parties will be willing to say; and it is, I regret to notice, pretty much what you yourself have said. You are kind enough to add that you do not 'discount the good intentions of the movers in the campaign.' (You and I know very well that in a controversy, to call your opponent well intentioned is exactly the same as calling him half-witted.) You end on a less generous note: 'If the sincerity of such procedure is not to be impugned it may certainly be questioned on the ground of commonsense.'

"As to its sincerity: I am not one of the 'movers in the campaign'—though I shall always be proud to serve in their ranks in any capacity 'for which I am fitted—but I know one or two of them, and I know what heavy personal sacrifices they are making for the cause; such sacrifices as men do not make for a cause they do not believe in. I think you may take their sincerity for granted. And fall back on the other alter-

native, accusing them of sinning against common sense.

"A Way Out of an Absurd System"

"This is where I most profoundly disagree. I think the campaign is an eminently sensible project. What is against common sense is to acquiesce in the present preposterous management of our affairs, whereby the more wealth we learn to produce the more does poverty increase. What is against common sense is to suggest that mankind cannot find a way out of an absurd system which mankind has devised. What is against common sense is to ask the uninstructed public, a body of amateurs, to name the remedy before it may venture to protest. What is against common sense is to say, as you have practically said, that the politicians are not the persons who should be called upon to seek the remedy. If it is not the duty of politicians to seek, with all their energy and ability, the common welfare, what in the name of common sense are politicians for? What do we send them to Parliament for?—to twiddle their thumbs?"

"You cannot have it both ways. When we suggest remedies you reproach us with being ignorant amateurs rushing in where the experts fear to tread; when we humbly accept the rebuke and say that we are prepared to leave it to the experts to say what is the best remedy, you reproach us with not having a remedy up our sleeves. There seems to be no pleasing you.

"If what you mean is that the politicians are not responsible because it is the financiers who really hold our social welfare in the hollow of their hands—well, that may be true; in which case it will be well to face the fact that we are the slaves of high finance, and that the word 'democracy' is a mockery. That slavery will be endured for a time; in the end, a way out will be found, but it will not be a way, which you or I can contemplate with equanimity. It will be a way from which it is your duty, and mine, and the duty of all men of good will, to seek to save Australia.

"If We Are a Real Democracy . . ."

"But if we are a real democracy, in any genuine sense of the term, we have to turn our political power into economic power. Our politicians must politely but firmly inform the financial experts that they are the servants and not the masters of the country. They must assemble a competent body of such experts, and say to them, 'Here is an evil which, it is obvious to the meanest intelligence, is a preventable evil; and which must and shall be prevented. At least half a dozen remedies have been suggested by economists who deserve attention. Your job is to decide which of these suggested remedies is, on the whole, the best. If, at the end of a reasonable time, you come to us and tell us that there is no remedy for this intolerable state of affairs, we shall—with apologies for having mistaken you for experts—show you to the door, and call in some other persons better fitted for the task.' This, as I understand it, is the objective of the present campaign; to tell the politicians, 'in straight-flung words and few,' that our patience is wearing thin, and that they must cease fooling with trivial questions (such as whether wild flowers may or may not be picked within a 50-mile radius of the city) and concentrate all they have of vigour and intelligence on the solution of the problem which circumstances have made the most urgent of our

time. I cannot for the life of me see that there is anything in this demand opposed to common sense.

"Sir E. D. Simon, in a recent address, revealed the facts that in a town whose conditions he had investigated, the children of hundreds of unemployed families got no milk whatever; that no child of an unemployed family got more than half the milk a child ought to have; that the retail price of milk was 2/- a gallon, nobody being allowed to retail it at a lower price; and that surplus milk was sold to the manufacturers of umbrella handles at 4d per gallon. Farmers in the neighbourhood, he found, were anxious to produce more milk, but could find no market. The people were bewildered, 'quite unable to understand why the farmers should not be able to find an outlet for all the milk they were able to produce, nor why milk for umbrella handles should be provided literally at one-sixth the price which they had to pay for milk for their under-nourished children.' What most surprised Sir E. D. Simon was 'the moderation with which these extraordinary and (to them) unintelligible facts were received.'

"That is in England; but we all know perfectly well that if we keep our eyes open we shall see on all sides of us, in Australia and in every other country, similar preposterous facts. And, great and admirable as the 'moderation' of our people is, it must not be expected to last forever. They are bound to grow tired of being told that the subject is a vast and complex one; also that it is an international problem and cannot be solved by any one country—with the implication that we can do nothing about it until Czechoslovakia and Kamchatka have made a move in the matter.

Ideas About Monetary Policy

"The International Labor Organisation, in its latest bulletin,

remarks that 'perhaps the most outstanding lesson of the slump is to be found in the profound change which it has produced in ideas about monetary policy. In this field more than in any other lies the key to economic prosperity and social progress.' One does not need to be an expert to see that this is true. Such recovery as we are witnessing at present is obviously due, in the main, to the purchasing power supplied to the people by the vast rearmament schemes of the nations. When the nations call a halt in the matter of rearmament (if they ever do) there is likely to be a far worse depression than the last unless we do one of two things. We may, in the first place, start a war; in war, as everyone knows, purchasing power is distributed generously; the floodgates of credit are opened wide; money flows like water—or like blood. Alternatively, we may direct our governments to provide in peacetime the purchasing power, which they have no difficulty in providing in wartime. This seems to me—and, I trust, to you when you think it over the preferable alternative: to say to our rulers, 'this is the thing you have got to do. How you are to do it we do not presume to say; we are not your technical advisers, therefore we leave the technique to you to discover by the best means at your disposal. We know that the thing can be done; and we require you to do it. We warn you that we shall not be content with promises; promises are readily given, and readily forgotten. We are going to watch you, lest you forget, lest you forget.'

"That is what the leaders of the campaign, if I interpret their meaning correctly, intend that the people of Australia shall say with united voice to the politicians of Australia. I am quite unable to see that there is anything contrary to common sense in the supposition that such a word of warning, so spoken, will have a stimulating effect on the political conscience."

POVERTY, NOT IGNORANCE, IS CAUSE OF BAD DIET, SAYS SIR JOHN ORR

What Are We Going to Do About It? He Asks

The article below is the text of a broadcast delivered in England some weeks ago by Sir John Orr, Britain's foremost nutrition expert. Readers will remember the sensation caused last year when Sir John published his book, "Food, Health and Income," in the foreword to which appeared the statement that "a diet completely adequate for health, according to modern standards, is reached at an income level above that of 50 per cent, of the population."

In reading what Sir John has to say below, readers will remember that the prices he quotes are English prices, which must be increased considerably to be made applicable to conditions and prices in Australia.

During the last two years or so, to measure diets and tell how far they are deficient for health.

As an example of the kind of diet on this new standard, let us take the diet for a child of six to seven years of age: One and two-thirds pints of milk; one egg; 1 oz. meat or fish, or liver or cheese; 3 oz. vegetables like lettuce, spinach or cabbage; 5 oz. potatoes and other root vegetables, such as carrots; and, in addition, some fresh fruit or vegetables eaten raw. This supplies about two-thirds of the energy required, and the remaining one-third can be made up with bread and butter and other cereals, such as porridge.

Of course, it is not intended that every child must adhere strictly to that schedule. This is only an example of the kind of diet needed. But any diet fully adequate for health would contain the same high proportion of natural foodstuffs—fruit and vegetables and animal products such as milk and eggs.

Let us now apply this standard to the diets in common use. Last year a group of investigators,

What diet contains sufficient vitamins and minerals to maintain health? We have now an authoritative statement on this. In 1935 the League of Nations set up an International Committee to draw up a statement of food requirements. That statement has been approved by the leading scientific and medical authorities, such as, for example, the Medical Research Council of Great Britain.

What is the Right Diet?

We have now a standard we can work to. We have a yardstick



SIR HENRY GULLETT AND NATIONAL INSURANCE

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—Some extraordinary claims are being made by the advocates of national insurance, and it is probable that no one has shown such sublime faith in it or such utter disregard of its inevitable consequences as Sir Henry Gullett, who until recently was Minister in Charge of Trade Treaties in the Commonwealth Government.

According to the *Argus* of June 23, he told the ladies of the Australian Women's National League that (1) the report of the British expert offered a new dignity to Australian workers; (2) if it was developed sympathetically it would end the dread of seasons of slackness in employment and even of periods of depression; (3) it pointed the way to the removal of a degrading dole; (4) the plan would enable men and women who are forced out of employment to maintain their credit temporarily; (5) it would prevent the sacrifice of equity in homes and of household effects that were partly paid for; (6) it would put an end to the exploitation of workers whose unemployment relief tax payments are used largely for other purposes.

After this recitation of the supposed glories of what would really be an outrageous fraud in the interests of the private money monopoly, Sir Henry turned to the prospects of the forthcoming elections and finished with this: "It is not reasonable to replace the Lyons Ministry merely because it has had two terms of office. That would be to change from extraordinary prosperity to doubt and uncertainty."

Now, Sir Henry is a man of considerable experience, and although titles are not everything ("Titles, the servile courtier's lean reward; sometimes the pay of virtue, but more often the hire which greatness gives to slaves and scoundrels."—Scene 1, Act 2, of "Jane Shore," by Rowe) he can claim to have occupied some of the highest positions in the land, to have moved during the past 20 years in circles which are usually described as "the best," and to have found a place for his name on the Honours List. This being so, we have the right to assume that he understood the meaning of the words he used and that he meant what he said. Therefore we should consider what he did say to the ladies of East Malvern as recorded above.

A Question of Dignity

The first claim he made was that "the report of the British expert offered a new dignity to Australian workers." The truth of this assertion depends, of course, upon our conception of the word "dignity," and evidently Sir Henry has a meaning of his own for it. By no stretch of the imagination could the term be appropriately applied to the state of a man whose wages have been docked or who gets 15/- a week in lieu of wages. There was absolutely nothing in the report that could possibly render the position of the worker more dignified, but there was a great deal that would render him more subservient than ever to the controllers of the private money monopoly whose interests Sir Henry seems bent on serving. The worker would get no increase in income, but would have access to a smaller quantity of goods, for after the compulsory deduction had been made by his employer he would receive less in his pay envelope. Not only would he be worse off immediately, but even if his employment continued his prospects would be a life of tedious toil at a small wage with penury staring him in the face for his old age. The worker must be given a greater share of production whether the goods are produced by manual effort or by the use of machinery and solar energy. If he is not given a greater share, then industry must collapse, and he cannot get that greater share by submitting to pay

reductions, heavier taxation, and a higher cost of living; and all the tea-party flapdoodle which Sir Henry is capable of exuding will not alter the solid fact that these are what national insurance stands for.

"Sympathetic" Development

Claim number 2: "If it is developed sympathetically it will end the dread of seasons of slackness in employment and even of periods of depression." This suggests that the greatest need is sympathy, but all the sympathy in the world cannot increase the benefits unless one of two things happens—either the payments are increased or the prices are reduced. Under this precious idea, however, the reverse would be the case—the payments would be reduced and the prices increased!

When the community realises the truth of the situation their dread of the future will be intensified, particularly when they remember that a financial emergency has only to be precipitated for the Government to say it cannot pay and to impose crucifying reductions in the starvation standards. As a matter of plain fact, it is not possible for the people of Australia to be freed from the dread of anything while the nation's finances are under private control, and Sir Henry knows it. Here again he needs to be reminded that the dread he speaks of can be removed only by giving adequate incomes to the people whether their labour is wanted or not, and that it is his business to be demanding this in Parliament instead of talking rubbish to leisured ladies.

Doles and Dividends

Claim number 3: "It pointed the way to the removal of a degrading dole." Why the word "degrading" is associated with the term "dole" is more than I can understand, especially when it is never associated with legacies or dividends. In what way would the collection of a piece of paper from a government insurance office be less degrading than the collection of a piece of paper from a government sustenance office? Both would be handed over because the recipient was out of employment, and both would represent a tax on the general community's all-too-limited supply of funds.

And if the acceptance of a piece of paper from the sustenance office is degrading simply because it is necessary in consequence of unemployment, why do we not call the acceptance of a piece of dividend paper degrading to the unemployed members of high society who do nothing to "earn" what they receive? Under existing methods, dividends are just as much a tax on the community as the payments to the unemployed through the sustenance system.

Please permit me to make it clear that I am in no way opposed to the receipt of dividends. I am in favour of them for everybody. In this letter I am merely saying that if sustenance payments are degrading because the recipients have not worked for them, then dividend payments from industry are also degrading to the recipients who have not "worked" for them. The truth is that the only part that is degrading is the foolish distinction made by the privileged section between the two. Workers must get dividends, not doles, and unless Sir Henry Gullett is willing to demand them in Parliament he should be replaced.

Sir Henry Has No Solution

Before the last Federal election I listened to Sir Henry speak at the Tooronga Hall. One of his opponents on that occasion was a Douglas Credit Candidate. Sir Henry made no attempt whatever to meet the

arguments of his opponent, but relied on ridicule, just as he is seeking to do again now in regard to Mr. Lang, who is one of the very few men the bankers have not been able to buy.

On that occasion I put the following question: "If we continue to use machinery, and if the machinery continues to displace labour, and if the men displaced have their incomes cancelled, how are we to dispose of the products of the machines unless we adopt some new method of distributing money to the community?" Sir Henry admitted that it was an important question needing careful consideration, but up to that time he had not gone into it. His recent remarks indicate that he is still hopelessly ignorant on that important aspect, but since the Federation of Chambers of Commerce in the British Empire has now publicly acknowledged that the root problem of Empire development is the people's lack of money, perhaps it will soon become more respectable to talk about it and to think about it.

Maintaining Credit of Unemployed

Claim number 4: "The plan would enable men and women who are forced out of employment to maintain their credit temporarily." The maintenance of credit must be

"THE CHAIR WILL NOT DEMAND AN APOLOGY—"

In the Federal House on Friday, when a protest was made against a reference to the people of a New South Wales electorate as "undesirable," the Speaker is reported to have said: "The chair will not demand an apology or a withdrawal for a reflection upon electors." The remark was greeted with laughter.

The people's servants laugh at their masters. And the masters of such servants deserve to be the butt of their jokes.

a much more simple matter than we have hitherto suspected, but when we consider the position of a man with a wife and five children we are forced to the conclusion that Sir Henry once again spoke without sufficient thought. Such a man on the basic wage would be getting £3/15/- a week, and on that princely sum he and his wife would have to go almost in rags in order to pay rent and obtain necessities for the children. Should he become unemployed his income would immediately drop from £3/15/- to £2/5/-, but the needs of his family would remain the same. What a splendid margin he would have on which to maintain his credit! And how much more credit-worthy when regard is had to the fact that for 18 weeks of the year even the £2/5/- would be withheld. Anyone would think we were suffering from a famine of food and materials or that the productivity of the earth had dried up, but the only famine is of figures and pieces of paper—a famine which the same Sir Henry is trying to perpetuate. It is true that he said they could maintain their credit temporarily, so that even if a man went up the spout five minutes after becoming unemployed Sir Henry can still claim that he was right.

Preserving Equities

Claim number 5: "It will prevent the sacrifice of equity in homes and of household effects that are partly paid for." The only way in which equities can be maintained and household effects retained is by payment of the amounts due to the vendors, and it is surprising news to me that what was difficult to do on the basic wage could be continued when the income is only three-fifths of the basic wage, and even that for only eight months of the year.

National insurance did not save

the equities and household effects of the millions in England who have suffered so acutely ever since Montagu Norman became Governor of the Bank of England in 1920, and it is equally certain that the benefits proposed under national insurance in Australia will not be sufficient for food requirements, much less for payments on fixed commitments otherwise.

Make no mistake, national insurance is a delusion. The conditions in England prove it. Sir John Orr, of the Aberdeen University, has shown that half the population in Britain is underfed, despite the alleged "benefits" of national insurance. Regarding employment, the Bishop of Chichester said this: "The contrast between wealth and poverty will be more keenly felt than ever if the splendours of the Coronation are allowed to grow so lavishly while the unemployed continue to be neglected." And yet they have the alleged "benefits" of national insurance.

Ending Exploitation

Claim number 6: "It will put an end to the exploitation of workers whose unemployment relief tax payments are used largely for other purposes." Not only will it not put an end to the exploitation of workers, but it will actually be the beginning of additional and more sinister exploitation. Through higher cost of living to meet the employers' payments, and higher taxation to meet the Government's share, the worker will not only have less to spend but what he does spend will purchase less. It will also mean that a smaller and smaller quantity of money will be distributed in the form of wages, while an increasing number of persons will be forced to depend on insurance "benefits" for their subsistence. Thus we must have an ever-rising proportion trying to escape starvation on an income equal to only one-fifth of the bread-line standard. If that will not constitute exploitation then the dictionaries do not give the correct meaning of the word.

Never has the community at large obtained any of the benefits of mechanisation and the utilisation of solar energy. Whatever benefits have been distributed have gone to certain employers and shareholders, but all the disbenefits in the form of unemployment and resulting destitution have been made the care of the long-suffering and defrauded people at large.

Under national insurance the competition for jobs will be keener than ever, with its inevitable lowering of wages and living standards, and as the demand for labour diminishes we will see an increasing majority of our fellow citizens regimented down to a standard equivalent to 15/- a week. Compare that prospect with the fact that on the basis of actual production everyone could have a standard equivalent to £10 a week. But Sir Henry calmly tells the girls of the A.W.N.L. that this will be the end of exploitation! Perhaps it will, for surely there must be a limit to what the people of Australia will meekly submit to in the way of fraud and needless suffering.

"Extraordinary Prosperity"

After making these remarkable claims Sir Henry went on to say that if we had a change of government it would be a change from extraordinary prosperity to doubt and uncertainty.

If we are in such a state of extraordinary prosperity, and this wonderful condition can be maintained only by the return of the present regime, why the need for the much-vaunted insurance against the loss of prosperity? And if this blessed insurance will provide such an in-

fallible guarantee against every untoward contingency, why be concerned about the possibility of a change of Government? It is obvious that one must cancel the other. In any case, Sir Henry knows quite well that this loose talk about extraordinary prosperity is misleading and untrue. In the light of such humbugging twaddle from a former Minister of the Crown it is not surprising that conditions of living have become so alarming and the people so increasingly restive. It also furnishes evidence of the wisdom of the campaign to restore to the electors control of Parliaments by controlling the men who represent them there. It is high time we held the elected members personally responsible for results, and assessed their value on that basis. Sir Henry should therefore be informed that on the only basis that really counts he has been a failure, and that unless he changes his attitude and works to have poverty removed by the distribution of our production to all Australian citizens he will be replaced by a man who will do it.—Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

LETTER TO EDITOR

More About Battleships

The letter signed "Piecrust," in your issue of June 25, was very interesting. The greatest aspect of the Australian battleship business, however, has been kept well in the background by certain parties, is forgotten by many people, and is quite unknown to the generation that has grown up since 1914-18, and that is that the Australian navy saved all the coastal cities of Australia, and New Zealand, from destruction by German warships during the Great War. Only for the fact that H.M.A.S. "Australia" was kept in these waters by the Australian Government, most Australasian coastal cities would have got what Madras got from the "Emden," only on a larger scale.

The British idea was that, if war broke out, every available warship should be gathered around Britain. The battleship bought (on tick) by the New Zealand Government, and presented to Britain, the "New Zealand," was in the North Sea while the German raiders were cruising around off New Zealand. The "Australia" was out looking for them, and if she had found them would have blown them out of the water with her heavier guns, and they knew it. They kept well out of her way. So helpless would Australia and New Zealand have been, if the "Australia" had also been in the North Sea, and the seriousness of the position had been so well realised by the New Zealand Government, that after the war they sent a sincere letter of thanks to the Australian government for the great help the Australian navy had been in saving their cities from destruction.

One fact stands out from that impressive lesson, and that is, if we Australians are to be defended in any war into which we are pulled at the tail of Britain, we must defend ourselves. All this talk of what we owe to Great Britain for protecting us is so much bunkum. In any war that Britannia gets mixed up in through the nefarious schemes of her financiers, it will take her all her time to protect herself, and the worried old girl knows it. Then again, two of the children have been very impudent to Mum lately. They reckon that the secret junta that controls King and Parliament in London isn't going to control them, if they can help it.

It is no good blinking facts, and the sooner we Australians get busy, use our national credit and prepare our own defences, the sooner we will feel a little more secure. This writer is an Australian, and is not anti-British. He has lived in their land and likes most of them. The ones he doesn't like are those that the decent Britishers themselves do not like, but are forced to put up with.

"WILD WARRIGAL."

Sydney.

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AUNT BERTHA IN ENGLAND

My dear Little Tots, —

It is so long since you heard from me that I felt I must write again because I have been seeing the sights of London. I have seen the Waxworks at the Chamber of Horrors and met all our Australian politicians. I met our dear Joe in the Strand, and he seemed very depressed, and I asked him what was his trouble. He told me that he was very distressed because all the English statesmen he had met wore an Old School Tie and had been educated at Eatin' and Drinkin', or some such places, and he didn't know what they meant by talking that way. So I told him that what he referred to was probably one of the Great Public Schools, such as Eton or Harrow—and he said that might be it, and I said that as far as the Old School Tie was concerned I had a better one at my hotel which contained the colours of the Melbourne Working Men's College, and he was welcome to it, and Joe said, "Tush! What's the use of that to me? I thought everything was alright when I came here as Prime Minister of Australia, but Stan Bruce has gone and told everyone that it's a far, far better thing to row in the Cambridge eight, so where am I?"

And I said that Stan couldn't have said such a thing, and Joe said that Stan did say it and the Melbourne *Sun* reported it. So I said that Stan probably meant that he made a better job of his rowing in the Cambridge crew than he did of his conduct of the Prime Ministership, and Joe said there might be something in that but what did that profit him if he lost his seat at the next elections?

So I cheered poor old Joe up by telling him not to worry about that, because all he had done was to desert his party, and Billy Hughes didn't do any more than that; but still, somebody gave him twenty-five thousand quid, and the same thing might happen to Joe. And Joe said that might solve all his problems, but even a good job on the Interstate Commission or something like that would do him. And I said if there was such a thing as gratitude from monied interests or honour among thieves then he would be alright; although he wasn't a thief himself, his main supporters were, and then Joe was very gloomy and said that a Mr. Murphy, who was a prominent Tammany Hall politician, had said: "If there's honour among thieves then onions is fruit." So I left him.

Then I went to a meeting of Mr. Forgan Smith's. On the way I got held up by a procession of soldiers. They were all dressed in kilts and there was what they call a pipe band, which seemed to be engaged in strangling half a dozen cats. So I asked a person in the crowd what they were doing and he said that they were playing "MacCrimmon's Lament." And I said that I didn't know what anyone had done to MacCrimmon, but he must have been shockingly treated if he "was compelled to lament that way. An old gentleman in the crowd then told me that the MacCrimmon was the piper of the House of McLeod, and he composed his lament and was then killed, and I said I wasn't surprised. And I said that it was pretty hard that we in Australia should make a noise about the Italians using poison gas in Abyssinia while at the same time we allowed the Victorian Scottish Regiment to be equipped with bagpipes just like those we were hear-

ing, and the old gentleman flew into a terrible rage and said all sorts of things which I couldn't understand, and wouldn't repeat except that I heard something that sounded like "Sassanach hussy." And I was informed by a Cockney gentleman in the crowd that "the old cove is swearin' at yer in Garlic and yer better nick orf." So I nicked off, but you can understand why it left a nasty taste in my mouth. I got to Mr. Forgan Smith's meeting all right, and he was addressing the gathering on the subject of the menace to Australia of the influx of Southern Europeans. I have heard since that he tried to put over the same bunkum when he landed in Australia the other day. I saw it in the *Herald*. Anyway, I heckled him bonzer.

He started off by saying that he was one of the leaders of Australian thought and action, and I interjected and said no one would have thought it from the way the Queensland people treated his views on the marketing referendum, and the chairman said, "Silence!" in a loud voice. Then Forgan said that the Southern Europeans worked too hard and I said that not everyone in the community could be a member of Parliament and the chairman said, "Silence!" in a louder voice. And then Forgan said that our standards of living were being endangered, so I got up and said, "What are you talking about? A married man with six children in Melbourne gets about two pounds a week to keep the lot of them while he's out of work. If a Southern European can produce any danger to that standard of living he's a better man than Houdini. What's the trouble with you Smiths, anyway? There's a bloke who runs a paper called *Smith's Weekly* and he talks the same sort of bunk as this. You scream out for population and when you get it you start to scream about something else." Then at a nod from the chairman a policeman approached me and asked me would I go out quietly or must he kick me to death and I went out quietly.

I went from there to Westminster Abbey, where I thought I might indulge in some quiet reflection. I had been intending to go there for a long time, because I have always thought that the grand old traditions of the English race would be preserved there. I nearly wept, dears, as I approached the hallowed pile. You can have no idea of the beautiful thoughts that ran through my mind as I viewed that venerable edifice. I reflected on the fact that here the monks of old worshipped their God and, thought I, here today we, with the grand old traditions of the race, still worship the same God. But I was wrong, little children, I was wrong. It wasn't quite the same God, because the bloke outside said to me: "You pay two bob at the turnstile to get in." And I said: "I can be admitted free, because I'm a worshipper." And he said: "So's your old man." And I told him very definitely that my father was dead and that he had no right to speak that way to an unprotected girl. And he said that he was sorry and that if I wanted to get in for nix I had better come on Sunday when Canon Whacko would be preaching. And I asked if he would preach about the moneychangers in the temple. And he said he didn't know about that, but if I didn't have the two bob I had better nick off. So I nicked off.

My experiences have been too much for me, dears, and I fear that it may be a long time before you hear from me again, but you can rest assured, that, long before your financial position has improved, and many years before our Australian people take a wake up to the fact that they are bigger slaves than ever their ancestors were, and that they are subjected to a savager tyranny than ever were the serfs under the old Feudal system,

You will again hear from
Your very loving

AUNT BERTHA.

POVERTY, NOT IGNORANCE—

(Continued from page 5.)

using all the information available, estimated the consumption of the various foodstuffs in different classes of the community arranged according to family income.

The Government Advisory Committee on Nutrition examined them and reported to the Minister of Health that no better estimates could have been made from the available data, and that the conclusions as to the broad trend of consumption of different articles of food appear likely to be in accordance with the facts.

A Matter of Income

These estimates show that, as family income falls, the consumption of the natural foodstuffs of special health value, such as fruit and vegetables, eggs, milk, butter and cheese, decreases.

The diet of roughly the poorer half of the population is not up to the standard required for health and the diet of the poorest five million is so bad that it is deficient in nearly every respect, and this five million contains more than 25 per cent. of the children in the country. That is the best picture we have of where we stand today.

With this new standard, which the Government Committee approves as being necessary for health, we can now consider the vexed question of whether faulty diet is due to ignorance or to poverty.

A diet on this standard for a child at present prices would cost between six and seven shillings a week; for a pregnant or nursing mother, nine and ten shillings. If we take a family of a nursing mother with four other children,

population, arranged according to income, we find that, as income falls and diet becomes worse, the incidence of disease like rickets increases. The rate of growth of children slows down.

The children of the poorest class of 14 years of age are two or three inches shorter than the children of the well-to-do classes. Infant mortality is higher. In the wealthier classes it is only about 30 per thousand. Among the poorest five million, it is over 100 per thousand, and in the poorest slums it reaches nearly 150.

Of course, there are other factors besides food, which affect health. Of these, the most important is housing. Bad housing causes both physical and moral deterioration. But there is reason to believe that the most important factor in the improvement of health is the improvement in the national dietary.

The Oslo Breakfast

Let us now see where we stand compared with other countries. If we take infant mortality rate as an indication of national physique, we find that some nations have been improving faster than we have.

Thus, for example, the infant mortality rates of Norway, Sweden, Holland and the Dominions of Australia and New Zealand are lower than what it is in England. The rate for these countries is between 30 and 50 per thousand, compared with 57 for England and 82 for Scotland.

If we take not countries but towns, we get an indication of what can be done to improve national health and physique. Take Oslo, for example, where both housing and feeding have been rapidly improved. This is the town where they have the famous "Oslo Breakfast."

Every child in the town, rich or poor, can have at school a breakfast of protective foods which brings its diet up to near the new standard. The infant mortality rate in Oslo, which was 46 in 1931, is now down to 30, compared with 67 in London, 84 in Newcastle, and 102 in Glasgow.

On the whole, this country occupies an intermediate position—not so bad as the worst, but not so good as the best. It is a position, which gives no justification for complacency.

What Are We Going to do About It?

The important question now is, what are we doing about it? Of course, we are already doing a good deal. Public health authorities are providing food, free or at low cost, for the most necessitous cases among mothers and children.

Free or cheap meals are provided at many schools, and the milk-in-schools scheme enables children to get a third of a pint of milk at half cost. These measures help to take the worst edge off poverty, and prevent the grosser forms of malnutrition, which were prevalent among the poor 25 years ago.

But the amount of food given does not bring the diet up to the standard. Instead of a third of a pint of milk, a child should have five times that amount. These measures, though of very great value, can be regarded as merely emergency measures.

Public opinion has advanced so far that the Government has become interested. Their Advisory Committee on Nutrition has recommended that every pregnant or nursing mother should have two pints of milk a day, and every child a pint and a half. This would lead to a great improvement in the diet of the poor.

But the really important recommendation is one, which, if carried out, would foreshadow a new national food policy. They recommend that, in impending legislation dealing with the national milk supply the primary objective of the Government should be to ensure that these amounts of milk should be brought within the purchasing power of the poorest.

If this is done for milk, it will

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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AND NOT A WORD ABOUT JAPAN!

"Prices at the closing auctions, although receding slightly from the highest point, were still at acceptable levels. . . . There seems good reason for regarding the position to-day as thoroughly sound and the future with confidence.

"For such satisfactory results we have a good deal to thank Great Britain, but increased competition from France and other Continental countries was also forthcoming. The United States has again become one of this country's important wool customers."

—K. M. Niall, chairman, at annual meeting of Goldsbrough. Mort. June 25.

the cost of the food for the family, allowing only five or six shillings a week for the father, amounts to over two pounds a week.

Further, the charges for rent, fuel, clothing and other necessities have to be met. Mr. Seebohm Rowntree, who has just completed a survey on the cost of living, estimates that, on the minimum standard, these charges other than food amount to thirty-three and sixpence per week.

The lowest income, therefore, on which a family of this size can afford a diet adequate for health would be roughly about three pounds fifteen shillings a week. We can safely say that less than half of the families of this size have an income of that amount.

"Make It Possible to Get the Foodstuffs"

A mother with a large family is a most valuable member of the community. If she has a small income, she has a task, which would baffle the Chancellor of the Exchequer. No wonder, in so many cases, she looked harassed, worried and prematurely old.

Before lecturing her about her ignorance and carelessness and bad cooking, we should make it possible for her to get the foodstuffs she needs to give herself and her children a diet, which will keep them healthy.

When we compare the health and physique of different classes of the

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ultimately be done for other foods of special health value, and then every family in the country, the poorest family in the worst slums, will be able to enjoy a diet fully adequate for health.

This would be a policy of justice and generosity, which would bring health and happiness to hundreds of thousands of poor families. It would be the dawn of a new era for the mothers of large families. It would lift the depression out of the depressed areas. It would constitute the greatest social reform of our age.

Further, it would be a policy of economic wisdom. There would be a great saving in the treatment of sickness. Money required would all be spent in our own country. It would bring prosperity to agriculture. It would bring increased trade to our shopkeepers. It would give us a great national asset, increased home production of food, and a healthier, happier people.

(Sir John's recommendation is that the essentials of health "should be brought within the purchasing power of the poorest." This can be done either by subsidising producers or by increasing the purchasing power of consumers—or both. But, as so often pointed out in these columns, to endeavour to do either by the process of taxation or by interest-bearing loans is self-defeating. The only practical method is for the government to issue the required money. — Ed.)

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

The Electors' CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH POVERTY

is simply what the title says. The People (you and I) appoint men from their midst, and pay them handsome salaries, to represent in Parliament that which they wish to be carried out. Parliament is the people's institution to enact their will. Undoubtedly, it is the will of the people that poverty be abolished from this land of abundance. This Campaign, which is being conducted in every State of the Commonwealth, is providing electors with the opportunity to convey to their parliamentary representatives their explicit instruction that it be the first business of Parliament to arrange that poverty be abolished. Politicians are servants of the people and must obey the commands and demands of the people.

Do you want poverty abolished? Do you wish to feel secure—free from the fear of economic need? Do you consider this to be the wish of a majority of our people? Do you realise that Parliament is the people's institution to enact their will? If your answer to these questions is Yes, then you have a bounden duty to yourself, to your dependents, and to posterity to give instructions to Parliament, through your own parliamentary representative, that it put all other law-making aside until poverty is banished from this land of plenty. This is your constitutional right; are you using this sacred right? Further, do you realise that you are a privileged person—that many, the great many of your fellow citizens have not your understanding, so that it is your further duty to enlighten them? It is your personal job. No organisation can do it. You have to be an organisation yourself. Gather your friends together and enlighten them—there is no difficulty in doing so—the idea is so simple. Get them to help you organise a meeting in your town or locality—to gather your fellow citizens together, in some way, so as to place before them the idea of the Campaign. Impress on your meeting the simplicity of the Campaign, and the seriousness of making it effective. You are bound to reap reward in contacting earnest helpers who will carry the work further afield. It will automatically spread from town to town and from locality to locality. Others, like yourself, will play their part, and keep the snowball rolling. But please realise that you must do this work your own self. Positively no organisation can do it for you. The U.E.A.

can only assist and act as coordinator. Wherever you are—in Connancorach or Toorak—you can be the whole show yourself. Don't hesitate—do it. The U.E.A. will supply you with literature and demand forms—and a specimen address if you wish. Time is fleeing—get busy.

What is Doing at Head Office?—It is hard to report a fraction of what is actually happening. Anyway, there is nothing spectacular until about July 8, and then things are going to happen. Melbourne will know there is a Campaign on from that date onwards. That the mayors, of the cities comprising Greater Melbourne are being personally interviewed is all that it is safe to report for the moment.

A Suggestion.—A head master of a suburban State school has intimated that he will devote his next holidays to touring the country in his car at his own expense, and will start the Campaign going in as many centres as he is able to visit. (Don't breathe it to the department, or he may be hanged.) But what a splendid suggestion to anyone who has a car and time at his disposal. Anyone in such a happy position, consider this very seriously. Your services are needed.

The Maranoa Electors—Non-Party-Political, Queensland, are conducting an independent Campaign.

The Riverina Electors—Non-Party - Political, New South Wales, are also conducting an independent Campaign. Don't wait for an organisation. Do it yourself, now. The U.E.A. will give you all the assistance within its power, and will do the coordinating when and where required.

Balaclava Electorate has formed a Central Council. Ten Central Groups are established and each Central Group will watch over, on an average, 12 sub-Groups.

Central Council, Head Office—As Groups become established they will have a representative attend Council at Head Office every fortnight. Their experience and suggestions will in this way be an important factor in the conducting of the Campaign.

Lockington—After being more or less inactive for some time pending the further organisation of the Bendigo Federal Electorate and of the State as a whole, the Lockington Group met at Dr. Vise's home on the 24th June to consider the appeal of the State Revenue Officer for funds. Members expressed complete approval of the steps being taken by the Central Executive to generate a mass demand and decided to give concrete support by levying themselves at 10/- per week for the next three months and to forward the resultant sum of £6/10/- to headquarters immediately.

diately. They hope to be able to obtain further donations from other supporters of the movement.

In order to have funds in hand to assist in the organisation of the Bendigo Federal Electorate when that is undertaken it was decided to collect a sum of at least £5 from the general public.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Local Objectives—The principal channel of publicity during recent weeks has been the Citizens' Forward Movement. Rev. C. D. Brock, as Vice-President of the Movement, is making a point of being on the platform and speaking at every public meeting arranged. The Movement is confining its activity to seven demands for the unemployed, every demand being physically possible and reasonable. These meetings have taken Rev. Brock into the four metropolitan Divisions. The speakers have been Rev. A. C. L. Saunders (President), Rev. C. D. Brock and Rev. G. T. Fitzgerald, Mr. Lacey (Leader of the Opposition), Messrs. Stephens, M.P.; Thompson, M.P.; T. Howard, M.P.; Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. McMullin and Mr. E. Yates.

Rev. C. D. Brock has on each occasion stressed the primary responsibility of the electors to support and press their members of Parliament and the need, (1) to demand results, and (2) to impress the members of Parliament that they are servants to do the will of the people and their will only. When this will eventually becomes manifest the members of Parliament; will be able to speak as men having authority, and the Minister for Employment will no longer be able to say to Mr. Stevens, M.P.—as he said recently in the House—that "he got on his nerves." Pressure politics is the best possible cure for this kind of "nerves" on the part of Ministers.

Queen Competition. - - What girl does not sigh to be a "Queen"? For that reason "Queen Competitions" are a never-failing source of interest and revenue to those who organise them or participate in them. A plan for such a Competition in South Australia is in process of development. The E.C. Executive have in mind the success that has followed similar efforts, especially in country towns, in the recent past. The idea of using this means of raising funds was suggested by one of the most active women workers. Since then it has been carried to the stage of preliminary discussions and arrangements with other organisations, which, even at this early stage, are almost certain to lend us their whole-hearted support. Through these organisations, which we expect to be able to name in the next issue, it is anticipated that no difficulty will be found in carrying this campaign into the country towns. By co-operating with the local Relief Committees, and sharing the proceeds with them, the appeal should be very wide and very successful.

Would all country readers please communicate with headquarters as soon as possible. This competition will be one way of achieving a certain amount of valuable publicity, besides raising the necessary funds to carry on.

Campaign Competition—Keep in mind the competition for signatures. There will be very nice trophies for this, and these will be on view at headquarters. There are sections for: (a) Greatest number of signatures from stated area; (b) highest percentage of signatures to electors in stated area; (c) greatest number of signatures obtained from any area; (d) greatest number of Associate Members.

In connection with the drive to obtain Associate Members, it is very gratifying to be able to report that Mr. A. R. Jacka, of

Devon Park, has in a few weeks sold 102 tickets. While wishing to appreciate Mr. Jacka's effort, we would be thrilled to see the man who can beat that.

Rally—On July 3 a combined Rally and Social will be held at H.Q. On this occasion we shall take the opportunity of saying farewell to the Rev. A. C. Stevens, one of Adelaide's most outspoken ministers, who will shortly be leaving this State for Victoria.

Peter Pan Party will be held on Saturday, July 10, at 3 p.m., at the Hanson Street Hall. Children and adults, 6d Donations accepted.

Concert, by pupils of Madame Callow and Miss Greta Callow, assisted by Mr. Howard Baurochse, to be held at Lady Coulton Hall, Y.W.C.A., Hindmarsh Square. Tickets, 1/2, from Office or Mr. Brock.

Women's Afternoon, July 14. Speakers: Miss Winter, of Y.W.C.A.: "Education for Leisure." Rev. C. D. Brock: "Electoral Campaign." Afternoon tea. Collection.

Since the upward trend of the cafeteria activities, more workers are needed. Please help those who are helping in this important domestic side of the work.

Those with tickets for the Concert are urged to sell as many as possible, for the sake of the performers and for the sake of the E.C.

WEST AUSTRALIA

The Campaign continues in a progressive manner. Reports from Groups continue to be encouraging—indeed a number of reports are excellent.

Group Jottings.
The Leederville-Mt. Hawthorn Group are holding their first public meeting on Wednesday, June 30, at 8 p.m., in the Old Municipal Chambers, Leederville. Mr. A. E. Ambrose and Miss G. Wynne will be the speakers. This group hopes to enroll additional campaigners for the more efficient servicing of their large area at the close of the meeting.

From Manjimup comes news of the distribution of No. 2 leaflets around Jardee, Yanmah, Manjimup and Dean Mill.

Pemberton is also continuing the good work; the loyalty of this group is something to be proud of.

M. V. Koolinda Branch—This Branch continues to break new ground and Mr. Dave Byers, Director for the Kimberley Division, reports activities at Sharks Bay, Port

Hedland, Broome, Derby, Marble Bar, the Sunday Island Mission and amongst the iron ore workers at Yampi Sound. Pressure politics are understood in Darwin; a previous administrator has been displaced by this method. Mr. Byers says, "When the Darwin folk want a thing done they demand it." Mr. Tom Quigley, of Wyndham, is doing a worthwhile job spreading the Campaign idea; this is an important centre. This report reveals the tremendous amount of activity on the part of the Director, and the Koolinda Branch deserves hearty congratulations.

Buckland Hill-Cottesloe Group have now completed their area with No. 1 leaflet and arrangements are in hand to commence with No. 2 leaflet. This Group is growing in numbers. Larger quarters will have to be found to cope with the attendance; this is good news and means progress. They are also placing some Liberty Banks to help headquarters finance the Secretariat activities.

The Balingup Group is now to concentrate on Greenbushes, Balingup and Mullalyup. Readers of these notes in these towns are asked to write to Mr. E. C. Quicke, Balingup, for information on the Campaign and to extend as much help as possible. This group is being organised on Secretariat lines.

The Lake Grace Wheatgrowers' Branch is pushing on with the Campaign and reports that at a meeting of the Zone Council a motion was carried "that the Campaign to Abolish Poverty to energetically supported." This is splendid news, town and country uniting in a grand campaign for results that count.

Broadcasting Fund. - - Donations to the above objective will be very acceptable. Forward donation to 31, Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth. We will use them to advantage. Listen in to 6AM and 6PM every Sunday night, 9-9.15 p.m.

The next Bridge Evening at headquarters July 12, 1937. You are invited.

Milk Board Problem

Beggarmaid, a cow owned by a Wiltshire farmer, has just completed a milk yield, which constitutes a world's record for a Short-horn. In the final twenty-four hours she gave 72 lb of milk, which brought her yield to 32,715 lb. in 357 days.

Farmers are fined for selling milk without a licence or at too cheap a price. This cow should be shot!

—Social Credit.

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