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Vol. 3. No. 33.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

SLUMS ALL OVER AUSTRALIA

*

The Profits of Oil Monopolies

*

AWAY WITH HOME WORK!

*

Sir H. Gullett and the Electoral Campaign

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(Continued on page 3.)

Slums Are All Over Australia Shocking Conditions At Shepparton "Sound Finance" is breeding a Race of Pariahs

As part of the campaign to de-lude us that we are all now as prosperous as we have any right to expect, there is a growing tendency on the part of U.A.P., politicians and the U.A.P. press to dismiss the plight of the destitute unemployed by insinuating that they are unemployable. The inference is that these unfortunate people are either medical or psychological cases, and that, instead of being discussed as part of a strictly economic problem, they should be relegated to what may be called the benevolent society section of our social life.

Nothing could be more cruel; nothing could be further from the truth. We still have, in their tens of thousands, families of ordinary, average citizens whose plight is as bad as it was five or six years ago. These families are to be found, not only in the slum areas of cities like Sydney and Melbourne; not only in the wheat areas of Western Australia (as witness the case we reported last week of George Elliott, "the man in the tower"); not only among the "seasonal" workers who inhabit the humpies of Charcoal Bend at Mildura—they are to be found over the length and breadth of Australia, in its most prosperous as well as in its poorest parts.

Two or three weeks ago our daily papers briefly reported that the members of the Victorian Slum Abolition Board had paid a visit to Shepparton, one of the most nourishing towns in Northern Victoria. To associate Shepparton with slums would probably be thought ridiculous by 99 per cent, of Victoria's citizens, yet here is what the Shepparton News had to say of what the inspection revealed:—

"Beyond the Wildest Flights of Imagination"

"The visit of the Slum Abolition Board has been an eye-opener, and it is safe to say that the vast majority of Shepparton citizens will be amazed at what has been revealed. In a dim kind of way they have known that humpies have existed on the riverbank, but that a bag shelter, 20 x 12, should be occupied by five male adults, one female adult and one female child close to the completion of school age is something that is beyond the wildest flights of imagination. This position is only supposed to be temporary while a bag shelter is being built next door for the woman and child, but it was the position that was found to exist at the time of the visit of the Slum Abolition Board."

You are asked to note particularly that the "remedy" for this almost inconceivable state of affairs was to be the building of a bag shelter next door for the woman and child!

Here are some further points from the inspection as detailed in the Shepparton News:—

The number of huts "has increased considerably, even during the last year or so."

In the first section of humpies visited, the Health Inspector's investigations "showed that in this cluster of mean, disreputable looking dwellings, 58 people existed, of whom approximately 29 were children. One group of six huts accommodated 19 people who were all related."

The next section visited had 38 people, many of whom were children. "Most of the small kiddies, despite the care given them by mothers just as loving, in many cases, as in the richest homes showed only too clearly that health must be affected by a lack of proper food, sanitation and clean water."

"Living Conditions Shockingly Bad"

The description of a better than average hut reads: "This tenement was 42 ft. by 20 ft., and comprised

three rooms for a couple and their five children. There was every indication that the place had been kept as clean as circumstances would permit, but it was draughty, and the rough walls and earthen floor, the poor lighting, absence of water supply, and the fact that some of the occupants slept in the kitchen only a foot or so from the food, made it a highly unsuitable place for little children to settle into their habits for life. As Mr. Barnett remarked later, the Board saw this place under ideal circumstances, and even then the living conditions were shockingly bad. During wet weather, and particularly after a flood, the place would be immeasurably worse."

Seven People Live in a Shed

But these conditions are not confined to outcasts on the fringe of the town. Here are some of the conditions revealed right in Shepparton itself:—

"Not far from the business centre there is a small and very old wooden shop, which, with the three rooms in the rear, is being used as a dwelling for four adults and two children. There are no doors save

A HINT FOR J. A. LYONS English newspapers arriving by this week's mail report a speech by their Prime Minister that should make our own green with envy. Mr. Chamberlain was discussing the "delicate" situation in Europe and, appealing to the people of England to keep cool, he likened the position to that of climbers on high mountains "when an incautious move or even a sudden loud exclamation may start an avalanche." How poor, after that classical effort, sounds our own Joe's exhortation that we should "keep out of the ring"! Our statesmen have still something to learn from the Mother Country.

the outside door, none of the windows will open, there is no bath and no stove."

"Other places seen by the Board include a concrete garage in which a chimney had been placed to convert it into a house for a family, and a four-roomed house in which four married couples and one child lived."

"In another part of the Archer Street area a man was found to be paying 7/6 weekly for a two-roomed house 21 ft. by 10 ft., in which were housed five adults and two children. Another case was a flat-roofed shed in which four adults and three children lived."

"Perhaps one of the most distressing cases of overcrowding was that of a lodging house in which 13 single men, two married couples and the owner were accommodated in a very old building of 13 rooms. These conditions were not confined to any one section of Shepparton, as the Board found in a comprehensive tour."

"Toorak Alley"

"Turning into 'Toorak Alley,' the visitors saw another line of river bank huts, and made a close inspection of one...this tin hut is divided into three rooms, the whole building being about 20 ft. by 30 ft. The family consists of a man, his wife and nine children, five

of whom are attending school, while the other four are not yet of school age. The wages coming into the home total only £2/10/- per week. A really creditable effort, despite the hopeless conditions, has been made to make this place neat and clean, but even the fowls clustered about the door seemed to have become imbued with the hopelessness and misery of the situation. The Board members were deeply moved by the conditions in this hut, one remarking as he came out of the building, 'We call ourselves Christians and civilised, yet we allow this sort of thing to go on.'

"In this section of the river bank from the river bridge north to the Borough boundary, 53 people are camped in 20 huts and shacks. There are 22 children among the number. A considerable number also camp further along the river in Shire territory."

A Tribute to U.A.P.-ism

And that is your flourishing Shepparton for you. And the picture of Shepparton is a picture of almost any and every town and settlement throughout the length and breadth of Australia. It is a picture of the country almost overburdened with the wealth of flocks and herds, of pastures and tillage; of the cities equipped with magnificent industrial plants; of everything at hand that mankind could possibly need for a healthy and happy life. And, in the midst of it all, despite the lies of those who seem to care for nothing and nobody but their own miserable selves, we have growing up amongst us a whole race of Untouchables. We have, all over the Commonwealth, as we have in Shepparton, men, women and children herded into Hessian huts, tin humpies or dilapidated shanties, with no comfort in the present and no hope in the future. We are rearing a generation of half-starved pariahs, and we are doing everything possible to make them without any vestige of moral values.

Read again that description of Toorak Alley—of the man, his wife

and nine children confined like cattle into a tin hut 20 x 30, and still making an heroic effort to live like Christians. "The wages coming into the home total only £2/10/- per week." Wages! And so that family will probably count to Companion of Honour Lyons as one of those whom he has so creditably re-absorbed into gainful employment! And it is for such feats as this that his Dame is haranguing the public to work themselves up again into the same fury of enthusiasm for her husband as they exhibited six years ago!

THE VAST MASS OF THE DESTITUTE UNEMPLOYED OF AUSTRALIA ARE NOT SHIFTLSS. THEY ARE NOT UNEMPLOYABLE. THEY ARE GOOD CITIZENS WHO ARE BEING ROBBED AND DESPOILED OF THEIR SHARE OF THE PLENTY, WHICH SURROUNDS US ON ALL SIDES. AND THEY COULD HAVE THEIR SHARE OF THAT PLENTY TOMORROW IF WE, AS VOTERS, INSISTED THAT OUR FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PUT ALL OTHER LAW-MAKING ASIDE UNTIL THEY ABOLISH POVERTY FROM EVERY HOLE AND CORNER OF AUSTRALIA.

BECAUSE WE HAVE THE GOODS TO PROVIDE FOR EVERYONE!

NO DIFFERENCE! "How can you offer to pay the same amount when you are unemployed as when you were working?" Mr. Registrar Friend asked a defendant at Clerkenwell County Court yesterday. Defendant—It makes no real difference to me. I get 30/- a week for working, and 29/- from the Labour Exchange when I don't. —London "Morning Post," June 2.

THE PROFITS OF THE OIL MONOPOLISTS

In our last issue, under the heading, "Some of Those 'Imperial' Interests for Which You May Be Asked to Fight," we gave some idea of the huge profits at present being raked off by the major "British" oil companies. In response to requests, we now set out particulars of the disclosed profits and dividends of the Royal Dutch, Shell, and Anglo-Iranian Oil Companies for the last three years. They are as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Company, 1934, 1935, 1936. Rows include Royal Dutch, Shell Transport, Anglo-Iranian with various profit and dividend figures.

In addition to the above, the Shell Co. last March distributed a capital bonus of £4,824,272 to its ordinary shareholders, representing one free share for every five already held, so that, of its 20 per cent, tax free dividend for the last year, 12½ per cent, was paid on the increased capital.

The Anglo-Iranian Co. has just capitalised from its reserves no less a sum than £6,712,500, representing a bonus issue to shareholders of one new share for every two already held. Incidentally, the Anglo-Iranian profit for the year was struck after paying to the Iranian Government royalties of £2,580,206.

The last reports of the Royal Dutch-Shell group disclose that they have a tanker fleet of 2,056,563 tons. Discussing new oil discoveries and developments, the directors refer particularly to exploration in New Guinea, "which" said the Economist (June 19), in discussing the reports, "is apparently to be the world's next oilfield." In this latter connection the attitude of the Australian Government of Australian applicants for permission to prospect for oil in New Guinea should be well worth watching.

MUCH AGAINST MY WILL

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

There comes to every man a time when he must repress his natural inclinations, tear himself reluctantly from his work, and take a holiday.

Such a time has come upon me now; I have tried in vain to avoid the stern necessity. But the die is cast. The sheets have gone to the wash and the missus has stopped the milk.

It is hard to leave work. Idleness is foreign to my nature. Even as a child I had to be dragged screaming from my lessons. It will be understood, therefore, that I am not going away for pleasure.

Labour is my only joy. Yet I owe it to the millions who depend on me for help and guidance to guard myself against the dangers of my besetting fault—overwork.

Further, it is always a wrench to part from my colleagues, though the sorrow of parting is tempered with sweetness. A lump, like an undigested rissole, rises in my throat as they creep up shyly to my desk, one by one, to ask if I have enough money, and whether I would like to borrow anything.

"Don't hesitate to send me a line, old man," they say, "if you should feel the need of a fiver or so."

There is an uplifting of the spirit, too, in the solemn ritual of farewell, when the father of the Union chapel, according to the age long custom of our craft, calls me in to give me his official blessing, and inquire after my present needs, and advise me to keep well wrapped up on cool evenings, and not to stay too long in the water, nor to speak to strange women on the parade.

It is hard, I say, to leave these friendly men, and my only compensation is that it will not be for long.

What kind of holiday, I asked myself, will best fulfill this purpose? Shall I go among my fellow-creatures and spread the Light, or shall I retire to some sequestered spot, there to seek inspiration in solitude, that I may return renewed in strength to justify the ways of wisdom to the foolish?

In normal times my first impulse is to go abroad, as I think it is good for foreigners to see how an Englishman behaves. Yet at the

moment all the foreign countries offer impediments. In France there is a strike of waiters, and the result may tend to discourage the fervour of the missionary.

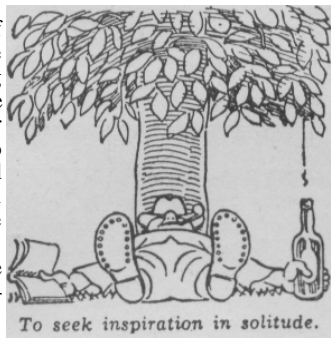
I dare not go to the Totalitarian States, as I can never remember the right salutes. I need not go to Switzerland, as it would be superfluous to teach good manners to English teachers and clergymen. I do not care for the Tyrol, as the clothes you have to wear (to avoid being conspicuous) do not suit my figure.

Scandinavia would sadden me, for having for so long basked in the atmosphere of peace and safety natural to countries without fighting forces, they have now caught the European suicide germ, and begun to abandon their security in favour of national defence.

I used to think the North Pole was a nice quiet place, but that dream is now dispelled by a headline before me: "North Pole To Hear B.B.C. Programmes."

* * *

I have, therefore, been obliged to find a quiet place in this country. They are not so easy to find. The



To seek inspiration in solitude.

country is being so rapidly subjected to a species of leprosy, known as Builders' Blight, that if you travel direct to some lonely haunt of earlier years, you are apt to find yourself, on reaching it, dodging the traffic in a new high street.

This disease spreads rapidly. I knew a man who went to sleep on a lonely moor and woke to find himself lying on the floor of a new town hall.

You have no idea of the speed at

which modern houses can sweep across the landscape. Many a time I have had to run for it. I know what it is to flee before a housing scheme like a wolf before a prairie fire.

I remember once, travelling along a country lane enjoying the peace of the lonely countryside, when I heard a sound like an approaching storm. I looked round, and saw a garden city tearing over the hill like a herd of stampeding bison.

Fortunately, I was on a bicycle, but even so I was only half a mile ahead at the county boundary, where the builder had to pause and have his drains tested.

Another time I was on foot, with a heavy rucksack. Suddenly, without warning, a new estate (Homes of Character and Comfort, £15 deposit, 9/4 weekly) came sweeping round the side of a mountain. I could see trees, farms, horses, and cattle going down beneath the pink and yellow flood. I knew escape was hopeless. I could hear it gaining on me foot by foot, yet I staggered on, my breath coming in painful gasps.

Suddenly the builder ran short of money. The estate stopped with a jerk, and I fell exhausted, barely a yard from Sunnyside, Laburnum Crescent.

* * *

I am not so athletic as I was, and do not so readily face the dangers of the hunt for rural solitude. Further, my digestive organs have lost their youthful resilience, and since the edible meals of the old inns and cottages have been replaced by up-to-date roadside loud speakers, with standardised, mass-produced, synthetic table d'hote attached, travelling is not so good for the health.

Nevertheless, by the grace of God and scientific research, I have found the place—for this year at least. I don't know how many layers under it will be next year. It is in a village owned by a wealthy, titled, Tory squire, the last defence of home and beauty, who will not allow another brick to be laid, save across his dead body.

The squire—God bless him and all his relations—does not like motorists, and will not let them pass his gates. So Progress goes rattling and snarling by, but at a distance.

And so good-bye. I hate leaving my work. To me, work is—

Editor: Will—you—get—out!

WARTIME HERO— AND PEACETIME HOBO

The Case of Digger Price, of Adelaide

By M. R. WENTWORTH-LEE.

A Digger who went through what he calls the "so-called Great War" is now being tossed out of his home by so-called Repatriation officials.

Mr. A. W. Price, returned digger, of 13 Seventh Avenue, Holmsdale (S.A.), has made his home at that address since 1923. An eviction order has now been served on him, giving him the choice of going out into the street or being pushed out.

Sent home from the war a sick man, Mr. Price has battled for years to get a pension. But as soon as "peace" came, ex-diggers were not further required; so the military doctor certified, on symptoms only, that Price was suffering merely from appendicitis, and needed but an operation. This Price refused to undergo without further consultation. An examination by a second doctor revealed the scar left when Price had had his appendix removed as a lad of 13.

The Adelaide Hospital doctors had certified that Price had contracted T.B. The Repatriation

PROSPERITY

Federal sales tax revenue for July was £604,000, representing a drop of £220,000 below last year's figures, and presumably a similar drop in trade turnover.

authorities rejected this information, refused the pension, and revived the "appendicitis" story. It appears to have been some time later when three Repatriation doctors diagnosed Price's case to be bronchial asthma and sugar diabetes.

Unemployed, through ill health, since 1928, Price has no pension, and now no home. While his home had been under the State Bank there had been little trouble, although no regular rent had been paid since 1930. Price had his doctor's certificate, and small amounts were refused on the grounds that the money might be needed for medicine.

Then, without his consent or consideration, the home was transferred to the War Service Homes Commission. The officials of this commission with the high-sounding patriotic name ordered Price out immediately. For two years he has been worried by them almost continuously. Now has followed the eviction order.

Mr. W. M. Hughes, Federal Minister for Health and Repatriation, and particular friend to Diggers and babies, now had Price's medical certificate, showing the latter's incapacity for work, together with certificates from two employers for whom he had tried to work but was unable to carry on after a few hours. It was thought that Mr. Hughes might see fit to grant a pension for an ex-hero and digger— if not for an ex-digger and hobo. The reply from Mr. Hughes, dated July 17, 1937, says: "Having inquiries made"—which, being interpreted, may mean anything you like, while, according to Mr. Hughes, it means that "everything possible will be done to assist this returned man." In the meantime Mr. Hughes is waiting on a report from the Repatriation Commission—who fondly believe Price is a malingerer, carrying an inflamed appendix about (either inside or outside his body) and asking for a pension on the strength of it.

The Military Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is not interested in the appeal of an ex-Digger. "The Tribunal has decided that the evidence in question is not material to nor has it a substantial bearing upon your claim." Thus the returned hero becomes a hobo and has "no further right of appeal."

And so we have "Repatriation"— which means "a return to one's country."

Mr. James Ashton, Chairman,
The Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney

Dear Sir,

According to the press reports of your annual address to shareholders on Tuesday, you bankers are as full of fun as ever.

First you protest, in the name of democracy, against the Monetary and Banking Commission's suggestion that in any difference of opinion between the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Bank the view of the Government should prevail. Since, you say, the Bank derived its powers from Parliament, it is Parliament, and not the Government, which should deliver the final decision in any dispute.

Immediately after this, you, a private individual, took it upon yourself to express the opinion—and experience has shown that bank chairmen's opinions are closely allied to ultimatums—that the Loan Council should slow down Government and semi-Government expenditure. Even accepting your "opinion" as merely that of a private citizen, and without any ulterior backing, why should the Loan Council have the last word? Since the Loan Council, like the Commonwealth Bank, derives its powers from our several Parliaments, should not the Parliaments, in so vital a matter, likewise have the final decision?

But it was when you came to give your reason for this tapering-down process that your wit excelled itself. Private industry being in such a healthy condition, we understand you to have said, our potential resources should be so husbanded as to permit them to be more heavily drawn upon when less prosperous times made Government assistance more urgently necessary than it was at present.

Just what do you mean, Sir, by the husbarding of our potential resources? Do you mean that we should put aside reserve stocks of wool, or wheat, or beef, or butter, or things of that sort against bad seasons? Surely not, since our annual production of most necessities, even in drought years, is far more than we annually consume. We must presume, then,

that you wish us to husband our resources of money, which is what Governments normally spend.

Now, Sir, you know as well as we do (or if you don't you ought to) that most of our money comes into existence in the form of bank loans for production, and that when the goods so produced are sold the money is repaid to the banks and both the loans and the money are cancelled. You know that our money supply is not static, but that it is constantly flowing out from the banks to industry and back again from industry to the banks. You know, therefore, that if money is husbanded—that is, if its backward flow to cancellation is stopped—the goods produced must remain unsold and industry will stagnate. Is this what you mean by husbarding our resources?

You must also know, Sir, that a very large proportion of the loan money which Governments spend is not husbanded money at all, but money provided by the banks—either directly, through their own subscriptions, or indirectly, through their granting overdrafts for that purpose to favoured clients. In both cases this is NEW money, and as long as the banks have ledgers and inkpots they can go on supplying money in this way practically ad lib. So all this talk of husbarding resources against less prosperous times is so much pure, undiluted hooley.

We can quite understand that even bankers, although its chief beneficiaries are becoming alarmed at the meteoric progress of our national debt. To increase our obligations from £200 millions in 1901 to over £1400 millions (in Australian money) today is making the pace a cracker, is it not? And people are beginning to kick so much about it that you bankers probably fear lest you may kill the goose. Still, you ought to be able to think up a better story than "husbarding our resources."

And do you think it was wise to say that "all other considerations must be subordinated to preserving the strength of Australia's financial system"? Many people incline to believe that the strength of its people is even more important.

THE NEW TIMES

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

Telephone: M 5384.

Vol. 3. No. 33.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1937.

Away With Home Work!

Not only school children, but the majority of parents will agree with the revolutionary things being said by the distinguished educational leaders now visiting Australia for the New Education Fellowship Conference.

"I have no use for homework, and if that is followed to its logical conclusion examinations will be abolished, too," said Professor Boyd, head of Glasgow University's Department of Education. And other equally prominent speakers were still more emphatic.

We have long since abolished the worst phases of child labour in mines and factories, but have we not permitted almost as evil a form of slavery to persist in many of our schools? Admittedly large numbers of sensible teachers have practically outlawed homework in so far as their own individual classes are concerned, but should it be left to the discretion of teachers? Almost innumerable cases can be cited, without going outside this city of Melbourne, where children are required to be at school by nine o'clock, where they are not usually dismissed before five, and where they then are expected to perform further tasks which require at least two or three hours. Add to this attendance at school on Saturday mornings, and is it any wonder that the unfortunate child breathes a sigh of relief when its school days are over, and goes through the rest of its life with a confirmed distaste for anything, which can be branded as study?

For our part, we would differ from Professor Boyd in his saying that the logical conclusion of abolishing homework would be the abolition of examinations. Abolish competitive and external examinations *first*, and the main incentive to impose homework could automatically disappear. As an illustration of the insanity which this fever for examination "results" breeds, we know of a case, in the area of the present epidemic of infantile paralysis in Melbourne, where the head teacher of a closed school brought back the "brightest" pupils of her senior class for full-time cramming, apparently under the impression that Providence suspends national laws for examinees or that the polio germ would not dare to attack so special a child

as a potential medal getter or scholarship winner. Admittedly the instance is an extreme one, and the teacher herself should probably have been examined (by two doctors), but it is symptomatic of the cruelty to children, which often takes place under the guise of zeal.

A generation ago parents, cheerfully or grudgingly as the case might be, handed over their children to the school teacher and then stood aside with as little thought of interfering with the ensuing process as they would entertain if the child were in the dentist's chair. But that day, thank Heaven, is passing, and with every succeeding year parents are exercising more voice in how their children are to be treated. Which is the parents' right and the parents' *duty*.

The competitive or the external examination for school children has absolutely nothing to recommend it—except the possibility that it may add to the successful school's reputation and revenue by attracting more pupils (which applies only to other than State schools). It is no real test of scholarship, as the child with a semi-photographic memory or without "nerves" will usually get higher marks than one who may have higher ability and more extensive knowledge. And it has a tendency to breed a desire for mastery rather than the spirit of co-operation, and to foster both superiority and inferiority complexes that cannot be otherwise than harmful, to say nothing of the effect on children's systems of the cramming they undergo, and the constant tension to which they are subjected.

As for homework, it has little more to be said in its favour. It is grossly unjust that the child, who needs rest and relaxation more than the adult, should be expected to continue its labours into the night when its father and its elder brothers and sisters are finished their work in the office or shop or factory and setting out to enjoy themselves.

Discuss this problem, not only with our distinguished visitors, but with the average teacher of today, and he or she will agree with you that outside examinations are unfair both to child and to teacher. You will usually find the same sentiments about homework. But the teacher, if a homework addict, will tell you that the setting of home tasks is made almost inevitable owing to the size of classes. And here there is a very genuine grievance. In the big city schools of Australia, whether conducted by the Governments or otherwise, it is probable that the average teacher would be supervising not less than fifty pupils continuously. Which is absurd. It is not education at all so much as an endeavour to preserve some kind of order or discipline, and it is doubtless the principal cause of the arguments which not infrequently crop up between parents and teachers over the corporal punishment or verbal castigation of their children.

As we have often pointed out before, there is no need for any of this. There is no shortage in Australia either of building materials, or of workmen, or of enough potential teachers to double or treble our school staffs. And if parents combine (and teachers, too) to demand that all these deficiencies are made up, they will be made up in a very quick time.

Meantime, while this idea is sinking in and spreading, as it is now beginning to do at a rapid rate, it would be an excellent first step if parents started a no-home-work strike. They could win that fight without an argument—for we expect that ninety percent, of teachers would be at least benevolently neutral.

Australian Labor Might Learn from England

The Labor Movement in England is concerned, and with good cause, over its lack of progress. In a recent issue we commented on its failure to gain added strength in by-elections, in spite of the widespread unpopularity of the Government. The tendency we then noted is accelerating, as was exemplified in the Ilford election at the end of June. In this contest the Conservative candidate was returned with a big majority, although his vote was over 17,000 less than that polled for his party in 1935. But, what was more significant in view of this, the Labor vote fell from 25,000 in 1935 to 16,000 in this election.

Labor papers just received from England complain of the apathy of their own supporters, and this week's cables record that the secretary-general of the Federation of Trade Unions in England says in his quarterly report that "something is certainly wrong with the trade union movement," membership being now smaller than it was in mid-Victorian days. One possible reason he gives is this: "There is a tendency for the movement to make itself at least the foster-mother of national and international causes not strictly its own. Doubts concerning the wisdom of so doing appear to be running in the minds of both members and non-members."

One cannot but feel that there is a great deal of truth in this. A few years ago, before Stalin's purges made him a difficult character for good democrats to hold up as an example of the beneficence of Socialism, English Labor—and, to a lesser extent, Australian Labor—was more concerned about Russia than about its own internal affairs. Then for a while we had a spate of the horrors of Hitler's Brown Houses. And latterly (as witness the A.C.T.U. congress) the air has been charged with reverberations from Spain. The eyes of the fools have been on the ends of the earth.

Under no circumstances is it likely that the views of either the Australian Labor party or Australian trade unionists would affect the course of events in Russia, Germany or Spain. Then why waste time publicly discussing them, unless and until the workers of Australia have attained such a happy condition that they can sit back and look for fresh worlds to conquer? At the best it is a useless expenditure of much needed energy; and at the worst it is an ideal method of promoting internal dissension. As things are in Australia, with a desperately unpopular Government, a Labor party with a constructive programme for bettering the lot of Australian workers would be morally certain of sweeping the polls at the coming elections. But, if union leaders continue to

YOU CAN SAVE THE EDITOR A LOT OF WORK

Some little time ago the "New Times" issued to its readers an invitation to become shareholders in the paper. It was explained at the time that large shareholdings were neither expected nor sought, as the object was to give the paper as large a co-operative shareholding as possible, and applications would be received for any number of shares from one upwards. All the shares in New Times Limited are ordinary shares of £1 each, the total liability of each shareholder being limited to an amount represented by the number of shares applied for and allotted.

The response received was encouraging, but applications fell far short of the amount that is vitally necessary if the "New Times" is—within any reasonable period—to become a really powerful organ in the fight for social justice.

The editor was therefore obliged to go out on the roads himself and to seek applications by personally interviewing those who are known to be regular readers of the "New Times." The result to date is that about 90 per cent, of those interviewed have become shareholders, AND MORE THAN HALF OF THESE HAVE SAID THAT THEY HAD INTENDED TO BECOME SHAREHOLDERS, ANYWAY. They had just overlooked it, or put it off, or something of the sort.

The editor is now making a personal appeal to every reader. The process of seeking direct interviews is slow and expensive. It takes up time that should properly be devoted to making the paper more widely known and to improving its contents—and the editor is fully conscious that the contents could be improved immeasurably. And it means that the paper is progressing at only a fraction of the rate at which it could and should progress.

If every reader of the "New Times" applied for ONE SHARE (or one additional share, if already a shareholder), there should be ample funds available to enable future expansion to take place out of revenue, instead of out of capital.

Will you please give this your immediate consideration, and, if you decided to act upon it—ACT NOW.

"THE BOGEY MAN OF THE PACIFIC"

A sketch from *Time* (New York) of "Harry" Bridges, the Australian who has become chief lieutenant to John L. Lewis, leader of the Committee for Industrial Organisation, in the greatest Labor upheaval in United States history.

It is openly being said in America that Lewis, in his fight, to secure Labor control from William Green's older American Federation of Labor, has Communism for his objective. What sort of man is this Bridges, whose name has been constantly mentioned in our cables since he came in prominence in connection with the San Francisco strike of 1934?

In no small measure Harry Bridges can thank his enemies, particularly William Randolph Hearst, for his rise to national fame. The bitterness of unceasing attacks on him in the West Coast press has undoubtedly gained him more friends than enemies. As in the Presidential campaign last year, the workers began to suspect that if a man was so hated by Capital he must have considerable to offer to Labor. Privately and publicly damned as a Communist, an alien agitator, a ruthless doctrinaire, an unscrupulous wrecker with a lust for power, Harry Bridges has become, in three years, the bogey man of the Pacific.

In the previous 34 years of his life Harry Bridges was completely obscure. Born at Kensington, Australia, in 1900, he was christened Alfred Renton Bridges. His father, an estate agent there, explains that his son was called Renton but this name was "a bit too much for his American pals," who dubbed him Harry. At 17, after a sound schooling, Alfred Renton Bridges got a job as a clerk in a Melbourne firm called Sands and McDougall Ltd. It was his father's

wrangle about Spain, and political leader Curtin allows himself to be drawn into silly discussions as to whether the revenues should be spent on bombers instead of battleships (while the majority of our children are insufficiently fed), and if the rank and file fill the air, and the newspapers, with strike talk, it will hardly be surprising if Sound (or at least Astute) Finance scores another victory at their expense.

desire that his son eventually join him in business. But restless young Renton wanted to go to sea, and in the hope that he might be speedily discouraged, his father arranged with the skipper of a little ketch plying between Melbourne and Tasmania to take the boy for one stormy trip. Young Bridges loved it. In the next few years he was shipwrecked twice, being saved on one occasion by the buoyance of his mandolin.

Shipping as a seaman for San Francisco, he was legally admitted to the U.S. on April 12, 1920. For the next two years he shipped from U.S. ports, was arrested once in New Orleans for picketing during a seamen's strike. No charges were preferred and he was released without court hearing. His last job as a seaman was in the Coast and Geodetic Survey as a quartermaster on the U.S.S. Lydonia. It was while serving on the Lydonia that he met his future wife, who was born Agnes Brown in the Black Craig Hills of Scotland, and brought to the U.S. by her parents at the age of 12. Shortly after he met her, Harry Bridges gave up the sea settling down in San Francisco as a longshoreman.

The following were not easy years for Harry Bridges. Twice he was hurt in dock accidents. As early as 1924 he tried to organise his fellow-workers but someone embezzled the union's funds. Though always bucking company unions, he nevertheless managed to find work until 1932, when he had to go on local relief for a short time. During the 1934 strike, when he was turning back his union salary, he was on local relief for a short time. During the 1934 strike, when he was turning back his union salary, he was on Federal relief for about six weeks.

* * *
Today Harry Bridges draws 75 dollars per week as Pacific Coast District representative of the

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International Longshoremen's Association. He lives very modestly, moving next week from a five-room flat to a five-room house, for which he will pay 35 dollars per month. He is behind on the instalments on a two-year-old Ford, has about finished paying 600 dollars of hospital and doctors' bill incurred for his wife, who fell out of a window while hanging out the wash. Harry Bridges himself has been in the hospital twice in the last two years for stomach ulcers.

Nervous, quick, wary, intolerant, Harry Bridges is scornful of the press, both Right and Left. Even when cornered for an interview, he ignores any questions, which he does not choose to answer, punctuates his own points with jerks of his knotted longshoreman's arms. He used to have a pronounced Australian accent (an exaggerated Cockney) but has now lost most of it, speaking in a soft, low, emphatic voice. On the platform he is restrained, though he sometimes stops, tosses back his brown hair, pushing his beak forward as if into the wind at sea on lookout. He demonstrated his spellbinding platform power at a Madison Square Garden rally last year when, near the end of a long programme, he held a tired crowd of 15,000 for a full hour extemporaneously.

His suspicious, self-assured attitude comes naturally, for despite the publicity value of attacks made on him, Harry Bridges has had to endure what is pretty close to persecution. Innumerable attempts have been made to have him deported, although his immigration status cannot be challenged. Like many another resident alien, he filed first papers for citizenship, then let them lapse. As soon as the waiting period is up on his third set of first papers he may apply for citizenship. Government authorities have dutifully checked charges of false identity, of subversive activities, of a criminal record in Australia—and have given Harry Bridges a clean bill of health. Ship owners have even asked the Department of Labor to deport him on general principles. Occasionally Mr. Bridges does lose patience, as he did this spring when he sued the Portland "Oregon Journal" for 100,000 dollars damages. Without naming Bridges the "Oregon Journal" editorialised favourably on a reader's suggestion that "alien provocateurs of revolution" be run out of the country forthwith.

Harry Bridges denies that he is a Communist. He is not a member of the Communist party. He simply says Communists make good unionists. The speech most used against him was made last spring at the University of Washington: "We take the stand that we as workers have nothing in common with the employers. We are in a class struggle, and we subscribe to the belief that if the employer is not in business his product still will be necessary and we still will be providing them when there is no employing class. We frankly believe that the day is coming." That is good Marxist ideology, but Harry Bridges is doing no more than any other militant Labor leader to hasten the end of the employing classes in his day-to-day tactics. John L. Lewis is as much of a Capitalist as Tom M. Girdler. Their immediate objectives may differ but neither conceive of working for those objectives except within the framework of capitalism. But while Harry Bridges also works within a capitalistic framework, Socialism to him is a desirable reality. Both Harry Bridges and John Lewis are working for labor, both believe in political action by Labor. But their thinking processes are as different as those of Trotsky and Stalin.

WAR PROPHETS AND WAR PROFITS

(From "Farming First," N.Z.)

Prophecy war is a fairly common occupation nowadays in the present condition of the world it is rather like prophesying rain—nobody knows just when it will come, but there is a general feeling that it will come sometime fairly soon. War-prophets differ from weather-prophets in that their activities may occasionally have a mischievous effect on public psychology. By accustoming people to the idea of mutual slaughter on a worldwide scale as a possibility, they may tend to break down resistance to that idea. They may also help to convey the impression that war is inevitable, and that it is useless trying to do anything about it. We believe that there are many people today who, in the midst of misery or boredom, subconsciously accept the prospect of war as one of escape. They are unhappy in their present way of life, and since a world war would certainly destroy the chief causes of their present affliction, and break up existing forms of social life, they have something of the attitude of a man with an aching tooth. The pain of the dentist's chair is overshadowed by the prospect of getting rid of the immediate cause of suffering.

We believe, nevertheless, in spite of the disadvantages attendant upon outspoken discussion of war dangers, that it is vitally necessary that the man in the street should not be taken unawares by an outbreak of war. It is well that he should know what it is all about, and not be led blindly into a shambles that is not of his making, and that offers him, in reality, no hope of a better life. If there are certain forces working towards war, he should know about them, and be kept aware of their various manifestations. If war can by any means be avoided, or if the risk of war can be lessened, the man in the street should know about these things. For this reason we have done our best, in the past to keep our readers in touch with developments in world politics.

Need For General Understanding

It may be said without exaggeration, and without any appeal to the emotions, that the situation is worse today than it

has been at any time in the post-war years; and that in the period upon which we are now entering there is the prospect of greater dangers to the civilised nations of the world than they have ever before had to face. Let us at all costs keep our heads? The chief causes of war are known, and are very widely agreed upon among the comparatively small body of people who have interested themselves in the problem. If the ordinary man can be shown what they are, there will be less chance of his being misled. And it is not far from the truth to say that the risk of war today is in direct ratio to the power of those who rule the world to mislead the masses of the people.

One grave obstacle in the way of public enlightenment concerning the causes of war is the fact that so many influential people have a vested interest either in war or in war preparation. There are, in the first place, the heavy industries that make armaments of all descriptions. The shares of steel and other war industries have risen steeply in the last few weeks since the announcement of Britain's mammoth defence programme. New plant will be set up to cope, with orders, and when the programme has been completed this plant will remain. A great deal of it will be useless unless further war preparations are undertaken. There will be threats of unemployment, and the Government of the day will be faced with the alternatives of deliberately destroying both profits and wages and displeasing both employers and employed, or carrying on with still further "preparations against war." Somewhat the same position will exist as is created by the imposition of a protective tariff. Behind the tariff wall a new industry is built up, and, having been built up, it cannot be destroyed by simply pulling the tariff down again. The harm is done, and cannot be undone (within the framework of "sound finance") without causing a great deal of disorganisation. The same will apply to the tremendous industrial development that will accompany war preparations.

On the Treadmill

The armament firms are only one of the groups of people who have vested interests in war. The politicians, as may be deduced from the above, also have strong reasons for encouraging war preparation. Nothing is so calculated to "provide employment" and to bolster up profit taking. From the point of view of the ordinary man, of course, the prospect is an appalling one. An English editor has expressed it thus: "The natural consequence of raising war to the status of the nation's main industry is the concentration of inventive genius on the supersession of existing engines of war, to the degree that every one of them is obsolete on the day it is ready for use. If the highest ideal of our economic philosophers . . . is the perpetuation of the curse of Adam for as long as the planet shall endure, their preparation for war is exactly the perpetual motion for doing so. Scrap and build, scrap and build. If, on the other hand, there still lives a spark of the old craving for freedom and for the culture that only leisure can bring within reach, mankind will realise that its craven subordination to a rotten but remediable system of work and debt means the breaking of all its visions upon an eternal treadmill . . . We invite mankind to choose its eyes open. Distribute the product of industry regardless of work, do so without piling up the public debt, expand leisure — or be damned." We are on the point of being

SIR HENRY GULLETT AND THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

For the information of readers we reproduce copies of correspondence between Mr. Bruce H. Brown, one of the organising committee responsible for the Malvern Town Hall meeting last Monday night (and which is reported in the Victorian Electoral Campaign notes on page 8 of this issue) and Sir Henry Gullett, M.H.R.

COPY OF LETTER TO SIR HENRY GULLETT

10 Parkside Street, Malvern, S.E.4, 31st July, 1937.
Sir Henry Gullett, M.P., 2 Moonga Road, Toorak, S.E.2.

Dear Sir Henry, — There is to be a public meeting at the Malvern Town Hall on Monday, the 9th August, as set out in the enclosed dodger, and the committee arranging the details is anxious that you should know of it.

The subject, as you already know, is of outstanding importance, and the decisions of the meeting will be of vital interest to you as the representative of the district in the Federal Parliament.

Please come if you can.
Yours respectfully,
BRUCE H BROWN
For the Committee.

COPY OF SIR HENRY GULLETT'S REPLY

Federal Members' Rooms, 318 Post Office Place, Melbourne, C.1., 2nd August 1937.

Dear Mr. Brown, — Many thanks for your advice as to Dr. Dale's meeting at the Malvern Town Hall on Monday, the 9th inst., but I already have an engagement for that evening. I am familiar with Dr. Dale upon this subject from his wireless talks, etc.

May I venture the opinion that "the Message to Mothers" touches high-water levels in grave misrepresentation.
Yours truly,

H. S. GULLETT.

COPY OF "A MESSAGE TO MOTHERS" REFERRED TO IN SIR H. GULLETT'S REPLY.

Why are most mothers always so short of MONEY? There is no necessity for it.

There is abundance of all the things they need to make their homes comfortable, to clothe themselves and their children as they would wish, and to fill their tables with good food. **AND ALL THESE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT DEPRIVING ANYONE OF WHAT THEY NOW HAVE.**

Go to the meeting in the Malvern Town Hall on Monday, the 9th August, at 8 p.m., and hear what DR. JOHN DALE, the

manacled to war preparation, to the vast industrial machine that prepares the materials for making war. In a very short time the choice before the politicians will be narrowed down to the bare alternatives of War or Depression. True, there is always the way out offered by a realistic use of the monetary system. But the politicians have so far failed to show the courage and intelligence to "explore this avenue" fully; and the longer the present trend continues the more difficult it will be to make such changes. The prospect before us is not an enticing one. But it is the duty of everybody who has come to understand these things to do his best to spread knowledge of the causes of war as widely as possible. In that, and in continual pressure on the political front, lies our only hope of salvation.

Melbourne City Health Officer has to say about it.

Don't let bad weather keep you away either.

Issued by the Organising Committee. Local Address: 10 Parkside Street, MALVERN, S.E.4. 3rd August, 1937.

COPY OF FURTHER LETTER TO SIR HENRY GULLETT.

10 Parkside Street, Malvern, S.E.4., 3rd August, 1937.
Sir Henry Gullett, M.P., 2 Moonga Road, Toorak, S.E.2.

Dear Sir Henry, — Many thanks for acknowledging my letter of the 31st July.

Needless to say, I am sorry it will not be convenient for you to attend the public meeting on the 9th, more particularly in view of your opinion that the "Message to Mothers" touches high-water levels in grave misrepresentation.

As the message to mothers contains no misrepresentation whatever, it is my intention to inform the meeting of what has taken place between us, and to issue a public challenge to you to substantiate your opinion by way of debate with me in the Malvern Town Hall on any date suitable to yourself.

With an expression of personal respect,

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE H BROWN

COPY OF FURTHER REPLY FROM SIR HENRY

The date of drawing of the ART UNION in aid of the FUNDS OF THE QUEENSLAND UNITED DEMOCRATS has been postponed until October 16th. Books of 11 tickets are still available for 2/6, and offer 500 1/- shares in the Golden Casket for 3d. per ticket. Other valuable prizes. —G. Smart, Hon. Organiser, Room 14, 2nd Floor, 142 Adelaide Street, BRISBANE, B.8.

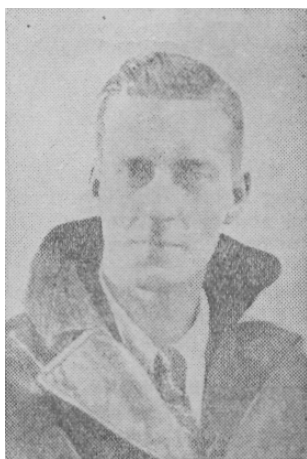
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A MEETING will be held at the IVANHOE HALL on SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, at 3 p.m. (sharp).

Speakers: DR. JOHN DALE (Melbourne City Health Officer) and MR. BRUCE H. BROWN.

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THE REPORT OF THE MONETARY AND BANKING COMMISSION

A Monument of Incapacity

III.

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—

The first chapter of the Report, covering sixteen pages, purports to deal with "The Australian Economy," but like all the other advocates of what is called Sane and Sound Finance the authors of the Report have commenced to climb the ladder from the second rung instead of the first. They talk of the *movements* of money, but overlook the *origin* of it.

The Report solemnly tells us that we live on a large piece of land, that we produce things, that we have more rain in some parts than in others, that some parts are more fertile than others, that railways have been built, that we possess a lot of minerals, that we send a large part of our production "overseas," and that as the "value" of the production we send away forms a large proportion of the "value" of all the production, "the Australian economy is materially affected by variations in overseas prices." Every member of the Commission accepted this last statement as a position from which there is no escape, and, as suggested in my introductory comment of July 30, this belief was apparently one of the qualifications for selection as a member of the Commission.

It was certainly very good of the Commission to tell us the foregoing, but the effort was hardly worth the expenditure of more than £20,000, which had been taken from our pockets.

Why Falls in "Value" of Needed Things?

Most of us are fully aware of these things, but what we did not understand was why the "value" of the work we do here and the things we produce here is governed by what takes place somewhere else. Another thing we did not understand was why there should be sudden falls in these "values" when the people still need the goods and producers are still anxious to supply them. The real values remain unaltered, but the "money" values continually fluctuate. But you may search the Report in vain for any explanation of these falls in "value" or for any proposals to prevent their recurrence.

And this is hardly to be wondered at when we read such statements as this: "The wealth obtained from wool and gold in New South Wales and Victoria provided large supplies of capital for the development of Australia, and provided the means for the opening in other States, in addition to the smaller banks established there, of branches of banks whose head offices or chief Australian offices were in Sydney or Melbourne. Some of these smaller banks have since amalgamated with the larger institutions, and the importance of Sydney and Melbourne as banking centres has thus been increased. The factors that have brought about concentration of banking have also operated in the case of some other financial institutions and these cities have thus become the main centres of the financial system of the Continent."

How innocent it all was. Not a word about the sort of wealth that was "obtained" from wool and gold; not a word about the sort of "capital" supplies; not a word about the sort of "means" they provided for spreading the tentacles of the banking octopus; and not a word about the "factors" that led to the concentration of banking and "some other financial institutions"! Whereas there were 21 private banks at the outbreak of war in 1914 now there are only nine, and this of course is not to be taken as evidence of monopolization, but only of healthy and friendly competition!

You will have noticed that the working of the Commission's report leaves the clear impression

that the banking system is the product of wool and gold, but the truth is that the banking system has become greater and more powerful than wool or gold. It can even acquire both for nothing. The banks do not produce anything (except paper cheques), but they control everything, and are actually able to purchase the best and most valuable city sites without cost and without effort. In other words, they can write their own ticket! So much so that in the last 25 years they have acquired assets exceeding a value of £300,000,000. How they do that sort of thing when they produce nothing is of course not a suitable subject for any sticky-beaking on the part of a Royal Commission!

Putting the Cart Before the Horse

Then on page 11 of the Report we have this choice bit: "The monetary and banking system of Australia is materially affected by government finance. The loan policy of governments, the budgetary position, taxation, interest payments, and sinking fund provisions and operations, are all of importance to the system." Apparently the intention of this is to create the false impression that the banking system is subject to Government requirements, when as a matter of fact Government requirements are definitely subject to the dictation of the banking system. Such misleading conduct on the part of the Commission is reprehensible and unworthy.

The monetary and banking system of Australia is *not* materially affected by government finance, but government finance is materially affected by the policy of the monetary and banking system.

Governments have only three sources of income—ordinary revenue from services, taxation and loans.

The first of these depends entirely on what is called "prosperity," and prosperity simply means the circulation of an increasing quantity of bank credit (cheque-money). When the banks are following a credit-expansion policy revenues are buoyant, but when the banks are following a credit restriction policy the revenues are not buoyant.

In the same way taxation is governed by the credit policy of the banking system. When revenue falls the Government reduces its commitments or takes more from the people through taxes, or both (vide Premiers' Plan); and what the people can pay in taxation is governed by the amount of money permitted by the banking system to remain in circulation.

Loans, also, are subject to exactly the same considerations. When the banks say "No Loans" there are no loans, as in the period 1929-1931; but when the banks see fit to permit loans they also determine not only the amount that shall be supplied as loans, but the rate that shall be paid as interest on such loans. Proof of this is provided every time the Loan Council meets. The *sovereign* Governments (so-called) name the minimum amount they require to meet essential public needs, but the banks arbitrarily reduce this minimum by several millions.

Clearly, therefore, our Governments can have as income only what the banking system allows them to have, and consequently "loan policy of Governments, the budgetary position, taxation, interest payments, and sinking fund provisions and operations" are not so much matters of importance to the system as of dictation by the system.

Blindfolded Discussion of Debt

Following this, six pages of the Report are devoted to what is euphemistically called "a consideration of the public

debt." In these pages we are told how much the debt is, how the "loans" were spent, and the amount payable as interest, but for some strange reason we are *not* told what the debt would look like if we could see it, why sovereign Governments should have to go in debt at all, or the identity of the people who actually produce the so-called "capital" for government use. The Commission talks of anything but the fundamentals. On page 15, in praising the stability of Government investments, it pointed out that, "where similar activities have been undertaken by private enterprise investors have in many cases suffered a loss of capital." But to whom was it lost and what happened to it then? Did it just disintegrate or could we recover it if only we knew where to look? In other words, is this "capital" of which the Commission speaks something tangible or was it merely a set of figures entered in books? That's the sort of thing the responsible members of society want to know, but the Report of the Commission is completely silent about them.

Debt That Remains While Money Disappears

Another significant statement also appears on page 15. In paragraph 24 the Commission sought to give an indication of the "value" of the assets owned by the various Governments, and expressed itself as follows: "It is difficult to say what valuation could be placed on the assets represented by the expenditure of Commonwealth and State Governments; some of the assets will have depreciated, some, such as land, will have appreciated in value, others will have disappeared. Another factor which has to be taken into account is that the value of money has varied from time to time." You see, the assets may disappear but the "debt" must

"AS BAD AS EVER"

The Brazilian Government therefore finds itself faced with a most difficult problem. It is known that a scheme has been formulated whereby farmers should destroy a certain proportion of their trees in return for a payment in cash.

This policy, however, would probably prove only a temporary palliative since it is feared that new trees would be planted, and directly these came to the bearing stage the situation would be as bad as ever.

—London "Evening Standard." June 21.

remain, and although the "value of money" may vary we are not to inquire why it should vary or who causes the variation. They are matters, which should be left to the "experts." It is for us to think only about the effects of such things and to try to find ways of bearing these effects more patiently.

The Commission admits that Australian Governments have borrowed and *spent* £1440 millions, but made no comment on the fact that the total quantity of money in existence in Australia today is only about £600 millions. Who cancelled the other 840 millions, and why? The whole of the money borrowed by Governments is morally counterfeit money (privately-made!), and the very people to whom this money is supposed to be owing have cancelled the means by which it could be paid, thus forcing us into a debt position from which it is impossible to escape under existing financial methods, and imposing a perpetual and increasing burden of taxation to meet the morally-fraudulent interest demands of knighted counterfeiters and pretenders.

But this was not important enough for the Commission even to comment on.

Skating Over the Depression

Passing reference is made on pages 17 and 18 to "the effects of

the depression" and to the issue of Treasury bills. Not a word is given to tell us what the depression really was, why it was, or how it was brought about, and not a word in explanation of the fact that a Treasury bill is neither more nor less than an I.O.U. from the National Treasury to the banking System, pledging the taxpayers to the acceptance of further debt to that extent and to the payment of interest on such amount in exchange for a bank cheque actually costing the bank nothing. These also, apparently, were not important enough for the Commission to be bothered about. So we begin to see more clearly the reason for the Prime

Minister's statement that the greatest care had been taken to ensure that only "suitable" men would be offered a place on the Commission, and the "selectors" undoubtedly knew their work and their men.

Even more important aspects of the Report have yet to be considered, but we have already seen sufficient to convince us of its worthlessness for all practical purposes and of the more than ever urgent need for the people to insist that *their* Parliament shall govern in accordance with *their* will, and not at the behest of an irresponsible clique of counterfeiters.

— Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

"HOME SWEET HOME"

By "SNAFFLE."

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam —

All around us we hear the dear old refrain as Australia's ambassadors, with wives, secretaries and batmen, return, mentally enriched and physically refreshed, from their contact with the older civilisations and their pleasant sojourn in the leafy lanes of England. And what treasures they have brought back with them — a replica of the Coronation Anointing Spoon, two chairs (£2/2/- each) from the Abbey, Savile Row suits for the men and Paris creations for their womenfolk. Again, what a wealth of memories the travellers have laid up for themselves. How thrilling it must have been to hear, far, far from home, a voice crying in the wilderness of London, "Good old Joe"; how uplifting to see the dear Duchesses uplifting their lognettes as they exclaimed, "My dear, have you noticed the likeness between Mr. Casey and our Anthony?"

Well, well, we're all glad to see our own folks back among us once more. I'm sure we are, because every time we open a newspaper we see one or more of them sitting at festive tables of welcome; tables, thank heaven, that bear upon their snowy cloths the unmistakable evidences of our prosperity. As Lady Parkhill was heard to observe the other day, in foreign countries signs of unrest and uncertainty are everywhere, but in England one sees nothing but prosperity and contentment.

And as in England, so it is in Australia. Stop, look and listen where we will, the signs confront us. Everything is on the upgrade: wages, pensions, prices, profits, rents, taxes and the trade balance.

Really, one is sometimes tempted to wonder if it is all true or whether, as our Bank Chairmen so often warn us, it is not time we applied the brake. Of course, it sounds silly to apply a brake on an upgrade, but you may be sure the Bank Chairmen know what they are talking about, because, like the sentry in "Iolanthe," they "think of things that would astonish you."

Well, as I was saying, everything is up. The Governor-General and the Governor of Victoria are up in the North; the cost of living is up in the sky and slum abolition seems to be up the pole. It's high time something or somebody came down to earth. So here goes.

As I write (4th of August) the guns in the Domain are booming out in glad celebration of the Queen's Birthday. Immediately after each shot there comes another report almost as loud as the first. Is it merely a reverberation, or is it an echo coming back across the years from another 4th of August, that dreadful birthday of doom whose anniversary was recorded four times in a world bathed in blood and tears?

Nearly nineteen years have come and gone since the curtain was rung down on that ghastly tragedy; and what do we find today? The nations

making ready for another holocaust more dreadful than the last. And the nations' "leaders" say, "they can't help it"! Of course they can't, for the simple reason that the same inhuman, relentless Financial System, which holds them in its grasp, is tightening its fingers round their throats again as it did in 1914.

The personnel of the Death-and-Debt Merchants has changed with the years (one wonders what terrible visions came to some of them as they passed across the Range), but the System remains. And the thing I want to shout aloud, with the voice of Stentor, is this: *The System WILL remain until you and I get a move on and do our bit to end it.* And for heaven's sake don't keep on believing that Australia is too small to even make a dent in the System's armour. Goliath was no end of a fellow till little David came on the scene. To the System, "Australia" means columns of figures representing wheat and wool and butter and bank balances. What you and I have to show is that "Australia" means *the Australian people*. And when this people, with one voice, *demand* from their legislators that the real wealth of Australia shall be made accessible

EVEN M.P.'S. HUNGRY IN AGE OF PLENTY

The Prime Minister, moving in the House of Commons last night that salaries of Members of Parliament be raised from £400 to £600 a year—carried by 325 to 17—told how private budgets of Members of Parliament, given in confidence to him and Earl Baldwin, showed some to be going hungry.

Others were exhausting their savings; or cutting the cost of their children's education; or were unable to live in London seven days in the week.

—London "Daily Express," June 23.

to those who create it, the Goliath of Finance will receive a shock that will penetrate to every part of his bloated international body, and the war clouds that darken the world today will be pierced by a shaft of light from Australia's rising sun.

Our cause—the Electoral Campaign for the Abolition of Poverty—is the sanest, the most progressive and the most humane movement ever launched for the betterment of mankind. Are we stirring ourselves to help it along, you and I? Or (Boom! There goes another Birthday gun) are we going to allow "the living dead" amongst us to sit content with their "circuses and bread" till the bugle sounds the "Fall in" for another hell on earth? The choice is ours. In God's name let us act — *now*.

PUT A YARDSTICK ON THE MONEY LENDER

Debt Repayments, Like Wages, Should Move with Cost of Living Figures

By JOHN CRAWFORD.

From the point of view of the ordinary wage earner, rises or falls in the amount of his nominal wage mean very little, for, under normal conditions, he is paid a commodity wage. That is to say, the amount of money put into his pay envelope varies in accordance with what that money will buy. Wages are determined by the cost of living figures prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician, who for the last 25 years has issued a monthly index figure covering all the allowed items of the worker's budget. As this cost of living index figure goes up or down, wages in due course follow suit.

If the wage, as originally fixed, were a fair one, the method of adjustment would seem to provide an ideal way of ensuring an even standard of living. And so one wonders why it has not long since been adopted in other monetary transactions, and especially in adjusting the payment of debts and interest.

Take the ordinary case of borrower and lender. A man who borrows £1000 today and who contracts to repay the loan in a fixed period of years does not really know what he will have to repay. All that the average borrower knows, as will be seen directly, is that he will be called upon to repay in pounds that are more valuable than the pounds he borrowed. At the best, there is uncertainty on the part both of borrower and of lender. And this uncertainty may cover a very wide range, as anyone who lets his mind go back seven or eight years will remember. As an instance, where the index figure for food, groceries and 4 and 5-roomed houses for all the capital cities of the Commonwealth stood at an average of 1000 over the five-year period, 1923-27, the index figure for 1931 was 852 and for 1933 it was 768. Translating these figures into their monetary equivalents, it required 20/- to buy in 1923-27 what could be bought for 17/1 in 1931 and for 15/4 in 1933. So the man (or the bank) who lent £1000 in the years immediately before the depression and who demanded repayment in 1933 was really getting back, apart from interest, over £1300 for every £1000.

Loans When Money Has Low Value, Repayments When It Is High

Moreover, as has already been noted, it is usually the borrower who is made to suffer through the changing value put upon money. For it is in times when money has its lowest purchasing power that loans are most easily negotiated—were not the banks almost pressing loans upon borrowers in the years just before 1929? And it is when money has its greatest buying power that these loans are called up wherever possible—again, remember what happened to your overdraft after 1929.

It is no coincidence that this occurs. The banks are the greatest lenders in the community and the money they lend is not anybody's savings (as even the banks themselves have now been forced to it) but new money conjured up by means of ledger entries. Hence all bank loans represent an addition of money to the community supply. And when bankers are lending most freely the products of their inkpots, it is generally either (a) to governments for public works (whether peaceful or warlike), which is purely inflationary, or (b) to individuals for capital expansion. This latter is also inflationary in its effect, since capital costs are not withdrawn from the public in the prices of consumable goods except over a period of years. Conversely -

and this is too recent in everyone's mind to need demonstration—the periods when banks are calling in such loans are periods of depression, or deflation, or falling prices. Hence it is a pretty safe generalisation to say that the bulk of borrowers are called upon to pay back more valuable pounds than the pounds they borrow.

If a man borrowed money to build and let a house in the 1923-27 period, and if he let that house for £1, he would, on the average, have been getting only 16/1 rent for it in 1933, but nothing would have been written off his capital indebtedness. If he borrowed in 1923-27 £1000 on a house valued then at £1400, what would his position have been in 1933? It is probable that he would have found it very difficult to have realised more than £1000 for the entire property, and so his equity would have gone up in the air—or, more correctly, into the pocket of the lender.

Moratorium Acts Toy With the Issue

Governments have indicated that they recognise the existence of this grave injustice by putting into operation various temporary Moratorium Acts to protect borrowers. In the case of debts directly due to Governments, these have been at various times and places written off in part—which means that they have been passed across from individuals to taxpayers as a whole. But the nature of Moratorium Acts has for the most part merely been one of suspending legal obligations, and not of wiping out legal obligations based on injustice, which is what is called for.

Yet the machinery is simple and available. If the wage earner's return is based upon the cost of living index—that is, on the month-to-month purchasing power of money—why should not the moneylender's return be based upon the same set of index figures? The lender would get a perfectly equitable return, since he would always be repaid an equivalent amount of purchasing power to that with which he parted (or, in the case of a bank, to that which it manufactured).

And what applies to repayments of principal applies equally to payments of interest. Instead of having our voluntary-compulsory Conversion Loan of a few years ago, there would be no necessity for any such operation at all. The genuine investor putting his money into government bonds would be assured of an annuity enabling him to have constantly the same standard of life as he envisaged when he first put his money in. And taxpayers would have the guarantee that their burden would not suddenly be increased to an alarming extent.

A Simple Calculation

There would be nothing cumbersome about the process. The monthly index figures are already available and published, and the adjustment of charges in accordance with them would be merely a matter of a sum in simple proportion. By comparison, the proposal often put forward to institute a constant price level—with a similar objective—is most unwieldy; besides, a constant price level tends to rob consumers of any cheapening of production costs brought about by scientific inventions.

What has been outlined above would, of course, do nothing to supplement any total shortage of purchasing power in the community. But it would provide an urgently needed measure of reform in the distribution of existing purchasing power, which always seems to operate in favour of the mortgagee

THE GOOD THIEF

This essay comes from the *Economist*, which gives it the following introduction—

A correspondent, lately engaged in an empirical appreciation of theft as an influence on enterprise and interest, has communicated to us the following essay. Five years' hard concentration upon the material consequences of theft have, not unnaturally, caused him to adopt a confined—indeed, isolated—attitude to its ethical and social consequences; an attitude no pure economist could hope to share. Nevertheless, while dissociating ourselves from his thesis, we believe it not dissimilar in principle to certain recent actions by the State in the economic sphere. Things practised on a communal scale become criminal when reduced to the personal scale. As Cavour said: "If we had done for ourselves what we have done for our country, what scoundrels we should be!"

This world has an ingenuous way of valuing things in inverse ratio to their usefulness. In a rather less ingenuous way it makes good use of some things, while denying their utility. Thieves suffer much from these two traits. Despised and rejected of men, they tread their lonely path doing great good in a small way. Yet never a voice is lifted in their praise or defence. Like the dragon of the fairy-tale, they must hold their loathed form, until one of purer vision steps forth to discern in them the Prince Charming hid beneath their scales.

With the thief as an individual I am not here concerned. Thieves, and their position as an infra-marginal class in a class-civilisation, are my proper subject. My long practical appreciation of theft, and my recent five years in close and continuous contact with thieves in a certain State institution, have led me to form a judgment on the economic function of theft. So far from being an evil, the predatory class is an economic necessity and an agent of enlightenment. History corroborates me in all particulars; and the paradoxical development of the economic function of the State, which is to secure a State monopoly of the right to make involuntary transfers of wealth *inter vivos*, while clapping individuals who practise it into jug, confirms my thesis.

In the field of economics, the thief has not been allowed the scant courtesy of even prejudiced attention. Yet it is as a functionary in the economic life of the community that he first manifests himself. When the totality of his influences and effects is weighed it is in the economic world that they loom largest and most to his credit. Thoroughly to appreciate these influences it is necessary to follow an

against the mortgagee, of the lender against the borrower, and which holds the interests of money lenders to be sacrosanct against the interests or rights of the producers of real wealth, which alone gives money any value at all.

There would be another advantage. Legislation on these lines would go a long way towards taking the profit out of depressions. And if depressions ceased to be profitable to those to whom they now are undoubtedly a source of advantage, it might be surprising to find how rapidly depressions would disappear.

Finally, as a matter of detail—it is constantly said that the statistical cost of living figures are incorrect, that they never seem to show rises in prices to anything like the extent to which these rises actually take place in average shops. This, if true, is not a charge against the Commonwealth Statistician himself, who merely works out his results from the figures supplied him. If, however, there is any substance in the charge (and every housewife believes there is), the fixing of capital repayments in accordance with a variable index figure would go a long way to correct any tendency from interested parties to try and make the cost of living appear lower than it really is. Because the lower the cost of living figures, the lower the amount required to pay interest or redeem a loan. From which you will see that the scheme may be likened to the medical practice of setting one set of germs to fight another set. Or, in more vulgar phraseology, when thieves fall out the honest man comes by his own.

average representative of this class, a house-breaker of ordinary merit, through part of his career.

Under the stress of various impulses he breaks into a house during the absence of its owners, picks up all the silver-plate and portable valuables he finds therein, and decamps. Then, with his booty, he calls upon a "fence," and sells it: for about a third of its value; let us say, £50. We suppose him to be an average member of his class. This means he has an immoderate inferiority complex urging him to self-display especially among women—and to the frivolities. The consequence is that he spends his £50 in a fortnight and begins to look out for another temporarily unoccupied house.

Meanwhile, the owner of the stolen property has informed the police and an insurance company of his loss. The police get on the track of the criminal. The insurance company restores the value of the property. If we suppose that the house-breaker has an average "run," he will commit half-a-dozen such crimes before he is caught and sent back to prison for another two years or so.

The activities of the thief influence the economic life of the community in two ways. Directly, he sets in motion £50 of currency, giving to it by his spendthrift habits a greater velocity of circulation than is customary. His far-flung liberality, his splendid lavishness, is not without their influence on the people with whom he mixes. In their efforts to reflect a little of his brief glory people are induced to spend a shilling or two more than they would in other circumstances. That is, the Multiplier works here, too. Then, again, a momentary swish of currency activity is caused in higher circles. The sum of £150 in bank deposits (credit) is passed by the insurance company from its bank to the householder—i.e., from an unspent margin to active circulation—and from the householder to the silversmiths and other tradesmen engaged to replace the stolen property. Thus the theft involves no loss of wealth to the community at all. It only effects a transfer of property rights from ineffective hoards to active circulation and consumption. It even reinstates the original hoarded wealth.

Yet another financial repercussion of the theft is to be found in the profit made by the "fence." This profit is invariably large, seldom less than 100 per cent: One may safely say, therefore, that £50 of formerly idle bank deposits move from the tradesmen to whom the booty is re-sold by the "fence." Nor must we neglect the maintenance costs of the systems—preventive, detective, and punitive—erected to combat the thief. Large sums are annually diverted from middle-class pockets through rates and taxes for this purpose. Purchasing power is thus transferred from the property-owning strata to the lower strata, paradoxically enough simply to make the property of the former class more secure. The marginal utility of the units of purchasing power so redistributed automatically for it leaves those to whom it is small for those to whom it is much higher.

The effect of these diverse transactions is an acceleration of the velocity of circulation of the currency. Now, an increase in the velocity of circulation has a considerable effect on the

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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price and production side of the equation as an increase in the total amount of money in circulation. The thief, then, functions in the private capitalistic system as an automatically controlled currency system would function in a more rational world. He is inflationary; mildly purgative; playing a part in the body politic curiously analogous to the part played by the suprarenal glands in the human body, stimulating a vigorous circulation of money as these glands stimulate a vigorous circulation of the blood. Thus the thief is no mere parasite upon the social body. He performs a service, whether he is aware of it or not. The service is indispensable in the system as at present constituted. Certainly he produces nothing tangible; but then nor does the lawyer, the economist, the M.P., the doctor, the taxi-driver. Were all men to practise Christian ethics as well as preach them; were all men to keep themselves fit; were all men to drive their own cars; then the lawyer, politician, economist, doctor and taxi-driver would be superfluous. So, too, were society ordered on a rational basis the thief would be supererogatory. But until he is, he should receive his meed of recognition for the part he plays. He can be regarded as one whose lot is cast in unpleasant ways, as that of the road-sweeper. A poor burglar, as at present recognized by the State, cannot be expected to do his best. His most imaginative efforts only evoke greater retribution by the State.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

And so we are to enter the armament race; not necessarily for defence—else we would have armed, years ago—but for expedience. How little the programme is for defence can be gathered from the fact that Britain armed herself by being the greatest arms exporter in the world during 1935. France undertook to safeguard herself against the oft-depicted hideous German monster by supplying Germany with 60 trainloads of iron ore, daily, during the past three years. (75 per cent, of Germany's steel comes from France). Now we are suddenly to awaken to our defenceless position and feverishly engage in making defence provisions by, probably, supplying Japan with 40 per cent of our output, and China with another 40 per cent. And Capital may graciously come from overseas to assist us in making Home Defence. (The editor will tell you what overseas capital is, if you ask him.) Such preposterous, criminal madness is beyond the average individual's comprehension. Let it remain so; it is beyond the comprehension of anyone professing to be sane.

The point, which arises, is that we, a supposedly sane and democratic people, countenance the racket. Actually we are not consulted. The thing is sprung on us as an election issue, not to say whether we approve or not of the programme—we have to accept it whether or not—but to rouse ourselves to fever heat disputing on technical points, our knowledge of which is nil to the nth degree. At the coming elections we shall be naval experts and air defence experts. And one section of "experts" will be in a majority. How lovely; the programme set in motion eighteen months ago (tanks are arriving this week from England), will carry on without an iota of alteration. Is this Democracy? Is it a sufficient exercising of your right and power as an individual citizen? £2289 millions aggregate, spent by seven countries on armaments last year. Not on solely arming themselves, but on arming the other fellow. What do you think of it?

All these diabolical instruments and scientific achievements can be evolved and financed by the mind of man, and yet the needy and destitute remain unrelieved because, assumedly, man's brain cannot evolve a method of distributing a super-abundance. Do you believe that to be true? The Electors' Campaign to Abolish Poverty provides you with the opportunity to exercise your

right and power to stop the abominations that needlessly exist today. Head Office, McEwan House, 5th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Storm Troops. —Now the elections are drawing nearer, a start has been made to mobilise a battalion of workers to bombard each electorate in turn with literature, preparatory to canvassing signatures. It is whispered that the troops may also attend election meetings

Sedition. —It is not before this time that J. A. Lyons has brought in the ordinance prohibiting gatherings of people within so many feet of Parliament House—and "other places. . . ." A most alarming event occurred last week. A headmaster of a State school, which makes it an affair of State, summoned together his staff of 25 teachers and explained to them that if they told their Member of Parliament to make it his first business in Parliament to see that poverty is abolished, and if they got their friends to also tell him, Poverty will be Abolished. Terrible, isn't it? No wonder armoured cars and tear bombs are arriving in the country.

Brighter Times Club will hold a theatre night at the "Majestic" next Tuesday night. Fifty seats have already been taken. Reservations can be obtained at Head Office.

Malvern Town Hall Meeting

Nearly 500 citizens attended the Malvern Town Hall on Monday night when the public meetings, which had been suspended during the cold month of July, were resumed. The chair was taken by the Rev. Mansley Bennett, and the principal speaker was Dr. John Dale, Melbourne City Health Officer, who outlined the scope and objects of the Movement. Speaking from his experience as a medical officer of health, Dr. Dale stressed the gravity and urgency of a position where a very large section of the community lacked the bare essentials of a healthy life while at the same time they were surrounded by actual, and still greater potential plenty of the very things they needed. It was ridiculous, he asserted, to contend that no solution could be found for the simple problem of distributing in an equitable manner goods which consumers badly needed and which primary and secondary producers and distributors were desperately anxious to dispose of.

Subsequent speakers took up the theme, pointing out the futility of the system of party politics, whereby, in effect, the method of selecting the national

board of directors was to send to Parliament men who were pledged to oppose, rather than to co-operate with one another. What electors really wanted was not merely to be given at intervals the choice of accepting which party policy should be imposed on them, still less of having to make decisions as to methods of which they understood very little; in a democratic State electors should lay down the general lines of their policy, and their parliamentary representatives should then proceed to have these carried out.

The United Electors were conducting an unofficial referendum giving electors the opportunity of stating their demand that Federal Parliament should put aside all other law making until it had taken effective measures to completely abolish from the Commonwealth all unnecessary poverty. If the sitting member in a constituency undertook to do this, then he would be supported; if he refused, every endeavour would be made to unseat him, irrespective altogether of party affiliations.

Resolutions to this effect were put to the meeting and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Dr. R. W. Hornabrook.

In view of the fear accompanying the infantile paralysis outbreak in this district, the attendance at the Malvern meeting was remarkable, and the local group responsible for its organisation is confident that there would otherwise have been at least 1000 people present. The audience included many of the best-known residents in the business and political world, including one of the Federal M.P.s for the district. After the meeting nearly everyone present signed the Elector's Demand and Undertaking, and many signified their intention of taking an active part in the campaign.

Next Town Hall Meetings: —

Moonee Ponds, Wednesday, August 18, at 8 p.m.
Ivanhoe Hall, Sunday, August 22, at 3 p.m.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Co-ordination of groups is now becoming a vital necessity. Reports are coming to hand which are indeed heartening and which show that the demand for results is spreading; there is a definite undercurrent of opinion which is going to make itself felt before long.

Meetings. —The Victoria Park meeting was a great success, and definitely brings this important part of the Fremantle Electorate into the arena of pressure politics. The new group formed here will have a membership of sixty members, and from reports received they are all enthusiastic to get into the fight against poverty. The thanks of the Secretariat are extended to all for their loyal co-operation in what has proved a very worthwhile effort.

A group has been formed at Mundijong as a result of a public meeting addressed by Mr. R. Rushton and Mr. F. Metcalfe. Mr. Davey, who was responsible for organising, has been elected secretary. The initial meeting of the Group was attended by twenty-seven residents; they have already taken a supply of leaflets, and so the campaign spreads. Carry on the good work, Mundijong.

A further meeting was held in the Inaloo Hall, Osborne Park (Swan Electorate), the speakers being Mrs. I. Greenwood and the State Director of the Campaign. While the attendance was not up to expectations, the result was satisfactory, the local Progress Association being there in full force and promising support.

Further meetings are being held at Manjimup, and the Wickepin Zone Council of the W.G.U. are requiring speakers;

arrangements are now in train to deal with this meeting.

Bunbury and Collie are shortly to become active again. Kiluna is shortly to have an introduction to the Electoral Campaign; even the press-boomed goldfields prosperity is not proof against the demand for results. All interested in Wiluna should contact Mr. Warren Kitto, who will be pleased to give all the information required. The Yuna Branch of the Wheatgrowers' Union has also promised assistance and so the campaign spreads to all fronts.

Re Broadcasting Fund. —The above is finding a measure of support at last; this is the most effective propaganda medium it is possible to employ. That the talks are filling a long-felt want is evidenced by the letters of congratulation and satisfaction. Readers are requested to criticise and comment on these talks. Donations are urgently wanted; the continuity of the broadcast session on 6AM and 6PM means satisfactory results, and it is results that count. The talks are limited by the amount we receive—send your donations to the Director of Revenue, marked "Broadcasting" on envelope, Room 31, Bon Marche Buildings, Barrack Street, Perth.

Liberty Bank. —Listeners-in who have a circle of friends are invited to send for a Liberty Bank Box. These are handy for small private collections after each broadcast; the value of a few coppers from each person is inestimable, and we will thus be enabled to conduct the campaign more efficiently.

The No. 3 Leaflet—All groups are requested to send in their requirements and, if possible, cash with order, to lighten the financial drain on Headquarters.

Jumble Sale—This was a great success, and the ladies of the Auxiliary are to be congratulated on bringing to fruition their first big effort this year.

A further sale will be held as soon as sufficient goods are received. All ladies are requested to collect as much as they possibly can. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Robinson for the free use of their motorcar for transport purposes.

All ladies interested in organising a Bazaar to be held in November are being asked to meet at Headquarters on Thursday afternoon, August 12, at 2.45 p.m.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Extraordinary Rally—All members are especially asked to note that an extraordinary rally will be held on August 21, commencing at 2.30 p.m. This will take the form of what might be termed a minor convention, and has been called for the purpose of allowing for discussions to centre on the best line of action to be taken during the pre-election period. The time now appears to be ripe for a demonstration of concerted notion along these lines. Owing to the fact that for some considerable time our members have not had the opportunity to meet in this manner and freely discuss problems concerning the Movement generally, and especially the future activities, it is desired that as many as possible will attend. This will very largely take the place of the usual annual Convention, which customarily is held in September. In all probability the election of officers and presentation of balance-sheet will take place at a formal business meeting at a later date, so that this extraordinary rally will be the best opportunity for members to get together and formulate a policy for the immediate future of the Movement. As previously announced, this rally will be continued on the evening of the 21st with the rally and surprise party.

Meeting of Divisional Directors — On Saturday, August 14, a meeting will be held at Headquarters, which

is called specially to permit the Campaign Directors in each division to submit reports on the work for the year. These reports are expected to show: —

- The number of canvassers now working;
- The number that have been working;
- The number that could be working.

A statement of financial resources in each division is required; and information is also sought on the question of contacting those who have signed the Elector's Demand and Undertaking. For this, two methods are suggested: —

(a) Special leaflet delivered to the elector;

(1) To utilise the daily paper for this follow-up work. The executive desire to know to what extent each division will finance either method.

New Electoral Campaign Badges.

Group leaders particularly are asked to note that Headquarters have recently got out a new Electoral Campaign Badge. These are artistically designed and coloured and inscribed with the words, "ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN—ABOLISH COMPULSORY POVERTY." These badges should do much to popularise the Campaign, and at the same time raise funds. We are making a special offer to group leaders, which also applies to individuals, and that is that these badges may be had for 3/6 per dozen, so that, selling at 6d each, they will show a profit to the group of 2/6 per dozen. You may note that a hawker's licence appears to be necessary before these could actually be sold from door to door. The suggested method, therefore, is to ask for a donation for the cause of the Abolition of Poverty, and to issue a badge as a receipt.

Luncheon Addresses. — Every Friday afternoon the members are favoured with an address from some one representing a line of thought which is usually different from our own, but sometimes we find that our speakers come along and tell us quite a lot that we do not know about our own business. In this regard, Pastor G. T. Fitzgerald gave us a pleasant surprise on Friday, August 6, when he spoke on the coming war. It was very evident that Mr. Fitzgerald had made this subject his own, and the books read, such as "The Bloody Traffic," have given him any amount of matter. While this matter was, to a certain extent, familiar to many members, Mr. Fitzgerald gave it a freshness and a force that was most convincing. While calling himself a Pacifist, he is perhaps one of the most "militant" Pacifists that it has been our pleasure to meet. War to Mr. Fitzgerald is an exceedingly dirty business, and he sees in rearmament only more and more rearmament until the final catastrophe. From this he could only see through disarmament—initiated by those nations who have the courage—the peace that the whole world desires.

Since these addresses are so helpful to everybody concerned, it would be to the benefit of all members to make an appearance at each Friday luncheon.

The injury we do a child by forcing it to live in a slum, to enter a factory at an age when others luckier in their birth are still learning and playing, makes us fear that it will grow up to hate us, and this fear comes out in hysterical abuse of "Reds." The concentration camp and the rubber truncheon are only the extreme expressions of this fear.

—Storm Jameson, in the London News-Chronicle.

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