

THE "NEW TIMES"  
IS OBTAINABLE  
AT  
ALL AUTHORISED  
NEWSAGENTS

# THE NEW TIMES

Further Light on  
Banking  
Commission  
By Bruce H Brown  
(See Page 6.)

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER EXPOSING THE CAUSES, THE INSTITUTIONS, AND THE INDIVIDUALS THAT  
KEEP US POOR IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY

Vol.3. No. 34

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

# DOWN WITH THE GAS ROBBERS!



# Making Up With Franco and Mussolini



# Wrecking Our Wool Trade



# Collins House and Trufood

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

### PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

### GENERAL

**INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES** Pty. Ltd., 155 Yarra St. Cold Glues, Dextrine.

"LEUKOL." By far the most up-to-date Toothpaste. No Toothache. No Extractions. No Pyorrhoea. 80,000 packages sold without advertising. From local Chemist; or Bend 2/- to W. Winford, 45 St. Elmo Rd., N.21.

### MELBOURNE

#### ABBOTSFORD.

**HOLLINS, A. R.**, 405 Victoria St. Motor Repairs of all kinds. J 2047.

#### ALBERT PARK.

**GROCERIES.** C. Paten. Corner Paw and Boyd Streets.

#### ASCOT VALE.

**A. J. AMESS**, 390 Mt Alexander Rd. (Next Tram Sheds.) Motor Garage. Just Price Discount—Repairs and Supplies.

#### AUBURN.

**BLACK CAT LIBRARY** and Ladies Hairdressing, 639 Burwood Rd. Haw. 1779

**BLACKBURN.**

**'A' GRADE MOTOR ENGINEERS** Station Garage, Whitehorse Road. WX 1490.

**HAIRDRESSER** and Tobacconist. Ladies' and Gents'. Wright, 122 South Parade.

**MOTOR REPAIRS.** Straton's. Better Service. Lower Cost. WX 2748.

**PAINTER, PAPERHANGER, etc.** G. B. COLLIER, 8 Wolseley Cres.

#### BOX HILL.

**ALL Electrical and Radio Needs.** G. G. Poster, Whorse Rd. WX2581.

**BOOT REPAIRS.** Work Guaranteed W. Tolley, 975 Whorse Road.

**BOX HILL FURNISHING CO.** 247-9 Station St. Cash or Terms.

**CHAS. L. COX, TAILOR.** Men's and Boys' Wear. 285 Station St.

**CHEMIST.** F. Cheshire, For Your Prescriptions. 270 Station Street.

**COOL DRINKS.** Sweets. Smokes. R. Dannock, 1124 Whitehorse Road.

**CYCLE SHOP** and Oxywelding. "Alwin" Station St., South of Rly.

**DRAPERY.** For Smart Styles and a Fair Deal, TAIT'S Corner Stores

**DRESSMAKER.** Mrs. Evans. Station St., opp. Baptist Church.

**ELECTRICAL & RADIO.** Holiday. Opp Stn. Sales, Repairs. WX 2677.

**FURNITURE REMOVERS.** Gill Bros., 254 Station St. WX2073

**GROCER.** W. M. Anderson, 14 Main St. WX 1233.

**HAIRDRESSER** and Tobacconist. L. Larsen, Station St., opp. Gilpin's

**IRONMONGER & SPORTS STORE** P. P. Park, 10 Main St. WX1290.

**MARS LAUNDRY CO.** WX 2662. Pick up & Deliver. Quality G'weed.

**RENNIE'S BLUE TAXIS.** WX1946. City Prices. Day and Night Service.

**TAILOR.** J. G. Penson, 227 Station Street. Suits Hand Made from 95/-.

**W. A. MOODY.** 1014 Whorse Rd. Fruit, Vegetables Delivered Daily.

**WATCHMAKER and Jeweller.** Barnes. Station Street. Repairs.

### CAMBERWELL.

**SPORTS DEPOT & Leather Goods.** E. Goslin, 777 Burke Rd. Haw. 4900.

### CARNEGIE.

**P. A. McWHINNEY,** Grocer, Confectioner. Opposite State School.

### CITY.

**ANNOUNCING** Naytura Cafe Health Service & Store. Free dietetic advice. 300 Lt. Collins St. C 6001.

**A TAILORED SUIT** at Moderate Price. Dress Suits. DOYLE. C. 6192. Wentworth House, 203 Collins St.

**ATTENTION!** Naytura Hostel. Vegetarian Guest House. Accom. State & Inter. Guests. Haw. 74.

**BLINDS** of every sort. Car curtains repaired. T. Pettit, 235a Queen St.

**CAKES, PASTRY, etc.** Home Made "Clovelly." The Block, Elizabeth St. Cent. 255.

**COLONIAL BUILDING CO.,** 465 Collins St., MU 1930. Call for free booklet on home building.

**DAVIS,** 568 Bourke St. Royal Medal Milkens, Separators, Engines

**DOUGLAS SOCIAL CREDIT BOOKSHOP.** 166 Lt. Collins St.

(Continued on page 3.)

# DOWN WITH THE GAS ROBBERS!

## Wealthy Monopolies Which Deny Men a Living Wage

If essential services like water and electricity are Government enterprises, why not gas also?

Many people have been asking themselves that question these days, and a little investigation into the highly profitable, monopolistic concerns which trade in gas makes the question even more urgent. For while it is in general undesirable that a Government should itself run any enterprise that can be conducted just as efficiently by private individuals, it is clearly the duty of the Government to see that essential services are available to all, and also that the supplying of these services is not made the excuse for exploitation.

Our daily papers and many of our public men have had a great deal to say recently about the enormity of the Post Office making a profit on its operations. But how many of the same people had a word to say, when the employees of Metropolitan Gas in Melbourne went on a stay-in strike for a miserable wage of £4/2/-, about the profit drawn from the public by this monopolist supplier of an essential service, which even during the depth of the depression maintained a steady dividend of 13 per cent? Wherein lies the difference, except in the Post Office profit being proportionately far lower, and in its remaining in the public exchequer instead of being diverted to private dividends?

The silence about gas exploitation, and the readiness to condemn men who are asking for far less than they are morally entitled to—since £4/2/- is a long way short of a decent family wage—is probably traceable mainly to the power over press and public men exercised by those who direct the affairs of the gas monopolies. Otherwise it is difficult to explain such floundering as appeared in the Melbourne *Sun* editorial on Monday when it was solemnly asserted that, "Even were times normal, the gas hold-up would be an unwarranted inconvenience, but with the threatened spread of an epidemic in our midst, this interruption of an essential service is a callous and calculating blow at the welfare and safety of the citizens. Not only is it adding to the drudgery and anxiety of the average housewife, but it is hindering medical work, and in countless homes is making more difficult that routine of cleanliness now so necessary in face of the paralysis scourge. . . . The longer the service is withheld the further will possible public concern for the men's cause be alienated."

### South Australian Gas

Taking first the South Australian Gas Company, whose employees set the sit-down example to the Melbourne men, we find its board of directors includes gentlemen whose other activities embrace the following directorships:—Bank of Adelaide (chairman and another), Adelaide Steamship Co., South Australian Brewing Co., General Motors Holden's, Adelaide Cement Co., Wallaroo Mt. Lyell Fertilisers; and there are others with similar links.

Nowadays South Australian Gas pays a dividend of only 5 per cent, and when it is calling for fresh capital its new shares are offered at auction, but before it was brought under the South Australian Gas Act in 1924 it used to have a fine time in issuing shares out of reserves. At the moment we have not access to the full history of these capitalisations, but we have no doubt that the nominal 5 per cent represents a very

handsome return to the earlier shareholders.

### Metropolitan Gas'

On the board of Metropolitan Gas we find directors of (amongst others) the following outside concerns:—National Bank, National Mutual Life (chairman and another), Colonial Gas (chairman), Mount Lyell (chairman), Johns & Waygood (chairman), Commonwealth Fertilisers and Chemicals, Wallaroo Mount Lyell Fertilisers, Union Assurance, Victoria Insurance (chairman), Victoria General Insurance (chairman).

Metropolitan Gas has a paid-up capital of £1,375,000, and its accounts disclose a trifle of a million or so in reserves and undivided profits, but it is generally believed in commercial circles that further very large sums are hidden away in "conservative" valuations—as would be expected from the nature of its board.

Right through the depression, when the bulk of gas users were going through a terrible time, Metropolitan Gas has managed to pay the handy dividend of 13 per cent. Of course the directors will "explain" that the present return on total shareholders' funds is equal only to 7.7 per cent, because the shares at auction have fetched prices far above their par value. But if shareholders are prepared to gamble on high dividends by offering inflated prices for shares, whether at company auctions or on the Stock Exchange, this is poor consolation for the consumer who pays for those dividends.

Again (of course) the directors of Metropolitan Gas will say that there is no similarity between Stock Exchange gambling and a company's sale of its own shares at a premium, since in the latter case the premiums paid go directly into shareholders' funds. To which the answer is that if Metropolitan Gas wishes to attract extra capital for working purposes, the paying on it of an effective dividend of almost eight per cent, is wretched financing, and is moreover, quite unnecessary. Under its authorisation to borrow on debentures it has no less than £1,069,000 outstanding at 4 per cent, against £706,100 at rates varying up to 6½ per cent—and even of this latter amount almost £400,000 is bearing only 5½ per cent.

So much for what Metropolitan Gas gets out of consumers. What of its working staff?

### Wage Increase Represents Dividend of Less Than Half of One Per Cent.

When the men struck last week for a wage of £4/2/- there were, according to the daily papers, about 800 men involved, and the increase they were seeking amounted to 3/- a week more than the directors were prepared to grant. What would it have cost the company to pay the wage asked? 800 times 3/- a week equals £6240 a year. One per cent, on the company's paid-up capital requires; £13,750 a year.

So the granting without demur of the request for a minimum wage of £4/2/- a week to its employees would mean that Metropolitan Gas, without passing anything on to the public, could still afford to pay dividends of 12½ per cent, on its capital, or 7.4 per cent, on shareholders' total funds.

As a matter of fact, it is highly probable that by trotting out a little of its concealed reserves (or "conservative valuations") the company could keep on

paying the same dividends as ever.

Just read those figures over again, and then ask yourself is it any wonder that so many men are turning towards State socialism or Communism?

### Other Gas Companies

It is not proposed here to delve at length into the history or personnel of all the gas companies in Australia, but here are just a few pointers:—

Colonial Gas, which year by year is spreading its tentacles throughout Australia, is domiciled in Collins House, Melbourne. The chairman and managing director is P. C. Holmes Hunt (who will probably be the next Collins House knight), who is also deputy chairman of Metropolitan Gas. One of his two co-directors is Sir Arthur Robinson, principal legal adviser to the Collins House group, and director of almost a score of companies, including the Bank of Adelaide, two of whose directors, as al-

Such incidents make this company's 6 per cent, dividends not to be sneezed at, especially for the early birds.

And similarly the Brisbane Gas Co. has amongst its historical records the annals of a transaction when the company distributed a special dividend of £2 5/- per £5 share (45 per cent.) to enable its shareholders to apply for extra capital—which likewise makes this company's 6½ per cent dividends look far more healthy to those who were in on the ground floor.

### The Monopolists are Slave Drivers

We trust enough has been indicated here to show that Australian gas companies tend more and more to come under the control of the same small group of men who are now the virtual dictators of this country, who for the most part conduct their enterprises with fairly high technical efficiency—since they are intelligent enough to pay decent remuneration to their executive staffs—but who are absolutely soulless as far as the rank and file of their employees are concerned.

We have often said, and we repeat it, that there is in general no hostility in Australia between masters and men. The average employer is neither a wage slasher nor a slave driver. But the same cannot be said of the relations existing between the financial-industrial monopolies and their men. Apart from the current instance of Metropolitan Gas, we had recently the case where the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. went to the Court to get (and got) a wage reduction—and this monopoly had just previously distributed to its shareholders the colossal sum of £5,850,000 in bonus shares, as well as a special bonus dividend to enable them to pay taxation on the new share issue. Not long before another great monopoly, Australian Glass, had, in spite of accounts, which revealed exceeding prosperity, resisted its men's application to the Court for a restoration of the emergency wage cuts of the depression. And similar instances could be multiplied.

It is the men who are responsible for this sort of wage slavery who are the real fomenters of Communism. And until their anti-social activities are effectively restrained by the State we shall never have either industrial or political peace, nor is it desirable that we should.

But, instead of being restrained, men of this type, through their influence over Governments, are all the time getting a freer rein. The Colonial Sugar Refining Co., rather than the farmer of North Queensland, has been the principal beneficiary of the sugar ramp. The political influence of Australian Glass is one of the nastiest chapters in recent Australian parliamentary history. And did not Metropolitan Gas successfully bring pressure to bear on the last Victorian Government to restrict competition from the State Electricity Commission?

We read of America being governed by its Four Hundred, and of France by its Two Hundred. Australia is under a dictatorship just as absolute and even more dangerous. For its real rulers are a few dozen men—which gives us less thieves to fall out with one another.

For consolation, however, when the people do at last wake up, there will be less enemies of the State to overcome.

### HIGH WATER MARKS OF "PROSPERITY"

Accounts published during the last few days show that both Coles's Half-A-Crown-And-Under and Cox's Time-Payment - Without - A - Cash-Order business have made record profits.

Good luck to them. But will J. A. Lyons (or the Stock Exchange, on which their shares are booming) advance these as further proofs of our national prosperity?

ready noted, are on the board of South Australian Gas. The other director is Sir Stephen Morell, director of Carlton & United Breweries, Melbourne Co-operative Brewery Equity Trustees (along with Attorney-General Menzies, etc.) and Victoria Insurance (along with L. F. Miller, of Metropolitan Gas).

Brighton Gas, of Melbourne, is a comparatively small show, with a paid-up capital of £176,000. Two of its last three issues of capital have been in the form of bonus shares, and it still contrives to pay a steady dividend of 10 per cent. This company performed the remarkable feat the other day of issuing a balance sheet, which showed exactly the same amount of profit as for the preceding period. We mention this only as a coincidence and not (of course) with any idea of suggesting that the books are carefully window-dressed.

In the archives of Australian Gas Light, of Sydney, you will find, amongst other interesting records, the history of one bonus issue of an extra fifty per cent, of capital, amounting to the not insignificant sum of £424,988.

### WHY FRANCE IS BANKRUPT

France is bankrupt because it has only about £400,000,000 in gold, which it can't spend because it has to keep £400,000,000 in gold in case it should go bankrupt.

This is not meant to be funny.

It is just the situation in France boiled down to the barest facts.

- "The Caretaker," in the "Sunday Express," July 4.

**FREEDOM-WHAT IS IT?**

By LEONORA POLKINGHORNE.

We want a new Dr. Johnson to compile a dictionary for the masses—to take ordinary words and insist on their real meaning. If that were done, perhaps there would not be so much loose use of words and phrases as there is at present. For instance, enfranchisement has been confused with freedom, as though it were the same thing, and, while no one will doubt that the vote intelligently used is a great power, it is quite possible to have a vote and yet live in a state of wretched slavery. Nowadays we of the British Empire are all enfranchised, but that does not mean that we do not need to watch our step every day of our lives.

If you do not believe this, try it on your tradesman. Just say to him, "I understand that you are a Socialist", and he will turn pale, his eyes will goggle, and he will protest vehemently that he has no political opinions whatever.

This particular form of domination does not come from authority above—it is the kind we impose on each other. We say we will not buy that man's butter or cheese or tea if he presumes to hold different opinions from us on political matters. When we behave so, we prove ourselves unworthy of liberty, and should not complain if authority treats us in the same way. We should concede that a man's private opinions have nothing whatever to do with his business or his means of earning a living.

This bad business of using a man's daily bread to coerce his mind enters into every avenue of life. Of course, if we were not all held in the grip of a financial dictatorship we would not have the power to dominate the minds of others. It is because the money is in short supply, and we are all out after it, that this tyranny is possible.

**Bed Without Tea**

It starts in the nursery, when a child is sent to bed without his evening meal when he offends authority. Food should have nothing to do with punishment, yet the "bread-and-water diet" in prisons for offenders assumes that it should. Recently there has been a minor agitation in Adelaide about prison diet, Mr. Abbott, M.P., insisting that prisoners, whatever their offence, should be adequately fed. I hold no brief for Mr. Abbott or his brand of politics, but I honour him for the stand he is taking on this matter. All crime suggests a pathological state, anyway, and to lower the vitality of the body is no way to effect a cure.

**Food and Finance**

If we were fully possessed of the truth that man has a right to live and express himself quite apart

from his right to sustenance, we would not so easily submit to the dictatorship of finance, but we have somehow become so imbued with the idea that only "well-behaved" persons, holding "right" opinions, should be adequately nourished that we do not put up the fight we ought against those who lower our standard of living at their will.

Is there not something absolutely ludicrous in societies celebrating the "emancipation" of the Negroes, when we come to look at the facts? While in slavery (or should we call it technical slavery, since they have been far worse enslaved since they were freed from it?) these unfortunate people were property, and as such were taken proper care of. They were sure every day of food, shelter and medical comforts. It is just a question whether the overseer's whip was any worse than the

**SIR H. GULLETT ON HOMES**

"A comprehensive housing scheme should aim simultaneously at slum abolition and housing of a kind which would provide family facilities morally and physically healthy to as many Australian workers as possible.

"THERE SHOULD BE FREEHOLD HOMES FOR THOSE ABLE TO BUY THEM ON TIME PAYMENT; HOMES AT A TOLERABLE RENTAL FOR THOSE ON THE BASIC WAGE OR A LITTLE MORE, AND ACCOMMODATION, ON SOME APPROVED BASIS, FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE."

—Sir H. Gullett, M.H.R., to Melbourne Constitutional Club on Monday.

BUT WHY NOT THEIR OWN HOME FOR EVERY FAMILY, SIR HENRY? THERE'S PLENTY OF BRICKS AND MORTAR.

cruel goad of economic insecurity. At the worst, it was not always in evidence. But when they were cast forth upon the charitable world that insisted so loudly on their emancipation, they found themselves, weakened by long dependence, trying to sell their labour in a hostile market, with the cards badly stacked against them. The white man still owned them, but he no longer acknowledged the least responsibility about them. They had ceased to be valuable. The story of the Negro in his struggle to maintain himself and his dependents under these circum-

**ABOUT THOSE TIES**

By "ELECTOR."

It's no use trying to do good by stealth. Your good deeds will find you out. Just the other day we were thrilled by the news that an anonymous donor had handed a quarter of a million pounds to Earl Baldwin, presumably as a humble tribute to the noble Earl's monumental record of statesmanship during his Parliamentary career. And our cup of joy overflowed when we learned further that the Lord of Bewdley had earmarked the money to form the nucleus of a trust to strengthen the ties of Empire.

But the fierce light that beats upon the places where the men of good deeds do dwell has revealed the identity of the donor—Sir Henry Strakosch, the well-known banker. According to the *London Evening Standard*, Sir Henry made the gift as a thank offering for the manner in which "a supremely difficult situation" had been handled, and "an incalculable danger to the Empire had been averted."

So now we know. The disclosure has led some nasty-minded people to declare that it was the collars, and not the ties of Empire that the philanthropic donor wished to see strengthened. And there may be some truth in that, because Henry has collared a few good things in his time. His directorships, for instance, are as the sands on the seashore for number; indeed, it

stances would draw tears from a stone, or a prosperity-gushing Cabinet minister

**The Bar to Freedom**

The plain fact is that there is no freedom in the world while Finance calls the tune, nor can there be. We may toil from dawn to dark, and after that eat the bread of carefulness and scrimp and save. It will all avail us nothing. The scientist may discover, and the inventor invent, but that will not set us free if Finance dictates otherwise. Wealth may pour from our productive system in fullest measure, the laboratory may supplement the deficiencies of soil and climate, but it will not cure poverty.

That is what makes all this war-making talk of the need of markets, and expansion, and more territory and whatnot, sound so wildly beside the mark. Why then, boast that we are "free" when it is so clear that we are not? Better the brutal realism of Fascist countries, which say plainly, "We spit upon freedom", than to keep up the miserable pretence that we have something that we do not possess. When we realise that we have it not, we may rouse ourselves and fight for it.

may be said that the sun never sets on his interests, nor, for that matter, on his capital.

\* \*

In a recent cable it was announced that one of the administrators of the new Empire Trust is that trusty Trustee and dear friend and adviser of all nations, Montagu Norman. You see how the thing works now, don't you? The "incalculable danger to the Empire" having been averted—or shall we say, "removed"?—Sir Henry's collars will be quite safe; and Montagu will attend to the ties, striped, spotted, plain and Old School. So everything will be O.K.

My words, when you come to think of it we Britons are a lucky people. Carefree we may roam the globe. We may penetrate the farthest and darkest places and go unmolested; for wherever we go we may be sure that one of the boys of the bulldog breed, a Strakosch or a Niemeyer or a Guggenheim, has been there before us, smoothing our path and protecting our interests.

Coming now to our own little corner of the British Dominions Pevond the Zeas, have you noticed how the tie and collar business is flourishing these days? The Broadcasting Commission has so strengthened its ties that, as the chairman says, even the Prime Minister won't be able to air his views for the next three months.

Now, that's too bad. Here is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth simply bursting with good news about all he's going to do us for when he gets back into power, and he finds every microphone on the national network literally surrounded by an armed guard.

But, believe it or not, one of his underlings openly walks into Wesley Church, swipes the guard over the head with a shillelagh, collars the mike, shouts "Hurroo for Casey," and tells the world all about the secret and sacred Imperial Conference; and not only that but he even gives de tails of the private lives of the Royal family. Doubtless some thing will be done about it, but it is all very disturbing.

\* \*

Now, collars and ties are not much good to a man unless he has a shirt. So let the good news resound through the land: we are going to have no less than forty chain stores in Victoria entirely devoted to the outward and invisible clothing requirements of mere man.

Chain stores, of course, are no new affairs. Nearly all stores are chain stores—they are chained to the banks. But if this latest organisation wants to shake off its shackles, I hereby offer for £50 (cash) a slogan, which should go a long way to help them to freedom—"Men Swear by Our Men's Wear."

Incidentally, there is another way in which they, and all other businesses, can free themselves from the chains of the Overdraft Merchants, and I offer the suggestion to them free of charge. Here it is. Come in and assist the Electoral Campaign to Abolish Poverty. Then will their rough places be made plain, the mountains of their advertising expenses be brought low, and their coffers be filled with real money. Storekeepers, chain and otherwise, freedom and real prosperity await you. They are yours as soon as you choose to help yourselves out of the deeps of the financial morass by helping this sane and progressive movement to bring your goods within the reach of every one who wants to buy.

**New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory**

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

**MELBOURNE (Cont.)**

(Continued from page 2.)

**CITY.**  
**DRY CLEANING & REPAIRS.** "Saville," Leonard House, Eliz. St., 5th Floor.  
**FROCKS.** Coats; W., O.S.; Mod. Price. Kelleher's, Block Court, 3rd Floor.  
**GINGER JAR CAFE,** 238 Flinders Lane (4 doors from Swanston St.). Best 3-course meal in city. JAS. JENNINGS, 211 Queen St., and 6 Regent Arc. Optician, 73 years est. Testing Free.  
**MAISON MERLIN,** Natl. Bk. Bldg., 271 Col. St. Ladies' Hairdressers.  
**OPTICIAN** and Hearing Aids.  
**M. L. COLECHIN,** Champion House, 4th Floor, 57 Swanston St. F 5566.  
**OPTICIAN,** J. H. Buckham, J.P. Nat. Bk. Ch., 271 Collins St. C. 831.  
**PRINTING.** E. E. GUNN, Off 600 Lit. Bourke St. Cent. 6021.  
**QUICK SERVICE TOBACCO KIOSK.** Equitable Place. Buy your Smokes here!  
**TAILOR,** Dependable Suit for 130/-. P. Whitcroft, 215 Queen Street.  
**TAILOR,** High Class; H. Stackpoole. Lang Arc., off 333 Lons. St.  
**WATCHMAKER** and Jeweller. A. Chapman, CAPITOL HSE, 6 yrs. Hardy Bros., in charge Repair Dept.

**DARLING.**  
**ESTATE AGENT,** J. White, 1 Illowa St. UY 6521.

**ELSTERNWICK.**  
**BRIDGE & SON.** Men's & Boys' Wear. Opp. Station. Phone L 5383.  
**CARMICHAEL'S,** Men's Wear. 233 G'huntly Rd., next Baptist Ch. H. L. SERCOMBE Pty. Ltd., 70 Glenhantly Rd. Dairy Produce Specialists.

**RADIO & ELECT'L SERVICES.** Mackintosh's, 72 Glenh'tly Rd. L 4588.

**ELWOOD.**  
**THE DUCHEY LIBRARY,** 3 Ormond Road. New Books Weekly.

**FAIRFIELD.**  
**BUTCHER,** 93 Station Street. Arthur B. Heath Solicits Your Patronage.

**FOOTSCRAY.**  
**BOOT REPAIRS.** A. A. Taylor. Station Ramp, While U Wait S'vice.  
**MASSEY'S GARAGE,** W'town Rd. The Home of Motor Reconditioning

**GLENFERRIE.**  
**OPTICIAN,** W. W. Nicholls, 100 Glenferrie Rd. Haw. 5845. SUITS to order from 70/-. H. 6813. A. Sutherland, 184 Glenferrie Rd.

**HAMPTON.**  
**BEAUTY SALON,** Norma Bell, 33 Hampton St., next P.O. XW2160  
**BOOKSELLER,** S. J. Endacott, 75 Hampton St., for all book needs.  
**CHEMIST,** Rod Burgess. 156a Hampton St. XW 2424.  
**HAIRDRESSER,** Ladies and Gents, R. STEWART, 68 Hampton St.  
**HOME MADE CAKES.** BEAN'S, 140 Hampton St. XW1787.  
**TAILOR,** R. W. Simpson, Railway Walk. Suits Hand Made from 95/-.

**IVANHOE.**  
**BOOT REPAIRS.** J. Fraser solicits your custom. 130 Upper H'berg Rd.  
**UPHOLSTERER.** Blinds & Bedding. Duke's, 111 H'berg Rd. Ivan. 626.

**KEW. ANDERSON'S,** 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.  
**BUTCHER,** S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice. C. KENNEDY, Grocer. Haw. 229. Opp. Cemetery Clock, Parkhill Rd.  
**DRY CLEANING,** Depot & Library A. I. Fraser, 182 High St. H. 3733. E. WHITE. 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.  
**FLORIST,** "Mayfair," Haw. 1452 Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto. Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons. GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought. Greaves, Opp. Rialto.  
**LADIES' Hairdresser.** Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd.

(Continued on page 7.)

Hon. Sir Arthur Robinson, K.C.M.G., Collins House, Melbourne.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Your many-sided activities in connection with the affairs of the Collins House Group, and the wide range of your own interests as a company director, ranging from the Bank of Adelaide to Ford Motors, and from De Havilland Aircraft to Gold Mines of Australia, prompt us to think that you may have overlooked a case of severe hardship being inflicted on the poorest people of Australia by one of your companies. We refer to Trufood of Australia, of which you are chairman of directors, and which has recently made a substantial increase in the price of its product. We don't know if you and Lady Robinson have ever fallen back on Trufood, Sir Arthur, but we assure you that this skim milk preparation is used in many and many an Australian household, which is too poor to afford fresh milk. As far as we can learn from the trade, we understand that the principal reason given for the increase in price is that the tinplate for your containers is much dearer than it was. We were having a look over Trufood of Australia's financial history the other day, and we found that the company, which had had to write off 8/- per share in 1913, was reconstructed under the same name in 1922. As part of the reconstruction those

shareholders whose £1 shares had been written down to 12/- received three fully paid £1 shares for every two shares of 12/-. Again, in the following year, there was another reconstruction, as the result of which shareholders received five shares in the new company for every three old shares. Dividends paid by your company for the past five years, on this five-shares-for-two basis, were 4, 4.5, 6, 5 and 6 per cent, in addition to which the company has been steadily accumulating reserves and undivided profits, so that it could afford to pay a five per cent, dividend (equal to 12½ per cent, on the pre-reconstructed shares) for another five years without making a penny of trading profit. It could do more, because the company's income from outside investments now brings in a return of nearly two per cent. Further, it is understood in Stock Exchange circles that the company's provisions for depreciation of freeholds, plant, etc., are very "liberal"—meaning that the enterprise is building up substantial inner or secret reserves.

In view of these circumstances, do you still feel it imperative that the poor should have to be slugged so heavily for tinplate? At the worst, could you not have a word with some of your associates in the Metals Group? Or again, why not change over from tins to cartons? Here again you might have a word with some of your associates in the Paper and Pulp Group.

THE NEW TIMES

## THE NEW TIMES

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

Telephone: M 5384.

Vol. 3. No. 34.  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1937.

### "Our" Policy

Have you noticed signs in the papers of a sudden change in "our" foreign policy?

If you want a classical example, look up the cable page of last Saturday night's *Herald*. At the top of the page you will find, as the star item, a three-column heading, "Persecution of Church." The sub-headings are "Spanish Attack" and "Hierarchy Letter." The article then goes on to give the contents of a letter "signed by two Cardinals, six Archbishops and 35 Bishops", stating that during the civil war in Spain Government supporters have destroyed or totally plundered 20,000 churches and chapels, murdered 10 Bishops and 600 priests, and killed 300,000 laymen, "chiefly for their religious beliefs." And there is a good deal more to the same effect, apparently just discovered by the *Herald*.

Another cable announced that things are bad with the Government forces. "The situation in Barcelona is becoming increasingly difficult . . . conditions in Madrid are most serious, with famine and disease increasing", and more to the same effect. The Government forces, it appears also, are in a terrible way for medical supplies, and "military leadership is said to be in the hands of a council of three, composed of Petrovich, Bulow and General K. Leber." Foreigners, you will notice.

It was also announced that France will not take any more Spanish refugees, and that Franco is protesting against the continued residence abroad of Spanish children (for whom he is prepared to provide a good home, with all mod. convs.).

And so the process is going on day by day in all of Australia's "leading" dailies. The public is being re-educated to believe that Franco is perhaps a gentleman and a patriot after all. The reason? Franco has virtually won the war, and *Franco already controls the iron ore deposits around Bilbao*. These deposits are badly desired by those who control Britain's foreign policy, and so, with the capture of Bilbao by Franco, "our" sails had to be trimmed.

Turning back to Saturday night's *Herald*, a two-column heading on the same cable page gave us a marvellous somersault on the subject of the Italians in Abyssinia. According to Major E. W. Polson Newman, "author and soldier, the first Englishman to tour Abyssinia since the Italian conquest": "Everywhere he went in Abyssinia, he was

impressed by the harmony between the Italians and Abyssinians and the speed with which good roads had been built along the main lines of communication." The natives, the Major told us, are busy and happy, fields and markets are crowded, there are comparatively few troops to be seen, there are scarcely any visible signs of the aftermath of the war, and "general stores, European shops, cinemas and restaurants are transforming the appearance of the principal towns." Even Marshal Graziani, the gentleman who not long since narrowly escaped death by bombing, "is severe when the occasion demands, but is highly respected by the natives."

There needed only to be added to this the discovery, just come to light, that as early as last March Mussolini offered to allow Haile Selassie to return to Abyssinia as Emperor under Italian control.

So now we find that the Italians, too, are gentlemen, "severe when the occasion demands, but highly respected", and that they are making a howling success of Abyssinia. Again, the reason? The British-Dutch-Jewish oil gentlemen must propitiate Mussolini over their little plan in Palestine.

Such are the lines along which "British" foreign policy is at present conducted. It is conducted by a little junta of internationalists with absolute disregard of the real interests of the people either of Britain or of the Dominions. And it is following the dictates of this junta that the existing Federal Ministry is anxious to commit the people of Australia, even to the extent of taking part in an external war without being consulted. Speaking to his usual audience of women (the A.W.N.L., at Brighton Beach) on Monday, Minister for Customs White criticised Labor's defence principle, that a referendum must be held before Australia could take part in a war outside the Commonwealth, as "the height of folly." "We can best help", said Mr. White, "with a forthright declaration of mutual help and support within the Empire, coupled with the greatest degree of local defence by all arms which we can offer. Any advocacy of standing alone, or helplessness, during the present world troubles and uncertainty, savours of sophistry or suicide."

But if only Mr. White and his pals would give us some inkling of whom it is we are supposed to be getting ready to hate. We thought it was Franco, but now it seems it is not; we thought it was Mussolini, but again we were astray. Even Hitler is once more in the running for a good conduct card. Really, in the absence of a lead as to "our" policy, the desire to adapt ourselves to our surroundings will make us as mentally confused as the chameleon which was suddenly dropped on a Scotch plaid.

### Wrecking Our Wool Trade

One would think that the trade figures made available by the Commonwealth Statistician at the beginning of this week should suffice to write the obituary to the political career of Sir Henry Gullett and the Ministry which supported his "trade diversion" schemes of last year. In the trading year 1936-37, it is now disclosed, Australia's total sales to Japan fell by more than £6 millions sterling (£7½ millions Australian). Wool sales dropped from £14.8 millions Australian to

£7.7 millions, and wheat from £1.9 millions to under £700,000. The net loss of trade to Australia in her dealings with Japan was about £6¼ millions Australian.

The "defence" put up by the Gullett-Imperialist school (a defence negated by their ignominious climb-down and reversal of policy) was that Australia would gain on the roundabouts what she lost on the swings, and that, with regard to wool in particular, there was no need for anxiety, since the world simply had to have Australia's clip.

But figures published at various times recently by the Melbourne *Herald's* wool expert—a gentleman who is as honest and candid as the *Herald's* last wool writer, the late J. E. Wardell—go to show the stupidity of any such idea. As lately as last Saturday this writer, dealing with our wool sales to Germany and Italy, pointed out that "Germany's importations are now only a shadow of their volume of four and five years ago." Last year Germany imported from Australia about 50 per cent, more wool than in either of the two years preceding; this was mainly due to a reshuffle with Japan in the South African market, but "the salient point is contained in the fact that her importations from all sources revealed no improvement when compared with the figures of the previous year."

Italy, although buying more extensively than when sanctions closed the market to her, still took only about half what she had been buying before the Abyssinian adventure.

Both countries, "by the development of artificial fibres, aim to eliminate the use of wool."

"Problems such as these," continued the *Herald* expert, "constitute a grave danger to our greatest industry, the production of wool. It is foolish to think that wool occupies an unassailable position. When a progressive nation like Germany, situated in a relatively cold climate, can reduce her importations of wool so substantially, the claim cannot be put forward that the world must always use our wool. Australia alone cannot arrest this alarming drift in demand for wool by nations, which were once powerful, and at times dominant forces in our markets. But a more liberal trading policy with those who want our products would certainly help to end the drift, and perhaps restore the position."

In that last sentence lies the kernel of the problem. Overseas nations want our wool, but they cannot buy it unless we buy their products in return. And our people have not the money to buy their products without penalising our own factories. In other words, as was once admitted even by Sir Henry Gullett in an unguarded moment, there is not enough money in Australia to enable us to buy the whole of our own wool clip. Hence there is not enough money to enable us to buy other countries' goods in exchange for that wool. And unless steps are very soon taken to see that our supplies of money are made equal to our supplies of goods, other countries will so expand their artificial fibre industries as to enable them to say, "No, thank you", to the best wool publicity campaign that could be devised.

Just at the moment the problem is put into the background through the rearmament boom. But it will come on to the centre of the stage again, and before long.

## Some Unemployment Revelations

Writing on unemployment insurance in the Melbourne *Herald* on Saturday last, Mr. W. B. Reddaway gave some details of a house-to-house survey now being conducted by the Economics Research Department of Melbourne University. The object of this survey is to get the fullest possible information as to employment and unemployment, with particular reference at the moment to its bearing on the much-heralded Ince scheme.

The different aspects of unemployment insurance have already been fully discussed in these columns, and it is not proposed to go further into the subject at the moment—except to note that Mr. Reddaway, like any other person whose mental qualifications are above the moron class, finds that "The existence of an unemployment insurance scheme would do very little indeed to reduce the State's payments for sustenance and relief works."

But Mr. Reddaway's reasons for this conclusion are far more interesting, in view of the disclosures they make as to our unemployment position. So far, the University's survey has been confined to the municipality of Fitzroy. And here it was found that "only a small proportion of the people who had been out of work for a short time (and would therefore be eligible for insurance benefit) were now being supported by the State. The rest were living on savings, credit or the earnings of other members of the household. It is apparent, therefore, that the main function of insurance benefit would be to provide an income for people who now get along somehow without governmental aid. Such a reform would be a most welcome social measure, but it would do little to improve the position of State finances."

"One final word must be said on the question of whether the University's sample, based only on the municipality of Fitzroy, really provides adequate support for this conclusion. In one respect other districts would show more favourable results—there would not be so much long-standing unemployment. But against this, the proportion of people now registering for sustenance would almost certainly be less in those districts. It is my opinion that the second factor would be at least as important as the first."

All of which, apart from its incidence on insurance, goes to show once again that the official unemployment registrations are far below the real figures of present unemployment, and that the "widespread and almost unbelievable prosperity" now being advanced by Messrs. Lyons and Co. is quite unbelievable.

### Japan's Chances in China

If Japan is to have any chance of beating China, she must, according to our cable pundits, do it in a short, sharp dash. Why? Because, we were told on Tuesday, her "financial situation is such that she cannot afford a prolonged campaign."

Fancy expecting anyone to believe that old chestnut! War is the one occasion when financial crises are not allowed to enter into the picture, when finance becomes, for the moment at least, the handmaiden of industry, and when whatsoever is

physically possible becomes financially possible.

To be sure, since war is conducted on the same vicious system of loan finance as peace, the money-lenders (or rather money manufacturers) in due course come in for their cut off our flesh; but they dare not refuse to make available all the financial credit (or debt) which flat-out industry can use. Hence England, which had taken from the time of William the Dutchman to 1914 to erect a national debt of about £700 millions, built up this modest edifice in the years of carnage to a skyscraper of £7000 millions. And hence Australia, whose national debt from Captain Cook to Federation amounted to £200 millions, could spend £800 millions on the Great Adventure of 1914-18. No, the financial situation does not bother statesmen in war.

A far more significant factor in the present unhappy situation in the East is the Japanese statement that Japan is not seeking territorial expansion but merely economic advantages. In other words the Japanese people, with all their intelligence, with all their wonderful craftsmanship, are heading down the same silly road as the rest of us fools. They are seeking "favourable" balances of trade, they are trying to push on to other peoples more goods than they may take from those peoples in return. And if China will not absorb Japanese goods, then China must be laid waste, if necessary, till she listens to reason. Once she consents to become a wider outlet for Japan's wealth, she will doubtless be given reconstruction loans - - of more wealth.

As the old song says, it's the same the whole world over. British traders are indignant because we will not take more of their real wealth away from them. We are indignant because Germany, Italy and the rest will not do the same for us. Russia is again "threatening" the world with a wheat-dumping expedition. And if we can't get the foreigner to absorb our unwanted wealth, we all set to work to plan schemes of restriction or destruction. The only thing that never occurs to us as a practical policy is to try it on the dog.

### Gosford Sets and Example

The people of Gosford, in the coastal citrus country north of Sydney, are on the warpath. Their school buildings are dilapidated, and over 500 children have for a playground a steeply sloping, rock-strewn area that, according to a member of the indignant parents' committee, has been the cause of over 100 cases of injury to children in the last year.

Representations made to the N.S.W. Education Department have hitherto been in vain, because that body, like every other public department and board in Australia is faced with the apparently insoluble problem of, "Where is the money to come from?"

The parents now say they don't care where the money comes from and they are arranging a public meeting to demand that the school buildings and grounds be put in order—the alternative, a strike of parents against sending their children to school.

This is the right and the only way to go about the business. The Gosford parents know there is no physical difficulty about having their wishes carried out, and so they are concentrating on a demand for results.

**THE PRINTED WORD**  
in  
**Pamphlets, Booklets, Leaflets, Weeklies, Monthlies, Annuals, Newspapers, Magazines, or Books**  
**EXCELLENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY PRODUCED**

By  
**THE ADVOCATE PRESS**  
143-151 a'BECKETT ST.,  
MELBOURNE.  
Phone: F 2673 (3 lines).

## NEW MEDICAL DISCOVERIES THAT ARE OLD

A brief account of how some of our medical inheritance of knowledge has come down to us as a dividend from our ancestors.

(Condensed from an article by Grace Verne Silver in the New York journal, *Your Body*.)

During the last thirty-odd years there has been, perhaps, more medical progress than in any century preceding the twentieth. A surprisingly large number of our discoveries, however, have their inception in the dim past, and owe their existence in part to the labours of those long since dead, to the observations of men often primitive and sometimes illiterate. This is true of all branches of scientific knowledge. In many lines we have made what we consider remarkable progress; but most remarkable of all, in some ways, is the fact that we have, as a race of supposedly intelligent and reasoning beings, been so slow in advancing.

The civilised world now makes war on rats because rats and other rodents have fleas, and their fleas transmit *bubonic plague* to people. We have no sure cure for the plague, but we know how it is

### ABIE'S IRISH ROSE

Complaining in the Victorian Legislative Assembly last week that the Victorian Year Book, when published, does not contain sufficiently up-to-date information, Mr. Archie Michaelis, member for St. Kilda, added: "I would suggest that its publication should be delayed a little in order to include later figures."

transmitted. Nine hundred years ago a physician named Avicenna noticed that whenever rats and mice came out of their holes and died in the streets the people had bubonic plague, and in the next few centuries many cities warred on rats. The Jews of Frankfurt, in the sixteenth century, had to pay a special annual tax of 5000 rat-tails. The war on the rats of Hamelin passed into legend.

Surgeon Avicenna also recommended that, instead of a knife, a red-hot iron should be used in surgery. Modern surgeons are beginning to use the "electric knife" which serves the same purpose. Savages in most primitive parts of the world hold a red-hot stone against a wound or snake bite. We

call it *cauterisation*. They knew nothing of antiseptics as such; they did know that intense heat "killed the bad spirits" and caused wounds to heal.

The ancients, and most races right down to our own times, feared night air—"bad air." The Romans, living on hills surrounded by marshes, called their prevailing disease *mal aria*—bad air. Not till the very end of the last century did it occur to anyone that mosquitoes and bad night air were usually found together, and that it was the insects rather than the air, which caused illness.

The fact that germs cause disease is a relatively modern discovery; yet two thousand and more years ago the Greeks and Egyptians recognised that certain diseases were contagious. The word "quarantine" means forty days, and was first used in 1383, when ships bearing diseased persons were held forty days in the harbour of Marseilles before being allowed to discharge passengers or cargo. In 1665—during the great plague in London—no English ship was permitted to unload at any Atlantic port in the American colonies. The early colonists realised that disease was transmitted by clothing and garments worn by the sick. General Jeffrey Amherst, for whom Amherst College was named, wrote, in 1732, to one of his subordinate officers:—

"You will do well to try to inoculate the Indians by means of blankets in which smallpox patients have slept, as well as by every other means that can serve to extirpate this execrable race." It was actually done.

Discovery of a vaccine for smallpox was due mainly to the fact that generations of English milkmaids had known that if one acquired cowpox from milking a cow with sore udders, one was ever after immune to smallpox. For hundreds of years this had been just a countryman's superstition; it remained for Dr. Jenner to seriously accept and act upon the knowledge thus acquired from the ignorant.

Progress along this line halted till the coming of Pasteur. If one could be immunised by having a mild form of smallpox as a result of vaccination, why could not immunity to other diseases be similarly acquired? Yet Pasteur was not, in the beginning of his researches, trying to save human life. He was trying to save the wine and silk industries of France. Wine turned sour; silkworms were sick; cattle had anthrax. One microbe showed him the way to another.

A couple of years ago three investigators, working in England and America, announced an anti-influenza vaccine. The discovery of these men, Laidlaw, Smith and Andrews, might have been hastened had a little more attention been given, back in 1918, to the statement of an Iowa veterinarian, Hog Inspector Koen. He insisted that hogs had the "flu," just as people did, but no one took him seriously. Sometimes, as in the case of a vaccine for hog cholera, a valuable discovery has been due to chance. One particular hog could not catch the disease, could not be inoculated with it. A veterinarian bought him and from his blood made vaccine to immunise other hogs. Why that animal was immune is still a mystery, but if he had been made into pork before his peculiar qualifications were discovered, farmers would have lost hundreds of millions of dollars. There are those who predict that if a preventive of hoof and mouth disease is ever discovered it will be

by a like "accident." The veterinary, who found that hog, literally "made good health contagious instead of disease." The time may come when the principle can be extended!

The surgeon was not always honoured as he now is. In the middle ages only barbers were surgeons. Sometimes physicians stood by and told barbers where to cut; usually they used their own judgment, if any! Since dissection of the human body was forbidden, except in some Moorish colleges, few knew what lay under the patient's skin. The public executioners, who supervised the torture chambers, knew more than most surgeons. Yet, four hundred years ago teeth were pulled from one man and transplanted into the jaw of another, growing fast to the bone. Some time before America was discovered barber surgeons had become diabolically clever in causing children, bought or kidnapped for the purpose, to become permanently dwarfed. Some were only eighteen inches high and these brought high prices when sold to crowned heads. Queens bred dwarfs as we do puppies.

Plastic surgery dates from this era, though the surgeons' skill was not used to promote beauty. Not only were men and women made hunchbacked, crippled in limbs and dwarfed; their faces were made to wear permanent smiles or expressions of horror. Victor Hugo's novel, "The Man Who Laughs," is a faithful account of such a sur-

### DR. PAGE'S BABIES

"If this country is to have fewer and fewer babies, it is vitally necessary that those babies should be given the chance of living as long as possible. If teeth are not looked after from the earliest years of a child's life, the longevity of the race might suffer."

—Dr. Earle Page, Minister for Commerce, at Australian Dental Congress, August 16.

Quite so, but the cause of bad teeth in existing babies is largely the cause of the non-existent teeth in the non-existent babies—lack of a sufficient and secure income on the part of parents. And what is Dr. Page doing about that?

gically-made monstrosity, not uncommon in the period depicted. The ancient Incas riveted silver plates to broken skulls and bored holes in the head to relieve brain congestion.

In recent years we have heard much about high blood pressure. Mediaeval surgeons cut a vein and let out the surplus blood. Probably the treatment was as good, sometimes, as any they knew, and much quicker than dieting in relieving the strain on distended veins, and apoplectic patients may have benefited. Then, as now, physicians were inclined to overwork a pet treatment. Opening a vein was such a simple way to collect a fee; if the patient died the doctor could always say it was because he had not been bled sooner. Laymen have a mean suspicion that some clumsy physicians still use a similar alibi for their own ignorance.

Quite recently Hermann discovered that men whose limbs have become crippled from hardened arteries, whose flesh is about to become gangrenous (infected), may be saved from the horror of amputation by systematically increasing or decreasing the air pressure on the affected limb. It has long been noted that Swiss old men, almost too crippled to hobble about in the summer, develop amazing use of their legs when skinning up and down mountain slopes on skis in the winter. That fact inspired Hermann to try the air pressure treatment.

Davidson spent years trying to find a better way of treating dan-

gerous burns, stumbling on *tannic acid* in 1914. The Chinese had used boiled tea for the same purpose since the time of Confucius, and in New England tea had been used for inflamed eyes and sunburn. Yet I'm personally grateful to Davidson for reminding the world of the value of tannic acid, having experienced its almost unbelievable powers after spilling a pan full of boiling soapsuds over my right hand.

We owe the fundamentals of our chemical knowledge to the Moorish universities in Spain. Before the time of Columbus they had discovered *sulphuric acid, nitric acid, bichloride of mercury, alcohol, silver nitrate, gunpowder*. As early as the sixteenth century, *syphilis* was treated with *mercury*, though, of course, without much success. The Arabs gave us our arithmetical system and algebra, without which scientific computations would be almost impossible. The Moors had the first bathtubs within their houses, introduced forks at table instead of fingers, and linen and cotton underwear. They refused to be lousy, and during the Moorish occupation of Spain the great plagues, which so often visited the rest of Europe, were conspicuous by their absence.

Savage medicine men originated massage and bone "adjustments." In trying to pound out the evil spirits they stimulated circulation. They also founded the school of "suggestion," used hypnosis and psychoanalysis. They inquired into the patient's dreams, and interpreted his illness accordingly. They distracted his mind from his sufferings by singing, praying, chanting. The Christian Science "practitioner" does no more, no less. Often the patient's disease was imaginary, a disorder of the mind affecting the body; they cured him. If he died, it was not the physicians' fault; he lacked "faith" in his healer. Human nature has not changed much in ten thousand years.

Radium as a medicinal factor belongs to our century. Yet for hundreds of years people travelled to Bohemia to immerse themselves in mud. Could mud baths cure illness? Ridiculous! Now we know that those people were not mere victims of superstition; that mud contained radium. Many mineral springs owe their value to traces of radium.

All of us have marvelled at the way savages recover from terrible wounds. They are not cleaned; yet they get well when a white man dies. We forget that it is not so much dirt, which causes infection, but microbes within the dirt. In more primitive countries dirt is relatively clean; in civilised nations, whose soil has been repeatedly drenched with blood, dirt is crawling with germs. In the last war a surgeon named Baer found two soldiers who had long lain unattended on the battlefield. Their wounds were terrible; worse, they were flyblown, filled with loathsome maggots. They did recover; Dr. Baer found that the maggots had eaten away the rotting bone and gangrenous flesh. When the maggots were cleaned out, the wounds were clean, and healed. Today the U.S. Naval Hospital in Washing-

ton, D.C., is hatching maggots from common blowflies, after treating the eggs to make them antiseptically clean and free from microbes. Such maggots are being applied to rotting bones of children crippled by disease, and to gangrenous wounds where they clean the flesh and make many amputations unnecessary. It recalls the use of the leech in the Middle Ages. Larrey, a surgeon in the army of Napoleon, said maggots helped wounds to heal; and it is said that in the Confederate army a surgeon deliberately applied maggots to wounds.

For a hundred years or more we have known that fresh vegetables would cure *scurvy* (disease from under nutrition) though no one knew anything about vitamins. Steffansson very recently demonstrated to a rather doubting world that fresh meat, if not over-cooked, would do the same. Ninety years ago, Dr. Kane, one of the earliest

### JOHANNESBURG THE GOLDEN

The City Council of Johannesburg has approved the expenditure of £1,000,000 on development schemes. The prosperity of Johannesburg is due to the perfectly useless activity of digging gold out of the ground in order that it may be sent elsewhere to be buried again in bank vaults.

It is only when the people of Johannesburg occupy themselves in this wasteful way that they are prosperous. If they were to turn to the intensive cultivation of the land they would produce such plenty that extreme poverty would overwhelm them. That is how things work today—and will continue till the people wake up.

—"Social Credit."

seekers after the North Pole, cured himself of scurvy by killing the rats on his ship and eating them raw. Most of his followers who refused the medicine died, though some were saved by a lucky killing of polar bear. Dr. Cook, accompanying the first expedition that ever wintered in the Antarctic ice, tried in vain to make his scurvy-ridden companions eat seal and seabirds—cooked rare; those who had the courage to eat the unpalatable, but fresh meat recovered.

In medicine, as in everything else, the simplest truths and the plainest facts are sometimes the most difficult to see and understand. People hesitate to accept the obvious or natural.

### GLACIARIUM

SATURDAY NIGHT, 21st.  
TUESDAY NIGHT, 24th.  
THURSDAY NIGHT, 26th.

Melbourne's Latest Style of Entertainment.

### "A REVUE ON THE ICE"

A Cast of 140 Skaters  
SPECTACULAR SCENERY,  
COSTUMES and LIGHTING

Doors Open 7 p.m.; Revue starts at 8.

Admission, 2/6; Children 1/6  
Ring M 2205 for Reservations.



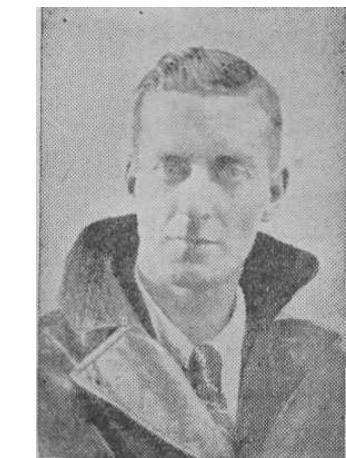
DON'T SPEND A PENNY — Without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide.

### MILK

"It is the duty of governments to see that milk is available to all growing children, and is given free where parents cannot afford to buy supplies."

—Sir Harry Moxham, president of Dental Association, August 16.

What does not seem to occur to Sir Harry Moxham, or any of those like him, is that if the Government gave the people MONEY, they could secure all the milk they require—and pay the milkman.



FREE YOURSELF FROM The Shackles of Debt Finance in 1937. WORK and VOTE FOR: A. J. AMESS FLINDERS

1. Australia is Over governed and needs only one Parliament. The Parliament of the People and No Party Politics.
  2. Parliament Exists to Make the Will of the People Prevalent. The Initiative Referendum and recall must be embodied in the Constitution of Australia.
  3. Money Must be made Man's Servant, Not Man's Master, and Must Be Issued Interest Free and Without Debt by the National Credit Authority to the Government for all National Works.
  4. Abolition of All Taxation. National Credit Authority to Equate Effective Demand with Production, and Abolish Poverty.
- WE NEED YOUR HELP. (Write for Literature)
- Authorised by W. HOLLWELL, 90 Abbott St., Sandringham, S.8. (Campaign Sec.)

## THE REPORT OF THE MONETARY AND BANKING COMMISSION

### A Monument of Incapacity

#### IV.

(A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H. BROWN.)

Sir,

Chapter 2 of the Report purports to explain "The Monetary and Banking System" and its operation between 1901 and 1936 but we may search in vain for any direct reference to the fact that the private banks are the producers of the money we use or of how the money is produced. Sixty-nine pages are devoted to this particular chapter, and it is divided and subdivided into so many headings that we cannot see the forest for the trees. We are anxious to know why hungry people on one side are kept separated from the great heap of food on the other side, but all we get is a statement confirming the fact of the separation and excusing those responsible for it. The whole chapter is nothing but a long-drawn-out attempt to whitewash the actions and justify the opinions of the bank controllers.

There is no comment upon the fact that, in addition to performing the legitimate functions of bankers, they are also performing illegitimately the functions of the nation's money factory and deliberately limiting our money supplies. This fraudulent practice of privately writing national money is glossed over in the most inexcusable fashion, and great pains have been taken to make it appear that the private banks were in no way responsible for the community's sufferings resulting from "the Financial Emergency", even though in another part it is shown beyond doubt that they were responsible.

The Commissioners do not comment even on the obvious incongruity, not to say insanity, of the existence of a financial emergency side by side with material abundance, but have been content merely to say that there was such an emergency.

#### Whitewashing the Banks

On page 30 we are told that "since 1817 . . . private trading banks . . . have carried on the business of banking . . ." but nowhere in the Report are we informed that in addition to the business of banking (which is entirely legitimate) they have also carried on the business of counterfeiting and pretending.

"It was not until the crisis of 1893", the Report goes on, "that the banking system was involved in serious difficulties. The preceding boom was associated with a large influx of capital on private account and with wild speculation in land, to which some banks contributed." Note particularly the jargon of the orthodox economist. The "boom" was "associated" with an "influx of capital" and with wild "speculation", but it was surely an oversight to leave in the statement that "some of the banks contributed." Booms are the result of credit-expansion; credit-expansion is intended to stimulate investment and encourage speculation; and credit-expansion is operated and controlled entirely by the banks. Booms are therefore caused by banks and are definitely the result of bank policy.

There is, of course, always the counterblast to the boom, and that is called the slump. In this latter regard the Report says, "The slump was associated with the collapse of the land boom, a serious decline in export prices, and a falling-off in overseas lending, accompanied by a withdrawal from Australian banks of deposits owned in the United Kingdom." Here again, you see it was "associated" with these things, but what we want to know is what caused the things to happen and who was responsible.

What caused the land boom to collapse? What caused the serious

decline in export prices? What caused the falling-off in overseas lending? What caused the withdrawal of the deposits owned in the United Kingdom? The Commission adroitly skated round these important points, although here and there they did say sufficient to let the cat out of the bag.

#### The Calling in of Money

In the *New Times* of November 29, 1935, reference was made to the circular issued by the American Banking Association in 1877, instructing the banks to grant favours to certain people in the form of credit and to withhold similar favours from others with the object of preventing the community from regaining control of its own money system. That was barefaced enough in all conscience, but on March 11, 1893 (note the year particularly), it issued another circular containing the following:—

"The interest of national banks requires immediate financial legislation in Congress. Silver, silver certificates, and Treasury notes must be retired, and national bank notes upon a gold basis made the only money. This will require the authorisation of five hundred millions to one thousand millions of new bonds as the basis of circulation. *You will at once retire one-third of your circulation and call in one-half of your loans. Be careful to make a monetary stringency among your patrons, especially among business men.*"

That information was available to the Commission just as conveniently as it is available to us. How could the land boom or any other boom continue in the face of a deliberately imposed monetary stringency? How could people continue to pay satisfactory prices when their money had been stolen from them through the calling-in of loans and the restriction of bank credit? And who but the banks could cause the falling-off in overseas lending and the withdrawal of "the deposits owned in the United Kingdom"? In almost precisely the same way our experiences in Australia since 1929 had their origin in America and were reflected here through the Bank of England (a private institution controlling the British banks and the British Treasury). Confirmation of this may be obtained from A. N. Field's "truth About the Slump", a copy of which should be available in every public library. The originators actually tried to do the same in 1920, but on that occasion were thwarted so far as Australia was concerned.

#### Wall Street Journal's Admission

In case some of your readers may find it difficult to accept the statement regarding the part played by the Bank of England, perhaps you will permit me to quote a brief extract from the official organ of American Finance known as "The Wall-Street Journal." The date was March 11, 1927 and the extract as follows:—

"Montagu Collet Norman, as Governor of the Bank of England, has wide powers in determining the course of British credit. *No foreign issue appears in the London market without his approval.* He, more than other bankers, has inspired the policy of banks of issue in a dozen countries . . . From the time he entered office, he set out to re-establish approved proportions between gold and credit at the Bank of England. . . . The extent of his power well makes him the currency dictator of Europe. The Federal Reserve Board has not ignored his desires in shaping bank rate policy. . . . Empire borrowing, especially that of the Australian

*States, has been closely regulated by the Bank of England . . . Governments which refused to return to the gold standard and to fall into line with the issue policy of the Bank of England, found the London market closed to them."*

Wall Street, as nearly everyone now knows, is the headquarters in the United States of international finance, and we may therefore assume that this extract from the "Wall Street Journal" is not irresponsible chatter, and that "bank-rate policy" for the British Empire (which will be mentioned again at the close of this letter) is in fact dictated by the same Montagu Norman.

But the Commission, with child-like innocence, tells us there has been no dictation from the Bank of England.

#### The 1920 Deflation

In 1920 we had an almost exact repetition of the diabolical conduct of 1893. The private conference of international bankers at Brussels had decided on a policy of deflation (less money for more goods) as the first step to the re-introduction of worldwide control by themselves through the gold standard, and appointed Montagu Norman as Governor of the Bank of England to restrict credit throughout the British Empire. He immediately proceeded to do so, and our farmers soon found their export prices tumbling. Fortunately, however, at that time we had a genuine Australian in charge of the Commonwealth Bank in the person of Sir Denison Miller, a man, and Montagu Norman found that he had struck a snag. Hear Mr. D. J. Amos, F.A.I.S., in his "Story of the Commonwealth Bank", explain what happened, as follows:—

"In the latter half of 1920, the banks in other parts of the world started their policy of deflation in order to raise the value of currency to such high levels that they who possessed the monopoly of it could secure the real wealth of the nation for themselves", and in the winter of 1920-21 the price levels were falling alarmingly. "The private banks in Australia commenced to follow the example set by the banks abroad, but Sir Denison Miller brought the Commonwealth Bank with a rush to the rescue of the threatened people. Partly by purchasing Commonwealth and other Government securities, and partly by increasing his advances, he released between June and December, 1920, £23,000,000 of additional currency as a slight hint as to what he would do if necessary, and deflation in Australia was deferred."

This was the clearest proof that Australia is *not* obliged to follow the banking policy of other countries, and shows why it was that "the private banks must have watched the progress of the Commonwealth Bank with ill-concealed rage and fear."

None of this, however, will be found recorded in the Commission's Report. Apparently it was not important enough, for all the Commission had to say regarding these exceedingly important four years, 1920-1923, will be found in a paragraph of 7½ lines on page 46, intimating that "A recession in trade began in 1920 . . . accompanied by exchange and currency troubles"; and that "London funds were reduced, sterling went to a premium, credit was contracted, and imports decreased." The effective action taken by Sir Denison Miller to counteract the damage to the Australian economy by this criminality was not even whispered.

#### The Surrender of the Commonwealth Bank

When Sir Denison Miller died in June 1923, the private banks were thus freed of their most formidable adversary, and with a bankers' Government in office they immediately prepared to get the nation again by the throat, and the following year we saw the shameful results in the Federal Parliament when Dr. Page, after conferences between members of the *Cabinet*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ORGANISATIONS AND POLITICAL PHARISEES

Because of their revelation of insincerity, mock heroics and hypocrisy, parliamentary and municipal elections have provided a rich field for satire, both before and after Dickens wrote of the Eatanswill election.

Tactics have changed little, if at all since the novelist wrote that epic. With the Federal elections looming up on the horizon, all the old tricks for duping the electors are being rehearsed and stage rigging is in full swing.

One of the most ridiculous of recent happenings was the spectacle of the Prime Minister publicly returning thanks that he was not as other men, even as this Labor leader. Speaking at the Melbourne Town Hall recently, Mr. Lyons said: "It is idle for the Labor party to assert that it is free from outside dictation . . . Not once since I have been in office have I received dictation from outside organisations."

It can safely be said that no utterance of the Prime Minister since his return from abroad has

and representatives of the *private banks*, introduced the Bill of emasculation, under which the people's bank was placed under the control of men recruited directly from the selfsame private banks and their associated financial institutions. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the nation's bank was thus improperly surrendered to the control of men representing institutions which were themselves creators and lenders of money at interest on a large scale.

The Commonwealth Bank immediately became an appendage and convenience of the private banks, to be run for their special benefit. The rates charged for financing primary produce began at once to rise, and were soon more than doubled, and the producers of the 1924-25 season had to pay £7 millions in bank charges, compared with only £3 millions the previous year. When the farmers of Western Australia formed a voluntary pool they applied confidently to the Commonwealth Bank to finance it, as the bank had done for similar pools in previous years, but it was no longer the same bank, and both it and the private banks alike imposed conditions, which were intolerable. Finally, when the farmers, unable to secure the necessary money in Australia, obtained it from the Co-operative Wholesale Society in England, the concerted action of the private banks and their new ally, the "people's" bank, frustrated the scheme! (For confirmation of this reference should be made to "The Story of the Commonwealth Bank," by Amos.)

But all you will find in the Report is the brief intimation that "From 1901 up to 1929 credit policy was in the hands of the trading banks, including the Commonwealth Bank from the time of its establishment." To me such a cavalier attitude towards such important considerations suggests dishonesty, more especially when it is remembered that in paragraph 93, on pages 39 and 40 it is admitted that "the Banks were accustomed to follow the lead of the Bank of England", and that this bank, by "raising the Bank rate", causes a rise in interest rates, a restriction of credit, and a fall in prices; and by "lowering the Bank rate" it causes a fall in interest rates, an expansion of credit, and a rise in prices. And although again in 1929 loans were suddenly refused, prices suddenly fell, and overdrafts were suddenly called in, the Commission had the hardihood to say that the depression did not arise from monetary considerations!

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN  
(To be continued)

created so much surprise and amusement. With the charge against the Labor party one need not be concerned at the moment, although an old story about the mote and the beam might well be recommended for the Prime Minister's consideration. There is probably much more in his statement than appears on the surface. Different minds might attach diverse meanings to "dictation," and it is more than questionable if the word indicates the real position so far as the Lyons Government is concerned.

With a well-disciplined servant "dictation" is quite unnecessary; a wish has merely to be expressed and the thing is done. It is said that those who have been subjected to frequent hypnotism soon reach a condition in which they have no will of their own. It has long been apparent that the Lyons Government has been subjected to some form of treatment to render it innocuous in certain directions. Whatever the process has been, whether by means of hypnosis, autosuggestion, or perhaps by delicate hints for hari-kari, it is widely agreed that the result has been to make that Government the most abject tool the financial bosses have had since the inception of the Commonwealth. The stifling of the Oil Inquiry Commission's report and the partisan appointments of "safe" members to the farcical Banking Commission are instances of the eagerness of Lyons and Co. to give effect to the wishes of the money monopolists. As we have Mr. Lyons's assurance that he has not received dictation from outside organisations, it is evident that through self-abnegation and obedience he has reached such heights that he can anticipate his master's wishes even though unexpressed or undictated to him.

It would doubtless be illuminating to know exactly what the Prime Minister regards as "outside" organisations. By his actions it would seem that he is following the British system, and accepting the money monopoly as an "inside" organisation to govern his policy. There any proposed Government measure that in any way touches on finance has to be advised and approved by the Bank of England before it can be introduced to Parliament. Australia is already well on the way to a similar state of affairs, livery few months the humiliating spectacle is seen of the self-styled champions of democracy—our Commonwealth and State Ministers—waiting cap in hand on the banking institutions to ask permission to raise loans and carry out their public works policies. There are unmistakable indications that the people are growing restive at this impudent violation of democratic principles. When they become awake sufficiently and throw off the money monopoly's stranglehold, real democracy will come into being, and the Prime Minister will be able truthfully to claim that he is free from "outside" dictation.

W. E. P.

#### THE FISH KNEW

A Plymouth naturalist has been testing the intelligence of fish. He placed glass barriers in a tank, put food on one side of them and fishes on the other.

At first, the fishes bumped against the glass. As time passed they gradually learnt to make detours round the glass and get at the food.

This disposes of the idea that fish are below the average intelligence. For the underfed population of this country has still not learnt how to circumvent the artificial barriers, which have been placed between them and a superabundance of food.

- "Reynolds News."

## THE TEACHERS TASK

### What Should He Teach?

The New Education Fellowship, which recently met in Brisbane, is now in conference in Sydney, and is shortly to hold sessions in Melbourne, is causing a stir in the educational world by reason of the outspoken criticisms voiced by certain professors in regard to modern teaching systems. Defenders of existing curriculums have been roused to attention, and it is certain that intense public interest will be focussed upon the conference when the full texts of addresses are available to readers of the Victorian press. Not the least interested will be the men and women whose daily task it is to train the youth of the State in their preparation for life.

The Melbourne *Herald* of August 11 reports some extracts from addresses given in Sydney by four of the prominent speakers. According to Dr. Malherbe, of the South African National Education Bureau, "The great tragedy of existing education is that the schools meet the needs of three per cent, of scholars who go on to the University, to the neglect of the other 97 per cent." With this, many teachers will heartily agree. Their work is dominated by a curriculum designed to lead up to the matriculation standard, which is regarded as the basis for a University course. Yet it is quite true that only a small percentage of the students passing through their hands enter upon such a course. They naturally feel that much of their work consists of beating the air.

### What are the Essentials?

Dr. Malherbe goes on: "Teachers cannot prepare children for life if they do not understand life; and teachers do not understand outside life because they have not come into contact with it. Make your teachers spend months in factories and on farms, and they will begin to understand life; then they will be able to prepare children for it."

After outlining the South African system, whereby teachers, during a four years' training course, spend six months on a teachers' community farm and another six months in a factory, the Professor goes on, "There the teachers learn of the conflict of labour and capital at first hand. They begin to understand the problems which will confront the children when they leave school."

Mr. E. Salter Davies, of Kent, is reported as saying, "No one is educated who has not some knowledge of biology."

The addresses of Professor Happold ("a noted English educational authority") and Professor Kandel, of Columbia University, also devolved round the plea for preparing children for future life and giving them an understanding of the world they would live in.

In short, all these reformers urge that teaching should come to grips with reality. And why not?

### A Notable Omission

It is noteworthy that, so far as appear from press reports, no reference was made to the need for training children to understand something of the factor which governs all activities of farm and factory and of life itself.

It may be recalled that the Victorian Minister for Education was not long ago subjected to some criticism for failing to send a representative from the Education Department to the N.E.F. Conference in Brisbane. His reply was that it was futile to send educational experts to such gatherings when the Government was without funds to put into effect any reforms that might be suggested. The same Minister is constantly reported as replying to requests for new or improved schools with the formula, "Where is the money to come from?" Men like Sir John Harris (unwittingly, no doubt)

perform a public service every time they emphasise the perennial shortage of money. This repetition causes more and more people to wonder about this mysterious medium upon which hinges so much in our private, social and public life. And speculation is the first step on the road to understanding.

To revert to the South African plan, it may be questioned whether farm and factory experience would equip the teacher with the knowledge necessary to prepare children more adequately for their future problems. After all, most teachers have a passing acquaintance with approximate values of farm produce, with seasonal vagaries, with factory organisation, with wages, and with industrial disputes. Would the suggested experience give an insight into the limitations imposed on the farmer by his banker, or into the system of credit, which ultimately controls the output of the factory? It is conceivable that he might remain utterly ignorant of the ramifications of our monetary system; and he would continue to teach "money" sums that would give the future citizen about enough knowledge to estimate household economy!

### Why Not Banking Experience?

Let us consider the alternative of giving teachers as part of their training an experience of six months in a bank. It may be objected that the average bank official knows next to nothing of the inner workings of finance. But would it not at least rid teachers of the "complex" of envisaging all money as notes and coins? Up till recently the vast majority of us visualised money in no other way; and it goes without saying that the same applies to the pupils. Even now, when the scales have fallen from the eyes of many teachers, it requires a conscious effort to bring money into its right perspective. When dealing with the subject in sums, teacher and pupil think of the exchange medium in the form of everyday currency, oblivious of the fact that transactions of any magnitude are facilitated by the use of cheques with nothing behind them more substantial than credit.

### The Light That Dawned

As far as most teachers were concerned, probably the first gleam of understanding came with the late, unlamented "Premiers' Plan", whereby, in a period of so-called over-production, an attempt was made to cure the trouble by giving consumers less purchasing power when the producer's vital need was to dispose of increased quantities of his output. We marvelled and we wondered—and then we began to wake up. The disappearance of the gold reserve, following great sound and fury at a proposed fiduciary note issue, led to an insight into an infinitely greater fiduciary cheque issue. We saw that, while the whole resources of the Commonwealth were inadequate to stand the strain of £18 millions of notes without gold backing, the limited resources of private banking were quite sufficient to sponsor anything up to about £520 millions which could issue in the form of cheques—only the remaining £55 millions, or thereabouts, being backed by any form of currency.

### What of the Children?

Surely if we have at heart the true interests of youth, born into an inheritance of debt that has grown about the present system of finance, the curriculum we teach should make at least an elementary treatment of the source and control of money! Of what use is it to understand and to teach the problems of farming, of factory conditions, of the (so-called) capitalist and his employees, if this knowledge carries with it no conception of the

## ENGLISH ELECTORS ARE DISGUSTED WITH PARTY POLITICS, TOO

In an article, "Politics in the Dog-days," in its issue of July 10, the London *Economist* gives some startling figures on the falling-off of voting in England (a subject to which reference was very recently made in these columns)

"A quite abnormal degree of apathy," says the article, "is the outstanding feature of recent by-elections. So disturbing are its implications that both the Government and the Opposition are engaged in much heart-searching. For politics are in the dog days; and, like the weather at that time of year, a flat calm may be ominous."

"Here are the figures for nine constituencies in which there were contests both last month and in 1935:—

	1935	%	1937	%
Electorate	532,000	100	548,000	100
Total voting	357,600	67	270,400	49
Government poll	232,000	43½	169,000	30½
Combined Opposition poll	125,600	23½	101,400	18½
Government majority	106,400	20	67,600	12

"In the 1929 General Election these same constituencies polled 75 per cent, of their electorate; in that of 1931, 73 per cent; in that of 1935, only 67 per cent.; and now as little as 49 per cent. This landslide in the poll—with a majority of the electors, abstaining from the use of their franchise—needs explanation in terms of political sensitivity. There is no question whatever that if the issue at the polls were couched in terms of democracy v. dictatorship, the response would show almost a 100 per cent, poll of the electorate in favour of democracy. Then what has caused this rot in our democratic politics?"

"At best it is not very exciting to vote for or against candidates who are certain to get in—and in the past month the eleven elections have all taken place in safe Government seats. But the lack of interest of the electors goes deeper than this. The public is grateful for peace and prosperity; but it has grave doubts whether either is permanent. For though it is true that we are still at peace, we have plunged into an arms race and a series of European crises, and our prosperity, like that of other coun-

system of finance which acts as the life-blood of all industry?"

Beyond its use as a medium for mental acrobatics, how does the teaching of interest sums, for example, help the average child to prepare for life? How many of our pupils will have money to lend? If (as is more likely) they are destined to be borrowers, the banker will quickly estimate the interest—or ascertain it from a ready reckoner. Would it not better fit them for the world they are to live in if we showed them that the notes and coins they see are only a very small portion of the "money" that circulates in daily commerce? That all big transactions are financed by cheques drawn against credit? That a gold reserve has been proved to be unnecessary? That the real wealth of a country consists of its physical resources and the ability of its people to convert these into the necessities and the luxuries of life? The science has provided the opportunity for man's leisure whereby he may cultivate "the things that are more excellent"?

Here is scope for the reformers to get down to reality. Teachers generally would welcome healthy criticism of the curriculum and of the method of training for the job. In fact, they have lively hopes that reforms now advocated by outside observers (many of which teachers have themselves urged) will be adopted. Will money be included in the deliberations of the learned Professors? If the arithmetic to be taught were to be placed on a basis of reality, teachers would willingly dispense with the introduction of the decimal system—the mouse brought forth by the labour of the ponderous Monetary Commission.

tries, is being buttressed by a spate of armament orders. The electors like the ends achieved, but mistrust the means and fear the aftermath. And if this is the reason for the lukewarm support of Government candidates, most of the electors dislike—even if they do not positively fear, the alternative; and very few have any faith in the competence of the Opposition leaders to form an effective alternative Government. And that is a grave deficiency."

### "No Simple Issues"

The *Economist* then goes on to discuss the relative merits of Baldwin, Lloyd George and Attlee, and

## MR. LEMMON AND THE BUDGET

Mr. John Lemmon, member for Williamstown, in the Victorian Assembly on August 11:

"The balancing of the Budget does not seem to cut as much ice nowadays as it did a few years ago. It was then a matter of supreme consideration, but now there is a new doctrine, a new force in the community, which is influencing the middle classes of this State, as well as other States of Australia. They now realise that there is a need for financial and monetary reform. The balancing of the Budget under the old system of monetary circumstances does not seem to appeal to the people as it did some years ago."

Mr. Old: "Do you not think it is desirable that the Budget should be balanced?"

Mr. Lemmon: "I am a confirmed supporter of social credit and believe in the State issuing its own finances. When it comes to a question of raising loan money, I hope members on the Ministerial side of the House will adopt the attitude they have adopted at Country party conferences from time to time. I also hope that the Loan Council—or the pawn council as it might be called—will carry out the principles connoted by that attitude towards social credit."

concludes: "The net effect, however, has been that no simple issues of political principle have been presented to the electorate, who have therefore, left politics alone."

"This is not good for democracy; for it means that there is a great floating vote which might at any moment become a danger as a result of some sudden uprush of popular feeling. During the next few critical months and years, therefore, it is essential that the parties on whose shoulders our democracy is still perched should safeguard its existence and their own by a clearer enunciation of policies and principles. If they cannot, or will not, do this; government will be carried on in the traditional home of democracy in default of a majority of the electors. And from that to either kind of dictatorship is only a small, administrative step."

With a great deal of what the *Economist* has said, most *New Times* readers will find themselves in agreement; and what has been written of England applies just as truly in Australia, except that electors' disgust with the party system in this country is disguised by our pernicious £2-if-you-don't-vote regulation. If there were not that penalty clause, it is extremely doubtful whether Australian polls would be any higher than, if as high as English ones. (As an illustration, take the Legislative Council vote in Victoria perverted to this last recent compulsory election.)

In Australia, as in England, "no simple issues of political principle have been presented to the electorate," and even though electors

## New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

PATRONISE THESE ADVERTISERS.

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

### MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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

### KEW EAST.

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS. I. Pink, 16 Oswin WICKER & Pram Repairs. L. Pavitt, 2 Hale St. Pick up and deliver.

### MORELAND.

BOOT REPAIRS. J. T. Nolan, Holmes St., 4 drs. Moreland Rd.

### NORTHCOTE.

GRAY & JOHNSON Pty. Ltd. Leading Land and Estate Agents. 742 High Street, Thornbury.

### SANDRINGHAM.

A. R. RYAN. SHOE REPAIRS. Opp. Stn. Tennis Racquet Repairs

BIGGS & LOMAS, Tailors. First-class Workmanship. Suit Club.

CONFECTIONERY and SMOKE. Gibson's, Bay Rd., opp. Theatre.

GROCERS, McKAY & WHITE. Bay Rd., opp. Theatre. XW 1924.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist, A. E. Giddings, 13 Station St.

HOME MADE CAKES.

F. TAYLOR. 21 Bay Rd. XW2048.

LIBRARY, 5000 BOOKS. COUTIE'S NEWSAGENCY.

### PARKDALE.

RADIO REPAIRS AND SALES. C. Barnett, 19 Herbert St. XW2031

### SPRINGVALE.

DAIRY, M. Bowler. Buckingham Ave.

R. MACKAY & SONS. General Storekeepers. UM 9269,

### WILLIAMSTOWN.

DON B. FISKEN, Baker.

122 Douglas Parade.

DUNSTAN, DAIRYMAN.

28 Station Rd. 'Phone, W'town 124.

HAIRDRESSER and Tobacconist. C. Tomkins, 165 Nelson PL, 76 Ferguson St.

### WINDSOR.

E. COOKE, 49 Chapel St. W. 8044. High Class Butcher (Cash).

have actually, by compulsion, recorded their votes, they have had very little choice, other than that between the devil and the deep, blue sea.

## The Whip for Party Shoulders

Where we disagree with the *Economist* is in its statement that "it is essential that the Parties on whose shoulders our democracy is still perched should safeguard its existence and their own by a clearer enunciation of policies and principles." The mere idea of democracy perching on Parties' shoulders is itself a contradiction—democracy lustily be-labouring Parties' shoulders would be far nearer what should happen. It is not for Parties to put programmes before the people, but for the people to declare themselves on simple issues of political principle and for politicians, in or outside of Parties, to see to the administration of these issues.

The genuine abolition of poverty from Australia is one such simple issue, which is now coming from the electors to parliamentarians. And it is an issue, which no party, unless the whip is cracked over its shoulders, is likely to bring to a successful conclusion. Politicians of all parties will protest that this is the very thing they have closest to their heart. But their acts belie them. What have Lyons and Page done? What did Scullin do? And yet did not both Ministries have ready to hand all the physical components?

**ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES**

**VICTORIA**

"While Parties dictate our Democracy the people have no power to get what they want. Nothing is left for them but to choose the lesser of two evils.

"In a really democratic system the initiative would come from the people. They would ask for certain things, and would send men to Parliament to represent their wishes.

"There is no machinery at present by which the people can raise a particular political question, however it may interest them, unless it is included in the programme of one or other of the political parties."

—Hilaire Belloc and Cecil Chesterton in "The Party System."

The United Electors of Australia has come into being to supply the machinery whereby the electors can convey to Parliament, through their parliamentary representatives, that which they want Parliament to bring into effect—in this first instance, the Abolition of Poverty.

Have you noticed how the Campaign has spread? That it is known of everywhere—in the far corners of the State as well as throughout the metropolitan area? That is very heartening. It shows that the individual is doing his job—that he is telling his friends about the Campaign and that his friends are telling their friends, and like the compounding of the National Debt it is growing amazingly. This is all to the good; but it is time to increase the tempo; to speed up so as to be in good form to take full advantage of the enlivened state of the public mind round about election time.

In every portion of the State are earnest folk, anxious to do something, but waiting for a lead. It is of no use waiting. You have to take the lead yourself. There is no more to it than to slip the leash of the urge that is worrying you. You can set your community talking about the Campaign. You can ask your friends to sign the Demand form, and supply them with Demand forms so they can get their friends to sign also. You can call on your Shire President, your local clergymen, your prominent citizens, and explain the Campaign to them, and persuade them to cooperate in organising a public meeting. You can write to Head Office for literature — and a speaker, if you want one. There is just nice time, the most oppor-

tune time, to rouse the whole community. Let each and every locality be a power unto itself, ready to expend itself in a united expression of the will of the electors, and not merely the acquiescence to the will of an out-worn system (some people are suspicious enough to call it a "hidden oligarchy").

Coburg. —A meeting to consider further activities will be held in the library room, Coburg Town Hall, on Wednesday evening, August 25, at 8 o'clock. All interested please attend.

Donald has opened up the Campaign in the Wimmera electorate by holding a Social. The hall was appropriately decorated on the basis of the U.E.A. badge the horn of plenty receiving special emphasis. The evening proved both enjoyable and instructive. This is the first shot fired in the Wimmera electorate. The Campaign is on.

Narre Warren has sprung to attention. The Christian Social Order group of 18 members are organising a meeting, and have asked that Dr. John Dale shall address the meeting.

Yarra Bank. —Real good work is being done on the Yarra Bank on Sunday afternoons. However, the speakers would be glad if other speakers were to come along and help them. Open air speaking is a strain, and more than one speaker should be on the spot to carry the programme through a whole afternoon.

South Melbourne is also working in the open air. Every Sunday afternoon speakers deliver addresses to frequenters of the sea front.

"The New Times." - Many persons, on hearing of the Campaign, are keenly interested, but under certain circumstances they get out of touch and many good helpers are lost. It is thought that these persons may be kept in touch if they were to follow the activities of the Campaign through the Notes in the *New Times*, and on that account it would be advisable to recommend or to draw attention to the fact that information of the Campaign can be found regularly in its columns.

Ivanhoe Hall next Sunday afternoon, August 22. Don't forget.

Moonee Ponds Town Hall—The meeting held on Wednesday night, August 18, will be reported in next issue.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Extraordinary Rally. - - All members are asked particularly to be at the extraordinary rally on Saturday, 21st inst. Follow-

ing a meeting of Divisional Directors, it appears that this big rally is going to be the turning point in the Movement of the Campaign in South Australia. All are asked to come along prepared to contribute something to the discussion, for the ideas brought forward at such a meeting must surely produce quite a number of fruitful plans. During the election period it will be essential to have a team of men who will pay a visit to each election meeting so as to follow up, in the case where the candidate has signed the candidate's undertaking, with the necessary action that will capitalise such a happy state of affairs. Where the candidate has signed, there will be a unique opportunity to obtain results, and signatures should be very easy to obtain at such a meeting, where the electors have been given a promise by the candidate that he will do what they wish him to do. Alternatively, the candidate should have greater confidence where he sees that the electors are prepared to pledge their support. For this work, then, it will be essential to have willing individuals prepared to speak at such meetings, and others prepared to solicit signatures. This matter will be dealt with fully at the big rally, and with this preliminary notice we are asking all who possibly can to come along, willing to volunteer for such service. This rally will be the event of the year, and should usher in a new era of advancement. There is now absolutely no reason why the Movement should not forge ahead. It depends entirely on you, and how you accept your responsibility, and how much you are prepared to sacrifice for the sake of the greatest cause ever known, how great a success the Electoral Campaign will be in South Australia during the next few months.

Queen Competition. —Readers may be inclined to think that, since we have reported nothing concerning this competition for some little time, the idea has been dropped. Such, however, is not the case. As previously stated, we have received the co-operation of Whitefield's Institute, but unfortunately Whitefield's have just passed through their busiest period—which was made busier owing to the fact that their superintendent is leaving them—and the work with the Queen Competition was necessarily held up. The secretary of Whitefield's Mr. MacKellar, now reports that the next two months will be their slackest period in the year, and that they will be able to devote a considerable amount of time to this competition. Mr. MacKellar is now going ahead with the printing on their own machine of a joint letter from Whitefield's and the United Democrats. This will be sent to contacts in the country areas, who will be asked to support the competition, whether representing Whitefield's or the United Democrats. It is the intention of Whitefield's to work very largely through Sunday schools and day schools, etc., and this move should achieve very fine results. Further, the competition will receive publicity through the provincial papers, most of which, Mr. MacKellar reports, are very favourably inclined to his institution. Please do not think that the Queen Competition is either beneath you or above you. It is a definite move that has been proven to produce results both in finance and publicity. It must be borne in mind that this publicity will be achieved during this very important pre-election

period, and will coincide with other publicity.

Meeting of Divisional Directors —This meeting was held on Friday, August 13, instead of Saturday afternoon, as previously announced. Unfortunately, all the Divisional Directors could not be present, but the discussion which took place among those who were, was decidedly helpful, and concluded on a very optimistic note. Mr. Dodd, Campaign Director, presided in the absence of Mr. Tucker, and was satisfied with the reports that came in. Also, in the absence of Rev. C. D. Brock (Adelaide) and Mr. E. C. Finn (Barker) some of the reports were given by proxy, and were therefore not as thorough as they could otherwise have been. The question of follow-up literature was discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that this was very important. While it was agreed that leaflets for this work were possibly the most thorough way of doing it in the long run, in all probability the utilising of the daily or local press would serve the purpose exceedingly well, and save a considerable amount of labour. Glenelg reports that they intend using the *Glenelg Guardian* for this work. This paper circulates along the whole seafront in that area, covering several thousands of houses.

**Membership Subscriptions.** — Would members please note that annual subscriptions to head quarters (2s. with voluntary donation of 10s.) are now due. Country Groups are also asked to note that Affiliation fees (1s. per member) are also due.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

The country press of W.A. is responding in noble fashion in giving excellent publicity to the campaign.

One country newspaper proprietor has declared that his paper's circulation has gone up since our Director of Press Publicity has been contributing articles on the campaign to its columns. Other country papers are invited to try out the same propaganda, print these articles, and judge by results. Inquiries invited.

Perth's New Daily Paper—The *Guardian* has granted half a column in each Friday's issue of the paper for "Abolition of Poverty Campaign" propaganda. All readers are urged to support this new daily by buying at least Friday's issue of the paper and supporting it as far as lies in their power.

The wheatgrowers of W.A. are

alive to the value of pressure politics; although they are not adhering strictly to the Electoral Campaign policy, they are nevertheless identical in fastening upon the sitting member of Parliament responsibility for the results of a policy which is inimical to the welfare of the wheatgrowers. Wheatgrowers everywhere will be well advised to eschew party programmes.

Any candidate carrying a party label has to put his party first and the welfare of wheatgrowers, his electors, last. It has happened in the past, it will happen again. Wheatgrowers will do well to remember this: they must first of all obtain control of the sitting member, irrespective of party; putting a Labor member out and putting a U.A.P. candidate in his place, or vice versa, is not pressure politics, it's only playing at them, and will not give them control over their member of parliament.

Wheatgrowers have got to make the sitting member responsible to them, and to them alone; any candidate outside their immediate control is useless to them, and is certainly not true democracy. Unless wheatgrowers concentrate on the sitting member they will be sold another pup at the next election and every succeeding one.

The Rev. J. E. Shepherd, of the Buckland Hill Congregational Church, held a special "Abolition of Poverty Campaign service" on Sunday evening, August 9, followed by a half hour's discussion on the sermon at the close of the service. A condensed report will be published in these columns later. The Rev. Shepherd is to be congratulated on an innovation which it is hoped will spread to other churches, and lead to the further enlightenment of congregations, who are tending to become spiritually pot-bound and apathetic to the people's real needs.

Broadcasts. —These are continuing to fit the bill. All readers who believe in the principles of the Electoral Campaign are requested to help keep the campaign on the air; the need is urgent. This civilisation is fast moving towards the close of the age of scarcity; it is essential to keep before the public the urgency of distributing the plenty of the new age which belongs to every man, woman and child—if you don't demand it you won't receive it; a sacrifice now will be repaid a hundredfold later, so help us to obtain the right results by demanding that your policy be put into operation.

**Third Edition Now On Sale**

**The Story of Money**

And Its Management

64 Pages, 1/-; posted, 1/1

Every advocate of monetary reform knows that his greatest obstacle is the deliberately fostered and widespread opinion that monetary principles cannot be understood except by experts. The Story of Money has been written to explode that false belief, and to set out in the simplest and clearest of language just how our money system is operated and where and why it fails to work. Its contents include: The beginnings of money; the coinage; the banknote and fixed deposit; the structure of Australia's money system: how bank credit is supplied and cancelled, and why it is inefficient and insufficient; the velocity of money; how international trade is financed; international loans: the flight of capital; Australia's money monopoly and how it is composed; the need to finance consumers; the national dividend, its meaning and justification.

**The Story of Money**

is obtainable from

**NEW TIMES LIMITED**

BOX 1226, G.P.O., MELBOURNE

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

**TO OUR READERS—**

You may obtain your copy of "THE NEW TIMES" from any authorised newsagent. Should your agent not have supplies, please ask him to communicate direct with New Times Ltd., Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1. (phone M 5384).

If you wish to have your copy posted direct from this office, please complete the form below and mail it, accompanied by remittance payable to New Times Ltd.

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM.**

To New Times Ltd.,  
Box 1226, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1  
Please forward me "The New Times" for.....

months, beginning with issue dated....., 193..  
cheque

I enclose postal note for the sum of.....  
money order

Name.....

Full Postal Address.....

Date.....

Please fill in name and address in block capitals.  
The subscription rate to "THE NEW TIMES" is 15/- for 12 months; 7/6 for 6 months; 3/9 for 3 months, post-free

**LAUNCESTON,  
TASMANIA.**

Listen in to  
**7LA EVERY SUNDAY  
EVENING AT 7.45.**