

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

Vol. 3. No. 43.

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

Lyons Admits He Is Bankers' Puppet

No-Treaty Gullett Becomes No-Truth Gullett

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Lyons Admits He Is Bankers' Puppet If You Put Him Back You Vote For Depression

An amazing admission was drawn from the Prime Minister in Adelaide last week-not one of the deliberate statements prepared for him by his publicity men, but one of those little gems of truth that are occasionally brought to the surface as an unguarded answer to an interjector. Mr. Lyons was being heckled in the Adelaide Town Hall. Here is the Argus report (Friday, October 15) of the incident:

"Mr. Lyons. — . . . Parliament had to make the pensions cut because we could not get the money to pay them fully.

"A Voice (sarcastically). —Until you took office.

"Mr. Lyons. —Yes; until I took office. The banks had confidence in my Government, and we were able to carry on until we turned the corner.'

The banks had confidence in my Government, and we were able to carry on! And the man who said this is the Prime Minister of the sovereign Commonwealth of Australia. He admits that it is only a Government enjoying the confidence of the banks, which is able to carry on. Where, then, does sovereignty reside in practice-in the people of this Commonwealth or in the little gang of issuers of counterfeit money who comprise the boards of the banks? Mr. Lyons has given you the answer.

The Lyons Government comes before the people with its past promises bankrupted and its record barren. It has not a single piece of major legislation to which it can point with pride or satisfaction. Instead, its path is strewn with such records as its mad blow at our wool trade, its dangerous and damaging interference in the Italian-Abyssinian affair, its flouting of the first principles of democracy in the matter of King Edward's forced abdication, its ridiculous and unjust attitude in such incidents as that of Mrs. Freer, its political censorship of books; these and dozens of other incidents make the Ministry unwilling to come before the people and ask to be judged by its detailed performances. Neither can the Ministry promise a constructive policy for the future. Even if it did so, what reliance could be placed in such promises? And so the Ministry falls back on its two sole props.

Conscription issue

The first of these is defence. Even now, with the elections right upon us, no member of the Ministerial party has been able to point to or to suggest why Australia should be in danger, or from whom. The most it can do to whip up our fears is to say that the condition of the world is very unsettled and that the Mediterranean is almost awash on our front doorstep. Attacked by Labor for its policy of sticking its nose in other people's affairs under the guise of collective length in our issue of last week, security or Empire co-operation, the Prime Minister has for three weeks sidestepped giving a straight answer on the conscription issue. At last, realising that refusal to do so would ruin his last slender that the last great depression began chances of re-election, Mr. Lyons on Monday took a header and announced "the Government policy that has been taking place in the has never included and will never include conscription." But can the people rely on this or on any other promise made by Mr. Lyons? Is not his whole record in Federal affairs one of twisted loyalties and of broken promises, beginning with his betrayal of the workers on whose back he climbed from well deserved obscurity to his present position of notoriety Mr. Curtin dealt effectively with this aspect when he reminded listeners in his broadcast on Monday night of the extraordinary likeness between J. A. Lyons and W. M. Hughes - both traitors to the Labor movement, both ready to

Curtin pointed out, the Labor would be no part of his Government's policy if returned; in 1937 Lyons, a similar Labor traitor, promised the same thing. Yet Hughes was back in office only a few months before he tried again to enforce conscription. What guarantees have you that the promise of Lyons is worth any more than the promise of Hughes? Is his record any better? Has Lyons any more say in framing the policy he executes than Hughes "The banks had confidence had? in my Government, and we were able to carry on." In any case, if you return the Lyons Government, what is to stop Lyons stepping

> SAFE! "Primary producers are

safe." -U.A.P, dodger now being distributed from house to house.

Compared with the Brisbane September sales prices for best-grown wools were 5 per cent, and in some cases 71/2 per cent, lower, and for average descriptions 71/2 per cent, lower. Inferior descriptions were quoted at 10 per cent, and in some cases up to 15 per cent. lower.

-"Argus," October 19.

Wool remains; disappointing, and little business is being done at Bradford. Uncertainty of the future trend of prices has undermined confi-dence in all sections of the industry.

-"Argus," October 19. Wool is now showing the effects of the wave of depression, which has been a disturbing element in most commodity markets during recent weeks.

—"Herald," October 16.

aside at the crucial moment and leaving Menzies or someone else to carry out the conscription policy, if the financiers want it?

This is one of the grave dangers from which Australia will have the chance of extricating itself on Saturday. The other, though Lyons and Co. have said nothing about it, is still more pressing. It is, in fact, right upon us. It is the danger that we may again be subjected to the bitter squeeze of depression by the Ministry's second prop, the banks between which and Mr. Lyons there exists such mutual confidence.

The Slump

We referred to this at some and we need make no apology for coming back to it again. Because events have moved swiftly even in the week that has intervened.

promise anything to keep the one-third of their realisable value sweets of office. In 1917, Mr. since the beginning of August.

Since we discussed the price of traitor Hughes, just before an base metals last week there has election, affirmed that conscription been a further fall of £34 a ton in the London price of tin, making a total drop of £105 from the £311 it was fetching last March; lead is over 50 per cent, below its March quotation; copper has dropped another £4 (to £42 from its March price of £79); and spelter (the commercial name for zinc) is down to $\pounds 16/14/-$ (from $\pounds 37$ in March).

> On Monday night the Melbourne Herald told us, in two column headlines, "Slump Talk Is Fantastic," "Worst Period Over." On Tuesday night the same paper had to eat its own words, and its five-column headline was, "Wall Street Slump Becomes More In-tense." In another two-column headline on the same page we had, "Metal Equities Have Set-Back". and in another, "Base Metal Shares Drop 30 p.c. In Six Months."

And they tell us that slump talk is fantastic.

Another Straw in the Wind

We commented in our issue of September 24 on Waldas Shoes' shareholders having to go without any ordinary dividend this year, although they received 15 per cent, dividends for the last three years, and we then said: "Those who look back on the years following 1929 will perhaps remember that the shoe trade was one of the first and heaviest sufferers in the crash." Well, Tuesday evening's press reported that an extraordinary meeting of shareholders has been called in connection with another well known shoe business, the firm of Marshalls Ltd. The Herald said: 'As no further advances can be obtained from the company's bankers, and suppliers are averse to delivering further goods without cash payments, directors feel that there is no alternative but to recommend the winding-up of the holding company and to seek the directions of the shareholders as to the manner in which to deal with the operating company." Marshalls, like other shoe firms, was badly hit in the last depression, and shareholders had to write down their ordinary £1 shares to 7/- each in 1930. Thus they weathered the storm for a few years, but they couldn't stand up to the Lyons prosperity-and so another old firm is to go.

Mr. Reddaway's "Phenomenon"

Of course it is perfectly true, as the late Bank of England Intelligence officer and present Melbourne University economist, Mr. W. B. Reddaway, told Melbourne Herald readers on Monday, that "a fall in share prices (or, for that matter, a rise) does not in itself affect the real wealth of the com-munity." But it is equally true that sustained and spectacular falls in industrial share quotations gene-

against scrip are called up. In other words, the whole treadmill of deflation, which always begins with a Stock Exchange crash, has purely a financial origin. When the ordinary industrial income of consumers is being supplemented by such processes as heavy Government loan programmes, large building operations, and the like, industry gets such a fillip that it extends its operations and its output. Industry never makes any bones about producing more if it can only get the orders, that is, if it can sell what it produces. But as soon as there is any let-up in the process of giving consumers an added income from some source outside the manufacture of consumable goods, then industry's output begins to pile up, and the deflationary process starts which is now in full swing. Hence happens what to the innocent Mr. Reddaway appears as "an almost unprecedented phenomenon—panic in the midst of pros-perity." In the crash of eight years

IF -----

If there were no such adverse factors in the United States today as large inventories of consumers' goods, a taxing policy toward cor-porations that verges on confiscation, high costs of labour materials in manufacture, an enormous national debt, an unbalanced budget, increasing unemployment, and rising relief costs, there would still be a sufficient reason in the international situation to cast a chill over the domestic, business and investment world.

Unfortunately, the proportions of intensity are increasing.

-From North American Newspaper Alliance article in Melbourne "Herald," Oct. 16.

ago Mr. Reddaway was probably only in his teens, and he may not remember how it started. But plenty of those who do remember will be ready to assure him that we saw then the same "panic in the midst of prosperity" as we are seeing now.

Do you want to see the slump in full swing in Australia? If you do, then vote for the Lyons Government on Saturday. The Lyons Government's slogan is "Hands Off The Banks." Its boast is, "The banks had confidence in my Government." Slumps are purely financial in their origin; they are inseparable from the private control of the nation's money supply, and especially from that type of control, which has to leave the community short of money if it is to make money a weapon for power and for profit. Slumps will never cease until the supplying of the community's monetary needs is taken out of the hands of private individuals and restored to the community itself. For finance is government, and government is finance.

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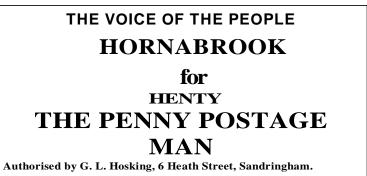
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(Continued on page 3.)

Reminding you a week ago with a slump on the New York Stock Exchange, we pointed to the fall two great classes of American securities, the railroad group and the industrial group. We pointed out that the index figure of railroads had dropped from 48.21 on September 1 to 37 39 on October 9. This is being written on Wednesday night, and at the moment the same index stands at 30.09. Similarly industrials, which were 173.08 on September 1 and 143.93 on October 9, are 126.85 at the moment of writing. (These last quotations represent closing prices on last Tuesday.) American railroad shares have lost 56 per cent of their realizable value since the beginning of last May, and Industrial shares almost exactly

rally begin by a selling wave on the part of those in a position to know that company profits are likely to decrease—generally as a result of increased difficulty, not in producing stocks, but in selling them. This wave is then accentuated as margins begin to disappear and bank advances made

All matter in this issue dealing with Federal political affairs, and not bear-ing the name and address of the writer, is written to express the editorial view of the "New Times," and legal responsibility for its publication is accepted by T. J. Moore, Elizabeth House Melbourne House, Melbourne.



SIR H. GULLETT LIES AND LIES AND LIES

Discredited Politician Attacks Campaign to Abolish Poverty

succeeded in compressing so many plausible lies within six inches of a newspaper report as our late Minister for No Treaties, Sir H. Gullett, in the speech he delivered to the Ormond branch of the Australian Women's National League on Monday afternoon. It was typical of Sir H. that, at a time when even the Attorney-General and late (home service) officer of the University Rifles was steeling himself to face from the public such questions as why, if he was now so martial, he had been so pacific in 1914, Sir Henry should be making his speeches to an organisation already pledged to vote for him.

The Gullett oration, according to the Herald, was devoted principally to an attack on the United Electors of Australia, or, as he put it, on "those who were trying to use Federal elections for launching an antipoverty campaign." It was typical also of Sir Henry that he should shelter behind the skirts of the Wo-

DAME LYONS DOES HER BIT

From the "Argus" report of Dame Lyons's broadcast on Tuesday night:

Labor was a party without a hope. Its only chance of being elected to the Treasury benches was by a crude attempt to promote fear among the women of Australia.

Is this a little bit of family history—an explanation of why Joe and the Dame twisted on the Labor party some years ago?

men's National League in making his attack, and thus getting an exparte statement into the daily press. This courageous knightie of the A.W.N.L. has had more than one opportunity of meeting in public the arguments of the Campaign to Abolish Poverty. Invited to the meeting in the Malvern Town Hall some weeks ago, which was attended by five hundred of the leading citizens of his electorate, the brave Sir Henry pleaded a previous engagement, but in a written criticism of some of the literature sent him on this occasion he referred to it as "touching high-water levels in grave misrepresentation." Publicly challenged at that meeting to substantiate his charge in debate in the same Town Hall, Sir Henry found refuge in silence.

But at last Sir Henry has found his voice in the congenial company of the A.W.N.L., just as his colleague, Minister for Customs White, has this week been waxing eloquent on the subject of the New Times and the Abolition of Poverty Campaign when surrounded by the braves of the Young Nationalist

Rarely has a discredited politician wage is admitted to be only sufficient to enable a man to go to work to earn the cash to buy the food to get the strength to go to work, etc.? If this is Sir Henry's idea of the abolition of poverty, it is very far indeed short of ours. And, even so, it is admitted that vast numbers of those who now are rated as employed are being paid the merest pittance. What about the vast army of those who come under no industrial awards? What about farm workers? What about the tens of thousands of house-tohouse canvassers who work on commission only, and who are lucky if they can average a couple of pounds a week? And, in spite of all this talk of employment, what about seven hundred thousand the Australians (ten per cent, of the population) who are still admitted to be in the ranks of the destitute unemployed and their dependents?

Finally, if abolition of unemployment means abolition of poverty, why was one of the Prime Minister's choice election baits the promise to consider some scheme for making small loans available at reasonable rates of interest to the thousands who, although in jobs, have not a sufficient income to enable them to pay for a sickness in the family or any of the other ordinary adversities of life?

Fancy boasting of the abolition of poverty in the face of such figures!

Wage Increases

Sir Henry proceeded to claim that all pensions, salaries and wages had been restored, and there had recently been the increase in the basic wage.

As we showed last week, the recent increase in the basic wage amounted to less than ten per cent, while the Commonwealth Statistician's index figures disclose that wholesale prices in Melbourne have

"A DESPICABLE QUESTION"

Returned soldier questioner, at Box Hill: "In the event of Australia being involved in another war, would Mr. Menzies recommend the course he himself followed in the last war, or the course followed his opponent, Mr. hv Hollins?"

Mr. Menzies: "Did Mr. Hollins send you to ask that question?"

Questioner (heatedly): "He did not."

Mr. M. (heatedly): "I didn't think Mr. Hollins would be a party to such a despicable question."

And Mr. Menzies sat down, leaving the question still unanswered.

gone up by *eleven* per cent in the last twelve months alone. It would be a conservative estimate to reckon that retail prices during the same period have increased by fifteen per cent. So that this nominal restoration, this nominal increase is no real increase at all, but merely Dead Sea fruit. As for the first part of Sir Henry's statement, we challenge his assertion that *all* pensions, salaries and wages have been restored. And if they have, to what have they been restored? To the 1929 level? Was there then, no poverty in the halcyon days of 1929? Or does distance lend enchantment?

last year's tariff, Minister for Customs White. We then showed that even Mr. White's claim amounted to little more than that the base metal monopoly and the newspaper monopoly were stretching out their tentacles a bit further. Sir Henry he did not particularise, but confined himself to a general sweeping assertion.

But we would ask him, on the subject of the great expansion of existing industry, what about the greatest of our industries-what about wool? Sir Henry, for his part, has had more to do with wool than with any other Australian industry, for his wonderful tariff of last year cost the Australian woolgrowers several million pounds in the lesser realisation obtained for last year's clip alone. What is the position of wool today? Has it even made up the leeway it had to recover owing to his genius?

According to the Melbourne Herald wool expert last Saturday night, "at the opening sales of the week prices fell from five to ten per cent." and "values disclosed definitely easier tendencies." He went on to say that the Sydney sales averaged 13.4 pence a lb., as against 13.8 pence a lb. for the corresponding week last year (when, thanks to Sir Henry's tariff, Japan was out of the market), and that "it would be distinctly in the interests of all sections of the trade to curtail drastically the offerings of inferior wools. For all practical purposes they are at present unwanted . . . The present drift in the market calls for special action . . . The continued failure of fairly substantial quantities of wool to change hands under the hammer undoubtedly exercises a depressing effect upon the market ... The outlook for wool has rarely been so difficult to gauge . . . com-modity markets, practically without exception, have tumbled sharply in recent weeks. This is a sure sign of loss of confidence . . .

Wool prices are dropping. Large quantities are remaining unsold. There is a loss of confidence. What a bother these wretched experts must be to our super-expert Prosperity Politicians!

"Immediate Work for Their Boys and Girls"

Sir Henry's next, and most obvious lie, was his statement that "workers were not only assured of the continuance of their present jobs, but they had also assurance of immediate work for their boys and girls as they finished their schooling."

This lie hardly needs refutingthough we might ask Sir Henry whether the rustling of the A.W.N.L.'s skirts has been so noisy as to prevent him hearing anything about the various moves to find employment for the boys and girls who have already left school. Has he heard nothing at all of the recent census of thousands of unemployed youths in his own city; nothing at all of his Lyons Government's promise to make a little money available as a start towards giving them a training for the jobs

it is hoped they will some day get? And Sir Rip Van Henry savs th

the Lyons Governments." We claimed, "the Australian pound, as glanced at this aspect last week in it was received by the workers toconsidering a similar claim put for- day, had a higher internal ward by Sir Henry's colleague in purchasing power than before the depression.'

What a frightful slip! If the Australian pound has a higher internal purchasing power today than it had at some previous date, then the Australian pound is shown to be a concertina yardstick. If the was more cautious than Mr. White; Australian pound varies in its internal value, as it does and as Sir Henry has incautiously admitted that it does, then Sir Henry automatically admits that those who control the sliding value of that pound hold within the hollow of their hands the fortunes and destinies of the entire Australian people. If, moreover, the internal value of the Australian pound varies, then it also automatically follows that, in spite of Sir Henry's boasts about

THE 1934 PROMISE OF TRADE TREATIES

From J. A. Lyons's policy speech in 1934:

"The Government, while adhering to its policy of adequate protection for all deserving local industries, and while honouring its treaty obligations to Britain, will also have regard to the necessity for safeguarding our general export trade by treaties with foreign countries that are large purchasers of our primary products. The Government proposes to ask the new Parliament to give to the Ministry power to negotiate such treaties and, in accordance with the practice, which has been adopted in many countries, put them into force immediately by proclamation, subject to the proviso that they must be ratified within a fixed period by Parliament itself. Unless this elasticity is allowed, it does not appear to be possible to deal with the many questions, which will arise in the arrangement of trade treaties with some of our best customers."

Well, he got the power and the elasticity. And all he gave us was the tariff of May 1935, aimed at killing our trade with Japan, the foreign country that was the largest purchaser of our primary products.

"sane" finance, someone is all the time applying either inflation or deflation to the Australian people.

Now, since both Sir Henry and the rest of his party boast of their non-interference with banks, since one of their first slogans is Hands Off The Banks, and since it is an unassailable fact (admitted even by the Australian banks and by the U.A.P.'s very own Professor Copland) that the great bulk of what we use for money is alternately manufactured and destroyed by the private banks, do you see up what a lane the bright Sir Henry has led himself?

He would have completed his inanity had he added, what would have been quite accurate, that the Australian pound had its greatest internal purchasing power in the very depths of the depression, when the banks were calling up overdrafts and so destroying deposits. If you were to halve the money supply of Australia tomorrow morning, you would pretty effectually double the internal purchasing power of the pound: if you were to destroy ninetenths of it, you would make the internal purchasing power of the pound about ten times its present capacity. gives us! How helpful to the U.A.P, that he should tell us

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(Continued from page 2.)

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party.

"Six Years Behind the Times"

The Campaign to Abolish Poverty, said Sir Henry, was six years behind the times; the Lyons Governments had been running an antipoverty campaign with remarkable results for the workers for no less than six years.

Now let us have a look at some of Sir Henry's remarkable results. The first was that half a million additional workers had been found employment. Does this prove that poverty has been abolished? It does not though it is typical of U.A.P. argument. It is not which abolishes employment individual poverty, but *income* (as witness Sir Henry himself – also Sam Hordern and a few others). If every head of a family in Australia were employed on the basic wage, would we be a rich country when the basic

"Imposing Units of Industry"

Sir H.'s next claim was a boast of the great expansion of existing industry and the introductions of imposing units of new industry "due to the confidence brought about by

U.E.A, is years behind the times!

Higher Purchasing Power

Sir Henry's last attempt to prove the virtues of that Lyons Government of which, you might remember, he was not so ardent a supporter early this year, was his worst break of all. For it was not merely a misstatement; it was a complete blowing of the gaff. Giving as the reason for the Lyons Government's success in abolishing poverty its repudiation of any suggestion of inflation, its keeping the Common- What nice admissions Sir Henrywealth Bank clear of any sort of political interference (except, of course, the appointment of "safe" somebody is rigging the scales men to the Bank Board), and its under our pound notes! Give Sir refusal to have anything to do Henry enough rope and he will be with "Douglas Credit, social more disastrous as an credit, or other fantastic electioneering agent that he was as inflationary schemes", Sir Henry Minister in Charge of No Treaties.

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Another Twist?

The twistings of a closely pursued hare are as nothing to the spectacle provided by the Prime Minister since panic forced him to make his statement about conscription early this week.

In answer to a questioner at Creswick (Vic.) on Tuesday night, who asked whether conscription had come up at the Imperial Conference, Mr. Lyons said it had not, and then went on to say: "The matter is one for the Australian Parliament alone."

You are asked to note the use of the word "Parliament." In our opinion, and we believe in that of the great majority of the Australian community, the matter of conscription is not one for Parliament at all, but for direct decision by the Australian people. If you accept Mr. Lyons's latest statementalways presuming he has not made a different one while this is in the press-then it follows that a U.A.P, majority in Parliament is likely to impose conscription whenever desired by those who dictate its policy. And the people behind the U.A.P, are known to favour conscription, as they favoured it in the days of the last war overseas.

Mr. Lyons went on to say: "If there is an emergency, there will be no need of conscription. I have sufficient faith in the Australian people to know that in such a case they would need no compulsion to do their duty."

But supposing that Mr. Lyons found the people not acting up to his simple faith in them, what then? What would he do in his emergency?

And what, to Mr. Lyons, constitutes an emergency? We seem to remember that he regarded the Abyssinian war as an emergency. And during that "emergency" did he not send Australian warships to the Mediterranean ("almost as much an Australian sea as the Tasman") to engage in war whenever those in control of Britain's policy gave the word? Was Parliament consulted before the Ministry undertook this course? Was not every possible attempt made to bludgeon us all into silent acquiescence? Did not Mr. Lyons bitterly denounce such papers as this, which criticised his action at that time? Did not the Ministry go so far as to threaten the cancellation of licences of broadcasting stations, which did not fall in with the policy it dictatorially laid down?

The Constitutional Issue

In a last minute attempt to decoy the electors into a false sense of security, the U.A.P, press and speakers are taking up the attitude that Parliament cannot impose conscription without a direct appeal to the people. Thus the Argus in a leading article on the subject on Tuesday said:

"But if any sceptical elector should require anything more to refute the malevolent canard he will find in section 49 of the Defence Act these words: –

"Members of the Defence Force who are members of the military forces shall not be required, unless they voluntarily agree to do so, to serve beyond the limits of the Commonwealth and those of any territory under the authority of the Commonwealth."

Is it not typical of the Argus that it should refer to malevolent canards at the very time when it is itself trying to put one across? The question at issue is not one of parliamentary Acts, which can be altered by Parliament, but of the Constitution, which cannot be altered without a referendum of the people.

On the subject of defence, the Constitution merely says (Part V. -Powers of the Parliament. Section 51): "The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to ... (vi.) The naval and military defence of the Commonwealth and of the several States, and the control of the forces to execute and maintain the laws of the Commonwealth."

The whole point at issue is the geographical interpretation of the word "defence." When Mr. Menzies, the Federal Attorney-General and noted Constitutional authority, was in London a year or two ago, he was asked whether the Commonwealth could impose conscription for overseas service without a referendum, and he was then reported in the press to have said that he would not care to give an opinion offhand-from which you may draw your own conclusions. But the Argus itself, in the very leader from which we have just quoted, emphatically upholds that defence may lie in attack. Here are its own words:

"Australians may find it necessary to 'seek out the enemy and destroy him' before he reaches these shores, and to do it with the greatest expedition. Leaving their homes to defend their homes might conceivably be the most obvious thing to do."

Is that clear enough for you?

I know we can carry them out; because I know when we go on the market for money we can get it at rates of interest lower than any previously in existence - in the history of Commonwealth finance. My Ministry has always followed the principle that the straightforward way is the only way to prosperity and the United Australia party refuses to buy votes with the promise of projects which it knows can never be carried out."

A few days earlier Mr. Lyons said this: "We intend to borrow large sums-£10 millions, £15 millions, and possibly more-to relieve the primary industries of the burden of debt which they are carrying." How the primary producers or anyone else could be relieved of debt by fresh borrowing is, of course, one of the secrets of "sound" finance into which we need not here attempt to pry. The point at issue is the Prime Minister's definite promise to make the "£10 millions, £15 millions, and possibly more" available to primary producers.

This promise was not made only by Mr. Lyons himself. It was one of the big baits used by his supporters. Thus Mr. McClelland, the Earle Page man who is now being run by the Government against the endorsed Country party candidate for the Wimmera (Mr. Alex. Wilson, the Wheatgrowers' President), said during the election campaign that "it was estimated that the cost to the Commonwealth would be twelve to fifteen millions, spread over about three years." And other Government spokesmen indicated the same thing.

What did the Ministry do when it was returned to power after making these definite promises? Here is the answer, as supplied by Sir George Pearce, speaking for the Treasurer, in answer to a question in the Senate on August 26 last: "The amount of £12 millions is the total sum appropriated by the Loan (Farmers' Debt Adjustment) Act 1935. Up to the 30th June, 1937, the sum of £1,817,000 had been made available, and £2,500,000 is to be made available in 1937-38."

And the Government does not promise things for the mere sake of promising them; it promises them because it knows it can carry them out!

Who Are Mr. Holt's **Masters**?

We have repeatedly drawn attention to the impropriety of the people's servants in Parliament holding positions in outside business which might cause a conflict between their duties as servants of the people and their duties or interests as servants of outside bodies. The sent is the multiplicity of business directorships occupied by R. G. Menzies, the Federal Attorney-General. But Mr. Menzies is by no means alone among Parliamentarians in claiming a privilege which would not be allowed to any other branch of the Public Service, and we had a glaring instance of direct anti-social activities by a Federal M.P. towards the end of last week in the matter of the infantile paralysis epidemic which is daily inflicting a more terrible toll on Melbourne.

for children. It is hard to find words to describe such a callously antisocial action. The picture theatres to children, just as many other types of business are probably suffering to a greater or a less least vestige of an excuse for attempting an act of which the natural result would be to spread the epidemic more widely than page 1). ever.

Actually the theatres did not reopen as intended, but as far as the public is aware the only reason was that the Consultative Council threatened to approach the Victorian Government and seek an Order-in-Council prohibiting the reopening.

What has this to do with Mr. H. E. Holt, M.H.R. for Fawkner? Simply that Mr. Holt, in addition to his parliamentary position, happens to be the paid secretary of the 'Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, and it is a part of his duties to carry out the instructions of that Association. As it happens, Mr. Holt is in the Federal and not in the Victorian House; but supposing that he had been in the State Parliament, or even in the State Government, what would his position have been? As a member of the Government, he might have been called upon to decide between his duty to the people and his duty to by the dead Generalissimo . . . his other paymasters; even as a private member supporting the Government would not the picture inwhatever influence he could exert by in their favour?

We are not suggesting for one moment that Mr. Holt would have failed in his higher duty, but we are suggesting that the principle is entirely wrong that an M.P. should ever be placed in such a position as we have envisaged. And Mr. Holt was definitely in the position last week where he was expected to, and was paid to conform to a decision that was violently prejudicial to the people's health. If it is regarded as improper that members of local government authorities should have any connection with firms which may even be doing business with those authorities; if members of the civil services are forbidden to hold outside business positions, how much more pressing is it that members of Parliament, the most important of all our civil servants-since they are charged, not with the mere administration of legislation, but with its making-should be expected to keep their hands clean of divided loyalties?

Aftermath in Iraq

It may seem a long cry from Australia's defence policy to affairs in most glaring instance of this at pre- Iraq (or, as we knew it in pre-war days, Mesopotamia). And it should be a long cry if Australia attended to her own affairs. But if the Lyons Ministry's desire for "close Empire co-operation", and that policy of "collective security" which the U.A.P, and the Communists in common uphold, be assented to by the electors on Saturday next, we are just as likely to be embroiled over Iraq as over anywhere else. It may therefore not be out of place to reproduce here some editorial remarks concerning the recent revolution in Iraq, which appeared in the London Economist of August 21 last. Iraq, it will be remembered, is the territory in which the allegedly British oil monopolists

to reopen its theatres to matinees hold some of their most valuable concessions, and it is the oil pipeline from Mosul, in Iraq, to the Mediterranean port of Haifa which theatre owners may be suffering makes the fate of Palestine so vital financial loss by the closing of their to the same interests. You will have noticed in last Friday night's papers that one of the principal "outrages" perpetrated by the Arabs in Palesextent; but that gives them not the tine was this: "The Iraq oil pipeline was reported to have been pierced in two places and oil gushing from the pipe ignited" (Herald,

Discussing the recent assassinations and change of Ministry in Iraq, the Economist said: "After the assassination of General Bagir Sidqi, the chief of the General Staff of the Iraq Army, and his colleague, Major Ali Jawdat, the Commander-in-Chief of the Iraq Air Force, at Mosul airport last week —which we then briefly recorded--- Iraq has obtained a new Government without internal convulsions. The late Baqir Sidqi's nominal Prime Minister. Seyyid Hikmat Suleiman, resigned with his Cabinet on Tuesday, and the new Cabinet is led by Senator Jamil Midfai, who is-perhaps to give him complete control of the Army-also Defence Minister, a post he held in 1934-35. The new Prime Minister now enters on his fourth term of office: he and many of his colleagues are moderates, friendly to Britain, and on that account were forced into retirement Deplorable though these political crimes may be, they should perhaps be looked upon as part of the price terests have expected him to use for liberation which has to be paid politically inexperienced peoples."

> In a series of articles, "Oil-And War", which we published about two years ago, we showed how, again and again, the rivalry of the major oil interests had been responsible for assassinations, revolutions and war. We make no suggestion that the recent assassinations and change of government in Iraq had anything to do with "British" oil interests-it may have been just a coincidence that the men killed were done to death at the oil town of Mosul, that they were not friendly to "British" oil interests, and that their successors are friendly to the same interests.

> On the same principle, it will be only a coincidence if Mr. Collective Security Lyons, given the chance, runs Australia into an overseas war which will just happen to suit the same, or similar monopolistic interests.

Mr. Menzies Gives Us a Character

Speaking at Auburn the other day, R. G. Menzies, not reeling too comfortable on the question of defence, which the Prime Minister has assured us is the principal election issue, turned his attention to the subject of national insurance. "It is more fashionable today," he said in his patronising way, "to go to the Government to get us out of our trouble than it was 30 years ago, but I cannot believe that Mr. Curtin is right in his estimation of the Australian character when he suggests that the people do not want to contribute towards a national insurance scheme.'

What folly, then to trust any promises now made by the same Ministry!

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The Prime Minister on Buying Votes

After a glance over the papers of three years ago one is more than ever amazed at the colossal hide of a Ministry, which can even dare to approach the farming districts of Australia, much less seek a renewal of their vote of confidence. Two days before the last elections

the Prime Minister said: "The return of the Ministry will mean that we will be able to proceed with our plans for a great project of rural relief which will bring a brighter outlook for everyone associated with the land. I do not promise these things for the mere sake of promising. I promise them because

The Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association in Melbourne, despite the urgent request of the medical Consultative Council, which is trying to fight the epidemic, decided

Why, for a start, should Mr. Menzies sneer at people for going to the Government? If the Government is really doing its job of protecting the people, he should feel proud and honoured that the

THE NEW TIMES

DOES MR. HOLT REMEMBER?

No member of the United Australia, party had agreed to support conscription, and many, including himself, strongly opposed any such policy.

-H. E. Holt, M.H.R., at Toorak, Oct. 19.

Has Mr. Holt forgotten that at the end of August last year he was strongly supporting and speaking in favour of compulsory military training? Here is an extract from a leading article in the New Times of September 4, 1936:

"Mr. H. E. Holt, M.H.R., another brilliant young politician of the R. G. Menzies type, apparently shares the Attorney-General's view that military service is a fine thing-for others. Unlike Mr. Menzies, Mr. Holt would have been too young to be eligible for the last war (unless as a mascot), but he seems equally decided that the next war will have to carry on as well as possible without him. Nevertheless. Mr. Holt is in favour of compulsory military training.

"Some days ago this ardent young warrior was asked whether, in view of his opinions, he had himself joined the militia. Mr. Holt explained that he had not. It was not necessary for him to get any more military training, because in his youthful days as a schoolboy at Wesley and as an undergraduate

THE REAL BRITISH EMPIRE

From the London "Economist" of August 21 last:

"The Crown Colonies are the real British Empire. They are mainly administered from London, have no full tariff autonomy, and in recent years have been closely assimilated, economically, to the United Kingdom. Since 1933 Japanese products in particular have been penalised in most of the Colonial Empire."

holder overseas. Still, is not Australia producing ample real wealth in the form of genuinely desirable goods to meet all her oversea commitments? Is she not heavily taxing her own people in the home price they have to pay for sugar, dried fruits, butter, etc., to enable people overseas to buy them at a much lower price so that the proceeds may satisfy the bondholder? And did not Britain herself-Mr. Hogan's model of honour-refuse to meet similar commitments to America except in goods other than gold, even at a time when she had enough gold in stock to have met

Why, then, should Australia, after subsidising the sale abroad of all sorts of other commodities, continue to subsidise so half-witted a uit as gold mining?

in the University Rifles he had learnt all that was necessary to 'have a foundation for further service if any real trouble occurred.' Moreover, on wider issues, he 'did not think it advisable to take men for training from the professions or responsible positions.

You will remember that Federal Attorney-General Menzies, now a strong supporter of the Lyons Government's "defence" policy, had similar views to Mr. Holt at the time when he would have been eligible for "defence" himself. If we remember aright, he actually had a commission in the University Rifles, but when his country's call came-or what the Mr. Menzies of

"THE PEOPLE TRUST ME"

J. A. Lyons Castlemaine on Tuesday: 'The people believe me. The people trust me. I came from among the people. Today I belong to them. I am not going to let the people down. The people's interests ore my interests.' Ŏh, yeah?

1937 would doubtless regard as his country's call—he also did not think it advisable to take men for war from the professions or responsible positions, not even from such a responsible position as that of a University undergraduate in law. His brains were too valuable to be spattered over Flanders trenches-and so he stayed home and wrote valedictory verse to those who did go.

Will Mr. Holt do the same? Or will he perhaps, in his responsible position as secretary of the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association, endeavour to give us plenty of recruiting pictures to stir up the laggards?

STILL THE LIE ABOUT REDUCED TAXATION

U.A.P, candidates still continue on their platforms to broadcast the deliberate lie that the Lyons Ministry has reduced taxation.

Federal taxation today, as is shown by the official figures quoted in our recent issues, is over £12 millions a year higher than it was when the Lyons Government took office in 1937-38 1932, and the estimate is £9 millions higher than the collections for 1934-35, when the present Ministry was returned.

As far as we can trace it. this lie was first put out by R. G. Menzies before the 1934 Federal election. Here is the "Argus" report of an address he gave at Warrnambool, Victoria, on September 7, 1934:

"The first thing the Lyons Ministry did when it assumed office was to make the Com-

CANADA'S **GOVERNOR SETS US** AN EXAMPLE

Page Five

Addressing the Canadian Institute of National Affairs, the Governor-General of Canada (Lord Tweedsmuir) said:

"Canada, as a sovereign State, cannot take her attitude on world affairs docilely from Britain or the United States.

"Canadians' first loyalty is not to the British Commonwealth, but to Canada. They must determine their own attitude on world affairs."

—Australian Associated Press cable, "Herald," Oct. 14.

MR. MENZIES AND THE CRIMES ACT

"Recently I withdrew certain prosecutions against the Friends of the Soviet Union because I believed the onus of proof should be upon the prosecution, and not upon the accused.'

-Attorney-General Menzies at Hartwell (Vic.).

If this was the real reason, and if Mr. Menzies really believes what he says, why did he not have the Crimes Act altered to harmonise with his new code of belief?

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in particular, can turn to the Government with confidence, then which he loves to make his mellow after-dinner speeches is working as it should work.

a national insurance scheme, neither these lines. But, because he is not Mr. Curtin nor any of those others sincere, because he has so debased who oppose the Government's so- his talents as to use them only for called contributory insurance pro- the purposes of a party hack, he posals are offering any objections to falls back on gibes at the poor and reasonable contributions. What on a type of cheap flattery that is they assert, and rightly, is that those more in keeping with a racecourse in the lower grades of incomes are urger than an eminent K.C. entitled to insurance against destitution without any further contribution on their part. As Mr. Menzies very well knows, the Australian basic wage system does not pretend, and never has pretended to remunerate the worker in proportion to the value of his services to industry and to the community at large. It is, at best, based upon his minimum needs: and the basic wage of Australia today is no higher in its purchasing power than it was when it was first instituted in 1907. Has nothing happened since 1907 to entitle the workers of this country to a higher standard of living or to greater security against sickness and against the day when they are too exhausted to work any longer?

The enormous strides in our capacity to produce all the necessities and most of the comforts of life have brought with them no added security to the great majority of our people. Their wage today leaves no margin for saving, makes no provision for any untoward happening. They are still, at the best, only a jump ahead of destitution. Yet the country abounds with goods, and there is no material reason why one soul of its millions of inhabitants should have a single moment of anxiety as to the fulfilment of his physical needs.

Neither Mr. Menzies nor any other of our alleged statesmen can deny this, so they fall back on the old excuse, where is the money to come from? Obviously it cannot come from those who do not draw enough money even to supply their day-to-day necessities.

But what is money? Merely a claim on goods, consisting today either of printed pieces of paper, of token pieces of metal, or of entries in bank ledgers-and ninety per cent, of it consisting of the latter. If enough of these claims are in existence to enable all the goods produced in Australia to be distributed, then clearly the State should provide for the needy by taking surplus claims from those who do not need them-which is more or less the view of the older generation of Laborites. If there are not enough claims in existence—as is asserted

people naturally turn to the both on facts and on technical con-Government when they are in clusions by monetary reformers and trouble. And if the poorer people, as is now beginning to be realised by more thoughtful Labor menthen there is no doubt but that it he may feel that that democracy on is the duty of the sovereign State to make up the deficiency by its own powers of issue.

If Mr. Menzies were sincere, he As to the people contributing to would be thinking and talking on

Minister for Mines or for Lunacy?

Victorian Minister for Mines Hogan announced at Bendigo last Friday that the Dunstan Ministry is negotiating with the Federal Government for further grants to help gold-mining companies and syndicates in Victoria. The Government, he said, had three factors in view in seeking this assistance. These were, first, the ensuring of the continued revival of the gold-mining industry; second, the increasing of Victoria's wealth production; and, third, the further absorption of unemployed.

As far as the gold-mining industry is concerned, does it matter whether it revives or whether it expires? Those who stand to make profits out of it are only gamblers, financiers or stock exchange operators. Is there any good reason why part of taxpayers' funds should be diverted to assist in a special way such gentry?

As for gold being wealth, it is no such thing, because gold is not produced for use at all, except to an infinitesimal extent, its destination being a hole in the ground, which differs from its original hole only in that the latter is very expensively guarded.

And, as for the absorption of the unemployed, can no more useful or pleasant activity be found for them than the risky and unpleasant job of gouging out the bowels of the earth? Would not the unemployed be much better occupied, for example, in building some of those tens of thousands of houses of which the State of Victoria is so urgently in need?

Mr. Hogan would probably say that the great advantage of gold is that it enables us to meet our commitments of honour to overseas bondholders. For Mr. Hogan, who had no hesitation when Premier of Victoria in subscribing to a Premiers' decision whereby the three per cent, of Australian bondholders who did not voluntarily convert their bonds to a lower rate of interest were compelled by law to do so, has always resisted any attempt

to put compulsion on the bondher payments for years ahead?

claims in existence—as is asserted so, has always res	isted any attempt pursuit as gold mining?	office was to make the Com- monwealth solvent. When this Ministry came into office	DON'T SPEND A PENNY—
The Editor, The Melbourne "Herald." Dear Sir, In your Wednesday's leader, under the heading, "A Real Issue of the Elections", you say: "The great social question of the time is the means of pro- gressing towards the limitation or abolition of poverty—the practical way of giving each man, woman and child a 'fair deal.'" We agree with you. We have, in fact, been saying this for quite a while, and we welcome your support (though some of the U.A.P, politicians who tell us that poverty has already been abolished may not be quite so pleased). But when you go on to suggest that the next step towards abolishing poverty is to institute a national insurance scheme whereby those who are already too impoverished to make any provision for sickness or old age will have their present incomes still further	depleted, why, then you are just talking plain nonsense—even though you do gild the pill with your sugary "free democracy of proud-spirited Aus- tralians." What a pity you seem unable to distinguish be- tween real wealth and those claims to it which we call money. Neither you nor any other of our so-called "orthodox" writers seem to envisage any way of providing for the future except to SAVE MONEY. You don't speak of saving goods; then why do you always dwell on the idea that money must be saved? Today's money should be a claim on today's goods, and in actual practice unspent money must mean unsold goods. There is, of course, the alternative that the money saved by some of the poor will be transferred as spending power to others of the poor. Is this your idea of abolishing poverty? THE NEW TIMES	this kinistry calle the office the Commonwealth was insol- vent, in the sense of producing a huge deficit. Today the Lyons Ministry could look back on an unbroken record of surpluses, thus making the Commonwealth solvent. Then the Lyons Ministry was able to help others. One of the principal ways of doing this was by a substantial reduction in taxation. "A Voice: And popped it on somewhere else. "Mr. Menzies: My friend is wrong. There has been no increase in taxation by the Lyons Ministry. It is the one Ministry in Australia that has been able to reduce taxation."	without consulting the "New Times" Shopping Guide. CERTIFIED FOR COLOR STATE SAVINGS BANK BUILDINGS IS7-159 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE TILEPHONE MUISAS COLD GLUES, DEXTRINE PASTES AND GUMS. INDUSTRIAL ADHESIVES PTY. LTD., 155 Yarra St., Abbotsford, N.9, Vic. Phone J 2478.

STARVATION STILL TO WAIT ON **NEEDLESS INQUIRIES**

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir, —

Anyone listening to the policy speech delivered by Mr. Lyons must have been struck by the number of committees either in existence or to be appointed for "investigation" purposes. Inquiries seem to have been undertaken into all sorts of things but practically nothing has been *done* to bring relief to an overtaxed, povertystricken and weary people.

Take the question of nutrition. For some time now we have had a committee conducting a Commonwealth Nutrition Inquiry, but the exact purpose of the inquiry has not been stated. It could hardly be concerned with the quality of food itself, such as discovering means for putting more bone-creating properties into fish, into cattle, into wheat, into eggs, into fruit, and so on. The bone-creating properties are already there, but we are throwing the fish back into the sea, destroying cattle, wasting wheat, limiting the quantity of eggs, and turning fruit into refuse, instead of eating them.

If the purpose of the inquiry is to prove that numberless children suffer and die from malnutrition, or that many a prospective birth does not eventuate because, due to the same cause, the would-be mother is unable to go through with it, then obviously the time so spent is simply being wasted because every man and woman in the world outside a lunatic asylum knows it already

But supposing it is a matter of precious statistics with which the inquiry is concerned, and it proves that we were wrong in saying that 50 per cent, of the children are underfed, that the figure should have been 45 per cent-what then? Will that discovery put better food into the poor little tummies of the 45 per cent?

Or supposing it were found, as probably it will be, that the vast majority of children who get anything to eat at all consume only foods of the inferior kind-what then? Will a brilliant conclusion such as that bring to their pannikins egg-flip instead of thrice-cooked hash?

Or perhaps they will recommend a plan of national education. The mothers of the nation, for instance, must be taught that their babies will not add much to their stature by sucking clothes pegs; that, while a little water in father's whisky may not do him any harm, it's a great mistake to put too much in little Willie's skim milk. What humbug it is when Mr. Lyons and his sycophants know well that the poor mother gives a baby a peg to suck because she hasn't *money* to buy a biscuit, and waters Willie's milk because if she doesn't then

Lucy will have to go without milk altogether.

Useless Conclusions

What earthly use can an inquiry be (and an inquiry-or rather cooperation therein-is all that Mr. Lyons has promised) even if it proves anything or everything? Let it prove that the majority of children are really underfed, that the mothers are for the most part ignorant of the rudiments of dietetics, that children prefer the nonnutritious to the nutritious, that many of the concoctions sold as prepared food are adulterated with poison-let it prove anything it likes, and the question still stands: What earthly use can it be if the mothers are not supplied with the money wherewith to buy better food?

Apart from this, however, the committee conducting the Commonwealth Inquiry has issued progress reports showing that there is an insufficiency of bone-forming, mineral foods in the diet of the Australian people. Dr. S. W. Clements, a special field officer, reported to the Committee that, "after examining 1400 children in Western Queensland, 736 in Western New South Wales, and 1249 in the Mallee, he found that 23 per cent of the New South Wales children, 80 per cent, of those in Western Queensland, and 13 per cent, in the Mallee were suffering, from unsatisfactory nutrition." He added that this was due to shortage of fresh fruit, milk, vegetables and eggs

All this was known to the Government, yet the only reference to the subject in the policy speech was the suggestion that further inquiries would be instituted with the State Governments, as follows:

"The Government is impressed also with the importance of conserving child life and maintaining the health of children. It proposes, in conjunction with the States, to consider development of a better system of care between the infant and school stages—a system in which a daily milk ration will have a prominent place.'

That must have been great news to the hungry, and the knowledge that the Government is "considering" some nebulous idea should prove exceedingly nutritious to underfed youngsters. Not a word has been said by Mr. Lyons or any members of the U.A.P, about the fact that so many kiddies are undernourished only because their parents have not sufficient money to buy the nourishing foods.

A Question of Money

There is no shortage at all of fresh fruit, milk, vegetables, and eggs, but, as the New Era points out, parents and youngsters alike are

compelled, by shortage of money. to eat the less interesting and less beneficial foods, such as bread and jam, potatoes, cabbage and the cheaper cuts of meat. Why are our fruit growers, our dairymen, our greengrocers, and our poultrymen so silent on this important subject? The consumption of their products could be immediately increased and additional demands maintained on a permanent basis if only the people had the money. Nutrition is therefore a question of money, but none of the members of the U.A.P, seem yet to realise it.

It may not be generally known that the League of Nations has already had a committee "investigating" the subject, and that after two years' work it has now published its final report. This committee is officially known as the 'Mixed Committee of the League of Nations on the Relation of Health, Agriculture and Economic Policy." The report of this committee confirms the conclusion of the Australian committee that quality as well as quantity is necessary to good health.

But it goes further. It acknowledges the discovery that many things C. H. Douglas has been saying for 20 years are really true after all; that *financial* poverty has a direct bearing on the widespread malnutrition that exists: that large numbers of people are *underfed* as well as undernourished, that the problem of raising the *income* level is essentially a national problem of first importance: and that subsidies to consumers are a proper means of ensuring to everybody not only sufficient food, but also the proper balance of nourishment between foods.

What the Committee Has Said

Mr. Editor, can we believe our eyes in this? Here we have an official Committee of the League of Nations saying the very things we have been ridiculed for saying, and actually advocating that money should be *given* to the people! This is so important that I hope every reader will spread the news far and wide. The full report of the Committee has been published by Messrs. Allen and Unwin and is priced at 7/6.

In my view the following extracts are eloquent: -

"Poverty and ignorance remain formidable obstacles to progress; the disparity between food prices and incomes increases the difficulty experienced by the poorer sections of the community in obtaining an adequate supply of the proper foods.

"In countries of the most diverse economic structure and general level of consumption appreciable sections of the population are, for one reason or another, failing to secure the food which is essential to their health and efficiency.

"Millions of people in all parts of the globe are either suffering from inadequate physical development or from disease due to malnutrition, or are living in a state of subnormal health which could be improved if they consumed more or different food.

THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK LIE

With that delicacy of language for which he is noted, the Attorney-General, Mr. Menzies, addressing a meeting at Port Adelaide, said: 'In the past 18 months, while all these windy politicians have been talking about a 40-hour week, not one union has gone to the Arbitration Court and asked for it." Apart from the inexcusable vulgarity, which Mr. Menzies seems to regard as a proper substitute for logical argument, the statement is a deliberate misrepresentation. Applications have been made for the 40hour week both to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and to the Public Service Arbitrator, Mr. Westhoven.

What Mr. Westhoven Said

In view of the pronounced opinion expressed by Mr. Westhoven on the subject, Mr. Menzies has probably decided that it is inconvenient to recognise Mr. Westhoven as having anything to do with arbitration. However, there have been times when the Attorney General and his colleagues have thought very highly of the same arbitrator.

In giving his finding on the claims of the postal workers for a 40-hour week, Mr. Westhoven said: "While there is a substantial body of public opinion in Australia in favour of the 40-hour week, it has not yet been put into operation except in a few limited and comparatively unimportant industrial concerns. As an individual, after carefully studying the problem, I strongly hold the view that in present-day conditions the adoption of the 40-hour week is warranted. At the same time, I also am convinced that it is not a proper exercise of the powers vested in the Public Service Arbitrator to venture into a field of social reform of the community as a whole and prescribe a reduction of hours of duty in Commonwealth employ as a measure of relief for the social unrest of the community. In the present circumstances I think it wise to leave the initiative in this matter to Parliament, where it rightly belongs.

That is a significant statement of the subject, and whose position Arbitration Court a man with the bears out in every respect the Mr. Menzies has endeavoured to even worse. suggest to the people of Australia that Labor has thrust arbitration aside and that the Labor movement in the Federal Parliament is determined to ignore arbitration in the future. That kind of thing is typical of the Attorney General, who is noted more for his sarcasm, his vivid realisation of his own importance, and his acute sense of his personal interests, than for his constructive ideas on industrial matters.

Mr. Menzies is attempting to make political capital by asserting that the State Governments have more power to introduce the 40eek than the Feder hour author ity and by asking why the States do not use that power, particularly where there are Labor Governments in office. It was the Attorney General who was largely responsible at the Adelaide Premiers' Confer-

ence for frustrating the attempts made to introduce the 40-hour week.

The Arbitration Court and the Stonemasons

Now, in regard to the Arbitration Court. In April of this year the Stonemasons' Union approached the full Arbitration Court, asking among other things for the 40-hour week, one of the grounds being that the occupation was a dangerous one, and that nine out of 13 stonemasons suffered from silicosis. Evidence to this effect was tendered. However, the court was not satisfied, but promised to have every mason in Victoria X-rayed to find out the extent to which the disease was prevalent.

Unfortunately, the learned judges seem to have treated the whole matter as a joke, as no move has been made to have one man examined and the union has heard nothing more of the subject from the court. The desire to shelve the responsibility of the Government in this matter on to the Arbitration Court

TWO M.P.'s WITH THE RIGHT SPIRIT

What two Victorian M.P.'s said last Friday:

Mr. Macfarlan (Brighton): "My constituents are the only people entitled to an explanation."

Mr. Holden (Grant): "I will remain responsible only to my constituents, and will carry on in their interests."

is easily explained when the attitude of the court towards the 40hour week is considered—first in its treatment of the Stonemasons' Union and again as late as the 5th inst., when Judge Dethridge said that he "regarded the reduction of working hours as perhaps more serious even than increasing the basic wage", and that "its effect on the community may be more serious and could be more injurious than increased wages." It is very convenient for the interests of which Mr. Menzies is the mouthpiece, and coming from a high Government of- the Lyons Government, their servile ficial, who has made a special study tool, to have on the bench of the entitles him to speak with authority. It type of mind that regards increased wages as injurious to the communcontentions of the Labor Party. ity and shorter hours as something

(L. J. Watson, 209 Hotham St., Elsternwick, S.4.)



If you wish to assist the "New Times" in its fight justice, security for and freedom for all our people; if help it in exp those who are the enemies of the people, you can best do so by providing the financial ammunition which will enable the paper to build up the greatest possible circulation in the shortest possible time.

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situation can exist in a world in which agricultural resources are so abundant and the arts of agriculture have been so improved that supply frequently tends to outstrip effective demand remains an outstanding challenge to constructive statesmanship and international co-operation.

"The malnutrition which exists in all countries is at once a challenge and an opportunity; a challenge to men's consciences and an opportunity to eradicate a social evil by methods which will increase economic prosperity."

All of which reflects credit on the members of the Committee. What a commentary it is upon the attitude of the Federal Government, which untruthfully prates of record "prosperity" and is content to evade its responsibilities by appointing committees to "inquire." The cause of this disgraceful state

of affairs is to be found in the private control and manipulation of our money arrangements, and if we vote for Mr. Lyons or any of the U.A.P, candidates we vote for a continuance of these murderous conditions. We must therefore give our support to candidates publicly pledged to the abolition of poverty without imposing injustices on other sections of the community, so that malnutrition will quickly become a thing of the past.

Yours faithfully, BRUCE H BROWN 10 Parkside Street, Malvern, S.E.4.

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GREAT MINDS AT WORK

By YAFFLE in "Reynolds News."

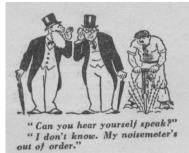
gaged, strain to listen when the great minds of the nation gather at the annual meetings of the British Association.

The awe, which the nation feels for Science is estimated at 73.5 awns per head. We are approaching the day when the citizen will automatically raise his hat at the mention of the word "Expert."

Indeed, I possess an old and welltrained bowler, which rises six inches of its own accord, lest I forget.

The most important feature of this year's pooling of the brains was Dr. Kaye's lecture on "Noise and the Nation," which gave a half-deafened world the consoling announcement that noise can now be scientifically measured. A new simplified noisemeter will shortly, he said, be placed on the market.

"The first scientific step," said the lecturer, "is to devise accurate



methods of measuring loudness, both in physical and in psychological terms." The basic unit now adopted is the bel, which measures a tenfold increase of sound intensity. For practical purposes, smaller units are required, and decibels are used, 10 decibels being equivalent to one bel.

The psychological equivalent of a decibel is a phon. At 60 phons, conversation can still be comfortable. At 90 phons it is difficult, and at 110 phons practically impossible.

A busy street is 70 or 80 phons of loudness; an express train with the windows open is 90 phons, and a pneumatic drill is 110 phons.

At this point, simple souls will ask, "Now they can measure noise, are they going to stop it?" This is to know, not to do.

You must realise that a scientist suffers from a disability unknown to

EVERYONE IS OUT OF STEP BUT JOEY

When I see how completely Labor has somersaulted in maternity payments, on national insurance, in defence, and so many other things it was once proud of, I sometimes think I am the only person who once supported it who still stands for these.

-J. A. Lyons at Adelaide,

All ears, when not otherwise en- definition and unit of measurement. This explains the behaviour of the famous physicist who, after his morning bath, would frequently dry himself on his newspaper and sit down to read his towel. He had never seen a scientific definition of a newspaper.

> We saw the same difficulty three years ago when the Government began to deal with malnutrition. As the Times said at the time:

"One of the difficulties of arriving at a final judgment about malnutrition is to define that condition."

So, ultimately, we got a definition of ill nourishment in terms of calorie and protein units, and there the matter rests. The object of science had been achieved. Whenever anyone feels hungry they can borrow a copy of the report.

It is the same with noise. You may say you object to pneumatic drills at night. But until you can reduce the noise to phons, and define a drill in terms of dynes per square centimetre of intensity, you can't prove it is keeping you awake. And until you can do that, how can the Government act?

The Government cannot say to the contractor, "Stop that ruddy noise. My faithful subjects cannot go to bye-byes." First they have to prove that the noise is really ruddy, and they cannot do that until some scientist announces how many decibels make one rud.

Sooner or later all this will go into a Report. And then, when a drill comes under your bedroom

RECORDS

The Lyons Government has been putting out a series of newspaper advertisements `and posters setting out seven "records made by the Lyons Government." Some of the statements are true (mostly about things with which the Government had nothing to do); some are half true; some are entirely false. A flagrantly false statement is that which says that exports in 1936-7 reached "the re-cord figure of £128,191,082 sterling." Between the years 1924-5 and 1928-9 our annual exports varied between £140 millions sterling and £160 millions sterling.

But there is one perfectly true and indisputable record, which the Government forgets to claim. It has easily broken the all-time record for taxation.

window, and the wife goes into hysterics, you will glance at the noisemeter, observe that the drill is doing 110 phons, plus 40 phons from the wife, making 150 phons in all, and go comfortably off to sleep, murmuring, "O gentle noisemeter, tired nature's sweet restorer."

Thus we find that the function of science in regard to social problems

scientifically defined in economic terms, while the wife-beater cannot, as yet.

Some of you, I know, protest against all this. You say you would rather the Government sometimes did something about something.

But the difficulty in the campaign against political ineptitude is that of defining a politician.

We must first devise accurate means of measuring it in physical and psychological terms. The basic unit of statesmanship, I have decided, is the boob, which measures a 10-fold increase in density.

For practical purposes smaller units are required, so deciboobs are used. The psychological equivalent of a deciboob is a mutt. Fifty decimutts make one Cabinet.

Having now established our units of measurement, I think we may say we are getting somewhere. In a strictly scientific sense, of course.



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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 Workmaship. Suit Club. **CONFECTIONERY and SMOKES.** 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.

LOOK BEHIND THE LYONS!

Some more records, which the Lyons Government has broken: -

- **RECORD** all-time Federal taxation, both in total amount and amount per head collected from the Australian people.
- RECORD number of destitute pensioners and record percentage of such to total population.
- RECORD blow aimed at Australian wool industry by deliberate attempt to cripple trade with our greatest individual buyer and our only rapidly expanding wool market,
- RECORD denial of people's democratic right to be consulted in the choice of their Sovereign.
- RECORD refusal of entry to Australia of unconvicted British-born white.
- **RECORD** jaunts of Ministers abroad at record cost to Australian people.
- **RECORD** contempt of Parliament by lowest number of sitting days.

RECORD interference with trade by

question displays misunderstanding of the function of science in modern civilisation. The purpose of science

regulation, license, by-law and diversion,	less intelligent men. He doesn't know what anything is until he can measure it and define it. As Dr. Kaye said: —	is to give us scientific proof of what we already know. And the func- tion of a scientific Government is to draw up statistics showing the density of the soup we know we're in.	F. TAYLOR, 21 Bay Rd. XW2048. LIBRARY, 5000 BOOKS. COUTIE'S NEWSAGENCY. PARKDALE. RADIO REPAIRS AND SALES. C. Barnett, 19 Herbert St. XW2031.
RECORD in depopulating Australia- net excess of emigration over immigration from January 1932 (when first Lyons Government took office), to June 30,1937, was 2738 persons.	"One of the difficulties in the campaign against noise was to define the term at all." Most of you, unimpeded by a scientific education, are clear as to what a noise is. You never mistake it for anything else, such as a happy thought or a piece of cheese. You do not have to know the equivalent of a pneumatic drill in phons before you know whether you can hear yourself speak. And few of you have to wait for a scientific definition of an alarm clock before you can throw your boot at it. But a scientist cannot deal with anything until he has his	It is true we are not yet complete- ly scientific. Take the law, for in- stance. When a policeman is called upon to deal with a case of wife beating, he does not say, "The dif- ficulty in the campaign against wife- beating is to define the term." Nor does he wait until he can test the process by agreed units of measure- ments, such as two biffs one swat, two swats one bump off. But perhaps that will be remedied when the law becomes more scientific. Already we find a great difference between the legal treatment of a man who beats a woman and that of a man who starves her. That is because the employer and the financier can be	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).

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

Next Saturday, October 23, the people of Australia will appoint a Government to administer a policy in the framing of which they played no part. This is the farcical side, but the other side to contemplate, and the side in which reposes the hope for humanity, is that the machinery exists whereby the people can govern themselves. The self-same machinery that imposes on them a policy of dubious inspiration is available to bring in a policy they themselves dictate.

It is to enable the people to use the machinery of democracy for the betterment of the nation, and not, as at present, for sectional benefits (which is the only aim of the party system of government), that the United Electors of Australia has come into being. Its purpose is to provide the individual-the unit of a nationwith the means of expressing his or her desire on a matter that is intimate to him or herself-one's personal economic condition. This is every individual's primary concern, so logically it is the primary concern of a people. It is a policy framed on this basis that the U.É.A, is assisting the people to place in Parliament.

In accordance with the objective of the U.E.A., it is necessary to ascertain the attitude of candidates on the important point: 'Will you accept instructions from the majority of your electors if those instructions are, in substance, as set out in the Elector's Demand and Undertaking form, and are made manifest to you as a Member of Parliament?"

So every candidate in Victoria for the House of Representatives, and the Victorian candidates for the Senate, have had the following letter, with drafted reply, forwarded to them:

Dear Sir.

The purpose of the U.E.A, is to provide electors with the opportunity of conveying to Parliament, through their parliamentary representatives, that which they want Parliament to bring into effect—in this first instance, the Abolition of Poverty. Attached to this letter is an Elector's Demand and Undertaking form, which sets out a specific Demand that the electors will be given the opportunity of expressing. The electors' wishes will be made manifest by signatures to the form and by resolutions from meetings held in various portions of the electorates.

My Executive wishes to know if you are prepared to represent the WILL of the majority of your constituents, if their Will should be, in substance, as con-

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veyed by the Demand and Undertaking form.

My Executive would be glad to receive the accompanying drafted letter, bearing your signature of acquiescence. If not received within 7 days, it will be understood that you will not subscribe to the WISHES of the People as set out in the Demand and Undertaking form. I am,

Yours faithfully, Hon. Secretary.

It is now our duty to inform electors of the nature of replies received (and not received). Those who signed the drafted reply require no comment. Several of the Labor candidates were courteous enough to reply, but placed party before the will of the majority. The U.A.P, were conspicuous by their silence. In the case of the Hon. R. G. Menzies and of Mr. Maurice Blackburn their reply, in essence, is an attitude of dictatorship. In fairness to Mr. Blackburn, however, it should be noted that he intimated that he is in favour of the principle of recall, and would be willing to resign his seat if ten per cent, of his electors so requested.

The reply of Sir Henry Gullett is: "I am not prepared to sign anything so vague as the undertaking you require." It is the obvious duty of electors, where possible, to cast their vote for those candidates who have signed, with first consideration, we believe, to Independents who have signed. In the election schedule printed below, candidates who have signed have '(YES)" against their names. The order of recording one's vote is numbered as we consider best under the circumstances of being compelled to vote.

After the elections, the campaign to obtain signatures to the Elector's Demand and Undertaking will be systematically undertaken. When a majority of signatures in an electorate has been obtained the member for that electorate will be notified, and he will be expected to make the demands of his electorate heard in the House, and to make those demands his constant and unrelenting business. The obtaining of the signatures may sound a big job, but in actual fact it is not. In association it is simple ridiculously easy. Success rests in everyone playing his part. To undertake to obtain at least one signature other than one's own, and to explain the campaign to others, is all that is required to bring the campaign to fruition. The address of your head office is McEwan House, 343 Little Collins-street, Melbourne.

Balaclava: (1) Atkinson (YES); (2) Nash; (3) White. Ballarat: Pollard; Walker (YES).

House of Representatives

Batman: (2) Brennan; (1) Peters (YES).

Dims; (1) Pearse Bendigo: (YES); Rankin.

Bourke: (2) Blackburn; (1) Griffith (YES).

Corangamite: (1) Hayward; (2) Street.

Corio: (1) Carmody; (2) Casey. Deakin: (2) Hutchinson; (1) Jones.

Fawkner: (1) Bottomley (YES); (2) Doran (YES); (3) Holt. Flinders: (1) Amess (YES); (3)

Fairbairn; (2) Skeats; (4) Gibson. Gippsland: (1) McKenna; (2) Paterson.

Henty: (3) Gullett; (1) Hornabrook (YES); (2) Walker.

Indi: (1) Hartshorne (YES); (2) McEwen.

Kooyong: (2) Brennan; (1) Hollins (YES); (3) Menzies.

Maribyrnong: (2) Drakeford: (3) Fenton; (1) Turner (YES).

Wannon: (2) McLeod; (1) Rankin (YES); (3) Scholfield.

Wimmera: (2) McClelland; (1) Wilson (YES).

Yarra: (2) Knight; (1) Scullin.

Senate.

Riverina: (1) Ballantyne (YES); (3) Nock; (2) Quick (YES). A Group: (5) Barnes; (6) Cameron ; (7) ; Keane.

B Group: (2) Budge (YES); (3) Geddes (YES); (8) Marchbank.

C Group: (10) Brennan; (4) Guthrie (YES); (9) Plain. Guthrie (YES); (1) Wettenhall Independent: (YES).

Council Meeting. - A meeting of the Victorian Central Council of the U.E.A, will be held at the Rooms, McEwan House, Melbourne, on Monday evening, October 25, at 8 o'clock.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Election Activities -Because the United Democrats feel that the elections offer an opportunity to make the democratic principle of the E.C. known to the public they are introducing various new schemes. The chief of these is a large press advertisement notifying the public, al-

LOANS AND TAXES

"Frequently when surpluses are shown by Governments it is found that it is a result of borrowing, but in the case of the Lyons Government loans have been reduced by £10 millions since it has been in office."

—J. V. Fairbairn, bank director and U.A.P, member for Flinders.

Mr. Fairbairn forgot to add that the six years of the Lyons Government have also seen an increase in Federal taxation of the tidy sum of £45 millions.

though more particularly those who have signed our pledge form, of those candidates who are sup-

their services and will attend all political meetings in their district.

The meeting on the 12th resolved that since Mr. Hatwell had signed our manifesto nothing else could be done than to support him, but not as a man or as a representative of a party, but only to maintain the democratic principle and to propagate our ideas.

Barker Division. —The Glenelg Group has developed the progressive idea of holding the fortnightly meetings in the residence of each active member. This makes it a simple matter for such members to invite their next-door neighbours to attend. By this means new members are being brought in. In addition to this the Glenelg Group is pushing on with its publicity through the "Glenelg Guardian." An advertisement appears each week in this paper, which entitles the group to a fairly long article free. This publicity is showing definite results, in that it is producing a better understanding of the E.G. everywhere.

Study and Speakers' Class -Members are specially asked to note that a class of study, at which speakers will also be trained, will be held at H.Q. on Tuesdays. Speakers are urgently required and you are specially invited to attend this class and develop your latent abilities. Thus

"A GRACIOUS GESTURE"

A gracious gesture was made by Mr. Lyons at the close of a noisy meeting in the Creswick Town Hall. Referring to the arrival later of Mr. Curtin, Mr. Lyons said that, in view of his position of leader of the Opposition, it must be a proud thing for Mr. Curtin to return to Creswick, which was his former home, on a public mission. "I hope vou will give him a fair hearing," added Mr. Lyons. - "Argus," October 20.

As the meeting was admittedly "noisy" and Labor in its sympathies, wasn't it nice of Mr. Lyons to make such a "gracious gesture"?

vou will be able to do your little bit for the campaign.

Drawing - Room Meetings —

Group leaders and members are reminded of the desirability of calling their friends together in their own homes for what we call group meetings. Speakers will be supplied from H.Q. These have proved a distinct advantage in the past in gathering in interested people. Do not neglect this opportunity. If possible arrange these meetings on broadcast nights.

Division of Grev-In continuation of his West Coast itinerary, two members of the Port Lincoln Group, together with Mr. Brock and a convert "two days old", journeyed to Mount Hope. Fifty were present at a meeting here four weeks previously. On this occasion everyone in the district are putting up a candidate. The result has been a further vindication of the contention that the job of the people is to appoint servants rather than to become servants; to dictate policy rather than to elect a dictator of policy. Steps have been taken publicly to rectify the unfortunate misunderstanding which this sincere and earnest, though misguided candidate has created.

The following day, Friday, October 8, Mr. Brock addressed a

WHY NOT **MELBOURNE?**

Have you noticed that J. A. Lyons, during the whole of this election campaign, has not once dared to face a Melbourne metropolitan audience? Have you noticed that he has not dared to address a public meeting in Melbourne since the events of last December?

He has certainly spoken to an audience in the Melbourne Town Hall, on the occasion of his "welcome home" after the Coronation; but that audience was hand picked, and admitted only by tickets sent out by the U.Á.P. WHY?

small group of women, and during the shopping hour in the evening he addressed the public in the main street, speaking from the band rotunda. The attendance numbered 75, despite a drizzling rain. A heavy shower brought the meeting to a sudden end. Numbers, however, compare very favourably with those at a political meeting the previous evening, numbering 12! In addition to these meetings Mr. Brock made several personal contacts with business people at Port Lincoln.

Women's Afternoon — On Wednesday, November 3, Mrs. Scott, from the Housewives' Association, will speak to the members and friends of the Women's Auxiliary. Her subject will be: 'Social and Living Conditions in Wales.

"WHAT I THINK OF THE CHURCHES TODAY"

The above article by Mr. W. Macmahon Ball, which appeared in the "New Times" of September 17, has elicited so much comment and brought so many requests for a reprint, that it has been reprinted by the "New Times" as an eight-page brochure.

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	that a member of Parliament	had been circularised. The night was fine, and farm work was	
	should abide by the wishes of a majority of his electors.	slack. Yet the attendance was nil. The cause for this unhappy	NAVEL ORANGES 6/6 per case. Freight Paid in Vic.
93	A meeting of the Hindmarsh Division was called for Tuesday,	situation was eventually dis- covered. A Federal candidate,	Please specify size required. We guarantee our fruit and will refund
	October 12, and resulted in a splendid attendance, showing that the old workers in that district	styling himself an Independent Democrat, has been touring the West Coast. He had refused to	your money if you are dissatisfied and return fruit to us.
	are still alive to the situation, and are prepared to do their best to make the campaign felt in their	sign the Candidate's Manifesto, declaring that he would act only according to his conscience, and	N. VISE & SONS, LOCKINGTON, VIC.
	world. Rev. C. D. Brock, as Director of Technique, has drafted a state- ment to be read at meetings of each candidate who has signed our manifesto, and a series of questions to be asked of the	what he considered to be in the best interests of the people. His personal acquaintance with lead- ing U.D.'s in Adelaide and his conversation with electors in this district have undoubtedly caused people to confound the	LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA. Listen in to 7LA EVERY SUNDAY
/- for 12	candidate who has refused to sign. For this purpose these enthusiastic workers in Hindmarsh have volunteered	terms, "Independent – Democrat" and "United Democrat." The appearance is that the U.D.'s	Printed by H. E. Kuntzen, 143-151 a'Beckett Street, Melbourne, for New Times Limited, Elizabeth House, Melbourne