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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

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No-Treaty Gullett Becomes No-Truth Gullett

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Who Are Mr. Holt's Masters?

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Menzies Gives Us A Character

THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1937.

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 statement—always 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?

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

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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?

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

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 most glaring instance of this at present 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.

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

to reopen its theatres to matinees for children. It is hard to find words to describe such a callously antisocial action. The picture theatre owners may be suffering financial loss by the closing of their theatres to children, just as many other types of business are probably suffering to a greater or a less extent; but that gives them not the least vestige of an excuse for attempting an act of which the natural result would be to spread the epidemic more widely than 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 his other paymasters; even as a private member supporting the Government would not the picture interests have expected him to use whatever influence he could exert 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 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

hold some of their most valuable concessions, and it is the oil pipeline from Mosul, in Iraq, to the Mediterranean port of Haifa which makes the fate of Palestine so vital 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 Palestine was this: "The Iraq oil pipeline was reported to have been pierced in two places and oil gushing from the pipe ignited" (*Herald*, page 1).

Discussing the recent assassinations and change of Ministry in Iraq, the *Economist* said: "After the assassination of General Baqir 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 by the dead Generalissimo . . . Deplorable though these political crimes may be, they should perhaps be looked upon as part of the price for liberation which has to be paid by 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 feeling 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."

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

people naturally turn to the Government when they are in trouble. And if the poorer people, in particular, can turn to the Government with confidence, then he may feel that that democracy on which he loves to make his mellow after-dinner speeches is working as it should work.

As to the people contributing to a national insurance scheme, neither Mr. Curtin nor any of those others who oppose the Government's so-called contributory insurance proposals are offering any objections to reasonable contributions. What they assert, and rightly, is that those in the lower grades of incomes are 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

both on facts and on technical conclusions by monetary reformers and as is now beginning to be realised by more thoughtful Labor men—then there is no doubt but that it is the duty of the sovereign State to make up the deficiency by its own powers of issue.

If Mr. Menzies were sincere, he would be thinking and talking on these lines. But, because he is not sincere, because he has so debased his talents as to use them only for the purposes of a party hack, he falls back on gibes at the poor and on a type of cheap flattery that is more in keeping with a racecourse urger than an eminent K.C.

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

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."

to put compulsion on the bondholder 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 her payments for years ahead?

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

depleted, why, then you are just talking plain nonsense—even though you do gild the pill with your sugary "free democracy of proud-spirited Australians."

What a pity you seem unable to distinguish between 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

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 at 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 are my interests."
Oh, 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 1932, and the 1937-38 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 Commonwealth solvent. When this Ministry came into office the Commonwealth was insolvent, 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."

CANADA'S GOVERNOR SETS US AN EXAMPLE

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."

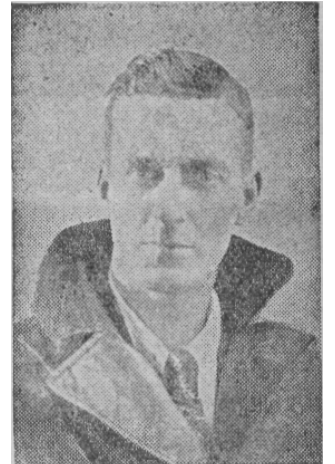
—Attorney-General Menzies at Hartwell (Vic.).

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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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 progressing 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

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, poverty-stricken 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 co-operation 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 non-nutritious 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.

"That this 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

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 40-hour 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 coming from a high Government official, who has made a special study of the subject, and whose position entitles him to speak with authority. It bears out in every respect the contentions of the Labor Party. Mr. Menzies has endeavoured to 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 40-hour week than the Federal authority 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-

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.

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 40-hour 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 the Lyons Government, their servile tool, to have on the bench of the Arbitration Court a man with the type of mind that regards increased wages as injurious to the community and shorter hours as something even worse.

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

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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 regulation, license, by-law and diversion,

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.

(Authorised by T. J. Moore, Elizabeth House, Melbourne, and inserted gratis by the "New Times" in token of its appreciation of the worst Government Australia has ever known.)

GREAT MINDS AT WORK

By YAFFLE in "Reynolds News."

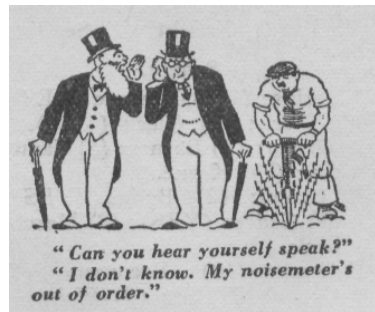
All ears, when not otherwise engaged, strain to listen when the great minds of the nation gather at the annual meetings of the British Association.

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 well-trained 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 ten-fold 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 question displays misunderstanding of the function of science in modern civilisation. The purpose of science 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, October 14.

less intelligent men. He doesn't know what anything is until he can measure it and define it. As Dr. Kaye said:—

"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

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 ruddy.

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 record 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 is to give us scientific proof of what we already know. And the function of a scientific Government is to draw up statistics showing the density of the soup we know we're in.

It is true we are not yet completely scientific. Take the law, for instance. When a policeman is called upon to deal with a case of wife beating, he does not say, "The difficulty 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 measurements, 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

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.

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.)

KEW.

ANDERSON'S, 141 High St. Authorised Newsagent. Haw. 1145.

BUTCHER, S. Daw. High Street, Opp. Union St. Satisfaction, S'vice.

C. KENNEDY, Grocer, flav. 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. 1462 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. M. J.

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

KEW EAST.

WATCH, CLOCK & JEWELLERY REPAIRS. I. Pink, 16 Oswin St. 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.

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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).

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 nation—with 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.E.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-

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.

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- House of Representatives
Balaclava: (1) Atkinson (YES); (2) Nash; (3) White.
Ballarat: Pollard; Walker (YES).
Batman: (2) Brennan; (1) Peters (YES).
Bendigo: Dims; (1) Pearse (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.
Maribymong: (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.
Independent: (1) Wettenhall (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 supporting the E.G. principle—i.e., that a member of Parliament should abide by the wishes of a majority of his electors.

A meeting of the Hindmarsh Division was called for Tuesday, October 12, and resulted in a splendid attendance, showing that the old workers in that district are still alive to the situation, and are prepared to do their best to make the campaign felt in their world.

Rev. C. D. Brock, as Director of Technique, has drafted a statement to be read at meetings of each candidate who has signed our manifesto, and a series of questions to be asked of the candidate who has refused to sign. For this purpose these enthusiastic workers in Hindmarsh have volunteered

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 you 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"?

you 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 Grey—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 had been circularised. The night was fine, and farm work was slack. Yet the attendance was nil. The cause for this unhappy situation was eventually discovered. A Federal candidate, styling himself an Independent Democrat, has been touring the West Coast. He had refused to sign the Candidate's Manifesto, declaring that he would act only according to his conscience, and what he considered to be in the best interests of the people. His personal acquaintance with leading U.D.'s in Adelaide and his conversation with electors in this district have undoubtedly caused people to confound the terms, "Independent Democrat" and "United Democrat." The appearance is that the U.D.'s

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.A.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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