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NEWSAGENTS

THE NEW TIMES

THE
ELECTION
EXPERIENCES
of
Bruce H. Brown
(See page 6.)

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

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MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

SENATE RESULTS PROVE YOU WERE CHEATED

*

Remarkable Votes In Victoria

*

An Anglican Resolution— and Archbishop Head

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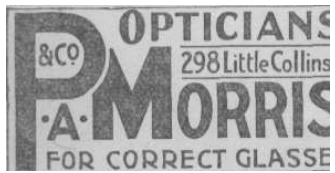
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(Continued on page 3.)

Senate Results Show Electors Were Cheated

Figures Prove Majority of Voters Were Denied Fair Representation in Lower House

The most outstanding feature, which emerges as the result of last Saturday's poll, is the flagrant way in which the electors were cheated. We are not referring now to anything that happened before the election, but to what will come about after the votes have been counted up.

"I hope," said the A.C.P. leader, Earle Page, on Monday, "the last has been heard in Australia of the suicidal policy of isolation." And similar speeches coming from Government members in all directions, and from the press here and in England, would indicate that Labor had received a thorough drubbing. A glance at what now appears will be the state of parties in the new House of Representatives would confirm the impression that the Lyons Government's policy has been more or less generally endorsed. Yet nothing would be further from the truth, as the Senate vote shows.

Sir George Pearce's Comments

In discussing the result of the elections on Monday, Sir George Pearce, a Minister who seems certain to lose his seat, is reported to have said that the Senate vote had been extraordinary, and on the present figures it appeared that Labor might get 16 out of the 19 Senate seats. (Sir George might have said that it is still quite on the cards for Labor to win the whole 19.)

An extraordinary feature, he added, was that in New South Wales the Government had apparently won 17 out of 28 seats in the Representatives, yet apparently the three Labor Senators would be elected. (He should have said four, because of the extraordinary vacancy to be filled in that State.) In Victoria the Government had apparently won 12 seats out of 20, but Labor again seemed likely to gain the Senate seats. In Western Australia the Government was winning three out of the five seats, yet the Senate voting was favouring Labor. And so on.

What was Sir George's explanation of this apparent mystery?

Informal votes, he said, might provide some explanation. In the voting for the House of Representatives for the Perth division there had been 1,533 informal votes, while in the Senate voting for the same division there had been more than 6,000. It almost appeared that most of the informal votes were those of Nationalist party supporters.

The Explanation

If Sir George Pearce likes to cling to the idea that the U.A.P. is the party which attracts to itself practically all the adults in the community who can't count up to ten, he is welcome to it—though such a notion is not unduly flattering either to himself or to his colleagues. But there is a much more likely explanation.

An examination of the Senate votes counted as this is written (Wednesday evening) shows that first preferences have been given to parties as follows:—

Labor	1,592,442
U.A.P. & A.C.P.	1,453,758
Vic. C.P.	63,312
Douglas Credit	41,059
Independent.....	110,932

It will thus be seen that Labor has polled 1,592,442 first votes out of a total of 3,261,503 so far counted throughout the Commonwealth, or nearly as many votes as those recorded for all other parties combined. Moreover, of those other parties the official attitude of the Victorian Country party is now far more nearly allied with Labor than with the U.A.P.—A. C.P. combination, while there is little doubt that the great majority of

Douglas Credit votes would prefer Labor to the U.A.P. The Independents are at the moment an unknown quantity. It is therefore clear that in a Commonwealth poll of every one of the 4,081,296 electors on the roll, Labor, the party that has been defeated in the House of Representatives, has won a clear majority over those who will, nevertheless, hold the majority of seats in the Lower House.

In other words, the electorates have been shockingly gerrymandered by the Lyons Government and its U.A.P. or similarly aliased predecessors in order to keep them safe against the expression of the will of the majority of the electors.

Every time a redistribution takes place by these gentlemen it is so designed as to make, as far as is humanly possible, non-Labor seats safer against Labor, while the Labor vote is either transferred to an area where it is likely to be ineffective or added to an already safe Labor constituency. If you think this statement is unfair, look again at the Senate vote cast for Labor and compare it with the disposition of seats among parties in the Representatives.

The Senate, Too

The same thing applies to the method designed for electing the Senate. In the first place, though Senators sit for six years, only half their number is elected at each three-yearly election of the Representatives. In practice this gives a tremendous handicap to the U.A.P. We saw this when the Scullin Government was in office, only to be faced with a hostile Upper House. The natural result is that a Labor Ministry in the Lower House is hamstrung upstairs, and is correspondingly easier to shift when the next election comes round, its legislation having been blocked by the Senate and its finance cut off by the bankers. In addition, the manner of allotting preferences, which prevails in Senate elections means that Labor cannot hope to win a single seat in any State unless it has a clear majority over all those opposed to it. If 49 per cent of electors vote Labor and 51 per cent anti-Labor, the whole 49 per cent, is automatically disfranchised as was seen at the Senate elections three years ago.

Poetic Justice

In the present instance, this will very nearly, if not quite react against the U.A.P. For, as we write, the aggregate swing against U.A.P.-ism has been so great that Labor seems assured of winning all the Senate seats in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania; Douglas Credit preferences will probably give it the Queensland seats, while in South Australia everything depends upon the distribution of a big block of Independent preferences which are at present an unknown quantity. Should these latter favour Labor, we should then see a beautiful case of poetic justice, and one to cheer up the heart of James Scullin and Co. Fancy the Lyons Government having its legislation blocked by a hostile Labor Senate, and a Senate so cunningly contrived to keep Labor from dominating it!

The Defeat of Langism

Reverting for the moment to Sir George Pearce, Mr. B. S. B. Stevens, and others who have made so much of New South Wales having again rejected Langism, it is worthwhile reminding electors that the total Senate vote in New South Wales shows Labor to have polled a clear majority over all its opponents - including the Independent whose

second preferences will almost certainly favour Labor. The New South Wales Senate, in fact, provides easily the biggest Labor majority of any State.

Legislation by Outcasts

Another point of which electors should take note about Senate elections is the undemocratic provision by which defeated Senators hold their seats and make laws for months after they have been rejected by the people. Assume for the moment that Labor wins all the Senate seats in Australia. Should such an event come to pass, there will after July 1 be 19 Labor members of the Senate against 17 non-Labor members. But until that date Labor will have only the three retiring Senators from Queensland and the one appointed to fill the N.S.W. vacancy. There will therefore be nothing to stop J. A. Lyons from rushing through both Houses, while he controls them, any legislation he or his masters wish, although such legislation may be against the clear wishes of the majority of the Australian people. And

MISHAPS TO MINISTERS

It is announced (front page story in the "Herald") that the Prime Minister, endeavouring to cut out some of the dead wood surrounding him, ran a thorn into his foot on Tuesday. The injury was so distressing that Dame Lyons had to get up early on Wednesday morning to bathe the injured member.

It is also announced that R. G. Casey met with a slight mishap over the weekend.

Mr. Menzies narrowly escaped a more serious one on Saturday, and Sir George Pearce, Senator Brennan and others became complete casualties.

from the record of the Lyons Government would one say that it would be too honourable to do so, especially as it is evident that it cannot hope to survive another appeal to the people? Is this democracy?

A Proper Electoral System

What would be the fairest method of conducting our Federal elections?

Obviously it is not possible to give complete representation to all minorities, but it would seem that the most honest manner of electing the Representatives would be on the group system. The Senate, although open to the gravest criticism on account of the manner of distributing preferences, has as its basis the grouping of members by States and not by individual constituencies. Why should we not have a similar system for the Representatives?

Federal legislation, in so far as it deals with State matters, is not concerned with sections of States, but with a State as a whole. It is right and proper that the different interests in each State should have their voice in Federal affairs—the wage earners, the farmers, the manufacturers, etc. But in practice that share in the Government to, which each section is entitled is not assured through the single seat constituency. In the case of the more populous States, especially New South Wales and Victoria, it would clearly be too unwieldy to ask electors to vote for a State panel of 28 or 20 members. But if Federal constituencies were so regrouped that each elected, say, up to six members on the quota system (as is done in the

Tasmanian State elections and elsewhere) substantial minorities would always be assured of approximately their fair representation.

As for the Senate, whose chief purpose was supposed to be the ensuring to the smaller States of their fair say in Commonwealth affairs, it should certainly embody the principle of proportional representation. In this respect, of course, we have Mr. Lyons's promise that he will do something some of these days. And for once Mr. Lyons may be trusted to make some attempt to carry out his promise, since all the signs are that otherwise the next Senate elections will return a body one hundred per cent Labor.

Fifty Questions from Bata

The great Czecho-Slovakian boot firm of Bata (the largest, we believe, in the world) has an English branch at East Tilbury in Essex. Latest English mails indicate trouble between the firm and its employees, who, apart from conditions of pay, are particularly incensed over the questionnaire to which they are subjected.

Here are some of the fifty questions an applicant for employment must answer:—

What age were you when leaving school?

Where were you educated?

What were your best subjects? State if single, married, or divorced?

What are your ambitions?

How many brothers and sisters have you?

Then the applicant is required to give Christian names of father and mother, to state whether a Trade Unionist or member of an Approved Society and to state his or her political views.

The inquisition goes on:—

Are you able to support yourself for 14 days, until you receive your first wages?

How do you propose to travel to and from this factory?

If you are engaged, will you come and live in East Tilbury?

Are you acquainted with any of our workers? If so, whom?

Are you an abstainer and non-smoker?

Are you financially sound and free from debt?

What do you do in your spare time?

From what wages have you been earning, and what wages are you now asking? The applicant is required to state if prepared to work for one week on probation, if engaged, and whether he or she has a bicycle.

Then comes:—

Why do you wish to become one of our workers?

Are you in good health? What illnesses have you had?

Is there insanity in your family?

Inquiries after mother (says *Reynolds News* in discussing the questionnaire) show that tender disposition which goes with conveyor belts, as do the notes on finance.

All matter in this issue dealing with Federal political affairs, and not bearing 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.

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TRADE WAR POLICY IS STILL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY, SAYS PEARCE

Straight Talk from the West Australian "Wheatgrower"

In its editorial on Thursday of last week, just before the elections, the West Australian *Wheatgrower* said:—

The policy enforced by Minister for Trade Wars Gullett, and which cost us valuable markets in Japan and Belgium, "is still the policy of the present Government," Senator Sir George Pearce told an audience at Bunbury last week.

Yet this idiotic policy, is, and has been, one of the greatest factors in depressing farm produce prices—not only in depressing prices, but in permanently depressing prices for Australian wheat and wool. Markets in Europe have largely been lost, never to return. Europe today is growing her own wheat. Instead of wearing Australian wool, Europe is wearing wool substitutes.

Much of these markets is permanently lost. Until the Government introduced its idiotic trade war policy, our only expanding market was Japan. It was the Japanese trade war to which Pearce was referring when he said that this policy "is still the policy of the present Government." (He maintained that the Japanese trade war was embarked on in defence of British trade to Australia.)

The facts reveal how idiotic this trade war was. Japan was easily our best customer. She bought three times more from us than we bought from her. She not only bought largely of our primary products, which the world in recent years has told us it didn't want, or will take only at starvation prices, but her competition, particularly on the wool market, forced up prices all round. To offend such a valuable customer—offence by which we lost much and gained nothing—was sheer lunacy. But this lunacy the Lyons Government exhibited; and, on Pearce's candid admission, it still suffers from this particular form of madness.

Take a long-range view. Pearce and his colleagues bleat about the value of British markets—valuable they are, but remember that there is not British preference on Australian wool and very little on Australian wheat—our main products. And remember that within ten years the population of Great Britain will attain the maximum—about 45 millions—and thereafter it will steadily decline. By 1976 it will be a little over two-thirds of the existing figure, while the population of England and Wales will be only 29 millions in 1980. The fact is that Britain (particularly when her present policy of increased agricultural production is

considered) represents a steadily declining market. Now look at Japan. Japan has a steadily increasing market for foodstuffs and raw materials, for not only is her population increasing, but in the last twenty years the Japanese standard of living has increased—a market expanding in two directions. As Britain buys less and less from Australia, as she must, Japan can buy more and more. From the long-range point of view, therefore, the Government's trade policy is equally mad.

Take the question of international peace—the greatest question. It is everywhere admitted that Japan's war against China is a food and raw materials war. Japan, like England, cannot feed herself; Japan, like England, must feed herself by exchanging manufactured goods for food and raw materials. If she can't grow these things, if she can't exchange other goods for them, she must take them. She is taking them in China today. To refuse food and raw materials to Japan—that's what Gullett's trade war policy meant—means that Japan must go to war to get them—just as Britain is always ready to go to war to protect her trade routes, the arteries along which flow the lifeblood of the British nation. Japan is taking these goods in China today; the day may come when, should Australia refuse to trade on a reciprocal basis with Japan, Japan will make war on Australia.

On three counts, therefore, the Government's past and present trade policy is stupid, costly and dangerous. There is a fourth count. Just as every statesman admits that trade barriers are the great predisposing cause of war today, every economist admits that one of the chief causes of poverty in the world is trade barriers, i.e., the prevention of free exchange of goods. If we had reciprocal trade with Japan, our standards of living would rise—we would have payable and expanding markets for our primary produce, and we could buy cheaply clothing, machinery and other manufactured goods. Not only would we have a bigger national income, but a national income, which, pound for pound, would buy more than our national income does today.

Peace and prosperity depend on a sane trade policy. The present Government has shown that it has no sane policy—its demented attacks on our two best customers, Japan and Belgium, showed this—

HEALTH AND HISTORY

By BEVERLEY NICHOLS.

(Condensed from "Scribner's Magazine.")

The Kaiser has been spending much of his time since the war in chopping logs in his Dutch garden. If he had spent an equal amount of his time chopping logs *before* the war, there might not have been a war at all.

Health and history! Have you ever thought of the connection between the two? I suppose the most (extreme example of all is to be found in the case of Ivan the Terrible, whose unspeakable diseases so maddened his brain that they were the direct cause of endless massacres. The whole history of Tudor England was moulded by the dread disease, which Henry VIII contracted and passed on to his children with its inevitable legacy of debility and weakness. If the Girondins had modified their diet the Terror might have come to an end long before its time. If Napoleon had taken a little more exercise, Europe might still be a department of France. And I am quite certain that if all the members of the Disarmament Conference at Geneva had been forced to do a little compulsory gardening every morning, they would have got something *done*.

I attended the conference during the critical days immediately prior to Japan's sensational departure from the League. Geneva was

and yet we have a Government leader saying that, if returned, the Government intends to persist in this policy.

If returned? This policy, every economist admits, has meant low prices and diminishing markets to Australian farmers, and lower standards of living to the Australian people as a whole. To return a Government, which subscribes to this economically idiotic policy would be madness itself.

Farmers, and the millions of electors who depend on the farmers, realise that the trade policy, which Pearce states the Government will persist in, means suicide to the primary industries. They know that, apart from this destructive policy, the Government, in the last five years, has shown no sign of a constructive policy, nor were any such signs evident in the speeches of either U.A.P. or Country Party leaders. Knowing this, electors will vote the Government out.

(The *Wheatgrower* was right in its assumption that the majority of electors would vote against the Government, though, as shown in our article on page 2, the Government managed by chicanery to keep for the moment a shaky hold over the House of Representatives. One good thing—Pearce went. —Ed. N.T.)

tense, nervous. Anything might happen. I climbed into the gallery and saw the distinguished statesmen filing in. The atmosphere ought to have been "electric." But it wasn't. Gradually I began to realise why.

First, the heat. Half the delegates were sweating so that there was a perpetual flutter of white handkerchiefs to dripping brows. Yet nobody thought of opening a window. Secondly, the smoke. It is a literal fact that after an hour it was impossible to distinguish the faces of the delegates from the front row of the gallery, because of the fumes from all the cheroots, pipes, cigars and cigarettes.

Thirdly, the delegates themselves, or rather their diet. A number of them were late, attending official luncheons. Now I'd attended such myself and knew what they meant. They meant sherry and sauternes and Cointreau and Benedictine. They meant hors d'oeuvres and lobster thermidor and chicken en casserole and chocolate soufflé. I fell to thinking of all the acids that must be fermenting in those distinguished stomachs, of old hearts wearily pumping over-sugared blood through hardened arteries, and I asked myself if it is through such men, in such conditions, that we shall ever reach the peace that the world craves? These men are livery, irritable, mentally befogged.

If we made it compulsory for all Cabinet members to dig in a garden for an hour a day, we should be living in a happier world. For you can't work in a garden and want war. You just can't. A gardener is a creator. And as such he knows the infinite pains of creation . . . The slowness of growth, the delicacy of the young shoot, the vital need for care and love and patience. And, as the years go by, he applies the lessons he learns from the trees and flowers to human society.

He begins to realise that civilisation is also a plant of slow growth, of infinite delicacy, of exquisite complexity . . . a plant that may be forever destroyed by the bitter frosts of war. He does not think that you can hack off the youngest branches of a tree and expect it to flourish. He knows that thinning out is an expert operation, not to be performed by machine guns.

Perhaps, when you first went into your garden, after a hard week's work in the city, you felt bellicose enough. Perhaps, for the first hour or so, you snarled at your gardener, and grunted because it hadn't rained, and cursed because the bitter wind had damaged some shrub. But after you've had the spade in your hand for a little while, after your blood has gone coursing through your veins, and the keen air has livened your lungs, after the leaves have brushed your face and you have heard the sigh of the wind in the branches, peace comes to you. You feel at rest with the whole world. You want everybody on earth to be happy, too; to share your joy.

And when the day is done and you sit by the fireside, reading the paper you were too tired to read in the train, all the scares, the alarms and excursions, the international "sensations" which seemed to you so grave, a few hours before, are at last seen in their proper proportion, as a lot of silly bogies raised by men who act like naughty little boys, merely because tired and irritable and far removed from their mother, the greatest mother of all, Mother Nature.

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On the second count we would desire to congratulate you for being the first candidate ever to head the poll in any Commonwealth election on the straight-out issue of monetary reform. The technical side of your proposals, which happen to be Douglas Credit, would probably not be understood fully by more than a small proportion of those who voted for you. And it is quite likely that many others who gave you their support have other technical methods, which they would prefer to those you advocate. But that is beside the point. The real issue is that so many of the electors of Wide Bay are conscious that our major difficulties are monetary ones, and that they accept, with you, that whatever is desired by the people, provided it be physically possible, MUST be made financially possible.

On top of your own victory the figures as we go to press indicate that in two other Queensland electorates the balance of power between the two existing major parties is held by those who subscribe to the same views as yourself, and that the entire Senate seats will depend absolutely on the exercise of similar preferences. Surely the writing on the wall should be plain enough for those parties, which have hitherto refused or neglected to deal radically with the monetary issue.

Mr. G. H. F. Nichols,
Prospective M.H.R. for Wide Bay, Q.

Dear Sir,
As you now seem assured of winning the Wide Bay seat in the Federal Parliament, permit us to be among the first to offer you our congratulations. We desire to congratulate you on two counts. The first is personal. After gaining only about ten per cent, of the votes of the electorate at your previous attempt three years ago, any ordinary candidate would have abandoned the slightest hope of winning one of the most difficult seats to canvass in all Australia—and particularly if that candidate had behind him neither the support of a major political party nor the private means necessary to advertise himself effectively. But what did you do? Resigning your Government position, you set out, as soon as the results of the last election were known, to make a house-to-house visitation of the twenty-five thousand homes in one of Australia's most far-flung electorates. Report has it that on many an occasions your capital account showed little else than the enthusiasm for the cause you had at heart. Three years have passed, and now, irrespective of the final figures, you have put up one of the greatest single-handed epics in the history of Australian politics.

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(Continued from page 2.)

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(Continued on page 7.)

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Malnutrition in Companies

The English *Economic Journal* has been making a survey of public company finance over a thirteen year period, and it has discovered that 39 in every hundred of the companies under examination have been dissolved, while 25 in every hundred fail to survive the first seven years (hence, perhaps, the old saying that the first seven years are the worst.) Such a record would almost make it seem that the best thing a small investor can do with his money is to give it a flutter at the races and either get rich quickly or get the agony over quickly.

But why does it come about that so many companies fail? Even after allowing for gilded prospectuses it seems out of all reason that two out of every five companies formed should be unable to survive.

The reason is not far to seek, and it can be grasped without any great technical study. Productive industry does two things; it produces goods for people to use and it provides them with the money incomes to buy those goods. Such incomes are afterwards redistributed—part going in payment for such things as professional and domestic services, part going through taxation to pay for the civil service, pensions, and so on. If the monetary claims on production which industry distributes were equal to the prices which industry must charge for its production, then we might have an inequitable distribution of incomes, but this could always be put right by taxation. Total incomes could buy total goods. However, no such thing takes place, since every business and every individual trader must always draw out of the pool more money than that business or individual put into it. The alternative is to go broke, as the 39 in every hundred companies have to do if the rest are to carry on.

The difference between what we call good times and those we term bad is that in good times money flows into the pool from other sources than ordinary industry, while in bad times it either stops flowing or it slows down to a trickle. The big flow comes from Government loans (mostly representing new money created by the banks) that add to the people's incomes without adding to the piles of goods, which are for sale in the shops. Another flow occurs when

there is what we call a building boom; buildings are rarely sold for cash, and so a portion of the money distributed when they are erected can be diverted to the purchase of household commodities. The selling of ordinary goods on time payment also ekes out the money supply; you get the goods on handing over a deposit and agree to complete your payments later—this, of course, makes it still harder to sell the next crop of goods, since the incomes to be derived from their production are already to a large extent mortgaged. Another way is to try and force your goods down the foreigner's throat without taking goods from him in return—which is a negative way of making up the money shortage.

Another way, which has never yet been tried, would be for sovereign Governments to exercise the most important power of sovereignty by issuing for themselves, free of interest, an amount of money sufficient to bridge the gap. This would seem to be the simplest and most painless way of protecting investors' savings and of protecting individuals from needless suffering. But if you were to suggest that to a banker he would call it crazy finance. In contra distinction, the system, which sends 39 out of every hundred companies broke every few years and which gives us a depression, every decade is termed sane finance. And we are now about to have another real good dose of sane finance. We hope you'll like it.

"Not Strong Statistically"

"Cotton," said a market report this week, "is not strong statistically." And the report then went on to explain the source of this statistical weakness: "It is estimated that world production this year will total about 50½ million bales, while consumption is estimated at approximately 31 million. Not only in the United States is there a bumper crop, but in other countries which have begun large scale production since the war, heavy yields are forecast."

By persons who are accustomed to stand on their feet instead of on their head to look at things, it would naturally be assumed that a commodity would display statistical strength when there was plenty of it. But such persons do not understand the beauty of our financial arrangements, under which the surest sign of statistical strength is a shortage in supplies. For twentieth century civilisation no longer thinks of things in terms of the need for them, which may exist. That would be beneath our intelligence. And so "the test is the capacity of consumers to buy; and since that capacity does not necessarily increase with God's bounty or with scientific methods of production—indeed, rather the reverse in the latter case—we must restrict our production to the community purse.

From figures published on Monday it would seem that the statistical position of Australian wool may shortly be giving the financial witch doctors considerable anxiety. Exports for the three months to the end of September have certainly been 382,000 bales, as compared with 318,000 bales for the corresponding period last year; but the increase has been due mainly to slightly larger quantities shipped to Belgium, France,

Germany and Italy, and to 14,000 bales having gone to Japan, as against only 870 bales to the last-named country last year (when the "trade diversion" policy was in full swing). The four European countries, however, are no longer the big buyers they once were, their total shipments to date being less than the amount shipped to England. And English shipments for the quarter are almost 10,000 bales less than they were for the same quarter in 1936, while there is no present prospect of Japan operating to anything like the extent she used to before Sir H. Gullett was given a free hand at treaty making.

We noted last week the suggestion of one of our wool experts that the less desirable qualities of wool should be withheld from sale on account of the poor demand for them. That was one of the first signs of statistical weakness of which the symptoms are now accumulating. Other signs are the heavy "yields" forecast for the various wool substitutes.

Here again persons untrained in finance might inquire why Australia should not sell the genuine surplus of her wool to people in other countries and buy from them in turn their surpluses in cotton and similar commodities with which we could very well do. But such inquiries would show a complete disregard for the statistical well being of the most important of all items in our economic life—to wit, money. And at all costs the statistical strength of money must be nursed. For if you once made money plentiful the debt merchants would have to go out of business—and everyone else would be prosperous.

An Anglican Resolution—and Archbishop Head

A further step in the right direction was taken by the official leaders of one of our Churches when the Anglican general synod in Sydney passed last Saturday, by a large majority, the following resolution: "That this synod affirms that war as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the teaching and example of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and, realising that the sense of injustice is a most fruitful cause of war, appeals to our Governments and people to pursue policies which look to the welfare and prosperity of our neighbours as well as ourselves, and in no case to allow vested interests in armaments to grow up amongst the private citizens of Australia."

We refer to the resolution as merely a step in the right direction because, admirable as its intention clearly was, it still seems a long way from the centre of the target at which its mover undoubtedly aimed. Where, for instance, the resolution speaks of "policies, which look to the welfare and prosperity of our neighbours as well as ourselves," we presume the idea was that one nation should not hang on to the raw materials that other nations need. But actually no nation appears desirous of doing this. We in Australia, for instance, as producers of a quarter of the entire world output of wool, have no wish to keep other nations from getting our wool. On the contrary, have we not been sending Ministers all over the world for years in an almost desperate attempt to persuade other nations to take our wool? And does not a similar state exist almost

universally in respect of all sorts of commodities? Our offence in this country is not that we are refusing to make our wool, or anything else, available to the Japanese. It is that we are refusing to make available to our own people sufficient purchasing power to let them buy those articles from Japan by the sale of which alone the Japanese can obtain the Australian money which our graziers want in exchange for their wool. So our first injustice is not directed against our neighbours, but against our own people; if we settle our domestic problem the settlement of the other will automatically follow.

Similarly, the principal vested interest in armaments is not the interest of the actual manufacturer of munitions. It is now quite generally admitted that the arms race, beneficial as it undoubtedly is to such firms, has not been entered on principally to make profits for them. It has been entered on principally to give WORK (meaning incomes) to the unemployed. Thus the English *Investors' Chronicle*, discussing at the weekend the new slump in America, suggested as one way of staving off the crash that President Roosevelt might embark on a huge rearmament programme. It is all one to a steel firm whether it is fabricating bridges or battleships, and to a chemical firm whether it is manufacturing fertilisers or poison gases. The real people who are the cause of rearmament are the same gentry as are responsible for the state of affairs which makes us disregard the welfare and prosperity of our neighbours (and ourselves). They are the people who force us to make guns before we can eat our own butter—namely, the banking monopolists who have a stranglehold over the community's money supplies. And, just as they are the cause, so also are they the greatest beneficiaries, since rearmament means new government loans. The armamenteer, as we have pointed out before, makes only one profit on his gun or his bomb. The banker, who supplies only a few drops of ink, makes a perpetual profit in the form of the interest levy he exacts while he lives happily ever after.

If, then, the Anglican synod had directed its attention to the financial aspect it would have been going to the heart of things. As it was, its resolution merely protested against the spots instead of against the fever within, and it is proposing little more than a cold bath for the patient to take the spots away. Still, the resolution was a move in the right direction, and it was to be expected that such good men as Bishop Burgmann, of Goulburn, and Bishop Moyes, of Armidale, should strongly support it.

It was equally to be expected that Arch-hypocrite Head should adopt towards the motion his customary what-will-people-say attitude. The motion, he is reported to have said; might have a harmful effect if published as the opinion of the Church of England.

We beg to differ from Dr. Head. We think the motion will have nothing but a beneficial effect upon the prestige of the Church of England. Except, of course, with Dr. Head's own particular pals.

No Votes for Civil Servants

One feature of this election to which little attention has been given in the daily press is the progress made in disfranchising the members

of the Federal Civil Service. Every year sees more and more members of the Service transported to Canberra, where they become vote less. By the time the transfer of all departments has taken place, we shall—if present arrangements continue—be presented with the spectacle of a service of helots. It is whispered that this will not be greatly displeasing to either of the major political parties, since members of the Civil Service are always liable to vote as an organised body, and to keep both sides guessing as to which they will support. That robbing them of their vote is the complete negation of democracy does not seem to matter.

Who Was Behind the Geelong Attempt to Boycott Japan?

Fortunately the attempt by certain waterside workers at Geelong last Saturday to stop the loading of a cargo on a Japanese ship was short lived, the union officials having the sense to step in right away. From the newspaper report it appears that of the gang of seventy-five men who walked off the ship only a few members were unionists; because of the large amount of shipping which happened to be in the port at the time practically all members of the Waterside Workers' Federation had already been booked, and free labour was engaged.

It would be interesting to discover the personnel of this "free labour" which took it upon itself to declare war upon Japan on polling day, and whose action was calculated to impair the chances of the Labor candidate for Corio, and of Labor candidates in any other electorates to which the news of their action would have time to spread before the close of the poll. Presumably the free labourers would be rather badly in need of the pay they would receive for the windfall of a job, which happened to come their way. What selfless patriotism, then, they exhibited—to someone, somewhere.

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WE OWE WATCH THE BARN AND KITCHENS!

(From the "Reader's Digest.")

MOSTLY TO THE BANKS

The Money Swindle Government Candidates Subscribe to Exposed

The following cable appeared in the daily press this week:—

"London, October, 25.

"The Commonwealth Government will now arrange for the conversion of the outstanding 3½ per cent. loan of £11,400,000, says the financial editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. Stockholders expect to receive formal intimation of redemption on November 1. The Commonwealth will probably be able to borrow at 3¾ per cent. for a fairly long period which should be satisfactory to Australian credit."

The cable, if correct, means that the new conversion, following Mr. Casey's poor effort when he was in London, will mean an *increase* in Australia's overseas interest bill, and makes apposite the following remarks on our national debt by Mr. A. E. Greenwood in the West Australian *Wheatgrower* of 21st inst.:

A brief survey of Australia's national debt follows:—

In 1860 we owed . £12,000,000
 In 1870 we owed . £25,000,000
 In 1880 we owed . £50,000,000
 In 1890 we owed . £155,000,000
 In 1900 we owed . £197,000,000
 In 1910 we owed . £258,000,000
 In 1920 we owed . £778,000,000
 In 1930 we owed . £1,115,000,000
 In 1934 we owed . £1,200,000,000

We now owe, when the overseas portion of the debt is expressed in Australian pounds, approximately £1,400,000,000.

Some of this debt has been converted to 1975-6 or about forty years ahead. Those who understand what is called "sound finance" know that every loan falling due must be converted into a larger debt. "Conversion loan" simply means the debt renewed. Renewal is necessary because it is a mathematical impossibility to pay. Where is the money to come from? There is in Australia about £55,000,000 in legal tender (notes, silver and copper), so that if all the actual money were handed over in part extinguishment of the debt there would still be £1,345,000,000 owing and we would not have any money whatever—not even 1d of the £300,000,000 representing the peoples' savings which the Lyons Government are alleging the Labor Party will steal.

Interest on this huge debt is piling up at the rate of over £50,000,000 per year.

Note that the first-mentioned debt of £12,000,000 has been owing for nearly eighty years and is included in the total now owing, £1,400,000,000, and it will be still owing in forty or one hundred and forty years' time under the present crazy money system.

Is it not extraordinary to record that the Lyons Government supports this debt in perpetuity system? It is criminal folly to borrow money when, under correct financial policy, the Commonwealth Bank could service Australia's money requirements for all national undertakings without leaving an unpayable load of debt behind.

The reward, which the people have received for the millions of pounds, which have been paid to our politicians to look after the people's interests, is this huge debt, based on fraud, imposed on them. This debt is due mostly to the banks, and the banks did not part with anything in order to get the bonds, which represent it. It was done by making financial credit entries in the books of the banks, as has been from time to time explained in these columns. In short, creating pen-and-ink debt money operated on by cheque.

The money monopoly has already reduced democracy to a sham and must be exterminated by all lovers of liberty.

"What's going to alter our lives is probably happening this minute in a backyard workshop, where some crank is thinking by himself," Henry Ford recently declared. Perhaps Mr. Ford was thinking of his own beginning, for his autobiography says, "It was in 1890 that I began on a double-cylinder engine. The work started in my shop on the farm." When Ford went to Detroit to work for \$45 a month, his shop was brought along and installed in a shed behind his home. By 1893 his gasoline buggy was running and was for a long time the only automobile in Detroit.

About the same year Harvey Firestone was a buggy salesman driving the only carriage in town equipped with rubber tyres. He became convinced that there was a great future in the rubber business. Buying strips of rubber, he cut crude, solid tyres and fitted them to buggy wheels. Perhaps that man who called yesterday at your back door with some new contraption had something no more foolish or less promising than those first rubber tyres of Firestone's.

The foundation of the Studebaker business was laid when two Studebaker brothers pooled \$68 and two forges and began to make wagons.

At the close of the Civil War, in a backyard in Rochester, New York, two men were puttering over a homemade still. They were trying to improve the kerosene yield from crude petroleum, for kerosene was the only petroleum derivative that had a market at the time. One of the experimenters, Hiram B. Everest, fooling with the tarry black residue in the bottom of the still, found that he could produce a far better lubricant for steam engines than the lard oil which engineers swabbed on the cylinders of their day. This made Everest the father of petroleum lubrication and started a company, which was to win leadership in his field. Moreover, his experimentation was one of the turning points in the history of the automobile, for the first horseless buggies used lard oil and smelled up the streets terribly. They could never have become popular without odourless oil.

A study of successful businesses reveals a surprising percentage of humble starts. It is comforting to see how much more important ideas are than cash. Many of the million-dollar corporations of tomorrow are starting today with little capital, but an idea. They are beginning in attics, cellars, kitchens and in the minds of clerks behind store counters.

* * *

Back in the '90's some young men in Canajoharie thought that a barn looked like a good place for smoking bacon. Out of this barn came the long line of Beech-Nut food products.

To the sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, came a man, broken in health and without money. As he lay on the lawn his thoughts revolved about the relation of food to health. Charles W. Post decided to invent a substitute for coffee. He bought a gasoline stove, a peanut roaster, and a coffee grinder—all for \$46.85. His raw materials cost him \$11.90 more. He began to make Postum in the tiny barn, which later became the Laboratory of Standards when business forced him to build a big factory beside it.

The plot for Clicquot Club ginger ale is supplied by a spring on the farm of Lansing Millis in East Medway, Mass. It furnished such good water that its owner, who admired the ginger ales then imported, began trying to duplicate them. He had equipment for bottling cider and with these backyard resources he launched another product now famous.

In Sharpsburg, Pa., a man used to grow horseradish in his own garden and peddle it from door to door. This backyard venture put Mr. H. J. Heinz on the road to becoming Heinz 57.

If you had lived in New York a few years earlier another house-to-house salesman, named Gail Borden, might have tried to sell you his earliest condensed milk. Incidentally, Borden's idea was another kitchen-born infant, for a steaming teakettle suggested to him the plan to evaporate water from milk so that it could be canned and made available to those on ships and in places remote from a regular milk supply.

John Wanamaker delivered his first bill of goods from a wheelbarrow. Adam Gimbel, founder of the stores, which bear his name, started with a pack on his back. Waterman sold his first fountain pens from behind a newsstand in New York. Joel Cheek, who rode horseback from town to town selling coffee for a wholesaler, was obsessed with the desire to sell still better coffee. Between trips he tested and blended samples of coffee, and finally got a blend so good that the manager of the Maxwell House would thereafter serve no other. Joel Cheek named his coffee after that hotel.

Every Thursday morning a fellow-townsmen sells us another jar of homemade orange marmalade. Until recently we believed that really good marmalade must come from England. But this man and his wife are making, in their kitchen, marmalade so good that we buy several times as much of it as we bought of the English importation. Is he another Heinz in the making? I don't know. But a woman in Virginia made such pickles in her kitchen that as time went by her "Pin Money" specialties needed a large factory to supply the demand.

* * *

In 1886 you might have found Dr. J. S. Pemberton standing over a kettle in an old house in Atlanta. On the next corner was a drug-store, and periodically the excited doctor rushed over, squirted carbonated water into a glass containing a sample of syrup, and tasted mixture. After about 300 attempts he had the first Coca-Cola. In another kitchen in Le Roy, New York, the first Jell-O was prepared when Orator F. Woodward's imagination pictured to him an opportunity for ready-made gelatine desserts.

While rustivating in New Jersey, Charles E. Hires was served a drink prepared by a farmer's wife. Its ingredients were sassafras, teaberries and sweet fern, all gathered locally. Hires smacked his lips. Returning to his drug store in Philadelphia he experimented with herbs, roots and barks. Thus, Hires' Root Beer.

One Sunday the communicants of the Methodist Church in Vineland, New Jersey, received unfermented grape juice instead of wine. Dr. T. B. Welch, a local dentist, had been delegated to handle the supplies for Communion. Believing that "unfermented wine" was Scriptural, he pressed out a dozen bottles of grape juice in his kitchen. For several years thereafter his kitchen was the only factory for the early Welch's Grape Juice.

One day the two Curtice boys and their mother found themselves with too many tomatoes on hand and no refrigeration to keep them from spoiling. They put the tomatoes up in glass jars, and from that beginning grew the Curtice line with tomato ketchup still heading the procession.

Penney was a clerk gone west for his health when he got the idea for his Golden Rule stores, which today number 1500. Gustavus Swift was a 16 year old boy in a butchers' shop when he brought his first heifer, dressed it, and made ten dollars

profit. The transaction shoved him off toward becoming one of the largest packers in the United States. Woolworth was another clerk whose imagination suggested a store stocked with five and ten cent articles only, a most practical idea for one who had little capital.

* * *

Recently the head of a huge business selling many different products told me about four new products, all launched since January 1930, and now selling widely. Each of these innovations had been offered to his company and rejected. One reason why there will forever be room for enterprising beginners is that the big companies tend to become conservative and lose the daring that in part caused their growth.

Then there is that priceless

advantage enjoyed by beginners, from Ford to Heinz alike—the first-hand knowledge of the customer's likes and dislikes, gained from contact face to face. Trends can be sensed better in the buyer's presence than at a conference table. Committees do not have to meet before action can be taken. Yes; David still has his chance against Goliath.

Perhaps Henry Ford had something of the sort in mind when he said that unemployed people "should create their own businesses, no matter how small, instead of waiting for someone to give them a job." Ten years from now we will be reading more success stories gathered from the kitchens and cellars of today. No one who has a workbench or a stove and a dollar—and an *idea*—need be discouraged. Watch the barns and kitchens!

READING BEHIND THE LINES

By M. P. WELCH, in "Money" (U.S.A.).

Do you know how to read the news behind the news?

When Germany demands freedom to punish the Spanish Government forces for "unprovoked attack" on one of the German warships, do you read behind this statement the fact that, with the fall of Bilbao, Franco has obtained control of 250 square kilometres of land rich in minerals with which he can repay the assistance of Germany? Do you know that Spain has one of the four mercury mines in the world, and that mercury is necessary in the making of munitions? Munitions, in turn, will provide Germany with the threat of war, or war itself, to obtain colonies, and colonies will enable German Capital to exploit undeveloped, backward people, will give Germany a market for the surplus goods and labour she cannot sell at home because her people lack purchasing power. Punishment for an "unprovoked attack" in Spain on a German warship is a small price to pay for the keys to such riches.

Stripped of Its Humbug

When France tells the world that she will continue to "guarantee Austrian independence," do you know what she means by that? She means that she will prevent Austria from regaining political independence, or political union with Germany, which would benefit her immediately financially; she means that she will prevent Austria from making unsupervised trade pacts, or from unbalancing her budget. Austria's budget has been painstakingly balanced and she is now financially "sound," able to pay the interest on her present debts, and she is "credit-worthy," worthy of incurring future debt, so what does it matter that her people are destitute and starved for money to satisfy their simplest wants? Translate "guarantee Austrian independence" to read "guarantee Austria's permanent poverty."

Do you know what it means when Italy, through Mussolini's eloquence, promises to "bring the fruits of civilisation to Ethiopia?" and to "destroy slavery"? It means that Italian Capital now has an opportunity to exploit a backward race for Italian profit, that the Ethiopians may now become the underpaid slaves of machines and Italian Debt. Ethiopia will be allowed to default to Italy rather than to some other nation.

When you read about the Coronation and are told that the King is the symbol which holds the British Empire together, do you know that the Cement that binds the Empire is, rather, the debt owed to the Bank of England and the "City" by the colonies, and the preferential trade agreements within the Empire? When you read about England's remarkable recovery, do you realize that she owns a seventh of the Globe, and that for years to come she can still exploit her undeveloped colonies at

great profit to herself? And do you know that even England is finding it difficult to maintain the illusion of her prosperity? Business surveys say confidentially: "British labour is again in ferment." "The inequitable distribution of profits is the cause of dangerously increasing unrest in the labour elements." Did you know that there is an even larger ratio of undernourished people in England than in the U.S.A.?

What It Really Means

When you read the circular published by your bank telling you that the Federal Government should curtail its expenditures because "it can produce funds only by taking from the earnings of the people" in taxes, do you realise that your bank is trying to make you believe that Congress only has a taxing power and wants you to forget that it also has the power to "issue coin and regulate the value thereof?" When the bank-controlled press reminds you that our Government's one attempt to do this resulted in disaster, the Greenbacks of the Civil War period, do you know that the first issue of Greenbacks was entirely "sound" and worked well, and that the second issue was unsound only because the banking interests had been instrumental in passing a law that greenbacks were not to be legal tender for taxes and customs duties, but that only Gold was to be FULL legal tender? Is it any wonder that the second issue lost value?

Do you know how to interpret the news behind the news?

More Grist for the Insurance Mill

From New York *Time* (Sept.

Japanese complained in Shanghai last week that U.S. and British firms, such as insurance companies, are making a "racket" out of mortgaging Chinese plants and properties so that these can hoist the Star and Stripes or the Union Jack. Such flags, at latest reports, seemed to have saved considerable Chinese property from Japanese bombs, but tempers were fraying.

Meanwhile U.S. Marines joined forces with British police and soldiers to break up a riot by 1000 native workers striking in the International Settlement at the Chinese Fou Foong Flour Mill. Since it is within 20 yards of the Sino-Japanese battle sector, just across Soochow Creek, the mill hands demanded a month's salary in advance for working in such dangerous quarters, subsided after 25 strikers were admitted to hospitals "suffering from scalp wounds and tear gas."

THE HIGHER THE FEWER

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

The nation is faced with a difficult problem. It has to choose between better standards of living and a higher birth rate. Apparently it cannot have both.

In an article on "The True Causes of the Declining Birth-Rate," in the *New English Weekly*, Mr. George Ryley Scott, F.Z.S., has dropped before us the following-
brick:—

That the huge increase in the sterility of men and women is largely due to our artificial modes of living and increased prosperity.

It is an acknowledged law of nature, he says, that the ill-fed, wild animal, which gets a living as best it can, is more fertile than the well-fed and apparently healthy creature.

This is equally true, he adds, of men and women.

You probably do not realise how artificial you are, nor how comfortable and prosperous. On a weekly wage of two insults and a piece of cheek, you doubtless regard yourself as living near the raw edge of nature, if not actually sitting on it.

Yet to the eye of the biologist you are 90 per cent, a work of art. To him, the industrial areas are people with machine-made navvies; dust-layers that are made, not born; brick-layers that are more ideal than real;

Hitherto, Englishmen have regarded economic security and the birth rate as mutually helpful. Now that they have to choose between the two they feel as that missionary felt who was asked whether he would rather be boiled or fried.

It is not easy to reject the comforts of the artificial life. Save when paddling at Margate, few of you respond readily to the call of the wild.

Certain sterilising factors might go with few regrets. Cleanliness, for instance. Even as a child I used to think washing was a trifle overdone. Bathing has never had a strong hold upon the mass of the people, and the reputed tendency of the working-class to put coals in the bath can now be attributed to their sound domestic instincts. They wanted larger families.

But the desire to be warm in winter, though conducive to childless marriages, is deeply rooted. Few political parties would appeal to the electorate on a promise of draughty homes. And I cannot see many young couples choosing a house because it has broken windows and a hole in the roof, in the



blastfurnacemen that are but wild fancy's play, and glass-blowers as dreams walking.

Even more disturbing revelations are to come. We read further that—

"Heat has a deleterious effect . . . The civilised custom of wearing trousers by day and pyjamas by night unquestionably contributes towards the earlier extinction of reproductive power. The habit of regular hot baths contributes to the same end."

The whole tragic situation may be summed up in the words:—

"It is difficult to realise that the very habits which make for cleanliness, improved personal appearance and better health contribute to the extinction of the race."

It will be agreed that the choice before us is embarrassing. Yet there is no escaping the biological facts. Go to the ant; observe that silly sap, the bee. From them you learn that the first step towards the control of the birth rate is to eliminate all possibility of binge or beano.

All nature proclaims its irrevocable decree: Least fun, most offspring. Convince a creature that life is one long wet smack, and it produces a large family on the nail. Promise it a short life and a sticky one, and it gives three sickly cheers and lays a packet of eggs.

Nature works automatically to the principle—The More the Miserabler and the Higher the Fewer.

Fascist nations will be less perturbed than we. Their choice is quickly made. The Nazi philosophy, which holds that the part exists only for the maintenance of the whole, corresponds exactly to those lowest forms of life whose sole function is the perpetuation of the unpleasant. And the concentration camp, with its efficient machinery for making people as miserable as bedamned, should prove an excellent stimulus to fertility.

But democratic England, with its traditions of social amelioration, will regard this biological principle much as a head waiter would regard an old sock in the soup.

hope that the resultant discomfort will bless their union.

As for clothes, I confess it would take more than the promise of a large family to persuade me to abandon the use of bifurcated continuations as the basis of my apparel. Few of us look well in kilts, and the nightshirt lacks aesthetic appeal.

* * *

In short, the alternatives, which Nature places before us are: To acquiesce in our own extinction or, for the sake of keeping up our numbers, to make our lives as uncomfortable as possible.

Nevertheless, we are Englishmen. Though we may be in the soup, let us remember that Britannia rules the wives, both cream and consommé.

Are we to submit to the dictates of Nature? As one man and a slightly larger number of women, England answers No.

We now approach the decisive battle in the conflict between Man and Nature. I will not accept Nature's alternatives. When she says to me, "Be natural or die," I reply, "I will be unnatural and live."

The outstanding fact about Man (which scientists naturally overlook) is that he is the only unnatural animal there is. If he had ever been natural he wouldn't be here at all.

When he first met Nature and she handed him the book of rules, he said, "These are made to be broken. Who's boss here?"

If, therefore, we find that because we are unnatural we cannot reproduce ourselves, let us make reproduction unnecessary by the simple process of becoming immortal.

How do you propose to do that, Mr. Yaffle?

I'm not sure, but I feel the process has already begun.

But where shall we spend all our time?

Well, there seems to be plenty of Space.

ELECTION EXPERIENCES

A letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,

For the first time in my life I found myself, at the recent Federal elections, taking an active part in politics, and as the result of that experience what little respect I had for party methods has now vanished completely. The opportunity of getting into touch with householders opened my eyes still further to the nature and extent of the insidious propaganda constantly going on to keep the people confused regarding the real issues and to create wrong impressions of the proposals put forward to meet those issues.

Some of the literature issued in the name of the U.A.P., and authorised by G. S. MacLean, 359 Collins-street, Melbourne, can only be described as false, but that was mild compared with the incident related to me at one of the homes.

"Credit Foncier Cranks"

When I called two ladies (mother and married daughter) were walking in the garden. I inquired whether the literature which had been left (two different lots) in the interests of a particular candidate had been read, and to my amazement was informed that it had *not* been read (with great emphasis on the *not*) because they had been particularly warned against reading it. They could not give me the name and address of the person who had "warned" them, but volunteered the information that a lady speaker from the city had addressed a meeting of women the previous week at the local church and had told them, "in the name of the Lord Jesus," that they had particularly to be on their guard against these credit foncier cranks, of whom my candidate was said to be one. It was contrary to God's purpose, she said, that life should be made easy for people, and those who were advocating interference with the banks, as this man was would rob the people of their hard-earned savings. The women at the meeting were naturally impressed, and all of them left with the determination "not to read the stuff."

That seemed rather a hopeless situation to find oneself in, but after talking together for a while and gaining their confidence I was able to give them the facts, with which they not only agreed, but admitted that the proposals being put forward were only common sense. When I left the house the ladies were satisfied that the speaker at the women's meeting had not only done a very great injustice to a body of honourable men and women, whose only purpose is to bring about better living conditions for the community at large, but had improperly and irreverently used the name of "the Lord Jesus" for the purpose of misleading them on an important public question.

The speaker referred to may have been merely repeating in good faith what has been put out by Mr. Stanley Addison and his "sound finance" sycophants, but even that could not possibly excuse the wickedness of using the sacred name in such a despicable manner. How deplorable it was that not even one of the women present was sufficiently informed to expose the speaker for the imposter she was. Readers of the *New Times* who are also church members should consider whether the women attached to their particular Church are any better informed, and whether they, too, would meekly listen without protest to similar misrepresentation.

There is an urgent challenge in this for all of us, because it shows how the Christian Church is being used by interested parties to prevent the practice of Christian principles in our national life. We must therefore find a way of preventing a repetition of this sort of thing. Perhaps we could protest to the Church authorities, send representatives to challenge everyone who does not face up to

the truth in the matter, and counter-attack by way of direct reply or public debate.

"Should Stick to Religion"

The need for some such action was emphasised by another incident. One of my co-workers handed some literature to a neighbour in the hope that it would be read. The neighbour, however, accepted it with bad grace, and demanded to know "who it was for." When given the candidate's name (which, of course, he could have read for himself) he fiercely crumpled the literature in his hand and threw it to the ground with the remark: "That's what I think of it! A minister of religion has no right to be meddling in politics; he should stick to religion."

That man is what is known as a "local preacher" and is an office-bearer in the Church to which I happen to be attached. This is the sort of thing that assists the spread of Communism and which fans the spreading fires of discontent amongst the members of the younger generation. Every aspect of the incident was in direct conflict with the very Christianity he goes into the pulpit to preach—displaying as he did abysmal ignorance, intense intolerance, unsuspected impatience, lack of self-control, unworthy prejudice, and the type of mentality which prefers to perpetuate misery and suffering than accept the benefits of the discoveries of greater men than himself.

He went so far as to say it is idle to advocate the abolition of poverty, because the Bible declares we must always have it. Such men conveniently overlook another important declaration in the same Bible, that we should take no thought of the morrow because God knoweth what we have need of and will provide. God *has* provided, but evidently the "local preacher" holds the view that God's bounty is sent merely to mock our distress, and that we should watch the valuable gifts rot rather than make sensible use of them.

These two incidents suggest to me that many of those holding representative positions in an important section of the Church are a definite hindrance to the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth. Those of us, Church members, who are convinced of the fraud of the financial system and of the man-made practices which are preventing the application of true Christianity, are therefore faced with the choice of repudiating such people on the ground that they are anti-Christian and that the Churches which permit them to so act are also anti-Christian, or of endeavouring to bring about a change in the outlook and attitude of those in control. That is a matter for the gravest consideration, and it seems certain that unless a change does take place in this respect there will be a large increase in the ranks of the Communists.

"Only U.A.P. Makes Money Go Round"

During Election Day I assisted in handing out "How to Vote" cards, and in that capacity had my eyes opened again.

The young fellow working at the same entrance on behalf of the U.A.P. was an employee in a city business house receiving ordinary wages. He had given up his Saturday sport "in the good cause," as he put it, and had himself voted U.A.P. His family also, all working for wages, had voted similarly. He knew nothing at all about the financial system, and had given no thought to the general facts of the situation, but had the obsession that it is only when a U.A.P. Government is in office that money is going round. The trick by which this is worked was entirely unknown to him, and he was blissfully unconscious of the fact that he was assisting the

tricksters to continue the trickery against himself and his people.

Another feature of the day to me was the great number of working girls and parents from the humbler type of homes who showed an interest only in the U.A.P. voting ticket. They did not want the others. I asked the young fellow if this was typical, and he replied: "Oh, yes; it is the worker that puts the U.A.P. Government in office and keeps it there." That, of course, becomes obvious when we think about it. But what an absurdity—the poor voluntarily voting to keep themselves poor in a land of great and increasing abundance, actually voting for the continuance of the swindling money conditions which render it quite impossible for them to get any improvement in their standard of living.

Falsehoods from T. W. White

One other reference. I attended the St. Kilda meeting of Mr. T. W. White, Minister for Customs, and listened to falsehood after falsehood from his lips relating to Social Credit, Alberta and Major Douglas. Any attempt to challenge these falsehoods at the time they were made was prevented by the chairman, who kept threatening expulsion (one woman *was* expelled!) and at the same time assuring the audience that if they would keep quiet everybody would be afforded the opportunity to put their questions at the close of the speeches. Not half the people who wished to put questions were permitted to do so, and several who did put them received no reply. I wish to place on public record, however, that I did put one question, as follows:

"Does Mr. White accept the declaration of the Monetary and Bank-

SAVE US FROM OUR FRIENDS

"The only thing in which I sympathise with my constituents is that some of them unfortunately read and are led by the 'Argus'. Everyone on the other side knows that this newspaper is the greatest bugbear the party (the U.A.P.) has ever had. There is hardly a member over there who has not expressed that opinion. And the 'Argus' is still at it."

—Mr. Ian Macfarlan, M.L.A., in the Victorian Assembly, October 26.

ing Commission that the Commonwealth Bank is clothed with power to create the money to meet all its undertakings and to provide funds for our Governments without any charge at all, and if so, will he explain why the Government has increased the national debt by more than a hundred million pounds and pawned our assets to private money-lenders?"

Without shame he stood up and said that the Report of the Commission contained no such thing. Fortunately, I had a copy with me, and was able to quote chapter and verse. The copy of the Report was handed up to him on the platform with the request that he would read it to the audience, but he declined to do so. After nervously fingering the pages of the Report he muttered: "Well, they haven't included it in their recommendations!"

Up to that time I had not been aware that in order to establish the truth of a statement, or to obtain recognition of it, it is necessary to embody it in a recommendation. But we are never too old to learn. Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H BROWN

10 Parkside St.,
Malvern, S.E.4.

"French Concern. Decay of International Morality," announces a daily paper.

Ridiculous. As if a foreigner could be a judge of morals. Morality's our racket.

—Yaffle, in *Reynolds*.

THE ELECTIONS IN VICTORIA

Some Significant Results

The elections in Victoria provide more interesting and significant results than in most other States. This arises from two causes: first, the new tendency for the Country party and Labor to co-operate, and, second, the appearance on the scene of non-party candidates.

Mr. Wilson and the Wimmera

The success in the Wimmera of Mr. Wilson, president of the Wheatgrowers' Association, over Mr. McClelland, the retiring Australian (Earle Page) Country party candidate, must be ascribed very largely to the Labor vote in that area, and especially in Mildura, where Mr. Wilson was given a commanding lead.

Mr. Wilson is likely to be a very useful member of the new House. He has strong views on the necessity for monetary reform, and is not afraid to give expression to them.

A similar tendency to that in the Wimmera has been evident in other countryseats, where the U.A.P. vote has been materially weakened by Labor support of Victorian Country party candidates and vice versa. This is heartening as showing the increasing realisation by farmer and wage earner of their essential community of interests, and their refusal any longer to be kept asunder by the wiles of the bankers' party.

Mr. Menzies Faces Defeat

But even more significant has been the vote accorded in the metropolitan area to the few non-party candidates who actually had the temerity to intrude their claims in seats, which were regarded as among the holy of holies of U.A.P.-ism.

The most spectacular of these contests was in Kooyong, the safe preserve of Attorney-General Menzies. So "safe" did this seat turn out that had Mr. Hollins, the Independent, wrested a few hundred more votes from Mr. Menzies, it seems certain he would have been elected on the Labor preferences. Mr. Menzies won this seat in 1934 by an absolute majority of over 15,000 votes.

A Dirty Campaign in Balaclava

The intrusion of Mr. Atkinson, the Independent candidate, into Minister for Customs White's seat at Balaclava was responsible for one of the dirtiest campaigns that even the U.A.P. has ever conducted. Mr. White himself concentrated his efforts principally on personal attacks upon Mr. Atkinson and those associated with him. But his helpers went further, and among the stories that they spread about Mr. Atkinson were such as that he had suffered from an unmentionable disease during the war, that he was one of "Father" Divine's angels, and similar pretty tales. To cap it all, a last minute effort was made to declare that Mr. Atkinson was an opponent of the White Australia policy. This last story was broadcast throughout the electorate by Mr. White's official car equipped with loudspeaker equipment. The story also appeared in a section of the daily press in the guise of a report of an election meeting, though it is understood that the particular paper, which published the report, had no official reporter present. To give this paper its due, it published prominently on Saturday a denial by Mr. Atkinson of the charge against him. In spite of

all these calumnies, however, and in spite of the electorate having in the meantime been so redesigned as apparently to make it several thousand votes safer, Mr. White's majority of almost 26,000 in 1934 was whittled down by nearly two-thirds.

Fawkner and Henty

But even more remarkable were the votes polled in Fawkner and Henty, held respectively by Mr. Holt and Sir H. Gullett. Both Mr. Hollins and Mr. Atkinson had fairly strong teams of helpers, and both had announced their intention of standing some time before the elections. In Fawkner, however, the Rev. W. Bottomley, and in Henty, Dr. Hornabrook, with no previous intention of standing, decided to nominate almost as the nominations were closing. Neither was known in the electorate he was contesting; neither had any organisation whatever, and we understand that neither was equipped with a "war chest." Having no effective means of publicity, it is probable that large numbers, if not the majority of the electors knew next to nothing about them on Election Day, except that they were not party men. Yet in both cases their poll was, roughly, half that of the Labor candidate and a quarter that of the sitting member, the result being that the Government majority in each seat was so greatly reduced as to make it likely that a thorough campaign would have placed each of these gilt-edged seats in very real danger.

The Lines of the Independent Campaign

The central point of the campaign of these independents was that their first and only parliamentary allegiance would be to their electors, and the kernel of their own ideas, as expounded to electors, was that they were definitely opposed to the monopolistic interests, which are now

TO WHOM IS THE NATIONAL DEBT OWING?

Says "Why" (N.Z.): Captain Rushworth moved in Parliament: "That there be laid before this House a Return showing the names and addresses of the principal holders of the stock, bonds, etc., comprising the national debt of New Zealand."

If this Return is given, it will be of very great interest. Readers should watch for the reply. Our guess is that they will have to wait a long time for such a return.

strangling the community, and that they were determined to put an end to the unnecessary poverty and insecurity which, in spite of U.A.P. propaganda to the contrary, is still rampant on all sides.

The lesson of the heavy vote given these men, and given in such electorates—nearly the whole of their support is shown from the figures to have come from former U.A.P. voters—must be extraordinarily heartening to the little band of unpaid workers who started out this year in Melbourne on their non-party campaign to abolish poverty. The first reaction to that campaign from the two great political parties, Labor and the U.A.P., sympathetic reception by Labor, accompanied, however, by a wooden-headed assertion that the Labor politicians were the only experts, and that poverty could not be effectively abolished except in accordance.

HOW THINGS ARE IN RUSSIA

The New York Times, which has been accustomed to write of Stalin and his State in such terms as to merit this high praise in Moscow, "We consider the New York Times the best newspaper in the United States," has just published the impressions of a special commissioner it sent to Russia.

Here are some of his opinions of how the U.S.S.R. is developing:

Wages

"In twenty years the revolution has made so little progress toward emancipation—if it has not, indeed, retrogressed—that the Soviet worker is among the most exploited in the world . . . And the State has proved that it can be as hard a taskmaster as any capitalist boss and can enforce its will with a police power infinitely stronger than any coal or iron police or venal 'company' sheriff in the United States.

"Surplus value," which is one of the foundation stones of Marx's philosophy—the amount that the worker gives the employer in labour above what is received—is exacted in the Soviet system, too. In Russia that surplus value is being used to extend capital construction, to build up a military establishment and to maintain a swollen army of bureaucratic functionaries who probably consume more of the workers' toil than the proprietor class in capitalism . . . Inefficiency holds down the wages that the Soviet can pay—and it, like any capitalist employer, must make a profit or go out of business—and enormously increases the cost of everything the Soviet citizen buys. It makes (the worker's) real wage extremely low. And the quality of almost everything he buys is so bad that the goods could not compete with capitalistically

with the methods laid down by the Labor platform. As time goes on, more and more Labor men are seeing that their trusty methods are not so trusty. In particular they are realising that their great prop of higher money wages is riddled with white ants, and the recent abortive rise in the basic wage (already overtaken by higher prices) has made great numbers of them begin to think that they are not so expert at all. Yet clearly, since all the physical components for the abolition of poverty are present, there must be some solution; and there is an increasing tendency in Labor circles to concentrate on demanding the result desired and not to be led astray into pinning their faith to methods by which they may be sidestepped.

In the case of the U.A.P., the official attitude towards the campaign was, first, to ignore it. When that proved ineffective, it was attacked because it refused to lay down detailed methods—while at the same time the Labor party was being attacked from the same source precisely because it did presume to lay down specific methods for defending Australia with planes rather than with ships. Finally, the U.A.P. came out with the astounding claim that it had itself abolished poverty, or almost so, as we noted in Sir H. Gullett's remarkable oration last week. But in four of the most conservative electorates in the Commonwealth nearly fifty thousand U.A.P. voters have refused to be beguiled.

Through the refusal of our Government to accommodate figures to facts instead of adjusting facts to suit figures, there is no doubt but that very difficult times are again right upon us. And it can confidently be forecast that one of the first fruits of those difficult times will be a tremendous increase in the numbers of electors who will be added to the ranks of those now seeing the light.

produced goods for a minute in any free market."

Freedom

"There is a range and vitality to the Soviet arts that is far superior to the fare available in Germany, for instance. Yet, as in Germany, the Soviet theatre is largely presenting classics. Few original works of value have appeared since the revolution . . .

"Conceding what I believe to be true—that the Soviet regime is sincerely doing all it can materially for the people as a whole—it has, nevertheless, utterly eradicated freedom of expression on any except the most innocuous topics . . . The result is an intellectual servility, a sycophancy, a hypocrisy that is simply degrading."

Employment

"There is no unemployment now simply because there is a constant labour shortage . . . The labour shortage has been made more acute by the fact that inefficiency, bureaucracy and the prevalence of parasitic functionaries have greatly reduced labour productivity. Foreign engineers have estimated that four times as many persons, or more, are required under Soviet conditions to turn out a given production as are required in the United States . . . But industry is going badly from top to bottom . . . The Soviet has given industry everything in materials, but has failed to give the most important thing of all—freedom to executives to use their own initiative and to make their own decisions, confident that if a high percentage of decisions are correct an occasional error will be forgiven. In the Soviet an executive error may land a good man in prison under terrible charges of wrecking. . . ."

Resources

"In any judgment of Russia one must bear in mind that the country itself is enormously large and enormously rich, with every essential raw material and adequate food supplies. It must be remembered also that the Russian people have enormous powers of resistance. They can 'take it,' else they would never have survived the frightful years through which they have passed.

"Whereas a year ago the Soviet authorities were shooting the bearers of names famous in Bolshevism and less than three months ago the greatest generals the Red Army had developed were executed, now the Government has got down to shooting cooks as terrorists because they put rotten meat in officials' stew, and women attendants in a nursery for poisoning children's foods for counter-revolutionary purposes.

"Untold thousands more have been arrested in every part of the Soviet Union . . . The people have become used to it. Their sensibilities have been dulled, and, I think, there is a certain fatalism in their attitude."

The New Constitution and Its Reason

"There is a strong suspicion in Moscow that the election campaign and the purge (executions) are related. With everyone who has ever opposed Stalin dead, exiled or imprisoned, the election can be held in perfect safety . . .

"The political police have retained one all-important right of which little is known outside Russia. This is the right of administrative exile. The political police, without recourse to a court at all, may exile a person for five years to any place they wish. Such exile may be only from the principal cities, in which case the exiled person may lead a reasonably comfortable life and earn his living anywhere else. Or it may be to some dreaded place, such as Solovetsky or some wretched Siberian camp. Such five-year exile sentences, I am told can be renewed indefinitely,

New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory

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

MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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E. WHITE. 109 High St. Confectionery and Smokes.

FLORIST, "Mayfair," Haw. 1452 Cotham Rd., near Glenferrie Rd

GIBSON'S, High St., opp. Rialto. Hosiery, Underwear and Aprons.

GIFTS, & All Jewellery Repairs. Old Gold Bought, Greaves, opp. Rialto. LADIES' Hairdresser. Haw. 5605. "Burnie Salon," 81 Cotham Rd. M. J. MARTIN, 157 High St. Haw. 3794. Shoe Store, Shoe Repairs.

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

so it is possible to keep a person imprisoned, or virtually imprisoned, for life without a trial and without public announcement. . . . "Thus it is evident that the Supreme Soviet authority has ample means by which to dispose of anybody it wishes, despite the new Constitution."

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

Election day has passed with its penalty of compelling people to toddle off to polling booths to, assumedly, record their votes, but in actual fact to make their ballot paper a replica of a card handed to them in the precincts of the booth. Those who pride themselves on being alert, intelligent democrats filled in their papers with a feeling of satisfaction at exercising their right in guiding the policy of the nation. It is safe to say that not five per 10,000 knew what they were voting for. The great majority voted for one party or another, and were satisfied that they had done right, and yet had not the least idea of the policy they voted on. Really, there was no recognisable policy of any moment on which they could make a decision. But the essence of the hidden policy they voted on was: "Will you be slaves—or will you be free?" And they voted to remain slaves. No matter what party ticket they voted, they arrived at the same result.

And they will remain in the same state until they are assisted to place their own policy in Parliament. The parties, as we know them, can never assist them to that end. The party system of government is the negation of democracy. It is purely sectional in composition, and is the deliberate dividing of the people. The harmless sounding party names do not remove the inevitableness of the system leading to dictatorship by one section or the other. In the meantime dictatorship, from outside Parliament, controls the entire nation, and in all probability will continue its sovereignty after nominal democracy has ceased to be. The existence of an outside dictatorship is rapidly becoming common knowledge. To assist those who are conscious of its existence, but are mystified as to what it really is, the following excerpts may help them to an understanding:—

The Rt. Hon. Reg. McKenna, ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer and Chairman of the Midland Bank, England, said: "They who control the credit of a nation direct the policy of governments and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people."

The U.S.A. Bankers' Magazine for August 26, 1924: "Capital must protect itself in every possible manner by combination and legislation. Debts must be collected; bonds and mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible. When, through a process of law, the common people lose their homes, they will become more docile and more easily governed through the influence of the strong arm of government applied by a central power of wealth, and under control of leading financiers.

"This truth is well-known among

our principal men now engaged in forming an imperialism of capital to govern the world.

"By dividing the voters, through the political party system, we can get them to expend their energies in fighting over questions of no importance. Thus by discreet action we can secure for ourselves what has been so well planned and so successfully accomplished."

Dr. Cyril Norwood, a president of St. John's College, Oxford, speaking in Melbourne at a meeting of the New Education Fellowship Conference, said: "The world has seen the democratic front erected, and, behind it, rule by moneyed interests or privileged classes. Because the people are not educated, elections tend to become contests in bribery."

There is not much comfort to be derived from these quotations; but they are valuable in the work the U.E.A. has set itself, in awakening the public to the danger of the party system of Government. If those harmless sounding names, U.A.P. and Labor, were, just for a second, replaced by Fascism and Communism, their significance could more readily be understood.

To assist the people to place in Parliament that which they, as a nation, require Parliament to bring into effect, is the objective of the United Electors of Australia; and to do that it is necessary to provide the individual with the means whereby he or she can give direct instruction to his or her paid parliamentary servant, to re-present his or her demand in Parliament. There is nothing bloodcurdling about this idea. It is simply democracy.

The work the U.E.A. has accomplished in the short term of its life is most encouraging to those who are giving active help in the Movement. On another page of this issue is given an analysis of the elections, with results directly attributable to the activities of the U.E.A. The elections have been useful in defining work for the future, and the executive is giving thought to directing activities to the most vulnerable points. All U.E.A. people are reminded that at any time, and all the time, the U.E.A. is effective—not only at election time—and on no account should they allow their activities to abate, but rather to become permanent. It is not an idle ideal, but is the fundamental truth forming the foundation of the meaning of humans on earth.

Keep Your M.P. Up To Scratch.—To acquaint members of Parliament with the fact that we are watching their movements in Parliament, it is proposed that each week, in this column, comments will be made on some point, or points, of interest to electors, arising out of Parliamentary proceedings, and it is hoped that elec-

tors will take them as a basis on which to communicate personally with their member. For example, as a start off this week, your member could be addressed to answer this: "I am aware that the shipping firms lowered their freight charges on wheat to assist the wheat growers during the time of low prices, but is not a rise from 15/- to 42/6 a ton rather exorbitant? I think it should be looked into—don't you?"

Country Organiser.—Eric Butler brought back such a favourable report of the earnestness of the country folk, gained during his recent tour through the North, that he has been commissioned to set forth and give them a hand to become organised and in a position to instruct their member in what they want him to attend to. Eric says they are sick of things in general, and want to have a say in the conduct of the country, and not merely acquiesce to some policy that originated from goodness knows where. They have a good champion in Eric. He is a country lad himself, and has youth and energy, and also the experience of platform work in the city. This is the first move the U.E.A. is taking to meet the next elections; but we expect that big results will accrue long before the three years' term expires.

Other plans will be revealed in the next issue of the *New Times*. Anyone with suggestions, please send them in. Remember, the U.E.A. is your Movement, and your office is in McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

Speakers' Class.—It is intended to gather the speakers together in a regular meeting, say, once a fortnight, so that they may discuss matters and arrange to cooperate in keeping active. Also new speakers will be trained on the best points to emphasise when speaking on the U.E.A. Will those interested please send in their names and arrangements will be announced in a later issue of the *New Times*?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Federal Elections.—The present Federal elections cause us all to wish that we had our Campaign organisation further advanced.

We have undoubtedly done a great deal in the past in the way of awakening the people, but we have largely failed in building up our army of distributors, so that we can keep in touch with the electors.

At this time we need to get into the homes of our people leaflets setting out the answers received from the Federal candidates, but it is possible only to distribute about thirty thousand.

Building of an Army.—Our future policy must definitely be the building of an army of Campaign workers—i.e., distributors. Our objective is to put each distributor in charge of fifty houses. This will necessitate an army of, roughly, 1800.

This means work; it means individual contact; it means meeting our people in small informal groups where they feel at home and so "game" enough to ask questions.

To get a distributor who will stick to the job until our task—i.e., the Abolition of Poverty—is an accomplished fact, we must educate him so that he sees the light as we see it.

It is this "light" which guides him on his way and without it he will simply fade away, lost in the darkness.

It appears impossible to educate the masses, and in our case it is not necessary. We are satisfied they know what they want, at least, as regards the Abolition of Poverty, and all we need do is to give them the opportunity of expressing their desire either for or against, by taking a referendum.

Our Task, then, is to get sufficient distributors, or you might call them Poll Clerks, to take around voting papers.

These are the people we have to enlighten, only 1800 of them. We are sure they are in our midst; it is a matter of contacting them.

Will each one of you undertake to call a meeting of friends in your own home and apply to H.Q. for a speaker? If we can get even one convert out of the group, we might then get that one to call a meeting and so on and so on. This means work, but remember, we cannot reach any objective without.

The Only Hope.—If we see the Electoral Campaign in its true light we see it is the only hope for the world today. The Abolition of Poverty in Australia means the setting of an example to the rest of the world—which the world will be quick to follow. The people of the world appear to be asleep, but in reality they are not, they are waiting for a lead. It is up to this young virile Australia to give that lead.

Campaigners, you get down-hearted, you feel at times it is of no use, that the time is not opportune, that the masses are too apathetic. But, remember, you are the torchbearers, which means that you are ahead of the masses. If they were up with you, then you would not be the torchbearers, but merely members of the crowd.

As torchbearers you must go on and on. Upon your shoulders rests a mighty responsibility. Call these friends of yours together, let us show them the "light," make converts of them and send them out to convert others. Fire yourself, for one cannot move another until he himself is moved.

Barker Division.—The Director of Barker would like to thank all those who by their spontaneous and enthusiastic help made it possible to distribute 10,000 leaflets through this end of Barker, particularly those in Marino, Sealcliff and Brighton, who with scant explanation did the job most thoroughly.

It might be mentioned that the job is paid for, thanks to the generosity of our supporters. This was made easier by assistance given by Mr. H. Denton, 17 Jetty Road, Glenelg; Fultone Radio Co., Jetty Road, Strand Buildings, and Mr. A. E. Wishart, 128 Jetty Road, Glenelg. Leaflets were also distributed throughout Reynella, Morphett Vale, Hackham, Noarlunga, McLaren Vale, Willunga, Aldinga, and Port Noarlunga.

Would all readers do all they can to encourage people to read the *Glenelg Guardian*, now under the able editorship of Mr. Kelly? We have a weekly advertising space in it, and, in return, an article every week. About 4000 are distributed from Glenelg to Marino Rocks.

Would all those in the Federal Division of Barker write to E. C. Finn, 8 Hastings Street, Glenelg the Director for Barker. Send your address, as he wants to come along and talk things over with a view to learning what the position is in your particular district. Write, even if the prospects are not looking very bright. The position in Glenelg is getting solid and the time is approaching when the movement must spread further afield.

Speakers' Class.—A number of our potential speakers met on Tuesday evening of last week and enjoyed a profitable time under the able guidance of our President, Mr. E. H. Hergstrom. This class will meet each Tuesday evening and the members will receive instruction and guidance in breathing, posture and all the little tricks necessary to successful public speaking.

Women's Auxiliary.—Campaign Room furnishing fund. "Bring and Buy a Gift" Afternoon, Wednesday, November 17, 3 p.m.; address by Mr. R. H. Curnow, Campaign Organiser, "Democrats' Way to Abolish Poverty."

Wednesday, November 3, 3 p.m. Women's Afternoon.

Speakers: Mr. R. H. Curnow "Eighteen Hundred Democrats"; Mrs. Scott, Vice-President of the Housewives' Association, "Living and Social Conditions in Wales."

All members and friends are urged to attend this interesting meeting. Afternoon tea. Collection.

The Farmer's Anthem

Under its spreading hopeless debts
The farmer's homestead stands;
Its lord a mournful man is he,
As he ploughs his mortgaged lands.

For the laws that seize his cream
and cheese
Are strong as iron bands.

His face is thin and long and grim,
And burnt like Pharaoh's bricks,
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
His shins are blue with kicks,
His toes are bent and crumpled up
From kicking at the pricks.

Week in, week out, from morn till
night,
He toils to keep food cheap;
He ploughs and harrows ere he
plants
For someone else to reap;
And the only time he owns his soul
Is when he is asleep.

His children stay away from school
To hoe his noxious weeds,
Although they know they cannot
learn

Sufficient for their needs;
They strive to slay the Bathurst
burr
Before the rascal seeds.

He goes on Sunday to the yards
With his little girls and boys,
And they rejoice to hear his voice
And the language he employs
When a cranky heifer plants a kick
On a spot where it annoys.

Toiling and moiling and labouring,
Onward through life he goes;
He hopes to work for all he's worth
Till his creditors foreclose;
Then in six feet odd of earth
Enjoy a long repose.

—*Farming First* (N.Z.)

"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 re-printed by the "New Times" as an eight-page brochure.

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