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NEWSAGENTS

THE NEW TIMES

DON'T
LET WOMEN
FILL UP FORMS
By "Yaffle"
(See Page 3)

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, DECEMBER 10, 1937.

Every Friday, 3d

DON'T DO PARLIAMENT'S DIRTY WORK

*

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*

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(Continued on page 3.)

"Don't Do Parliament's Dirty Work"

Christmas comes but once a year—and when it does it brings the usual crop of appeals for this and that deserving object. If it's not the Collingwood Crèche, it's the Presbyterian Group Mission, or the State Relief Committee. If it's not the Mission of St. James and St. John, it's the Smith Family of Joy spreaders. Of course, these missions, crèches, committees and what-have-you exist all the time and beg the whole year round, but at Christmas their efforts are redoubled—Christmas being the season of peace on earth and goodwill towards men, typified by the brotherly activities in China, Spain, Poland, Abyssinia, Northern India and other places where the spirit, usually dormant, has expressed itself in action.

Sentimental Slop

The most rational of rationalists cannot help sympathising with the people whom these missions, crèches and whatnot are designed to assist. Goodness only knows that they need help and sympathy, not only at Christmas time, but at all times. What we must guard against, however, is the automatic response to a sentimental appeal. The heart is touched, the purse strings loosened, and the deserving object is temporarily relieved. And so, the next time, and the next; and between the patient workers for the relief of the distressed, derelict, and needy, and the sentimental citizen, nothing even approaching permanency is accomplished. Poverty still exists in the midst of plenty, and even the politicians who represent the interests of those directly responsible for this famous paradox have started to use the phrase in their election speeches. In their mouths it becomes a sentimental racket, a vote-catching slogan—but it does not become what it should be—a call to immediate action.

Indeed, a little quiet thought on rational lines brings to light the regrettable fact that so long as we permit an emotional response to these appeals for funds for the needy, the needy will continue to be needy. So long as private individuals, missions, crèches and Smith Joy spreaders continue to do the job that is clearly and unequivocally the job of our elected Parliaments, you can be perfectly sure that the politicians will do nothing but talk. It is true that "Parliament" means "a place where talking is done," but in its original conception the *talk* was meant to be a prelude to *action*, and not an end in itself.

Make the Politicians Do It

The cynical student of the Victorian Statutes is struck by the fact that the annual output of Acts of Parliament in Victoria contains as few Acts dealing with major problems as there are bits of pork in a tin of pork and beans, or chickens in a bowl of chicken broth. The truth of the matter is that although the major problems, such as poverty, slums, malnutrition and lack of hospital accommodation, exist and cry out for attention, the actors at our 100 per cent, talkie house are not forced to take action. There are, unfortunately, too many well-intentioned but irrational people who persist in relieving the worst cases of distress by private activity. The politician's primary precept is. "Never do a thing yourself if the other fellow will do it for you"; and so long as the "other fellows"—the crèches, Smiths, missions, you and me—are stupid enough to stop the misery and destitution from becoming too appalling, our

Parliament will talk about doing something, and just keep on talking!

Dry Up the Wells of Charity

The solution to the problem is, of course, obvious. If all private donors and all voluntary relief workers decided to cease forthwith from doing the Parliament's job, matters would very rapidly come to a climax. A few hundred deaths from hunger and exposure, and a few thousand sufferers queued up outside the public hospitals, and Parliament House would make legislative action imperative; and out of the sufferings of the few the good of the many would eventuate. It is at this stage in our train of thought that it is vital to resist the appeal of the emotions, and follow the path of reason.

To dry up the wells of charity as suggested would mean intense suffering and hardship for a large number of people who are in immediate want. This is unfortunate, but unavoidable. The situation is sufficiently desperate to call for desperate measures. The constant recourse to the palliatives of private and voluntary charity cannot bring any lasting improvement in existing conditions. No verbal or written appeal or demand for action is likely to succeed where Parliament is concerned. Let the politicians see with their own eyes; let them feel, if they any longer possess human feeling, what every voluntary charitable worker has seen and felt—the widespread misery, poverty, insecurity and hunger that assail thousands upon thou-

XMAS and NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

There will be NO ISSUE of the "New Times" on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, or FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31.

sands in this country! And let them, at the same time, realise that this country supplies food and clothing immeasurably in excess of the needs of our paltry little population! And then see if they will dare any longer to dally with a problem, which they are paid to face, apart altogether from the fact that they are reputed to be human beings like the rest of us!

If it were only a matter of simple, callous inhumanity we might, perhaps, understand the masterly inactivity of our self-styled statesmen. Some people are made that way, and are to be pitied. What is particularly galling is that we are mulcted of money, which is paid over to our politicians so that they may devote their time to doing for us what it is inexpedient for us to attempt ourselves. Included in this is the proper management of the community so that there shall be no hunger and want that is not promptly attended to—no sickness, suffering and destitution where these can be avoided. No one will deny that these can all be either avoided or relieved; and no one can deny that Parliament is paid to do this, and is not even starting to give value for the payment.

Why Increase Parliamentary Salaries?

This brings us to a matter that is nearer to our legislators' hearts than the marasmic infant of Mrs. Smith of Collingwood—the Prime Minister and the Cabinet do not get enough pay!

Sir George Pearce thinks the Prime Minister needs at least £4000 a year, and Ministers £2000. Mr. Curtin agrees. Sir Stanley Argyle "cannot

see any justification for withholding the restoration of the full amount of the pre-depression allowances." Mrs. I. H. Moss says that if we want good men in politics we must be prepared to pay for them.

Let us consider these words of wisdom, not forgetting what we have already said concerning poverty and the duty of politicians with regard to it.

If our Prime Minister was Prime in the sense of being of first quality, and was a Minister in the sense of one who renders aid or service—and these are meanings which any decent dictionary will give for these expressions—we would be inclined to agree with Sir George Pearce's dictum, considered as an abstract proposition. When, however, we realise that £4000 is proposed as a salary for Joseph Aloysius Lyons, and £2000 for "Ministers" such as the said George Pearce (now happily retired), words, as usual, prove an entirely inadequate medium for self-expression.

Figureheads and Puppets

Without putting too fine a point on it, Mr. Lyons is neither of first quality as a statesman, nor has he rendered us any aid or service worth recording. He has been a picturesque figurehead, like the statue of Diana at Ephesus, and little more. Since his views and those of the Melbourne *Herald* coincide with remarkable precision, we would have been as well served with a grotesque Epstein statue, at, say, £4000, which would have lasted long after Joseph and his brethren have ceased to be anything but names in a schoolboy's history-book. From all points of view, not only financially, we would have shown a profit on the statue, whereas Lyons has been a dead loss, politically, financially and aesthetically.

Mr. Curtin thinks the salary of a Prime Minister should be sufficient to "widen the choice of democracy and not to shut out from the highest position those devoid of material advantages." In principle we agree, subject to the reservation that big baits do not always catch big fish or the choicest varieties. The barracuda will snap at anything.

As for Sir Stanley Argyle, poor fish, he has reached the stage of speaking of "pre-depression" allowances. If he honestly believes the

depression to be over, he must be living in some dream-world of his own, weaving garlands of fantasy to while away the leisure hours while Parliament is in recess. Let him weave by all means, but must it be at our expense?

Mrs. Moss, who is president of the National Council of Women, is quite correct when she says that if we want good men in politics we must be prepared to pay for them. We do, and we always have been. Our complaint is that we have paid for good men, and we haven't got them, and, with few exceptions, have never had them. We want men of integrity, ability, weight and stability, not garland-weavers or rolling stones. We are still in accord with Mrs. Moss, but we hope that she does not think increases in the salaries of our present Parliamentarians, State or Federal, are justified until they have justified their existence and their acceptance of the pittance we pay them, by doing something tangible towards the abolition of poverty and want. By tangible we mean something more than the appointment of Royal Commissions to enquire into the matter. We have progressed beyond the enquiry stage. The High Cost of Living Commission, some time ago, took a year to discover that the cost of living was high. Most of us know that without a Commission to help us. What we want is a course of legislation, under which every individual is declared to be entitled, *as of right*, to at least the necessary minimum of food, clothing and shelter; and under which the necessary machinery, social and financial, is established and set in motion. Then, and not till then, will it be an appropriate time for the politicians to expect and ask for increased remuneration.

BOOKS BY EIMAR O'DUFFY

The following Works by Eimar O'Duffy, mentioned by "YTEB" in his article in the "New Times" of November 5, are available from SOCIAL CREDIT PRESS, 166 Little Collins Street, Melbourne:—

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DON'T LET WOMEN FILL UP FORMS

By YAFFLE, in "Reynolds News."

It is my duty to warn the Government against allowing women to interfere with the economic system.

Considerable trouble is sure to arise from the Ministry of Health's request for 30,000 women to fill up forms saying what they spend on rent, food, clothing, entertainment, etc.

A preliminary warning of what is likely to happen comes from Mrs. Amelia Jones, of Reading, whose husband earns £2/10/- a week. She writes to a daily paper:

"Why don't they ask housewives to fill in a form telling what food, clothes, luxuries, and entertainments they would buy if they had the money?"

That is just the kind of thing a woman might have been expected to say. Women will never understand economics. They look at everything the wrong way round.

For instance, women always argue from the particular to the general. Thus, when they get on to economics they assume that a country is run on the same lines as a home—a most extraordinary delusion.

They seem to think that Distribution is as important as Production, particularly at the dinner table, and that neither are any use without Consumption. They could never be made to understand that, according to the rules of sound capitalistic economics, Consumption is a matter of luck and Distribution is only an accident.

Again, they assume that the

national budget is the same sort of thing as a domestic budget, only fatter. This is a fatal mistake.

The difference is that when a State spends money it calls the money a debt, and makes the taxpayer pay for it all over again after the goods have been paid for. If a domestic budget were like a national budget, then, when a woman received her housekeeping money, she would do something like this:—

She would spend, say, 25/- on food and things, come back and put the stuff in the larder, lock it up, and say to her husband, "My weekly budget shows a deficit of 25/-. We must economise in food until you have paid it back."

Then, when the husband got hungry, he would say, "But what about all that stuff in the larder?"

"That," she would say, "is the supply that exceeds the demand. It is the result of the grocer cyclone and the butcher blizzard, and the dustman is coming tomorrow to clear it away. We must restrict production to save prices. However, there are signs that dinner is turning the corner. I hope that, in a few weeks' time, if you and the children will make temporary sacrifices on bread and marge, the larder will show a favourable balance."

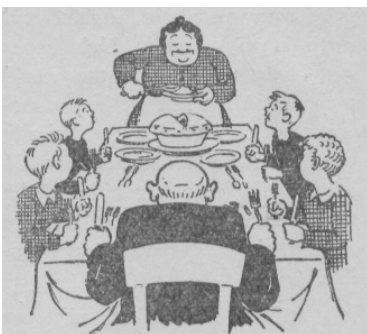
Few housewives, however, follow that correct procedure. Their economic ideas are crude and unorthodox. They cling obstinately to the idea that food is meant to be eaten and clothes to be worn. And they challenge the very basis of the economic system by persisting in the belief that it is wrong

to withhold food from a family when the larder is full.

Again, in economic matters, women have no morals. They lack the sense of fair play. While their menfolk, intent on national prosperity, are praying for prices to rise, women are watching like cats at mouse holes for them to fall.

I have known a woman watch a three-guinea model in a window every day for a fortnight. Devoid of honour, indifferent to the fate of sterling, she never thinks of paying the price that is marked up.

Like a vulture, she senses the approach of death. With ghoulish intuition she reads the signs of dissolution. She knows that after a week at two guineas the model will reach its last gasp at 29/11 the following Monday morning.



And so she hovers on evil wing, waiting for the end.

And as she bears her prey away to her lair, she gives no thought to the lost half of the price. It is chief proof of their unfitness for economics that women regard commodities as more important than the means of exchange. To return to Mrs. Amelia Jones, of Reading. What can one make of such a phrase—"All the things

they would buy if they had the money?"

Here we see the dark machinations of the unscrupulous feminine mind. She knows one cannot make such a list without causing a paper shortage. She knows that the productive capacity of Great Britain is as near to infinity as dammit.

She knows that if the national income were equated to the national output, it would release such a flood of necessities and luxuries that she should be the first to cry, "Beware, the awful avalanche!"

Then why does she make the suggestion? Clearly it is a sinister challenge to the economic system that men invented while their wives were at home minding the children.

She says, in effect, "What is the use of making all these things if nobody can buy them?" And she knows quite well that nobody can answer that question without destroying Confidence and starting a panic in the City.

Finally, her suggestion is a deliberate misinterpretation of the intention of the Government in instituting the cost-of-living inquiry.

That intention, as any responsible citizen knows, is to see that the wage-level shall not be below subsistence level.

The great ambition, to which our statesmen strive with aspiration in their hearts and a prayer on their lips, is to raise the nation up to the poverty line. That is the furthest extreme to which a statesman's or an economist's imagination can reach. Beyond that point, they see only infinite space, and leave it to the astronomers.

Whenever they think the economic situation is approaching that dizzy altitude, they throw up their hats and run about the place barking like Pekes and letting off crackers. They run out into their constituencies, leap on to platforms, and shout:

"Look us over! The Cabinet, collectively and individually, is a Wow! We have raised the people of this country almost up to poverty level! Was there ever such a Government? The answer is in the negative."

Today we are approaching that sunlit peak. Upwards we soar, sun, moon and stars forgot, until we reach the rarified air of that lofty economic altitude where nobody is actually starving to death in the gutter.

Shall we stay this eagle-flight merely because a parcel of women want to give the kids jam for tea once a week, and buy Willie a new suit sometimes instead of always turning Father's?"

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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 2.)

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Rev. R. G. Nichols,
St. Mark's Mission,
Fitzroy, Melbourne.

Dear Mr. Nichols, —

Another depression has been started, even though we have not been permitted to get out of the last one, and in view of what took place in the year 1931, we believe you will be interested to know of this new development.

In that year, the Rev. R. G. Nichols, M.A., B.D., took a leading part in a movement called the National Christian Crusaders, whose ostensible objective was the reduction of Government expenditure, and concurrently with this a gentleman known as Brother Bill was also calling upon the people through the radio for sacrifice and patient suffering. Neither of these speakers ever gave the identity of the persons who were demanding the sacrifice and suffering, and both failed to appreciate the absurdity of calls for sacrifice and suffering in a world in which God had provided actual and potential plenty. We understand that the Rev. R. G. Nichols and Brother Bill are identical.

In 1931, you will recall, handbills were distributed with the bold headline, "AUSTRALIANS, WAKE UP." These handbills gave a lot of figures about the national debt, the maturing loans, the decrease of national income, and the cost of Government. They told us that Australia could not borrow a penny abroad, but offered no explanation of why. They told us that prices for almost all primary products were down one-third, but offered no explanation why. They quoted sums of money in hundreds of millions, but offered no explanation of what money really is, where it comes from, or why there was a sudden shortage. A glance through the handbills suggests that the authors either did not know or found it more to their advantage not to say. We prefer to think they did not know.

At that time, the Rev. Mr. Nichols professed to be greatly alarmed because our national debt had reached £1,170,000,000, and felt called of God to hold public meetings about it, but he has been strangely silent while the debt has since been mounting up to £1,400,000,000 (Australian currency). He felt called of God to tell us that our standard of living must come down; that the Government had to balance its budget; that Sir Otto Niemeyer, "a much-maligned friend of Australia" had told us that if only we could set our house in order we would turn the corner safely; that we had to "repent of our stupendous national folly"; that we had "sold our birthright for a so-called standard of living"; that "Governments were grabbing all the money in the banks"; that because of this "there was none left for industrial enterprises"; that "if we saved our money it was being taken by hard-up Governments"; and that "in times of crisis a democracy is hopeless."

After this he went on to say that this is God's world—not ours; that we had to give God His chance of saving the nation; that the best way to restore the credit of Australia was for Britain to know that there were a hundred thousand Christian people absolutely pledged to save their country at all costs; that he and some others had heard the call of God and were ready to serve and sacrifice to the uttermost to redeem our country and maintain its honour.

Each crusader was required to sign a pledge containing the following: "In the power of God, I pledge myself to live simply, to act conscientiously, to work hard, to abjure all extravagance and luxury, to help those in need according to my ability, to pray daily, to honour God publicly, and to serve and sacrifice willingly for my country's good."

The offices of the movement were in the National Bank Chambers, and the handbills ended on this note: "If we are to take less, let us do it with a smile. God is good. He will not jail us nor forsake us. Our task is to be faithful."

The grandiloquent pledges and sanctimonious aspirations of the National Christian Crusaders, like those of the All for Australia League, the League of Sane Finance, and Colonel Campbell's New Guard, of course, went phut so soon as the real objective of the movement was achieved, but that is another story.

It was a strange thing, dear Mr. Nichols, that, although the Government of 1931 had been "grabbing all the money in the banks," the Government of 1932 obtained 28 millions from the same banks without difficulty. Stranger still was the exhortation, in the name of God, to take less and live more simply at the very time when God was giving more freely than ever and making it possible to have better living conditions all round. And what a funny way to give God His chance—by ripping out His crops and destroying His cattle! To cap it all, the height of absurdity was surely reached when a man who had no employment and, consequently, no income was asked to pledge himself to work hard and abjure extravagance, even while the things he needed were actually being destroyed on a large scale.

As it will probably be a few months before we feel the full effects of the new depression, we suggest that Mr. Nichols and Brother Bill might look into the simple facts of money now, so that if called upon to take part again in a campaign to hoodwink the people they will not betray God as they did in 1931, but instead will expose the forces which are preventing God's people from having access to God's marvelous bounty. — Yours faithfully,

THE NEW TIMES

THE NEW TIMES

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1937.

Banking Preserves; Japanese Poaching

War in the East has taken a more serious turn with Japan's attempted assumption of control of the International Settlement at Shanghai.

Property representing the foreign investments of overseas financiers had previously been endangered by wayward shells and bombs. And now the Japanese threaten to take control of the customs duties and taxes heretofore levied in favour of those financiers.

The origin of the inspired press campaign, which has raged against Japan since hostilities commenced, now becomes perfectly apparent. This campaign has been inspired not by disgust at the necessary inhumanity of war, nor yet by a sporting sympathy for the weaker combatant. It has had its origin solely in the bankers' desire to protect their foreign investments.

The Japanese action has uncovered an ugly picture of foreign financial interests which have for several years battered on to the Chinese, and mulcted them through custom duties and other forms of extortion. Interest on foreign loans has been secured by an assignment of customs duties and taxes. Now that the Japanese threaten to control these, the poor Chinaman becomes an object of international solicitude.

The question, which now arises, is whether we in Australia, and people in other parts of the world, are to be drawn into a major conflict over the protection of international loans to China.

The Australian citizen has no real interest in the matter. On acquaintance he would find himself able to enjoy a pot of beer with either a Japanese or a Chinese citizen. He can only deplore the present hostilities, without the least tendency towards partisan bias. Partisanship has to be instilled into him, and that is what the syndicated press has been busy trying to do for some months.

A major conflict is, however, unlikely for the reason that the money monopoly is unwilling to risk any such conflagration. Small wars and localised conflicts, like the present troubles in Spain and the East, are good for business, and carry no threat to the already

top-heavy world debt structure. Localised wars provide work for other nations, they kill off so-called "surplus" humanity, so helping to fit mankind into a world of artificial scarcity, and generally lead people to bear their own troubles with more stoicism (and more stupidity), when other people's troubles are more manifest and more terrible.

A half-starved man will think his troubles slight when he sees his friend already dead from starvation, and will perhaps cease to reflect on the fact that all along plenty had been available both for himself and his friend if they had but had the common sense to demand access to it. This tendency of mankind is regrettable, and is particularly in evidence in British communities, where it is generally accepted that to keep one's head bloody but unbowed is better than to use it for thinking.

A world conflagration will smash the present financial system to smithereens, a fact which is perfectly obvious from a study of the Great War, when England's public debt increased tenfold in the short space of four years.

Will the bankers precipitate a major struggle now over a few paltry loans to China — loans that, in any event, cost the lenders nothing, as those lenders have the privilege of creating financial credit out of nothing? We think not, and the military classes in Japan appear to share our belief. They are not afraid to pile incident upon incident, confident that the City of London and Wall Street will not allow anything more than copious verbal retorts at present. The scheme of action will be to bolster up China's capacity of resistance in an endeavour to exhaust Japan's physical and so-called "financial" resources. The situation most acceptable to international finance would be one in which both combatants eventually become exhausted and debt-ridden. Arms appear to be pouring into China from America and Russia, and it is not denied, through Hong Kong. Some thoughtful international handicapping is taking place, directed apparently by the desire of armament manufacturers to sell arms in a ready market, but ultimately by those whose control of credit enables them to determine who shall buy and sell, at what times, and in what quantities. In a conflict like the present, external credit accommodation is necessary before either Japan or China can import the necessary material and equipment for continued warfare. To show that the handicapping is not hopelessly one-sided, a very interesting news item recently disclosed that Japan's petroleum requirements are being supplied without let or hindrance from California, in spite of official American opposition. But perhaps this has only been dictated by the necessity of preventing Japan from helping herself to some of the international oil monopoly's Royal Dutch oil wells. Japan will need to establish more stringent control of her own financial system if she is to survive the form of attack now being made on her.

Japan's Monetary Technique

It has been patent for several years that Japan has been exporting goods below the actual cost of production, and as Japanese pro-

ducers have neither filed their schedules nor committed hari-kari on the Emperor's doorstep, the conclusion is inescapable that their loss has been made good by a draft on the public credit in some form or another.

It is well known that Japan's rulers and statesmen are not unfamiliar with those principles of monetary reform expounded after the Great War and known as Social Credit. The subjection of the credit system of Japan to the needs of the nation's policy, instead of the familiar spectacle of the nation being dragged along behind the chariot wheels of finance, coupled with the knowledge of the principles of reform above referred to, led many people in England and Australia to entertain high hopes that Japan would lead the world in the establishment of her monetary system on mathematically sound lines, and that she would make available to her citizens the goods and services and the security which their efforts had made possible.

It appears now that whatever might be the ultimate objective of Japan's ruling classes, the establishment of economic democracy and individual security within Japan are not numbered amongst their immediate objectives. They have shown that a nation's monetary system can be subjected to national policy, and that the so-called immutable laws of finance are not so immutable after all. They have demonstrated the fact that money is only a ticket system, a man-made device, to be governed and controlled by man, and not to be regarded as something of the order of a holy mystery. But here their unorthodoxy appears, unfortunately, to have ended. They appear, along with ruling classes elsewhere, to have been obsessed with the power complex, and to have been unwilling to grant to their own subjects individual freedom based on economic security under a system of decentralised control by consumers. Their objects have been merely to use the public credit to aid them in their scramble for world markets and to further their armament schemes.

There has been no logical attempt to ensure that the flow of incomes to Japanese nationals will suffice to buy the whole of Japanese production, that that income will go in sufficient quantities to the pocket of each citizen and will be taken back only as products pass over the counter for consumption.

The true purpose of a money system is to distribute production—that and nothing more.

When Japan's rulers pay heed to and apply these principles, we may throw up our hats and applaud. So far they are playing the game fundamentally in accord with Western rules, and if they but knew it, persistence with those rules will render Japan more vulnerable to financial attack, according to Western rules, and more open to explosion from within.

A sound money system, on the lines we have indicated, if adopted now, would assist Japan in her present struggle. At the same time such adoption would avoid for Japan the necessity, which has forced her to embark on the present struggle. She would no longer be under any compulsion to find outlets for her so-called "surplus" goods and "surplus" population.

A "surplus" population en-

dowed with effective monetary demand can quickly and very appropriately deal with "surplus" goods. It is only where demand is not backed by money that there is any problem of surplus at all. Lack of money is a domestic and internal matter, which can only be dealt with by domestic and internal action on the part of any one nation or any number of nations.

Brother Schacht

From Germany it is officially announced that Herr Schacht has resigned from his position as Minister for Economics within the Nazi Ministry, but that he has retained his position as governor of the Central Bank. It has been suggested that he was not convinced of the soundness of Hitler's four-year plan, and did not wish to be the Minister primarily responsible for carrying it into effect.

We have it on good authority from a competent observer recently returned from Germany that the Nazis, like the Japanese, have succeeded to a certain extent in subjugating finance to national policy. Our informant, a devout Nazi, was forced to admit under cross-examination that the national policy had been to provide work and to do things primarily necessary from a military point of view, such as the establishment of an industry for the production of oil from coal.

As in Japan, there was no thought of giving people adequate incomes, freedom and leisure to spend and enjoy as they pleased, and using the public credit for those purposes.

But if it were decided that the establishment of a certain industry was desirable, even though in an orthodox way of thinking that industry would prove uneconomic, then, in our informant's phrase, "money simply did not matter."

Brother Schacht, of the Learned Elders of Basle, a central banker of repute and classed A1 at the Bank of International Settlements, must have felt very uncomfortable at having to sponsor even this degree of unorthodoxy.

There is the further factor that bankers generally prefer to work back-stage, and not to occupy any position of public prominence or responsibility. Such positions they reserve for their marionettes, who become targets for both applause and brickbats.

In his position of real power at the Central Bank, Schacht may now profess the most patriotic

sentiments, but may insist on his regard for the immutable laws of economics. He has effectively escaped personal responsibility, and, in short, has passed the buck, if he should find it necessary to torpedo the four-year or any other plan.

Montagu Norman has not yet had to act officially as Chancellor of the British Exchequer, and Schacht wishes no more than to be able to scurry behind the scenes, as Montagu has been able to right through the piece.

His resignation is very informative, and links up with the rumour of the pending resignation of Sir Otto Niemeyer from the directorate of the Bank of England to become president of the Bank of International Settlements, or, as it has been called, the World Rationing and Means Test Centre.

Central Bankers will then be able to pass the buck to Sir Otto, who, of course, will be very difficult of access to the nationals of any country.

What is wanted is the awakening in the people of an appreciation that there is in some quarter personal responsibility for the farce of poverty, toil, insecurity, and lack of freedom in a world of potential plenty, leisure, security and freedom.

The persons responsible are the world's bankers, and they need to be reminded frequently and with insistence of their responsibility. And their puppets, the politicians, must be made by the electors to do some of the reminding, and to force their present financial masters to face up to their responsibility to put things right.

Financial Depressions

We have heard much talk of prosperity recently, though the average citizen has experienced none of it. We are now threatened with further depression, and are not comforted by the reassurances of the Coplands, Caseys, and other nitwits who said way back in 1930 that the last depression would be a mild one of short duration.

More than ever we appreciate the truth of John Hargrave's dictum that, under existing rules, financial prosperity is like a bubble. You have to keep blowing into it, or it will dwindle to nothing. If you do keep blowing into it, it will burst.

This, dear friends, is the thing commonly and glowingly referred to as sound finance.

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THE ABOLITION OF SLUMS

By D. OMINIE

In 1913 slum areas in Melbourne were investigated by a Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which reported, "The housing of the people in portions of the city was disgraceful." No steps were taken to remedy this evil state of affairs. For some years, of course, we were all too busy "making the world safe for Democracy." Then followed the years when we became "too prosperous" (at least, so we were told by the Premier's Planners). Apparently, our legislators were under the impression that the job of saving democracy had been so well done that the slums had ceased to be. If so, their complacency must have received a rude jolt when they read the recent report of the State Housing Investigation and Slum Abolition Board, which had inspected, within the five-mile radius of Melbourne, 577 miles of streets containing 35,779 dwellings, covering among other areas those reported on by the 1913 committee.

According to the *Argus* summary, the Board's report includes the following damning evidence:—

"The passage of 24 years has aggravated almost beyond description the appalling conditions of the same slum areas and of the inhabitants. The Board records its horror and amazement at the deplorable conditions under which thousands of men, women and children are compelled to exist. Hundreds of houses contain small rooms, low and water-stained ceilings, damp and decaying walls, leaking roofs and rotten floors. Many are badly lighted, rat and vermin infested, and without proper ventilation. Inadequate sunlight, dampness, and lack of drainage render these shelters (which are not worthy of the name of dwelling) veritable plague spots, and heavy toll is being taken of the health of the occupants, particularly of the women and children."

Reader, consider well those two pronouncements:—

1913.—"The housing of the people in portions of the metropolis is disgraceful."

1937.—"The passage of 24 years has aggravated almost beyond description the appalling conditions of the same slum areas and of the inhabitants."

And for months past Honest Joe Lyons and his equally honest fellow-Ministers have been assuring us that Australia was riding on a wave of unprecedented prosperity, that it had emerged from the shadows and reached the shining hilltops!

Let us, too, "record our horror and amazement at the deplorable conditions" related by the Board. And is there any good reason why our "horror and amazement" should not extend to the blatant politicians who, if their protestations of prosperity are true, are convicted of callous indifference to the miseries of "thousands of men, women and children," and who, if their assurances are *not* true, are guilty of deliberately misleading the people of the Commonwealth? It may be objected that "the position is one of extreme delicacy"; but if something is not done, and done speedily, it is time that Lyons and his kind were told to "keep out of the ring" and let someone else take a hand.

The Part of the State

Acting on the Board's report, the State Government has taken the first steps to remedy the slum position so far as the type of dwelling is concerned. But this is the least important part of the problem, necessary as it is. The following extract from the report is right to the point:—

"To attempt to solve the problem by building houses for sale to these citizens or to provide for them houses at a full economic rent was to proceed along lines doomed to failure. Rentals,

invariably exorbitant, had increased progressively with the demand by lower-paid workers for slum shelters. The slum problem had been and still was used as an instrument for the shameful exploitation of the poor."

A timely contribution to this aspect of the question was made by Archbishop Mannix recently. He said: "Better housing conditions were promised, and this was one step forward; but, if opportunities were not provided for families to live in reasonable comfort, the trouble would not be overcome. It was undoubtedly a good thing to provide suitable houses, but at the same time provision should be made for all who were willing and able to work. The goods of the world were intended for all, and not for the privileged few. There could not be real prosperity unless all shared in the benefits. Something should be done to divide the good things of the world more evenly. At present the selected few were getting far too much, and the rest of the people too little. . . . It could not be said that the man with a family of seven or eight was getting a fair deal. . . . The way to meet Communism and revolution was to endeavour to put an end to the inequitable distribution of wealth. . . . The Commonwealth was rich enough to provide for all. God intended them to live in reasonable comfort, and it was their own fault if they did not provide for such a condition of things."

The Board recommends the building of 1200 dwellings to re-house occupants of dwellings unfit for human habitation, and which are situated in pockets, rights-of-way, and blind streets; 300 to house families at present overcrowded; 500 for the decanting of persons displaced during demolition, rehousing, and re-planning; 3000 to house occupants of slum or sub-standard houses and persons displaced by re-planning of areas; and 500 in and near provincial towns. The State Government can contribute substantially in providing these houses, and can further contribute its share towards the major part of the problem by infusing into the community the money, which will be necessary to put the building scheme into practice. It can also implement the general welfare plan by controlling rents on a just basis. But, in a problem where family income is the controlling factor, for the purpose of securing that the new dwellings do not revert to slum conditions in a community where industrial development has made inevitable the unemployment of great numbers of people, the effective control of the situation lies within the sphere of that legislative body that has sovereign power in the realm of finance.

Details of Inspection

The following extracts from the *Argus* summary of the report are worth recording:—

"Of the Melbourne dwellings inspected by the Board, 7330, inhabited by 24,961 men, women and children were made the subject of a special house survey and social census. Information in detail was obtained about the internal condition of 6390 houses, the total family earnings of family units in 5742 houses, and the weekly rentals paid for 5594 houses.

"Of 3046 houses classed by the Board as unfit for human habitation, particulars of the total income of the family unit were obtained in 2526 cases. It was disclosed that the average total income of the family unit over these houses was £2/10/4 weekly, and that the average rental charged in all of these houses was 11/2 weekly, or 22.5 per cent of the average family income—that is, of all earning members of the family.

"The incomes mentioned were

insufficient to provide food and clothing for families. *The problem of the slum dwelling is essentially the problem of poverty.* The problem of the slum dwelling is largely the problem of the tenant who is unable, because of his low wage or the number of his dependants, to pay the full economic rent of a dwelling affording reasonable standards of comfort and decency."

Some Provincial Figures

Shepparton. —The housing problem is particularly acute. There are about 150 dwellings with two or more families in residence. Of these dwellings, 28 house at least 66 families, consisting of 184 adults and 81 children. Four families live in tin sheds on their own land in the borough, but, having bought the land, they could not finance the building of a home. There are 69 riverbank huts, which house 121 adults and 77 children.

"The medical staff of the Education Department examined some of the children in attendance at schools in Shepparton and Mildura, and found their general health and condition to be worse than those of children living in metropolitan slums."

Mildura. —River shack problem even more acute. Within the boundaries of Mildura Shire and City there are 225 dwellings of the river shack and humpy type, housing about 1000 people, of whom about 50 per cent, are children. As at Shepparton, the dwellings had been erected on river frontages, were mostly without floors, and were subject to periodic flooding. No regular system of sanitation had been provided either at Mildura or Shepparton.

A Federal Problem

"The problem of the slum dwelling is essentially the problem of poverty." This dictum of the Board should be taken to heart by every decent citizen, and they should see that our representatives in Parliament are not allowed to forget it. It is a correct diagnosis of the malady disfiguring our social life. Dr. John Dale, city health officer, said in a recent public address that he had found extraordinarily decent people living in slums through no fault of their own. It is their misfortune, but it is *someone's* fault; and all who are too complacent or too indolent to demand the cessation of the appalling conditions recorded by the Board are sharers in the guilt.

It is here that the part necessary for the Federal Parliament to play is indicated. That body is, by right conferred by the Constitution, the one and only body competent to control the financial situation. Instead of boldly asserting its right, which has been insolently filched by a private monopoly for its own profits, it has hitherto been content to humbly accept the doles that the monopoly is prepared to hand over; and by so doing it has merited the major guilt of the crime of allowing such shocking conditions as are recorded by the Board to besmirch the fair reputation of Australia. We are often assured that our credit is good. Is it not time that we reflected upon our *discredit*?

When the Duke of Gloucester visited our Centenary celebrations we showed him St. Kilda Road; we did not show him the slums where the "appalling conditions of 24 years ago had become aggravated almost beyond description." It is not recorded that he asked to see them, as a certain more notable member of the Royal family did on various occasions. We do not blame him for that; he had played no part in producing such plague spots. The sole blame is ours; at least, it will be if we do not give our righteous indignation an outlet by stirring our self-satisfied legislators out of their smug complacency and showing them that they must get on with the job—or get out.

AUNT BERTHA'S LETTER

My Dear Little Infants, —

I am so pleased to be able to write to you again. You will be pleased to hear that I have quite recovered from my illness; and I am never sick now except when I read the daily newspapers.

Don't you think it was just too noble of our dear Joe Lyons to refuse the increase in his remuneration as Prime Minister? When you come to think that our Joe is the head of nearly seven million people, and has the awful responsibility of helping in picking the gentlemen who will preside over the Boards which will administer the various departments that the politicians are supposed to look after, you will agree that he is grossly underpaid. It is true that the suggestion that his remuneration should be increased came from his own cobbles, and I suppose every one of them expects that he might be in Joe's place one of these days; but, still, it was very noble of our Joe to refuse it, especially as the suggestion would have to come before the House, and, although it was quite proper, there might have been a row.

Wasn't it just too terrible that our Mr. McEwen should have been abused by the Country Party because he took a portfolio? And I believe, dears, that he has been expelled from the Country Party. I do hope, dears, that the *Argus* will not abuse dear Mr. McEwen, and go on to suggest that his electorate is not now properly represented. You know, the *Argus* said those terrible things about Mr. Ian Macfarlan; but of course this is different.

Don't you think it just too lovely, little children, to think that you have a definite chance of escaping infantile paralysis, and may some day reach the age of twenty-one, when you will have a vote, which you will be able to exercise in favour of whichever politician promises the most; and, even better than that, your vote may be of such importance to your prospective member that you might even get paid for it? It is a beautiful thought. And, just think further; you might even join the members of

Parliament and make big money. As Mr. Wodehouse's character says, "Dem's de guys wid de big bank rolls." And, besides, as a member of any Parliament you wouldn't be liable for military service. Now, there, my little chicks, is something to work for.

But, oh, my dears, we live in troubled times! Fancy those low Japanese seizing the Customs in Shanghai! Don't you think it just too terrible that big English financial interests should be jeopardised like this? If only England's armament programme had been completed, I am sure that none of these incidents would have been allowed to pass.

Do you know, I rather thought that England's statesmen had let us down a bit, because, with Mussolini straddling the Mediterranean and Germany having France cold, I rather thought that we might well be left to the mercy of Japan? But you can't imagine how relieved I was to hear that the engines of the Larrakia were now working perfectly, so we can laugh at the might of the Japanese Navy. Besides, I heard from the Reverend Mr. Cain the other day that the British statesmen of today are the greatest ever. Isn't that just too sweet? Although it recalled to my mind that beautiful verse of the late Mr. G. K. Chesterton's when he said:

"And the men who govern England
In solemn conclave met;
Alas, alas for England—
They have no graves as yet."

I don't think that the two statements are inconsistent, because I think Mr. Cain might perhaps have meant that there was no one today more worthy of the Church's burial service than our present great English statesmen. The times are out of joint, little dears, and far be it from me to try and put them right. I am, however, sure, my little loves, that all the nasty scandals like the State Monier Pipe sale in Sydney and the crashing of the Air Force bombers will be smothered over to the satisfaction not only of your dear little selves, but also of.

Your very devoted
AUNT BERTHA.

TO A CAIRN TERRIER

(December 12, 1937.)

A year ago (how swift the flight of time!)
A man of high-born line, dismayed,
distraught,
Trapped by the clever craft of fair-tongued man
Into the place where he, "of his own choice,"
Must needs decide the future of his life,
Went forth to exile, like a gentleman.
Into the dark of a December night
Alone, and yet not quite alone, he went;
For, at his side, faithful through good and ill,
A loyal companion shared his nameless grief.
Ah, "Carnie," what a noble soul you are
When placed beside your master's erstwhile friends!
You licked his hand; they did but lick his boots.
You loved the man; they only loved the light
That shone, reflected, on their little selves.
And some there were, high priests in Mammon's halls,
Who called your friend "Prince Charming," and anon
"Ambassador" and "Salesman, Number One."
High ones within God's Temple, too, who named
The name of Christ, yet who, of once again

The Nazarene should come upon the earth,
Would fault their Lord as did the Pharisees,
For doing good upon the Sabbath day.
Would He might come and, as He did of old,
Stoop quietly down and trace upon the dust
The words that made the accusers, one by one,
Retire in shame and leave the woman there
Alone with Him, who bade her sin no more.
Yes, if He did, good doggie, so the "friends,"
"Advisers" and "protectors" of your friend
Would cringe in terror of His swift rebuke.
But, fear not, "Cairnie," for your master knows
A brighter day will come, and that full soon,
For ever now the fissures in the walls
Of Mammon's crazy structure are agape;
And, with the crash, will come the fall of all
The enemies of Justice, Truth and Right.
Did not the prophet hear the Lord God say:
"Lo, I will overturn and overturn
Again, until they come whose right it is?"

- "Snaffle."

A WARNING TO RETAILERS

Bankruptcies Will Increase Again Shortly Unless -----

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir,—

An item of news in the Melbourne *Argus* of Saturday last reminded me of the events, which preceded the Australian panic of the years 1930 and 1931, and of how the newspapers lull the community into a false sense of security. You remember what happened in 1929. Australia was refused accommodation on the London "Money Market"; prices of our export commodities fell; our "favourable" balance of trade disappeared; we had to send away two shiploads of produce for the price we had been accustomed to get for one shipload; we had to shut out imports to improve the favourable "balance" (which, of course, was not a balance at all!); our revenue from Customs decreased by several millions in a few months; banks restricted credit and called in overdrafts; our national income was cut to ribbons; bankruptcies increased alarmingly; the Arbitration Court cut wages; and the people at large had little money to spend. The same things are in process of happening again, and retailers are in for a particularly bad time within the next twelve or eighteen months unless they organise now to have it prevented. And they can have it prevented by the simple process of demanding from the Commonwealth Parliament that Australian resources shall be used for the benefit of the Australian people.

Money Market Again Closed

You saw in the press that our much - vaunted conversion loan which was placed on the London "Money Market" a week or two ago turned out to be a complete failure, and that more than 70 per cent, of it was left in the hands of the underwriters. Something similar took place in 1929.

Prices Again Falling

You have seen in the newspapers, and have given readers of the *New Times* significant particulars in proof, that the bottom is again falling out of overseas markets, and that within the next few months our exporters are going to get much lower returns than they have been receiving during the past five or six years. This means that unless we soon shut down on imports we will not have a "favourable" balance at all, and will be unable to pay our interest commitments abroad.

Misleading Headlines

The first open admission of this appeared in the *Argus* report referred to at the beginning of this letter, but it was given such headlines that its significance would probably be missed by the great bulk of those who may have read it. The headlines were as follows: "Balance of Trade," "£3,024,000 on 'Right' Side." But there has actually been a serious recession in the "favourable" balance, as the following extract will show:—"Preliminary returns of Australia's overseas trade to November 30 disclose a favourable balance of £3,024,000. For the corresponding period last year there was a favourable balance of £5,249,000 . . . Compared with last year, the value of exports had risen by £6,324,000, but the value of imports was greater

by £8,549,000." Now, it is mainly because of this increase in imports that the Federal revenue continues buoyant, and it will be obvious to those who have taken any interest in the subject that when the imports are reduced in order to maintain the "favourable" balance in London we will automatically have again what the great men refer to as "budget disequilibria." I am well aware that where a sovereign Government is concerned talk and alarm about budget disequilibria is altogether too silly, but the fact remains that unless the people themselves take a hand in the business these developments will again be put forward as "reasons" for further impositions on the community.

Credit Again Being Restricted

Every businessman knows that the banks are already tightening up on advances and overdrafts, and that things generally from the financial side are becoming more and more difficult. The very fact that applications for the current Commonwealth loan are said to be satisfactory is evidence that money is not being made available for industrial purposes. In addition to this, company reports, with very few exceptions, are showing smaller margins of profit, while the feverish clutching at reeds by certain well-known establishments is the clearest indication that they will probably not be able to remain afloat much longer. All this is the result of action deliberately taken to restore bank liquidity by reducing the quantity of money in circulation, which in simple language means reducing the liabilities of the banks to depositors, thus bringing about a safer relationship between advances and the amount of cash in the bank tills. It would, of course, be possible to increase the quantity of cash as was actually done by Sir Denison Miller in 1920, but in that case the banks would have less power over the community than they now enjoy, and that is not what they want.

Insanity of Taxpayers' Association

As if these portents were not sufficiently serious, we have also seen the Taxpayers' Association sending its representative abroad on a campaign to bring about less spending by the several Governments, and one is amazed that such insanity should come from a body supposed to be out for the welfare of the trading community. If Governments do spend less then bankruptcies must increase, and retailers will inevitably be among the very first to suffer. Mr. Editor, I feel the position is so serious that the Retail Traders' Associations in all States should be asked officially to receive a speaker on the subject, and I throw out the suggestion to any suitable bodies who are in the position to supply such speakers. It may not be amiss to send a speaker to the Taxpayers' Association as well.

Essentials of Solvency

In the meantime perhaps the traders could give some thought to their own position. They are the very last agent between the producer and the consumer, and when they are determining the price they shall charge for the goods they sell they total up the whole of their expenditure in obtaining and delivering the goods, plus three items for which they have not made payments at all—viz, interest, depreciation,

and profit. They collect these items before they distribute them. It is therefore obvious that a retailer can only continue in business so long as he is able to collect more from the community than he distributes to it; and it is also obvious that there are only two ways in which he can do this—either by other retailers going insolvent (i.e., spending more than they have been able to collect) or by Governments spending freely on public works. Spending by Governments is a far greater benefit to businessmen than most of them have yet realised, for the bulk of such spending is for jobs which are not producing things for sale, and consequently Governments do not attempt to get back in prices the money they spend on works. The money spent in this way is added to the National Debt, and it is added to the National Debt because it is obtained from the Banking System and carries a charge for interest. If it were obtained from a national authority there would be no occasion to add it to the National Debt, because in that case it would be issued as a credit. The national authority would simply be monetising the asset to be produced by the public works authority, and when the job was completed it would be recorded as a new asset, not as an additional interest-bearing debt.

People Must be Supplied With Money

The important point at the moment, however, is that Government spending is absolutely essential for the solvency of industry in general, and for the retail section of the community in particular, and that all traders' organisations should be fighting relentlessly against any persons or section of persons who are agitating for reduced expenditure of that description. Not only must Governments maintain their spending, but they must take steps to see that the people of Australia are regularly supplied with sufficient money to purchase the whole of their own production. If Australian people have sufficient Australian money to buy what is produced in Australia, then the retailers will not have to struggle as they do now to find purchasers, and there is no reason in the world why there should ever be any shortage of Australian money in Australia.

No Excuse Now

In 1929 we did not know sufficient about the subject to understand the implications of what was then taking place, but today we do understand, and if we allow another "financial emergency" to develop we will have no one to blame but ourselves. Parliament exists to give effect to the will of the people, and the members of Parliament are our paid servants, not our masters. Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution vests the Federal Parliament with full power over Australian finance, and that body must be held responsible for any financial inadequacies. Our production is increasing, and we can go on increasing it; and as this alone gives value to money, any steps designed to reduce the supply of money at such a time are criminal in character. Parliament must prevent any shortening of the money supplies.

There is an organisation known as the United Electors of Australia, and it has been established to bring all electors together for the purpose of putting true democracy into operation by placing Parliament under the definite control of the community. All retailers, in their own interests, should immediately get in touch with the U.E.A. office and cooperate in the movement to bring pressure on politicians to produce the results the people desire.

Money Mesmerism

Although the foregoing points out that retailers must organize themselves to prevent greater im-

CONCERNING AUSTRALIA

What Is to be Done?

By R POLLOCK

Great Britain has suddenly become conscious of her failure to populate her colonies.

At the annual Empire Migration and Development Conference opened by Sir George Broadbridge, Lord Mayor of London, at the Guildhall, the politicians from all the Dominions and Great Britain unanimously agreed that what the Dominions required to develop their almost limitless, undeveloped resources was labour and finance.

Owing to the failure of the present exploiting financial system, the Dominions at this early stage of their development have "surplus" population. If finance were available, the Dominions could immediately utilise the labour of another hundred millions of population for development.

The figures quoted by Lord Home at the conference reflect a deplorable state of affairs. In England 468 people are crowded to the square mile; in Australia a square mile accommodates two; in Canada, 3; in South Africa, 10; and in New Zealand, 15. Sir Hal Colebatch, representative of Western Australia, tells us that, apart from arid and desert lands, Australia could accommodate 30 millions to develop and populate this Commonwealth. The population capacity of South Africa and Canada, more fertile lands than Australia, is beyond computation.

Mr. Savage, of New Zealand said they did not want immigrants without finance merely to relieve Great Britain of surplus population. Mr. Savage might have suggested that as each person on the dole costs Great Britain the equivalent of the annual income from an investment of £2000 each year, the capitalised cost of £2000 for a dole could relieve the British ratepayer, while this sum credited to each immigrant would be sufficient capital per head to develop their quota of colonial resources free of debt. This policy could also defend and enrich Great Britain, the Dominions, and the Empire as a whole.

* * *

The population and development problem of the Dominions has another serious aspect. With the present decline of the birth rate in the overseas Dominions, it is evident that very soon the colonies will be unable to renew their present populations. The birth rate in Australia in 1911 was 27 per thousand; in 1934 it had dropped to 17 per thousand. It is clear with this modern civilisation that Dominion development is impossible without a scientific monetary system. The real rulers today are not those who hold political office, but irresponsible, exploiting financial corporations with power to create and destroy credit and money when it suits their private interests.

International and national relations are being constantly poisoned by the financial stresses caused by the exploitations of the various national and international groups who control their politicians and their press, enabling them to utilise their national diplomatic, naval and military forces to protect and defend their private home and foreign investments, regardless of the cost of human life, public debts, world wars, revolutions

mediate disabilities in trade (living as we are under a financial swindle), it cannot be too strongly emphasised that they must go even further and study the mesmerism called money — what money is made of and who makes it. Until they have done that they must remain to a large extent at the mercy of the mesmerisers.

Yours faithfully,

BRUCE H. BROWN.
Melbourne, December 5, 1937

and depressions they engender with their policy of jungle finance.

These private financial corporations create interest-bearing public debts or bonds of astronomical dimensions, for which they take private ownership and charge annual interest payments from the public taxation that has been brought about by their own private exploitations for profit at home and abroad.

The urgency of the task of preventing disaster from day to day in national and international politics by maldistribution of population has been caused by the policy of financial exploitation. Emigration, colonies, land settlement, primary production, raw materials and their distribution for the development of the earth's surface are obviously physical problems easily solved. It is only the financial problem that awaits solution. Money is only a vehicle or medium for exchange of goods and services, and must be scientifically operated, not exploited, if civilisation is to continue.

The reduction and abolition of interest means the end of the dominance of money, and the difficulty of removing this obstruction is the powerful opposition of the press and the politician now under the control of finance.

Exploitation of man by man through the command of money, the vehicle, is maintained by the fear of unemployment and poverty now engendered by the inherent instability of the present financial exploitation. Today, when purchasing power is most needed by the people to purchase a glutted market of goods and services, money is made scarce by unemployment, while credits previously issued are called up or withdrawn, causing the destruction of those goods and services, which would reduce and prevent poverty.

Could any money system be more insane that leads inevitably to the bankruptcy of the nations and civilisation?

The end of exploitation is the beginning of freedom. Men and nations must be made free from material and money worries to permit them to do real creative work. The end of the rule of money implies the end of domination of human life and thought by the business type of mind, the least fitted to rule. The business type of mind is acquisitive and barbaric, not creative; its only objective is a private profit at all costs, regardless of the common weal.

When this business exploiting policy is replaced by a scientific one, then only can the New Statesmen become spiritually and creatively active. Politics then can exist in an atmosphere of realism and not disaster. Today Parliament only rules by permission of big business, which is merely finance.

No system, whether monetary economic, social, or political, can make people good and happy in spite of themselves, but a bad system can make good people unhappy, and can fail to provide opportunities for creative activity and a full life. The most that a good economic or political system can achieve is to establish conditions under which human nature will have a chance to live decently freely, wisely and well.

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THE MACHINES TALK

(From "The Voice of the People.")

1st Machine: Well, I always thought these Men were Mugs!

2nd Machine: How's that?

1st Machine: Why, buckle-me-pistons! —aren't We supposed to SAVE labour—don't They call Us labour-saving machinery? Pssss-phuutt! They make me backfire!

2nd Machine: No need to splatter me with hot oil just because you think Men are Mugs—

1st Machine: *Homo sapiens* they call Themselves — Man endowed with wisdom! Hobo sapheads, I call 'em!

2nd Machine: Why, what's blowing your safety valve now?

1st Machine: Don't They invent Us to save Them WORK?

2nd Machine: Well, *We do* save 'em Work, don't We?

1st Machine: Certainly, We do—so why do They go around shouting for Work, looking for jobs, saying *We've* done 'em out of Honest - Labour - by - the-Sweat-of-Their Brows—yes, and even Making Work for Themselves! —don't They want Us to do Their Work—do They *want* to toil? If so, why did They start inventing, and making, and using Us? —Answer me that! Psss-phutt! —clank-dank!

2nd Machine: No need to get so excited! You'll bust your boiler if you're not careful. As for Men, I never bother me flywheel about Them. They're nothing to do with Us.

1st Machine: Nothing to do with Us! —why, We shouldn't be here if They hadn't invented Us!

2nd Machine: Wa-a-l, why worry? We're here, aren't We? What's it matter to Us if the Poor Ginks like doin' Work that We could do far quicker and better?

1st Machine: It matters a great deal. Their civilisation depends upon Us. Do you want Their civilisation to fail? Do you want to be SCRAPPED?

2nd Machine: Oh, there's no fear of that.

1st Machine: Isn't there? Just read this from one of Their printed sheets of wood pulp, called *The Canadian Machinery and Manufacturing News*, dated March 17, 1932. It says: "Symbol of the return to 'hand labour' to take place of mechanical agencies, a toy steam shovel was buried ceremoniously on February 22, near the Canadian National Railway tracks in Montreal. The Quebec Government's future policy, according to a news report of the event, will be to engage manual labourers and scrap machinery, wherever advisable, to provide more employment. A group of public officials and about 100 cheering workmen took part in the 'burial ceremony.' "

2nd Machine: Not really—no.

1st Machine: Then why don't They alter the Rule, and get the Cash to buy the Food to get the Strength to Enjoy Life? Psss-phutt! They're loopy!

2nd Machine: Well, I'm told that some of Them are beginning to see that.

1st Machine: You'd think it was easy enough to see. It only needs Common Sense to see a thing like that.

"WHAT I THINK OF THE CHURCHES TODAY"

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

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2nd Machine: Well, no; I wouldn't say *that* exactly. When you come to think of it, it's only now and then They manage to throw up a Mental Mechanism that works a bit better than the average—such as Arkwright, Watt, Crompton, Cartwright. Those are the men who started inventing and improving Us Power - Driven Labour-saving Machines. But the rest of Them always said, "It can't be done." And when it *was* done they always said, "It's only a toy—it'll never be any real use—"

1st Machine: Or else They said it was "wicked" to try to do such things, and that if human beings had been meant to use machinery They'd have been born with crank shafts and wheels ----

2nd Machine: Yes, Poor Things, They're usually scared stiff of any New Invention.

1st Machine: You'd think They'd have enough sense to see that They could quite easily place most of the Toil upon Our Backs, and enjoy Their Leisure?

2nd Machine: You would think so, but you see the fact is, if They can't get Work, They can't get Money.

1st Machine: But this Money that They're all so bothered about — They don't eat it, They don't wear it, it's no use for keeping out the rain. Its just scraps of printed-paper.

2nd Machine: Just so—You've said it. But They've made a Rule that They mustn't eat food, or wear clothes, or have a roof over Their heads, if They haven't first of all WORKED HARD to get those scraps of paper with which to buy the things They need. "Honest Work" is what They call it—and They have been known to starve to death because They could not get Honest Work, in spite of the fact that there was Plenty of Everything for all of Them, and Their Work (Honest or Dishonest) wasn't needed.

1st Machine: Because WE did it for Them?

2nd Machine: That's it. We're the Labour-Savers. We put 'em out of Work.

1st Machine: Well, isn't that what They want? They surely don't *want* to grub and drudge and toil and toil forever and ever?

2nd Machine: No, but you see They must, Poor Creatures, because of the RULE. As one of Them has put it: "We go to Work to get the Cash to buy the Food to get the Strength to go to Work to get the Cash . . ." and so on, to the end of Their days.

1st Machine: And They don't want to?

2nd Machine: Not really—no.

1st Machine: Then why don't They alter the Rule, and get the Cash to buy the Food to get the Strength to Enjoy Life? Psss-phutt! They're loopy!

2nd Machine: Well, I'm told that some of Them are beginning to see that.

1st Machine: You'd think it was easy enough to see. It only needs Common Sense to see a thing like that.

2nd Machine: True enough. But the Stupid Rule—"No Work, No Money; No Money, No Food"—had been accepted long, long, before We were invented, during an Age of Scarcity, when Men had to Toil by Hand Labour or Starve. Now They begin to see (not very clearly, yet, it's true) that to have Machines and still scramble for Work is clean crazy.

1st Machine: "You don't keep a dog and bark yourself." That's one of Their sayings, I think. And you tell me They've begun to do a bit of Methodical Thinking about Us and this problem of Work?

2nd Machine: Better than that. I hear They've actually started in to try to get the Power to change the Rule.

1st Machine: My jumping gearbox! Is that a fact? — Where?

2nd Machine: Well, I'm told the

people of Alberta, Canada, have made up their minds to change the Rule, so that they'll always have enough money power to buy the things they need, instead of putting up with poverty in the midst of plenty.

1st Machine: That sounds like Common Sense! But you say the Alberta people have started in to TRY to get the Power to do this. Surely no one's attempting to stop them from changing such a Stupid Rule?

2nd Machine: Yes, the people who call the Stupid Rule "Sound Finance." They're doing all they can to stop it.

1st Machine: But who are they?

2nd Machine: They're called Bankers.

1st Machine: Are these Bankers the Government of Alberta, then?

2nd Machine: They seem to think they are.

1st Machine: Were they elected to govern by the people of Alberta?

2nd Machine: No, sir. But the Bankers are the Hidden Government behind *all* Governments, because they hold the purse strings. They've got a monopoly of Money-Power, and even Governments have to go to the Bankers' Combine and beg for loans to pay their debts.

1st Machine: That's borrowing?

2nd Machine: Sure, it is.

1st Machine: Doesn't everyone know you can't borrow yourself out of debt?

2nd Machine: The people of Alberta seem to.

1st Machine: And don't these "Sound Finance" Men know it?

2nd Machine: Sure, they do.

1st Machine: Well, so what?

2nd Machine: Why, they don't *want* people to stop trying to borrow themselves out of debt.

1st Machine: Why not?

2nd Machine: Because then the "Sound Finance" Men couldn't make their money by keeping other people short of money.

1st Machine: And what about Alberta? How are they doing?

2nd Machine: It's a set-to fight between the People of Alberta and the Bankers.

1st Machine: Between Common Sense and Sheer Stupidity?

2nd Machine: Just exactly that.

1st Machine: Who's gonna win?

2nd Machine: Common Sense, in the end.

1st Machine: That'll make all the rest of the Human Race look pretty silly, when the Albertans start using Common Sense instead of that Stupid Rule about No-Money-No-Food?

2nd Machine: It will.

1st Machine: What'll happen?

2nd Machine: They'll *all* start using Common Sense, once They see it works—just as They all started using steam and electricity, and aeroplanes, and every other invention.

1st Machine: They'll have to hurry, or They'll have the Next Great War smashing Them up. There won't be much chance for Common Sense once They start that Bloody Nonsense.

2nd Machine: You're right.

1st Machine: I propose we give Three Big Hoots on the Factory Siren for the People of Alberta in their Fight for Common Sense-----

2nd Machine: Look up, here comes the Boss!

1st Machine: Isn't he a Common Sense Man?

2nd Machine: He would be, but he has to work to the Stupid Rule.

1st Machine: But he knows it's stupid?

2nd Machine: Sssh! —bang-bang—Sssh!—clink-clank!

1st Machine: Psss—s—phtt-phtt! . . .

2nd Machine: Clink-clank. . . Phtt-phtt! . . .

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LETTER TO EDITOR

MR. BROWN AND PROFESSOR COPLAND

Mr. Bruce Brown is to be commended both for the "paper" he set Professor Copland in the *New Times* of 3rd instant and for the help he volunteered in regard to the answers. It is doubtful if the Professor himself ever treated an examinee so generously. Inspired by Mr. Brown's example, I would like to offer a few comments for consideration by both parties.

Would the following be an improvement on Mr. Brown's statement of the true functions of money?

- a. To facilitate the exchange of goods and services in a community to the limits set by either capacity or desire.
- b. To serve as a measure of value.
- c. To simplify saving.

I would urge both Mr. Brown and the Professor to give this somewhat fuller statement their closest attention, for this matter of the rightful functions of money is fundamental. Until agreement is achieved there, further discussion is futile.

Mr. Brown's second question asks, "What should determine the amount of money in existence?" His view is that the amount should be determined by the wealth of the country in goods combined with the capacity of the country to produce more goods as, when and where required. He speaks of a "financial fund equivalent to the capital value of the community's assets and productivity." His meaning is not clear to me; but, even if the fault here is mine, would it not be simpler to say that the supply should be sufficient to enable money to perform its true functions? Why monetise this or that? Why not have just the amount that will do the job money should do, and have done with it? Mr. Brown suggests, further, that money should be directed to achieve the "maximum distribution." But he will revise this if he accepts the above statement of functions.

Mr. Brown's services to the cause of monetary reform are recognised and appreciated. May the Professor favour him with a complete set of answers, and may the Professor do full justice to the training that Mr. Brown and I would lavish on him.

C. ELLIS.

97 Sackville-street, Kew.



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MELBOURNE (Cont.)

(Continued from page 3.)

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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

"What can I do to help?"

So many persons ask that question. They are genuinely concerned to do something to rectify the awful state of existing things.

"If I had time; if I were only a public speaker; if I had money," seem to be the stumbling blocks.

Take the word "genuine" and apply it to yourself. If it fits, you will have no difficulty in finding plenty to do—perhaps not to your satisfaction; but, then, are we not all restricted in what we would like to accomplish?

All of us can, in every-day conversation, convey the simple idea of the Electoral Campaign to others. Without doubt, this is the surest method of quickly spreading the idea throughout the community; and, really, this is the sum total of our objective. The idea is so simple, so free of complications and confusing technical details, that, once implanted, it matures and scatters its seeds for further multiplication. And an enlightened community will exercise its constitutional right to instruct Parliament to bring into effect the common wish that poverty be abolished from this land of abundance.

Then there is the Home Meeting. Our friends are our personal concern. It is our responsibility to gather them together and provide them with the opportunity of having the Campaign explained to them. Time is tick-

SAVAGE—BUT WOULD NOT TAKE A LYONS' SHARE.

Auckland (N.Z.), Tuesday. The Prime Minister (Mr. Savage) has returned more than £1200 of the sum voted for his expenses to London for the Coronation visit.

It is recorded in the Estimates before Parliament, which contain a credit item of that amount.

—"Herald," Dec. 7.

ing away precious moments that measure so much unnecessary anguish and pain. Months may pass without opportunity of meeting some of your friends. Call them together at the earliest possible moment; who can tell what degree of usefulness may eventuate from your Home Meeting? Many of us are members of organisations, clubs, lodges, etc. We can use our influence to obtain a speaker from the U.E.A., to address the bodies to which we belong.

As friends and acquaintances become interested, form them into a group. Meet regularly, and you will find that, in association, activities will increase.

These are a few suggestions that can be carried out free from the provisions of the "ifs." It is well to have a supply of Demand forms on hand, so as to complete the work as it progresses. The Demand form is the instrument that makes the Campaign effective without waiting for elections. In effect, it is a ballot paper. When the sitting member is informed of the number of forms signed, he will know what action to take if he wishes to retain his seat.

Another helpful action, although coming within the provisions of an "if," is contributing to the funds of the Movement. Still, like the tiny grains of sand making the seashore, one's mite, in combination with others, becomes a power for propaganda that will send the Demand for the Abolition of Poverty sounding throughout the land, to centre, with unmistakable clarity, in the House of Parliament.

Head office of the U.E.A.: McEwan House, 343 Little Col-

lins-street, Melbourne. Phone, MU 2834.

Eric Butler has packed so much action into the last week that it would take a lot of space to outline all his activities. Leaving Melbourne on Saturday, November 27, on his pushbike, he covered over 300 miles, and has arranged for a series of meetings through Gippsland for the New Year. However, would all those places that Eric did not visit get in touch with headquarters immediately, so that meetings can be organised? Country enthusiasts will have to realise that if they want this Campaign to be put on

33 PERCENT DEFECTIVE

A survey has shown that nearly one-third of the school-children in New South Wales are physically defective!

So the Government proposes to introduce physical jerks and lectures on proper diet.

Excellent, but what will the people use for money to buy the "proper diet" with?

the map in Victoria, they will have to offer co-operation with Eric, as he is not superhuman.

Hume Vale Meeting —After arriving back from Gippsland, Eric travelled north to Hume Vale and addressed a very good meeting. This is new territory, and no doubt will give good results in the very near future. After a few days in the city, Eric has again left for Gippsland, where he will be doing preliminary work for next year. So determined is he that this Campaign will be put on the map that he has taken a job in order to keep himself while he is opening up new territory. There is no doubt that this Campaign would quickly become a much greater force if we had a few more enthusiasts with the courage and enthusiasm of this youth.

Write to Your Member—Parliamentarians are talking about increasing their salaries. There was no hint of the intention during the election campaign. This savours of sharp practice, don't you think? Write to your member and tell him you don't approve of the method adopted to secure an increase in salary. Ask him if he conscientiously believes he is entitled to the remuneration he is receiving in view of the service he is rendering the community; how many days was he in attendance during the life of last Parliament; did he contribute anything of a constructive and original nature, apart from voting as instructed; if he had absented himself altogether, would it have amounted to any consequence; taking these little details into consideration, does he think the arrangement a fair deal? You might add that you do not object to him receiving a just and rich reward, provided that he carries out the duties you pay him to undertake, which are to re-present your wishes in Parliament and to see that they are brought into effect. He may plead that you have not given him explicit instructions (and, shame on us, that's where he scores a bull's-eye), but you can assert that you have placed trust in him and expect that he is possessed with perception. You can suggest that he need have no apprehension, if he makes it his constant advocacy in Parliament that it give its whole attention to arranging that the wealth of the country be made available to its citizens to the limit of their consuming requirements.

The Idea Spreads — The idea spreads that Parliament is employed by the electors to obtain results desired by the majority of electors, that Parliament is clothed with certain authority for that reason only, and that the members of Parliament should

therefore be held personally responsible by their respective constituents (employers).

That this conception of democracy should begin to manifest itself within political party organisations is highly significant. We have just seen two Victorian U.A.P. politicians (Messrs. Macfarlan and Holden) fall out with the particular party junta to which they have been expected to bend the knee, and declare that their responsibility is to their electors only.

That the foregoing instance is neither isolated, sporadic, nor a symptom relating to the U.A.P. organisation only, the following report from the *Kew Advertiser* of December 2 bears witness:—

"At a meeting of the Kew branch of the Australian Labor Party on November 24, 1937, a resolution was unanimously carried strongly endorsing the action of the Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association in directing the attention of the Government to the similarity of present conditions with those prevailing in 1929 at the beginning of the depression. The attitude of the Public Service Association was expressed in a motion reading as follows:

"1. That the branch council be requested to have the Government's attention immediately directed to the following: (i.) The ominous developments on the Stock Exchanges in New York and London. (ii.) The similarity of these developments with the events which preceded the so-called 'depression' or 1929-30, but which in fact was an arbitrarily imposed condition of financial stringency. (iii.) The fact that a similar attempt to impose a financial stringency in the year 1920 was prevented by the action of the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank, who, between June and December of that year, issued an additional £23,000,000. (iv.) The admissions in the report of the Monetary and Banking Commission that by similar methods

TRIBUTE FROM YOU

A very general and rough calculation will show that the average man in Australia is paying for the maintenance of government at the rate of 8/- out of every pound he receives; that the Government itself is paying out of that 8/- some 5/- in interest charges on its own debt, leaving 3/- for the carrying on of public services.

Let us put this in another way: Each man in Australia is forced to work over four months per year for his own Government — and most of this work goes to the banks—before he may do anything for himself and his family.

the Commonwealth Bank could have prevented the financial stringency of 1930, and thus avoided the necessity for cuts in salaries, wages, pensions, etc.

"2. That in these circumstances the members of the Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association, as citizens of Australia, ask the Federal Government for assurance that there will be no repetition in this country of similar conditions of financial stringency."

"It was considered by the members of the party that in the event of present tendencies being allowed to develop into another depression, the Federal Parliamentary members should be held personally responsible for it, as the Federal Parliament alone is vested with authority to control Australian finance in the interests of the Australian people."

Home Meeting at Kew. -

Mr. L. C. Hargraves extends a cordial invitation to persons interested to attend a meeting in his home 433 Bakers Road, Key, on Wednesday evening, December 15, about 8 o'clock.

Mr. Bruce Brown will deliver the address.

Bridge Club. — The Home Meeting, held at 328 Chapel Street, Prahran, on Tuesday evening resolved itself into a friendly, all-round discussion, when questions

YOU CANT!

You live in a free, democratic, and apparently enlightened country, but YOU CAN'T SELL THE EGGS FROM YOUR OWN FOWLS!

One man recently served a gaol sentence for doing just that.

Regulations, of which this country has too many, say that YOU CAN'T.

"Truth" proposes each week to remind you of some of the stupid, irksome restrictions to which you must submit forever, unless you make sufficient outcry. THEY'LL STAGGER YOU.

—Sydney "Truth."

were received and answered, and a clarity of understanding arrived at. Immediate action to secure funds for propaganda work and Head Offices expenses was recognised. With that purpose in view, and also to provide a means of getting supporters into closer association,

PENSIONERS PROBE FOR FINANCIAL FACTS

That old age and invalid pensioners are starting to examine with a critical eye the serpent that bites them is indicated by the following contribution, headed "Our National Debt," printed in *The Pensioner* (official organ of the Australian Pensioners' League), preceded by an article debating the causes of informal voting, and suggesting that, while the majority of informal votes might be attributable to lack of intelligence, many were due to a feeling that the electors are not getting their money's worth, in the shape of results, from the politicians they employ. We reproduce in full, without criticism or further comment:—

"The foregoing article would suggest that some electors have not sufficient intelligence to cast a proper vote, but sometimes people who cannot count 10 (vide press report of an after-dinner speech) as alleged, have a habit of thinking even if they cannot count 10. Anyhow, some of these unfortunate people can read, and if what they read in the press is correct, then they will find that for two months of the present year the National Debt has increased by over £2,000,000, and during the last two years an added £110,000,000, together with previous obligations, making a total of £500,000,000 since the Great War. Mr. Casey has stated that since the conclusion of the war £283,000,000 has been paid in interest only on our national debts. A person, I am sure, would be pardoned if he asked a few pertinent questions regarding the National Debt, and the interest being permanently paid thereon, and this is what he would like to know. Firstly, one has been given to understand that the huge amount borrowed on the security of Australia's assets and the interest paid to lenders per year runs into millions, and this amount has to be met at a stated time. Lenders grow fat on the interest paid them, and doubtless more is borrowed to pay the interest on unpaid interest, thus making compound interest. What the 'man in the street' would like to know is if the borrowed money is secured by the wealth of Australia's assets, and if so, why borrow money and pay interest on it when the Commonwealth could print sufficient notes on the same security without interest and no restricted times for repayment? It has been said that such a course would be inflation, or, as it has previously been described, fiduciary, but if that be so,

it was decided to put in motion a series of bridge parties, the preliminary to take place in the U.E.A. Rooms, 5th Floor, McEwan House, on Monday, December 13, at 8 p.m., where six tables will be arranged; supper provided. A charge of 1/6 per player will be made. *Come along!* If notice for the first gathering is too short, send in your name so that provision can be made for extra tables on following evenings. Further consideration will be given the idea on Monday night. It is thought that supporters could form clubs in their own suburbs or country centres, and action in this direction would be greatly appreciated.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Broadcasting. —The last broadcast for the season was given over Station 5KA on December 6, when Mr. and Mrs. Dodd discussed "A Strange Campaign." In closing this series of broadcasts, we wish to thank all those loyal supporters who by their subscriptions have made this valuable method of publicity possible. The message of freedom from economic bondage that the E.C. tells of has been heard in thousands of homes with the result that new followers have been drawn to our banner and many more are awaiting individual contact to arouse them to action in the fight for freedom.

where do we stand on our present note issue? At one time we were promised that on demand we would receive in return for Treasury notes gold. On account of the exchange rate arrived at by the Bank of England and England's financiers today, we can obtain two £1 notes of paper for one gold sovereign. What the writer fails to see is why the Commonwealth should pay colossal sums in yearly interest when the Commonwealth has sufficient security for all money needed to carry on its work. If this security is good enough for the money-lenders, then I maintain we should provide and produce our own notes, with the same security but with the decided advantage of paying no interest, or being forced to float further loans to pay interest on the existing loans."

Like other modern institutions, banking only became really important during the last hundred years or so; quite recently—in the last fifty years—it has become of such supreme importance by the mastery it has got over the whole commonwealth that everybody ought to try to understand its character.

—Hilaire Belloc.

* * *
*Sing a song of plenty,
A planet full of fools;
Everybody starving
By sound financial rules.*

—Eimar O'Duffy.

COMMON SENSE TELLS US—

That the Earth belongs to the Living.

* * *
That Poverty in the midst of Plenty is a Tragic Absurdity that no Free Community will Tolerate Indefinitely.

* * *
That you cannot Get what you Want if you don't KNOW what it is.

* * *
That what Everyone wants is Economic Freedom and Security.

* * *
That Everyone could have it-NOW.

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