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NEWSAGENTS

# THE NEW TIMES

WHAT  
SENATOR PAYNE  
CONCEALED  
  
(See Page 3)

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

Vol.4. No. 6

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1938.

Every Friday, 3d

# BANKERS THREATEN OUR WATER SERVICES

## Sir J. Stamp Opposes Real Prosperity

## Japan States Her Case

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# Water Flows Like Money

We are told that Melbourne has the finest water supply in the world. On a recent hot day Melbourne residents used over 150 million gallons of water. There is enough water left in storage to supply it at this rate for one hundred consecutive days without replenishment, and then some. The four great reservoirs, which store Melbourne's supply, have been constructed with considerable foresight, and have ample holding capacity for Melbourne's needs, at any rate, for some years to come.

The system is controlled by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works. This body, of course, cannot work without money. Its procedure has been to borrow money for capital works, and to charge rates to occupiers of land to cover the cost of service of loans and supply of water. The money has been borrowed to a small extent from private savings, but mainly from large financial institutions, such as life insurance companies, whose funds, in effect, are pooled savings. The financing of the construction of these new assets has therefore offended against the first principle of sane finance—namely, that new assets should be represented by new money. Saved money represents money which has already come out to people through industry, and which has left a trail of cost behind it. If it is used for further production, there is no increase of money, but there is an increase of cost. It is true that some of the cost may not have to be met immediately, but the day of reckoning, nevertheless, arrives eventually.

When the Silvan Dam was built, for example, the workmen engaged spent their wages immediately to keep themselves and their dependants in food, clothing and so on. That money went to cancellation in repayment of bank loans or to replacement of producers' capital. In either case, it was effectively withdrawn from the consumption market after it had performed its function of taking one lot of goods and services off the consumption market and discharging one set of costs.

It did not stay in existence to meet the costs of the Silvan Dam.

The Board of Works is, nevertheless, faced "with the necessity of getting out of the pockets of citizens by way of rate charges a sufficient sum of money to pay interest and depreciation charges on the original construction of the dam.

It can do this only by getting hold of money distributed by industry from time to time in respect of new production.

The new products are then left unrepresented by money, and so the vicious circle goes on.

That the Board has so far been able to get in its rates fairly well is a tribute to the fact that Parliament has placed a very good pistol in the Board's hands to point at occupiers' heads. They must pay their rates or have their properties charged with those rates. In the circumstances, their unsecured creditors have to wait while the Board is paid.

### Distribution of Water

This system of finance cannot be regarded as satisfactory from the point of view either of the citizen or of the community. The Board is, however, fortunate in having been able to get enough money to construct some very fine dams. It is quite conceivable that the financial system may have restricted the Board's activities even in this respect.

But it is not sufficient to be able to build good dams. The dams are anything from twenty to forty miles distant from Melbourne.

It is necessary to get the water to consumers, and this involves a system of pipes and smaller reservoirs.

Early in the depression the Board's revenue was seriously depleted through a fall in rating values, and a difficulty in getting rates in quickly. It was impossible, in view of the "economy" being exercised, to get sufficient money to maintain effectively existing dams, reticulation and sewerage systems, let alone improve and extend them. No loan funds were available.

The Board's responsible officers had to go so far as to issue a warning that if further money could not be obtained, they would no longer be able to guarantee the safety of Melbourne's water supply and sewerage.

If these essential services are allowed to get out of hand, there are always a number of "wogs" skulking round ready to assume plague proportions and cause great loss of life. Typhus, typhoid and so on are kept in check by sanitation, and sanitation alone.

The Board's plea for more money was only partly heeded. Our sewerage system has so far not suffered a major breakdown, though there are still many unsewered districts in the outer parts of our suburbs. It is lack of money, alone which prevents the sewerage of these districts. The plans and specifications have been drawn years ago. Men, materials and so on are available in plenty.

### The Flow Dwindles

But there are not wanting signs of a serious breakdown in the matter of bringing water to Melbourne consumers. Turn your tap on between the hours of five and nine on any hot evening and the merest dribble of water comes through. It is small consolation that the pressure gets fine about midnight. We are informed by the engineer of a large factory that he recently wished to have a three-inch main installed to supply a new factory. The Board very apologetically told him that his main could be two inches only. There was plenty of water in the reservoirs, but it could not be got down fast enough to meet demands.

Melbourne's buildings have increased vastly in number over the past few years. She relies on the same old pipes to bring her water down.

These pipes are inadequate, and new pipes "cost money." The Board can't get the money, and if it does, we shall all be hit to leg by increased rates.

### The Coliban System

Water supply and storage throughout the rest of the State of Victoria is controlled by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Its works also have been financed through loan funds. The millions of debt-money laid out on the State's weirs, dams, reservoirs, head works, channels, etc., have long since disappeared.

The debt has remained. Like the Board, the Commission has been able to achieve great things when funds have been made available. But its activities have been largely hamstrung through lack of funds. It has been unable either to construct the works, which it wishes to construct, and knows to be necessary, or to maintain property works already constructed.

The Coliban system, about which there is at present such a commotion, provides a striking example. Initiated in 1865 to serve the mining districts of Bendigo and Castlemaine, the storage basins near Kyneton and Malmesbury were completed in substantially their present form many years before the close of last century. The needs of the

district have since advanced by leaps and bounds, and producers in the rural districts have demonstrated conclusively how fruitful the earth can be under irrigation. In the urban sphere, Bendigo and Castlemaine now have sewerage systems. The Coliban storage, however, has not been increased. The original channels were just ditches dug in the earth, and it is admitted by responsible authorities that such channels are only thirty per cent, efficient. In other words, seventy per cent, of the water sent along them is lost through seepage and evaporation. In recent years some concreting of channels has taken place, but this process is not yet half complete.

### Recurring Droughts

In normal years there is ample water to fill the Coliban storage basins to overflowing. In those years the storage could be increased from the present capacity of about 40,000 acre feet to a capacity of at least 55,000 acre feet. This would always leave a substantial reserve in hand.

The district has experienced two major droughts within a quarter of a century. In 1914, and again this year, rainfall in the catchment area has been slight. At the time of writing it is doubtful whether the storages contain even 5000 acre-feet.

Drastic restrictions have been placed on the use of water. Throughout the whole of the season irrigation water has been wholly refused to all primary producers except a small section, which had a branch channel built to serve it in 1911, and has to pay a rate for the construction of that channel.

The motives which actuated the authorities in supplying that small section were probably based on grounds of mere expediency—namely, that if these people did not get water, they might not pay their rates (including arrears thereof), and that they belonged to a closely settled area and had a large parcel of votes to throw about.

It is not our purpose, however, to enter into arguments concerning the merits of the various producers concerned. Even the favoured section got only a fraction of its real needs, and it has every cause to grumble. Primary producers throughout the Coliban area are faced with ruin. For many it means not only the loss of an annual crop, but the loss of orchards and crops of a more permanent nature, which take years to bring to production, but only one year to destroy.

### Finance the Nigger

The question is, why have not steps been taken to increase the storage as far as possible, and to concrete all distributory channels? The problem has been plainly visible for years, and nothing effective has been done or attempted.

The answer to our question is not to be found in lack of sand or cement, of reinforcing steel, of engineering skill and appliances, of labour or power. It is to be found in lack of money. It was discovered as early as 1896 that the capital expenditure on the Coliban storages could not be recovered from water users, though the true reason was not emphasised—namely, that the money expended on construction of the works had been cancelled out of existence. Since then there has been an official unwillingness to spend more money on the system. It is contended that increase of the storages could be effected only by the expenditure of large sums. The concrete lining of channels is also expensive, and has proceeded far

more slowly than would have been possible had money been available.

Lack of money is advanced both by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, and by the Royal Commission of Inquiry, which recently reported on its doings, as an all-sufficient reason for the present sorry state of affairs. Government after Government has stated that funds are not available, and that that must be the end of the matter.

And what, after all, is money? It is a costless ticket, costlessly created by the banking system. It is a mere symbol whose function is to reflect the real credit of the nations. Is there any sane reason why the flow of money should be so restricted that in consequence the flow of such a vital necessity as water is restricted?

There is not. Money must be made available. The Government must reassert its sovereignty in this matter of money. The money must not be issued as a debt due to banking and financial institutions. It must not be recalled from the people without extinguishment of the debt, which attends its issue. The money system must be made self-liquidating.

The water supplies of Melbourne and the Coliban area are typical of water supplies throughout Australia. Their outstanding features are debt and inefficiency, arising not through failure of the officers and technicians concerned, but solely through money starvation.

Our railways, ports and every other public utility suffer in like manner.

No Victorian Government has had the courage to deal with the situation adequately. Government after Government has thought that it has discharged all its obligations and duties if it puts up some sort of a fight at Loan Council meetings to get an inadequate supply of bankers' debt-money.

Never a thought of Governmental sovereignty. Never a thought that the bankers' statement that there is only so much money in existence, and can only be so much is basically false. Never a thought that the only limitations on water supply should be physical, either in the shape of niggardliness on the part of the Almighty (which, fortunately, He can't be accused of over a course of years), or in the shape of physical inability of man to construct storages and distributory pipes and channels. Never a thought about the fact that existing debt far outstrips existing money supply, and the twin fact that the bankers only issue new money as a debt.

The present system is like the earth channels of the Coliban system—only one-third efficient in the matter of delivering available supply to consumers.

Both must be changed, but we must look to a change in the money-system before our water supply systems can be put in order.

If things are allowed to deteriorate much further, many dreadful things will happen. Apart from questions of sanitation, man must have water to drink. He can live without food for weeks. He can't live without water even for days. Neither can he produce without water. It is no consolation to him that it is in line with high financial policy that production should be torpedoed, and that a return should be made to the age of scarcity.

The present situation is one which can appeal to lunatics only, and the people of Melbourne, the Coliban area, and elsewhere must demand of their Governments an adequate flow of money and a adequate flow of water.

Both are possible.

**FR. COUGHLIN EXPLAINS**

In the following extracts from a recent article in *Social Justice*, Fr. Coughlin, the famous American "Radio Priest", on his return to the microphone, comments on the agitation which his brief withdrawal from broadcasting occasioned:—

"Mr. Walter Baertschi, the president of the Social Justice Publishing Corporation, has asked me to take over the responsibility of editorial counsel, or adviser, for this weekly newspaper.

"This invitation I have accepted, with the approval of my superior.

"Although I, a Catholic priest, was formerly president of the corporation, and a frequent contributor to the pages of this newspaper, nevertheless I appreciate that at least one half of its readers are Protestants, who love Pius XL and his inspired Encyclicals, touching upon the reconstruction of the social order.

**Purpose of the Paper**

"The name of the paper, *Social Justice*, clearly indicates the purpose of its existence. It was brought into the journalistic world to *teach social justice*, and to explain, to the best of its editorial ability, not only the writings of the great Pontiff, but to detail the social injustices and to suggest means by which they could be eliminated from our national structure.

"This weekly newspaper hoped to see the day when social justice would supplant the social injustices which concentrated wealth in the hands of the few, and which tended to exploit the oppressed masses.

"When it became impractical for me to manage the affairs of the Social Justice Publishing Corporation and to contribute editorially to its columns, I determined to resign as its president, and departed for Europe and what I considered a merited vacation.

"Since that time I have not been associated with the Social

Justice Publishing Corporation, although the editorial staff remained practically intact.

**Paper Changed Policy**

"Following my withdrawal from the Social Justice Publishing Corporation, it became evident that the journal began to wander from its original path.

"Naturally, the policy of this paper should be one of a positive nature. I mean that it should be interested in teaching positive social justice.

"Unfortunately, many columns of this newspaper, in many issues, were expended upon negative matters. Too often they manifested a spirit of animosity towards civil and ecclesiastical dignitaries. Too often these columns expended their efforts on tearing down rather than up building.

**Intemperate Zeal**

"In a spirit of loyalty and of devotion to me Mr. Baertschi began a campaign for my return to the air. No one calls into question his motives. No one calls into question the motives of the hundreds of thousands of persons who became interested with him in my return to the air, through the campaign, which he and his collaborators initiated in the columns of this newspaper.

**Ill-informed Press**

"While I rejoice in millions of loyal friends and followers, it is very evident that amongst them there were some intemperate persons who took it upon themselves, both through the columns of this newspaper and elsewhere, to make assertions which were harmful to me and our entire cause.

"Some of them questioned the right and duty of Archbishop Mooney to supervise Catholic teaching within his jurisdiction. Others began writing intemperate letters, both to his Holiness and to the Apostolic Delegate at Washington, demanding that I should return to the air, with the

right to say what I pleased and how I pleased. I repeat, these intemperate followers, unconsciously, were adding to my burdens, and were responsible in a great measure, together with the uninformed and ill-informed secular press, in adding to a lamentable confusion.

"Be it said that good intentions reigned supreme. Despite these

**"FAVOURABLE ANNOUNCEMENT"**

"Although January tin statistics show a diminution in the amount of visible stocks, the price of the metal has failed to respond to this FAVOURABLE ANNOUNCEMENT. Spot tin fell in London on Thursday by 30/- to £180/12/6 a ton."

"Argus," February 5. (Our emphasis.)

The report of a decline in the supply of tin is regarded as a "favourable announcement"! Surely such an attitude of mind is symptomatic of our existing madhouse economics? Ordinary people look upon a shortage of a necessary commodity as justification for regret, and even dismay.

But not so our inept economists and money jugglers. Not they! Their efforts are directed to a curtailment of production, not only of tin, but of numerous other products as well, in order to force up prices. Their method of dealing with the problem of poverty in the midst of plenty is to abolish plenty.

Let us rise up and DEMAND of our politicians that the reverse process be put into operation immediately!

good intentions, un-Christian technique and over-zealous devotion oftentimes marred the fine pages of *Social Justice* and the

proper use of these blessings, such as our rich natural resources, our great productivity, our sunlight, the plentiful rain, and the ability of our people, we would have no such things as slums, poverty, malnutrition and the like. The reason we have not made proper use of them is because we have lacked finance, and we have lacked finance because of the dictation of the private banks. Obviously there is no sense in speaking of the blessings if we say nothing of the thing that nullifies them.

When you said that the attitude of superiority on the part of certain nations had been more productive of strife than anything else, you did not speak the truth. Professor Gustav Cassel, the eminent and world-renowned Swedish economist, has pointed out (and you may confirm it in the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce "Record" for November, 1937) that "... the present boom will be followed by more or less violent crises. Then, no doubt, every effort will be made to disguise the fact that these disturbances were ultimately due to defects in the management of the world monetary system." You, dear Senator, are actually taking part in that very effort to disguise the true cause, and, by repeating the canard that "nationalism" is the cause of our troubles, are simply pulling the wool over the eyes of the people you are supposed to be representing. And while you condemn superiority on the part of others you shout about our superior goods and our superior "blessings."

From this you went on to say that we are absolutely dependent on other nations taking 50 per cent, of our production. Why this should be was not deemed worthy of comment. What would happen to us if there were no other nations? We are forced to depend on other markets because we are not supplied with sufficient Australian money to buy the Australian products ourselves.

Notwithstanding your statement that we must force our alleged "surplus" products into the markets of other countries who do not want them, you then went blissfully on to say that we must have international co-operation instead of international rivalry. International rivalry is inescapable under the existing financial system, and yet this, the very thing responsible for the trouble, is the only thing about which you had nothing to say.

Such an attitude on the part of a public man looks dishonest to us, but you may prefer to use a nicer word to describe it. Yours etc.

THE NEW TIMES,

contents of mailbags delivered to my superiors.

**Message of Peace**

"This is Christmas. I have written a message emphasising the spirit of peace.

"Let the dead past, therefore, bury its dead. May the spirit of peace reign supreme.

"Let us join with the angels in singing 'Peace on earth to men of good will,' and recognise, as we work shoulder to shoulder, that social justice can become a great force in practising Christianity and in spreading its gospel far and wide.

**Will Suggest Policy**

"As editorial counsel for this newspaper, I shall fulfill that function to the best of my ability. It will be my business to suggest the policy, which should predominate, and the objectives to be attained by this journal.

"*Social Justice* is big enough to turn its other cheek when critics assail it. The objectives identified with its very name are strong enough to withstand sharp shooting. Its spirit, encased in the armour of truth, of justice and of charity, is impervious enough to march unharmed into the teeth of those who are content to wage guerilla warfare.

"With co-operation, both from old readers and from new readers, from the editorial staff and the printers, from the clergy and the laity, from Catholic and from Protestant, *Social Justice* can become a force in this nation, not only to oppose Communism and the abuses of modern capitalism, but to remove the causes which bred both of them, to the detriment of the Church, of the State, and of every individual.

**Justice for All**

"In conclusion, I trust that my position is made clear.

"Summarily, I disavow contention, irregularity, negative criticism and journalistic quarrels.

"It shall be my policy to recommend the exposition of plain Christian doctrine, to disclose the causes of our national predicament, to expound reasonable remedies, in harmony with Christian teaching, and to demand justice for all, including Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, black and white."

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(Continued from page 2.)  
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(Continued on page 7)

Senator H. J. M. Payne,  
Federal Parliament  
House, Canberra.

Dear Senator Payne, —

You sounded sincere enough as you were speaking from Wesley Church, Melbourne, last Sunday afternoon, but some of the things you said were so foolish that we begin to believe there is some truth in the medical declaration that men over a certain age refuse to give up notions they have fostered throughout their lives no matter how stupid those ideas may be, or how contrary to reality. Despite this, and your persistent betrayal of the Australian people in matters of finance, particularly the unworthy part you played in connection with the Premiers' Plan fraud, we think it wise to have your remarks placed on record.

You said we should thank God for the Government we have in Great Britain. Perhaps we should; but if God is responsible for the Government of Great Britain, is He not also responsible for the Governments of other countries? And, if He is, presumably we should thank Him for them also. Suppose we do thank Him for everything, what then? The truth is that Governments are only the nominal rulers. They take directions from the small coterie of individuals who privately control finance, and you, dear Senator, are well aware of it.

Then you eulogised the work of several international organisations, naming the International Parliamentary Union of the World, the Hague Convention, the League of Nations, and the International Council of Women. Immediately afterwards you described the terrible conditions of the world at large and thus proved conclusively that the work of these organisations had been useless. That was inevitable, because not any of them had touched the CAUSE of the problem, but the bodies concerned still seem to, be entirely unconscious of the fact that no matter what they do, peace in the world, or even in any country of the world, is quite impossible while control of the people's money supplies remains in the hands of a private monopoly.

Your next point was that we in Australia live in a country more blessed by God than any other country in the world, and you said we had more blessings to the square foot than others have to the squares yard. This may be quite true, but you must be aware that if we were making

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## Japan States Her Case

Early in the Sino-Japanese conflict it became evident that the press of America, Great Britain and Australia intended to conduct an inspired campaign against the Japanese.

We know of the case of a journalist recently returned from China who approached the Melbourne *Herald* with information concerning Chinese atrocities to Japanese citizens before hostilities commenced. He was politely told by the *Herald* that pro-Japanese matter was not wanted.

In these circumstances, Japan, like monetary reformers, has had to create her own avenues of publicity. We have recently received through the post two very attractive little booklets, which state Japan's case with clarity and moderation.

We will not say that Japan's case is above criticism as it proceeds on the orthodox assumptions that an outlet is necessary for Japan's population and products. The point, however, is that these assumptions are never queried by the press of America, Great Britain or Australia. They are accepted as basic and unquestionable axioms.

Within the framework of orthodox finance, the case stated by Japan is unanswerable. She has just as much right in China as have America and Britain; possibly more.

She has as much right to seek markets in China, and to protect the lives and property of her citizens: she has as much right to send a punitive expedition into China as Britain had to confiscate South Africa from the Boers, and she has probably suffered a great deal more provocation.

The Japanese pamphlets prove conclusively that America's trade interests with China, both as to exports and imports, are only a fraction of America's trade interests with Japan.

Reflection on this fact will readily lead readers to the conclusion that America's opposition to Japan is inspired by a motive other than that of mere protection of her trade with China.

The Japanese pamphlets prove the facts that there is no orderly government in China, that China's army is one of the largest in the

world, and that before the outbreak of the present hostilities several Japanese citizens were ruthlessly butchered.

One particularly gruesome photograph shows the corpses of several Japanese civilians, butchered at Tungchow on July 28, 1937. We are assured by the journalist to whom we have referred at the beginning of our remarks that this massacre really did take place, and that the womenfolk of the Japanese were publicly outraged before they were killed.

In these circumstances, and within the framework of orthodoxy, Japan has every right to conduct her present campaign in China. The press, which so strongly champions the present financial and economic organisation, has no right to complain. It is only when we go back to the root of the matter and question the basic assumption that it is necessary for a country to obtain external outlets for its surplus people and surplus products that Japan's conduct can be questioned.

And, if her conduct is open to question, the conduct of all the other nations who at present decry Japan's barbarity is equally open to question.

The cure for the situation is to give Japanese nationals sufficient money to buy Japanese production. There will then be no incentive to fight for external markets, for the simple reason that the home markets will be adequate.

It is stated in the Japanese pamphlet that if the Chinese market is closed to Japan, her goods must flow to America and to Europe, and that if these markets are also closed the Japanese nation will not be able to live. This is the whole weakness of the Japanese case, and there is no reason, except lack of money, why Japanese goods, or imports brought into the country in return for goods exported, should not flow to Japanese citizens.

The *Times*, the *Herald*, and so on, never mention this aspect, and accordingly their outcry against Japan is entirely invalid. We may say in conclusion that in producing the booklets concerned the Japanese have shown an astonishing command of the printer's art and the English language. They don't appear to be an uncultured or barbarous race, and it is difficult to see why the Australian Government and the Australian press go out of their way to such an extent to offend a people with whom we should be friendly and willing to seek understanding.

## The Centralised State

Recent events in Russia and Germany indicate clearly the fact that while a State organised on the basis of centralised power may be the hardest to attack from outside, it is, nevertheless, the most likely to blow up from inside. Many Russian generals, and even scientists and workers, have been ruthlessly murdered at the behest of the central dictatorship.

Some four years ago in Germany there was a "bath of blood," when many of Hitler's most serious rivals were executed. And now there has been another purge in Germany in which high army officials have been concerned.

There is evidence that a

## INTERNATIONAL LABOUR AND MONETARY POLICY

### "Key of the Position"

Social reformers generally, and monetary reformers in particular, will read with interest the following article which appeared in a section of the daily press this week:

"But perhaps the most outstanding lesson of the slump is to be found in the profound change which it has produced in ideas about monetary policy. In this field more than in any other lies the key to economic prosperity and social progress."

These remarks form the introduction to the views of the Director of the International Labor Office (Mr. Harold Butler) on monetary policy, in his report to be submitted to the Geneva Labor Conference in June.

Mr. Butler says:

"The demonstration that in one country after another the upturn in business and employment coincided not with the reduction of wage rates, the cutting of costs or the deterioration of working conditions, but with

the abandonment of deflation and the adoption of monetary expansion, has made a deep impression upon the world. To the conviction that Governments must intervene to ward off or to attenuate depressions is added the belief that if the secrets of a new technique can be mastered they can take effective and appropriate action. For the first time we are witnessing the deliberate attempt by Governments, such as those of Sweden and the United States, to construct machinery for arresting the downward swing of the pendulum when it sets in, and thus averting another economic cataclysm.

"The first factor which paved the way to a complete change of approach was the realisation that the traditional method of deflation had failed to arrest the catastrophic decline of trade, production, prices and employment, which began in 1929. During the years 1930, 1931, and 1932, the States which first felt the blast of the depression tried

Nothing could give us greater sorrow than to announce the death on Wednesday morning last of Mr. T. J. Moore, the greatly esteemed and very able and courageous editor of this paper. Mr. Moore carried on the editorial work until early in December, when physical stress at length forced him to seek medical aid.

revolution was intended, leading to a displacement of Germany's present rulers and a dictatorship by the army.

In *Economic Democracy*, written in 1919, a forecast was made that the world may have to experience a period of centralised power control before people would really exert themselves to secure individual freedom under a decentralised organisation.

All countries are now experiencing slavery in one form or another, and even if there is not centralised political control in the alleged democracies, there is in every country-centralised control by finance.

This form of social organisation is in direct opposition to natural law, and cuts across the most fundamental of human aspirations. Any form of social organisation not based upon individual freedom must inevitably lead to serious trouble. Individual freedom can only be real when that freedom is based upon the economic freedom, which comes from having a sufficiency of money in one's pockets.

It is up to citizens to demand this sort of freedom immediately, as the defects of the pyramid form of society are only too plainly obvious, not only in Germany, but in this country as well. We must demand bread and freedom!

States, found that devaluation was an indispensable preliminary to reflation. It should be noted, however, that devaluation in itself is no remedy. Depression can be successfully combated only by the international co-ordination of national policies. The three-Power agreement is a first step along this new road, which is the only road leading towards lasting and increasing prosperity.

### "An Ill Wind"

"Taken all in all, the great depression may be said to illustrate once more the truth of the old saying, 'It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.' The comprehension of social justice and of the economic means to promote it has been strengthened rather than weakened. Invaluable experience has been gained which may, if wisely used, be turned to profitable account for the future. But the fact that the record is not wholly black should not blind us to what protracted depression means in the world today. In its effect upon individuals and upon nations it is as devastating as famine, as disruptive as war. That we have learnt better how to deal with unemployment; that social services are more firmly based and widely spread; that we have shed some misconceptions on wage policy; that we are getting the first glimpses of a new monetary technique; all these things, important as they are, weigh little in the balance against the long drawn out misery of those years and against the perilous political situation which they have left in their wake."

\* \* \*

Mr. Butler's denunciation of deflation will be generally welcomed, as will his distinction between credit expansion and currency depreciation, but his statement: "It is, however, impossible for a country to expand its currency and credit considerably, while other countries are in full deflation. If its prices begin to mount, while those of its competitors are falling, the handicap in the world's markets becomes too great"—will be deplored.

As Mr. Butler himself contends, credit expansion does not necessarily mean rising prices, or, as he puts it, "a dangerous inflation." On the contrary, since 1919 the world has been in possession of a technique whereby an expansion of credit can be used to reduce prices.

Mr. Butler's statement completely overlooks the lesson that Japan has taught the world during the years of the great deflation, for during these years Japan actually did what Mr. Butler still describes as "impossible."

New Zealand also has taken monetary action to pave the way to meet just the position envisaged by Mr. Butler, and while monetary reformers will regret that after doing so New Zealand has also turned to State ownership, they will await her action in the next world deflation with considerable interest, knowing that similar monetary action could be applied to private enterprise, making the prosperity of any nation dependent upon its own productive efforts rather than upon the policies of international financiers imposed by "the international co-ordination of national policies."

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## THE WOLF AND THE CAKE

A Letter to the Editor from BRUCE H BROWN

Sir—As expected, Sir Josiah Stamp has been in the forefront of the "news" in the last couple of weeks, and everything he has said has confirmed the timeliness of the warning that he should be looked upon as a wolf in sheep's clothing. While publicly pleading for democracy he is working behind the scenes to frustrate it.

### Banks' Watchdog

At the Royal Empire Society luncheon on January 28, as watchdog for the Bank of England, he kept his eye on the Governor-General, and, like the wolf, made it appear that he was all in favour of democracy, whereas he has been responsible for discrediting it. Without even blinking an eyelid he listened, with apparent approval, to the Governor-General say that while Sydney is a community of contented and happy people, farther afield there is chaos, confusion and unrest, and that other countries are looking to the great Empire democracy and the English-speaking races for their salvation. If this meant anything, it meant that the English-speaking races have already secured contentment, happiness and salvation, and that other races are longing to "enjoy" similar conditions. How utterly untrue this is, is obvious to every person of intelligence, who can see for himself that the unemployed starve and the employed are so poorly paid that they nearly starve. And this at a time when goods are destroyed and production restricted. Even as I write this, the Melbourne *Herald* reports that a projected visit of Queen Mary to the distressed areas in England was cancelled because of the fear that the conditions would shock her and she would insist on something being done. That was the rock on which her eldest son's kingship split, and two "liquidations" in the one family in so short a time might look rather like a "purge." Men of the Stamp type would also be embarrassed by such queenly interest, because they prefer to make us believe that nothing can be done.

**A Cool Dissembler**  
No one would have imagined that this man on the platform with the Governor-General had declared at the University College of Wales in October, 1935, that democracy had everywhere failed; that neither wisdom nor even a common purpose would ever emerge from the ballot-box; and that it was doubtful whether the mental power of the millions could be raised by education "to make the postulates of democracy come true." When he said that, he knew he was not speaking the truth, for nowhere had democracy actually been tried. The only thing that had failed was the financial system which he represents, and which he knows makes the practice of democracy utterly impossible, for so long as control of the money supplies is vested in a private monopoly so long must that monopoly control the Government.

**Disorder in England—Chaos Elsewhere**  
On Tuesday, February 1, the same Sir Josiah, described as "a distinguished economist, adviser to the British Government, and guest for the celebrations of the New South Wales Government," was the principal speaker at a session of the "Women's International Conference urging fight for Democracy." The fact that he is also a director of the privately owned Bank of England, which controls the Empire, was carefully omitted. He explained experiments being made in Great Britain "in an endeavour to solve some of the problems of supply and demand which had arisen out to the existing economic disorder." Disorder is a nicer word than chaos, as used by the Governor-General in his reference to other

countries. It is chaos there, but only disorder in England!

### What is Cake?

In answer to a question as to how women might attempt to break down the vicious circle of the cost of living rising as the basic wage rose, Sir Josiah replied that "he would not attempt to judge such a darling of Australian policy as the basic wage, but the first thing to decide was the size of the cake before deciding the size of the slice that each individual could have." This is where the great difficulty comes in, for we are brought face to face with the problem of deciding what we mean when we speak of "cake." Normally, we regard it as food, but Sir Josiah thinks we should regard it as money, as the authors of all the "experiments" in Britain obviously do. From the point of view of the few who control our money supplies for their own advantage this is very important, for if we look upon the cake as the production of the community then, of course, the cake must grow larger and larger and show malnutrition, starvation and the like to be unpardonable. That is why we see an expansion of the system of control by boards.

### Poor Must be Kept Poor

There is another reason why food should not be too plentiful. It is likely to bring about an improvement in the position of the poor, and the rich do not like that. At least, that is what Sir Josiah thinks. Speaking to the Royal Statistical Society in London he said that "whenever the price level is at its highest the higher incomes gain on the lower in proportion, and when it is low the position is

### THE GREATER TERROR

"Lieut. - Commander Sir Sampson Sladen, who was formerly technical adviser to the Ministry of Munitions, said that people in England were 'not scared enough' about the danger of air attack. They were rather lethargic about taking precautions."  
-*Argus*, February 7.  
In England fully one-third of the population are slowly starving to death because of fearfully inadequate incomes. Maybe they are not "scared enough" about a POSSIBLE attack from the air because of the greater terror of an ACTUAL, sustained attack from terra firma by merciless poverty.

reversed." He felt that when prices are low the rich are hit too hard, and, therefore, advocated a rise in prices, even though he knew that more than half the population could not afford even 10/- a week for food. His clear purpose is to keep the people poor. Hence the boards in England to throw fish back into the sea and the like.

### Poverty "Experiments" in England

Already in Great Britain there is the Pig and Pork Scheme, the Milk Marketing Scheme, the Steel Trade Scheme, the Housing Scheme, the Hop Marketing Scheme, the Shipping Plan Scheme, the Potato Marketing Scheme, the Dyeing Trade Scheme, the Tinplate Industry Scheme, the Herring Industry Scheme, the Egg and Poultry Scheme, the Cotton Trade Scheme, the Slaughterhouse Scheme, and the Fishing Industry Scheme. All these schemes seek to control the supply—i.e. the size of the food cake—and thus to raise the price. In other words, production of food must not be allowed to exceed the supply of money, and the supply of money

must" not be increased to equal the supply of goods.

### Inventors to be Controlled

On the basis of common sense this is sheer madness, but those who impose it upon us have their names included in the "Honours" List and are given honorary degrees at the universities. This man Stamp has gone so far as publicly to advocate control of inventors, so that they may be prevented from discovering so many things of benefit to humanity. It is so unruly of inventors to find better ways of making more goods with less work. He does not approve of men inventing as they feel led, and after setting up his own ridiculous idea of democracy and taking steps to prevent it from working has the effrontery to abuse his fellowmen for not working an arrangement that is altogether unworkable. To me this is rank dishonesty and hypocrisy, and there can be no excuse for a man of his standing, with such religious professions, conducting himself in such a manner. True democracy is our only hope of salvation from descent into barbarism, and any man who stands in the way of true democracy is a menace to society. Sir Josiah Stamp's whole public activities are directed against true democracy, and, consequently, he is a menace.

### Which Came First?

This is the same man who said that for every person displaced by machinery another is required to make the machines. It would be rude to point out that machines have to be made before they can displace anyone. In recent years many leading manufacturers and businessmen have been publicly calling attention to the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty and to the increasing replacement of human labour by machinery. This was becoming so frequent that the financial oligarchy felt called upon to take counter measures, and so its best loud speaker, Sir Josiah, has been busy casting doubts upon the facts of plenty and advocating measures to prevent the production of plenty.

### Too Many Commodities

As president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, he addressed the association at Blackpool, England, in September 1936, on the subject of "The Impact of Science on Society." He told the gathering that there should be birth control of impedimenta, and explained that he did not mean scientific work and new ideas, but only "the uncontrolled mass-production of commodities by the multiplication of machines and application of ideas." Science and ideas are all right so long as we do not make use of them or apply them! There must be no increase in the size of the community cake!

### Labour-Saving or Work-Making?

He went on to say: "It is known as a historical induction that in the long run machinery makes more employment than it destroys. It does all this in 'the long run,' but man has to live in 'the short run,' and at any given moment there may be such an aggregation of unadjusted 'short runs' as to amount to a real social hardship." Fancy that, and all so very clear. Not a word about malnutrition

because of shortage of purchasing power or of the increasing leisure called unemployment. We may soon expect to see the work-making effects of the labour-saving machinery! "At any given moment," he said, "the impact of science is always causing some unemployment, but at the same time the constructive additional employment following upon past expired impacts is being enjoyed . . . In Great Britain there may well be a million unemployed in what we call good times—it is part of the price we pay for the high standard of life secured by those who retain employment." But he forgot to tell us the identity of those to whom this price for the high standard of life has to be paid. Who are they and why do we have to pay them?

### Arrogant Tyranny

The people of all countries want security and freedom, and it is physically possible to give them both. Instead of this, however, they have insecurity and bondage, which is tyranny. This tyranny is imposed upon us through private control of the community's finance. The late Mr. G. K. Chesterton said: "Throned above us all, in a manner without parallel in the past, is the veiled prophet of finance." The Dean of Canterbury: "He who controls money wields sovereign power." His Holiness Pope Pius XI: "Control of financial policy is control of the very lifeblood of the entire economic body." The late President Wilson: "We have been dreading all along the time when the combined power of high finance would be greater than the power of the Government." And Sir Josiah Stamp is out here representing the few who exercise this power greater than the power of governments, and exercise it to the detriment of humanity in general. Their power is supreme. They can decide what shall be produced, how much people shall have, what laws shall be passed. They can only retain this power by keeping the people in a state of insecurity, and so long as they can enforce a system of robbery in the form of budget balancing and taxation so long will they continue to be masters of the world.

### A Vast Army of Mugs

Wm. N. Connor recently wrote: "I'm flat broke . . . You're flat broke . . . We're all flat broke. We're just a vast army of mugs, a mighty army of peoples who cannot pay their bills." That is very true. The money cake is far too small, and Sir Josiah is doing his utmost to keep it small. While he is trying to make us believe there is no such thing as material plenty, Lord Melchett, of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., declares: "I do not think that any technical man would deny that it is physically possible to double the production of every important raw material and of every important manufactured commodity within the next ten years." Compare that with the rubbish from Sir Josiah: "The plenty of potentiality is mainly an engineers' and scientists' conception, and the idea was brought to its highest point in the technocracy boom which has left its sinister trail of dreams and pseudo-statistics over the whole field of thought and enquiry, a wreckage of irresponsible optimism which impedes smooth and orderly movement." Note particularly the reference to the "sinister trail of dreams"! The abundance of the earth is too unruly for him. He prefers scarcity, and is one of those who manipulate the ticket supply to prevent the enjoyment of plenty.

### We Do Not Want Them

As Australians we should unite to tell the men who organise these Australian functions that we do not wish them to "invite" gentlemen of the Niemeyer and Stamp type to come to this country at our expense on future important occasions, and that if they choose to come at their own expense we will thank them to speak facts as they are and of what they themselves are doing to secure the distribution of God's bounty to every citizen.

## YOUTH AND WAR

By H. R. WALSH.

On all sides amongst young men of, my own age, when speaking of or planning their future, one continually hears the qualification, "That is, if there isn't a war before then," giving the impression that, if there was one, there would be no hesitation on their part in going to it. As I myself have many serious objections, I am curious to find out why this is so; if there is something lacking in them or in myself, or, to be more concise, am I mad or are they?

### This Patriotism

The main reason advanced to me is patriotism, but surely people nowadays know that wars are fought at the behest of "big finance," and that love of country never enters into the starting of it. But, even granting that we go to war "for King and country," do we owe anything to either? Of course we don't expect anything from the King, we know that he is only a figurehead, sitting on an uncertain throne, propped up by bank notes and the power they stand for—the props being speedily withdrawn if he does not suit "big finance."

We should get much more from our country, but what have we got? A home of our own, economic security, leisure enough to enjoy life as God meant us to? No! All it offers to myself and thousands of other young men is a life of dreary toil (if you are "lucky" enough to get it); and, when you can toil no more, a retirement on the princely sum of £1 a week. A wonderful old age to look forward to!

The only material thing we have to fight for is our share in the national debt, which I for one would willingly forego.

### Fun and Glory?

Others again would go for "the fun and glory of it." This reason, though perhaps more understandable, is even more senseless. I grant that the lives we are forced to lead are practically devoid of fun, but, if the last war accomplished anything besides using up "surplus" men, it was to show us in stark relief what a filthy, sordid, useless business it is. If you killed a man you hated during "peace" it would be murder, the punishment death, so how can either fun or glory be got out of slaughtering fellowmen whose only crime was that they were born in a different country to yourself?

### The Question of Price

At all events, isn't it rather absurd to undergo the terrific hardships, with a good chance of death at the end of it, for a few shillings a day? And these people behind the scenes—when we are in drastic need of their aid in the way of employment, without which we have no income as things are, do they think of our distress and how much "a job" means to us? No! They think of how much we might be worth to them in cold cash. So then, if they need our aid to fight their wars for them, let us be logical and think: "How much is my life worth to me in cold cash?" Perhaps I over-rate myself, but, for one, my price would be prohibitive.

### A War Worth Fighting

For those who are not entirely apathetic, there is a war far more worthy of fighting, one that is fought with tongue and pen; weapons more far-reaching than the most modern artillery—a war against poverty and drudgery in the midst of available plenty-and-leisure for all.

In the meantime we should be demanding of our own Parliaments that immediate steps be taken to abolish poverty by giving every citizen an adequate claim to the abundance of goods and an opportunity to enjoy the increasing leisure made possible by science and machinery.

-Yours faithfully  
BRUCE H BROWN

**SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY OF AUSTRALIA**  
(Victorian Section.)  
**MONTHLY MEETING,**  
Room 9, 5th Floor, McEwan House,  
Cr. Elizabeth and Little Collins Sts., Melbourne.  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 8 p.m.**  
**A.J. AMESS, Hon. Sec.**

## J. T. LANG AND "THE LABOR DAILY"

### What Mr. Lang Says

According to the newspapers in Victoria Mr. Lang is a sort of ogre, using the Labor movement for his own advantage, and many of us have wondered just what the position really is. For that reason we are publishing hereunder a letter written by Mr. Lang himself, and addressed to the readers of the *Labor Daily*. It appeared in that journal on Friday last.

Although we feel that Mr. Lang has not yet completely grasped the truth of the financial swindle and the steps necessary to free the people from its effects, we recognise that he was the only man who had the courage to speak the truth at the Premiers' Conferences in 1931, and declare that our troubles were the result of bank policy. For that we owe him a permanent debt of gratitude, and publish his letter by way of acknowledgment. He wrote as follows:—

"At this important juncture in the affairs of the *Labor Daily*, I desire that members of the movement, in whatever decisions they make, should be able to act with their eyes open. I feel, therefore, that the fullest information concerning the paper should be available to them.

"You have the position that has arisen today. You can leave it where it is and the paper will go on functioning for the Labor movement, and at some near time in the future, when sounder opinions prevail, the *Labor Daily* Company and the *Sunday Express* Company can be reconstructed on democratic lines and the Labor movement will have the daily paper and the *Sunday* paper to fight for it seven days a week.

"You can follow the other course—that is, assist Orr and Schriber to raise money for the purpose of enabling them to take control of the paper.

"Whether you follow that course or not is entirely a matter for your own decision. But if you do, I want you to do it with your eyes open.

"It is not just a question of paying out a debenture. Somebody must take the position in regard to the *Labor Daily's* finances that I occupy today. To do it he must not only pay out the debenture—he must assume all the obligation that I have been carrying.

"For the money that will be subscribed for that purpose there will be no better security than the security which I have. My debenture is in the nature of a third mortgage. In the event of liquidation, the miners have first call to pay off their mortgage. The bank has second call to pay off its debenture, and should there be anything left, it will go to meet the security, which I hold. In such an event there will be nothing left. The security will not be worth the paper it is written on.

"If the proposal is to borrow money from the unions or from any other sources, the holders of money who can invest in Commonwealth bonds—the safest of investments at 4 per cent, interest—are not likely to loan that security at the interest rate covered by the debenture.

"Any money subscribed may be called an investment of a loan, but in fact it will be a donation, because there will be no asset to secure it.

"If, in these circumstances, unions or individuals subscribe their money, it will help the movement, because the money subscribed will be applied immediately to bringing out the *Sunday Express* as the best *Sunday* newspaper in Australia.

### To Save the "Labor Daily"

"For the third time in ten years I have taken a decisive step to save the *Labor Daily* from extinction, and for the third time I have imperilled the whole of my material affairs to save the Labor

party's daily newspaper and preserve whatever equity exists for the investments made by the unions as shareholders in the company.

"The *Labor Daily* commenced its existence very much undercapitalised. It was financed chiefly by different unions and by the directors giving their personal pledge against bank overdrafts. The first crisis arrived in 1927, when the paper, lacking the finance to carry on, was threatened with extinction and the individual directors faced a position where every penny and every asset that they possessed would be called up to meet the guarantees they had given to secure the company's overdraft. "On that occasion I found approximately £7000. This enabled the company to continue production, and also to relieve my fellow-directors of the guarantees, which they had given on behalf of the company. As you are all aware, Mr. Willis was at that time the active director of the company, and he came to me and asked me to protect the company against liquidation.

"The next occasion was in 1931. The position, which confronted the directors, then was they had a demand from their bankers calling upon them to reduce their overdraft within a very short period. If the bank's demand was not met the paper would have to cease publication, and the bank's receivers would have sold the company's assets to repay the overdraft.

"Mr. Magrath was the active director on this occasion, and he and other directors came to me and said they had canvassed the trade unions. They told me that the response to their canvass was so poor that they had come to the conclusion that the union movement would not supply the necessary money, and that unless the directors could obtain the money they had no other course but to inform the bank that the money was unprocurable, and the bank must exercise its legal rights. They could not raise the money anywhere in the ordinary course of business because the assets were already over-pledged and they could offer no security for any loan.

"Although, at that time, I was being very heavily pressed with the tasks that were before me as Premier of the State, I told Mr. Magrath and his colleagues that I would find the money that was necessary, and assume the personal responsibility of keeping the *Labor Daily* in production. At that time I found a further sum of approximately £7000. The paper continued to make its daily appearance and carry on the great work it was doing for the Labor movement.

"Throughout its whole existence it had always to maintain a very determined fight against its natural enemies. But about three years ago there arose a condition in the affairs of the paper, which involved it in an entirely different fight for existence.

"It had to face sabotage from the rear. At all times the relations between the newspaper and the rank and file of the miners have been harmonious, but when a change of officials took place, the relations between the paper and the Miners' Council underwent a change.

"Up to this stage the circulation of the *Labor* paper in the mining fields had been compulsory, and, because of that, the miners continued to have the paper supplied to them for 1d a copy, while every other unionist who bought the paper had to pay 1 1/2d a copy. But after the new officials were installed in the Miners' Council, the compulsory subscription was abolished.

"The next thing was that *Common Cause*, a weekly newspaper, published by the Miners Council

and printed by the *Labor Daily*, was taken away from the *Labor Daily* and the contract for printing and distribution given to another company. Every move seemed to be aimed at reducing the revenue of the *Labor Daily*.

"The next move was to withhold from the *Labor Daily* the money paid by the miners of the west and southern districts for the supply of the newspaper. This aspect I reviewed in my recent statement, showing how almost £100 a week, and £16,000 in all, has been taken out of the company's revenue at an extremely critical and vital period. This £100 a week was taken out of the *Labor Daily's* revenue to repay loans, which were in the nature of capital.

"There are very, very few businesses, no matter how sound they may be, that could allow that to continue very long without causing a crisis in the cash position of the company.

### Running Attack on Paper

"That crisis, of course, occurred, but that was not the only attack that was being made on the *Daily*. Commencing about Easter of two years ago, certain unions commenced to meet in the Trades Hall, and, as a result of their activities, kept up a running attack against the *Labor Daily*. Other newspapers were naturally delighted to be furnished with material to attack their competitor. They published this *anti-Labor Daily* propaganda with relish.

"Attacked then from the front and from the rear, the *Labor Daily* managed to survive it all. No newspaper, not even the *Sydney Morning Herald*, could have withstood for two years what your paper has withstood, but they failed to kill the *Labor Daily*.

"These so-called union leaders published circulars, held meetings, made all sorts of untrue statements. It was not an uncommon thing at all these meetings for somebody to stand up and say he knew the *Labor Daily's* circulation had fallen to 20,000 or 30,000, or whatever figure came to his mind. What a gift that was to the *Labor Daily's* competitors! It was deadly propaganda. It should have killed the *Labor Daily*, but it didn't.

"Keeping the *Labor Daily* alive and fighting Labor's natural enemies is more than a full-time job for any man. But keeping the *Labor Daily* alive and fighting its natural and unnatural enemies also, is a job that I have had, and I would not wish it to my greatest enemy.

"The effects of this combined attack came to a head just before the Federal election campaign. The miners were withholding the money, the so-called union leaders had the company and the directors in the Equity Court, and the manager of the company was confronted with the position that he was informed by the bank that the limit of his overdraft had been reached.

"It was 1931 all over again. To me the problem was crystal clear. At all costs the *Labor Daily* must continue to publish. I saw the bank manager and was able to secure his co-operation in having the overdraft increased and making sure that the *Labor Daily* would function during the Federal election campaign, and in the interests of the Australian Labor party.

"But what the enemy press gloatingly called the 'rebel' union leaders continued their fight, fighting harder than ever they had fought before, and fighting what? Fighting the *Labor Daily*.

"The next step, therefore, was inevitable. With the Miners' Council retaining the money from the south and west, it was only a question of time when the new limit of the overdraft would be reached. That has now been reached just at a time when the party is about to face a State election; an election that the party is going to win; an election that is going again to place Labor Government on the Treasury Benches.

"What is my position? The receivership is inevitable. There is no security for further overdrafts. The only question is: Is the receivership to be hostile or friendly? Some secured creditor must take action. Having fought all these years to keep the *Labor Daily* in existence, I was not going to let it die now.

"On my own responsibility, and mine alone, I took the only step that was open to me to keep the *Labor Daily* in circulation, and to preserve the equity of those unions who, remaining loyal to the Labor party, had invested their money in the paper.

"Who has benefited from the existence of the *Labor Daily*? The Labor movement and the Labor party have derived immeasurable benefit from the continued publication of the paper. The miners' organisation, on account of interest paid to it and money withheld by the Miners' Council, has received back between £24,000 and £25,000 in cash.

"In addition to the cash it has received, the miners' organisation has received the distinct benefit in that its members pay only 1d a

copy, while every other unionist pays 1 1/2d.

"Mr. Magrath's union, the P.I.E.U., is working on an award that is far higher than that obtaining in any other newspaper in Australia. The *Labor Daily* is the only daily newspaper office in which that union has a 40-hour week, and the *Labor Daily* has always found the money to pay the wages of these men, although their industrial conditions and shorter working week placed a wages burden on the company out of all proportion to that borne by the other daily newspaper.

"But, who else has benefited? I haven't. I have never had a three penny piece out of it, and while it functions as a true Labor paper, fighting for the Labor movement and the Labor party, I never want a three penny piece out of it.

"The people who have had pecuniary benefit from the paper are outside fighting it, trying to bring about its destruction. It is on these facts that you must decide your course of action. You have two alternatives. In either case, the Labor movement will continue to have a newspaper."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ORDER OR COMMUNISM?

Under the heading, "Electoral Campaign Notes," the *New Times* of February 4, quotes Rev. L. Wilkinson as saying in an address at Benalla: "I firmly believe that there is no possible reconstruction of the social order other than by Christianity or Communism. It is for you to say which road to take."

Most thinking people will agree that the present top-heavy capitalistic system is inevitably destined to collapse by reason of its own inherent lack of balance. If it were possessed of average common sense, it would set about reform from within. But its constituent elements are intent only on their own aggrandisement. They seek to hang on at all costs to the immense economic power they have appropriated through their control of the financial system, and are blind to the interests of their own successors. They learn nothing from the signs of the times. Their ears are deaf to the rumblings of discontent from the dispossessed. They complacently pursue their suicidal course of making an unjust, inequitable system more inequitable still. Successive investigations, both here and in other countries, disclose a progressive accumulation of real wealth in the hands of the few, to the impoverishment of an ever-increasing number of those below a decent level of living conditions. As Rev. Mr. Wilkinson asks, "Can you picture anything more fit for a happy hunting ground for Communism?"

Despite the piling up of evidence of appalling conditions among a very large section of the people, despite the evidence by the Statistician of the widespread existence of totally inadequate living standards, our politicians continue to utter fatuous remarks about an alleged "unparalleled prosperity." In this they are aiding and abetting the financial barons who control our very lives. They persist in putting the telescope to the blind eye. Perhaps they cherish the belief that they will be able to crush the uprising of an exasperated people when at last the chains prove too galling. But they like the Capitalist are living in a fool's paradise. When the debacle comes, the responsibility will be equally shared by the Capitalist and his Parliamentary mouthpieces. The question arises: Can a Christian community view with equanimity the substitution for an oppressive Capitalistic regime of a Communistic system which in practice is but another form of slavery, and which holds tenets

that are repugnant to those who cherish their heritage of Christianity? If we cannot, then it is up to us to offer and to strive for an alternative that is in accord with our ideals. Fortunately, this is an aim that is possible of fulfilment. It is being approved by an ever-increasing number of earnest thinkers. Those who abhor the methods of Capitalism, yet are not prepared to endorse the materialistic philosophy of the Communist, are in duty bound to strain every effort to convince the community that this alternative exists, that it is a practicable scheme, and that it is in harmony with the Christian ideals they cherish. We can sympathise with the Communists in their protests against an intolerable economic system; with equal earnestness we must dissent from their methods. A few quotations from Communist leaders may be instructive:

"Religion is the opium of the people."—Karl Marx.

"Marxism is materialism. We must fight religion. That is the A B C of all materialism, consequently of Marxism."—Lenin.

"Communists will wage a campaign against Catholicism, against Protestantism, and against Orthodoxy in order to assure the triumph of the Socialist mentality."—Stalin.

"Religion and Communism are incompatible, both theoretically and practically."—The "A B C of Communism," recommended by the Communist Party of Great Britain as authoritative, ch. xi. (Omitted in some editions.)

(The above quotations are from an A.C.T.S. pamphlet, "Red Menace in Australia.")

Archbishop Williams, of Birmingham, has said: "If I did not believe in God, I might easily be a Communist." He agreed with them in hating the successes of Capitalism, the oppression of the poor, the evils of the slums, the insecurity of the workingman, the evils of control by vested interests, the destruction of foodstuffs, etc. But, he said, their error lay in trying to remedy injustice with further injustice, and in supposing that they could secure the brotherhood of man by class warfare and hatred.

Apart from the question of religion, has Communism achieved in Russia the materialistic heaven on earth it promises? Let the reply come from Andrew Smith, author of "I was a Soviet Worker." This man, one of the leading Communists in U.S.A., sold all he had and gave the proceeds to the Communist Party, and worked in a Soviet factory for three (Continued on next page.)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

(Continued.)

years. He describes a visit he paid to a fellow-worker and his wife in their "home" at the Cherkisovo Barracks:

"He lived with about 550 others—men and women—in a wooden structure about 800 feet long and 15 feet wide. The room contained approximately 500 narrow beds, covered with mattresses filled with straw and dried leaves. There were no pillows or blankets. Coats and other garments were being utilised for covering. Some of the residents had no beds, and slept on the floor or in wooden boxes. . . . There were no screens or walls to give any privacy to the occupants of the barracks. There were no cupboards or wardrobes, because each one owned only the clothing on his back. I could not stay in the barracks very long. I could not stand the stench of kerosene and unwashed bodies. The only washing facility was a pump outside. . . . The atmosphere was one of sadness and misery unbroken. No laughter or song could be heard. I left as quickly as I could. I was told that 11,000 Electrozavod workers lived in such barracks."

The degradation of this universal slumdom, as related by a disillusioned Communist, is no pleasing prospect as a substitute for our present conditions, depressing as they are. And Smith's testimony has been endorsed in substance by other former Communist sympathisers. It would seem that Communism in practice gives the proletariat worker a hell, rather than a heaven, on earth.

What, then, is the alternative to both Capitalism and Communism? It is a system whereby the abundant wealth of the world will be administered in the interests, not merely of the majority, but of all. We, the people, are the "heirs of all the ages"; we all possess property, to share in the achievements of science, to enjoy the culture and the amenities of modern times, to a security whereby the leisure enforced by the machine may be used to advantage, to conditions conducive to the cultivation of our spiritual and aesthetic tastes. There are enough and to spare, for their equitable distribution is balked only by an insufficiency of the distributing medium, money. This insufficiency is irksome, unnecessary, and wholly artificial. It is due to the manipulations of the financial system by a coterie motivated, not by the interests of humanity, but by a concern only for its own power and profit. It is difficult indeed to understand how the community has for so long been content to suffer the perpetuation of this filching of its rights over its own credit and its own control of the monetary system. No doubt, the great masses of people have placidly accepted the conviction that high finance was a mysterious thing that they could not hope to understand. But the

end is in sight, for the veil has been lifted from the eyes of a sufficient number of earnest people to educate the rest, or, at least, enough of them to ensure success.

It is a poor ideal of life that visualises mankind as a de-personalised herd requiring nothing but a sufficiency of food of a sort, that ignores the spiritual and cultural aspect, that reduces human beings to the status of cogs in a gigantic State machine. This is the end towards which Communism trends. Are we going to be content to leave the field to the advocates of this soulless, unnatural, inhumane existence? It is, as Mr. Wilkinson says for us to say which road to take. If we value our Christian inheritance, there can be but one choice. But let us not be among those who "only stand and wait"; let us lose no opportunity to assert our belief in the possibility of a reform of the social system in accordance with Christian principles, and be able to give reasons for the faith that is within us.

An encouraging endorsement of our aims was given in an A.C.T.S. pamphlet, "Property for the People," written by Rev. P. Coffey, Ph.D., and published in November last. In a footnote on page 14, he says: "The simplest and fairest method of diffusing capital-ownership among the proletariat—of spreading co-partnership and abolishing the 'wage-system'—and of supplementing earned income by dividends from co-operative industry—is by a reform of the Capitalistic money-system on the lines advocated by the Social Credit Movement which has taken shape in recent years."

Capitalism is doomed—meaning, of course, the present unjust capitalistic system. It is for us to say which road we shall take.

D. OMINIE.

Werribee.

**REV. L. WILKINSON, COMMUNISM AND FASCISM**

Your report of the address delivered at Benalla by Rev. L. Wilkinson was at once encouraging and distressing. It is indeed pleasing to note that the reverend gentleman has arisen in support of the only true "revolution." At the outset, he appears to have made a masterly summary of the iniquitous mal-distribution of the national wealth: at the same time, too, his sentiments in that connection are courageously and unmistakably condemnatory. To this extent the address is particularly heartening.

When, however, the current of his rhetoric carries Rev. Wilkinson on to speak of Communism, he betrays a compromising attitude which we can only hope is an emollient for the "Reds" who were probably present at the meeting. "I'd sooner live under Communism than Fascism," he asserts. Now it is truly astonishing to hear such a remark. Fascism is at least honest. The dictators do not make the hollow pretensions of benevolent and "democratic" idealism that is one of the worst and most vicious snares set by the Communistic "saviours of the masses."

Communism is nothing but a snare, which plays completely into the hands of the Money Power. Does not Russia borrow overseas? Has she not the same responsibility of repayment, which we in Australia owe to that same Money Power? The Red propagandist ever rails against the "boss"—the poor creature who has to sweat his employees in order to meet the commitment, glibly called his overdraft. But the Red sneers at the assertion that the crisis is a credit crisis. Communism throws dust in the eyes of its vaunted pet ("the masses") and Finance Capital secretly applauds. It matters naught to the big bankers whether industry is in private control or in the hands of "the proletariat." The judaistic element will still be in command, even if the private pro-

duction-capitalist (and the Christian clergyman) is "liquidated" to satisfy the frenzy of the hog-tied, blindfolded nation of dupes.

In passing, let me ask Rev. Wilkinson to define Fascism. He will have a hard task. If you disapprove of Communism, you are a Fascist! If you express a desire for peace with Italy, you are still a Fascist! It is a convenient slander.

Finally, it would be well for Rev. Wilkinson to reflect that Italy, the Fascist nation, ("Fascist" literally meaning "united"), is no home of mass murder like the "preferable" Soviet Russia. Nor, as I have stated, do the "Fascist" Dictators act otherwise than frankly, even though the Credit-Pirates do hold at their heads the same gun with which they menace Russia.

It may be that I have misunderstood Rev. Wilkinson. I do hope that such is the position. If it is so, then my remarks may bear fruit in other sources. I hold no brief for any authoritarian State, as Italy and Germany admittedly are, but, while so ever I am able, it will be my object to thwart the desperate and detestable trickery that is the bulwark of the Red regime.

"S. CULAPIUS."

Albury, N.S.W.

**PRINCIPLES OF REFORM**

The informative article on the Van Zeeland proposals in last week's *New Times* calls for allegiance to "principles of reform" which may be summarised as follows:—

(a.) The total money in a country should equal the total prices of consumable goods for sale.

(b.) The money required to finance production should not come from savings.

(c.) As productive capacity per man-hour increases, the dividend should progressively displace wages and salaries.

Your writer sees, rightly I believe, the need for a formula that will command the approval of monetary reformers generally and omit none of the essentials of reform.

In order to focus the attention of your readers on this matter the following is put forward as a possible alternative to the formula already given.

(a.) Money supply should be regulated in the interests of the people as a whole.

(b.) When created, money belongs equally to all members of the community and should be issued accordingly.

At first glance these two statements may appear reasonably alike, but a close examination will show that the differences are many and great. The last paragraph of your Van Zeeland article deserves to be quoted as a third possible statement of the ground common to all monetary reformers.

"Let us get rid of the bankers' brand of slavery, debt and death, and demand our birthright of plenty, leisure and life."

C. ELLIS.

97 Sackville Street, Kew, E.4.

**FINANCIAL AID FOR HOSPITALS, PENSIONERS, ORPHANAGES, ETC.**

The proper way to provide financial aid for the above-mentioned institutions—in short the sick and helpless in every part of the Commonwealth, is to make these the very first call on the revenue of both Federal and State Governments. At present these most necessary matters are the last to be attended to. Our politicians should see to this, but, unfortunately, they put themselves and debt charges first. This should not be the case, as after all the most important thing is to see to the health of the community, because man is the greatest asset we possess, without whom Australia would be a wilderness.

Man's labour, when coupled with science and great natural resources, is the most priceless jewel we possess. Let us reverse the old order of things and put the salaries of our politicians as a last call on the Treasury. If there was then a shortage, instead of having Hospital Sunday we could have Politicians' Sunday, with collections, band recitals, church services, etc. Then, naturally, all the electors who supported the sitting members at the polling booth would continue their support by donations to the fund, or if they thought that taxation was too solid, they would signify by the absence of their names from the donation list. We could then further extend this method and have collections for railway deficits, Federal and State deficits, salaries of members of all boards, defence force, police, titled visitors from overseas, garden parties, and other necessary adjuncts. But today, all these "exes" are dealt with as a first charge on revenue. Perhaps a change would be beneficial, and taxpayers, electors, and all concerned would see clearly what becomes of the millions which are wrung out of them by politicians through the Income tax department, etc., under the guise of "balancing the budget." By constitutional means (ballot box) we, the people, can alter any law we want to. We are the Power, and any grievances we suffer from are our own making, and can be altered when we wish to do so. Poverty amidst plenty is merely a reflex of our lack of intelligence in not putting men into Parliament and giving these servants a mandate what to do, and if not done, then out they should go, to be replaced by men who would obey the wishes of the people.—Yours, etc.,

R. COSTIN.

**SIMPLIFYING AND SOFTENING THE DEMAND**

I note that South Australian Electoral Campaigners realise that "we must come down from our lofty perch and use a 'demand' more in the terms of the things the people do understand." Dispassionate workers have been advocating the move for twelve months. They also believe a better term than "demand" could be used. Have you ever experienced the resentment brought out from the other fellow when you have demanded something, or from yourself when demands have been made against you? You get the best co-operation from your servants if orders are communicated in a friendly and tactful manner.

If these points are well handled the Adelaide Town Hall meeting may be an epoch-marking event.

R. E. de NEVATT.

Angaston, South Australia.

**New Times SHOPPING GUIDE and Business Directory**

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(Continued from page 3.)

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**MOTOR GARAGE.** Kew Junction Service Station, Cr. High & Denmark Streets. Haw. 6457.  
**RADIO EXPERT.** J. G. Littlewood 267 High St. Also Elec. Applncs.

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**"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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ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NOTES

VICTORIA

YOU KNOW

that all over the civilised world vast quantities of the things the people have produced have been, and are being, destroyed—the things that the people have made, now need, and cannot buy.

THAT

millions of the people in every country are being denied the natural human right to their daily food, clothing and shelter, and are thus forced to become a burden on their fellow-men.

IT IS ABSURD

to permit such things to be. Savages know better: if there is a shortage, all go short; and if there is plenty, all share it. The savage is not so foolish as his "civilised" brother, who has invented means of converting plenty into scarcity by "Restrictions" and "Control Boards" and such daft devices.

TO ALLOW

millions of fellow-human beings to be denied the natural right of providing for themselves is not only a crime, but it is a very real menace to your security and happiness.

A MAN-MADE MONEY SYSTEM

of figures in books, pieces of printed paper, and metal discs is the "black magic" which is responsible for this tragi-comedy. You are partly to blame, because you have been content to accept things as you have found them, without thinking.

Whether you are an employee, an employer, or one living on "investments", you do not know from day to day when some "crash" or "crisis" in this Money-System may not come

TO SPOIL

your career, to take from you, and those who are dependent upon you, all comfort and happiness by forcing you on to the dole provided by the State through taxation.

YOUR LIFE

is important to you, but it is of no value to the financiers.

\* \* \* \* \*

HEALTH

depends upon enough plain, wholesome food, clean and pleasant surroundings, with a mind free from anxiety. In these days of marvellous invention it is a lie to say that man cannot provide himself with these essentials. He does produce the plenty, but the Money-System prevents him from enjoying the fruits of his industry. Hence the destruction and restriction and artificially created poverty and resultant misery all over the world.

AND

with this poverty, malnutrition and misery comes a menace that seems to have been overlooked—the danger of some new epidemic proceeding from it sweeping like black death over the civilised world, as the influenza did in 1918.

HAPPINESS

except of a very superficial kind, is not possible to anyone with a healthy conscience in the midst of poverty, unhappiness and distress. And real happiness is not possible amidst insecurity in the world today.

IS

it not time to recognise that our mechanised and mass organised civilisation is on the road to suicide (while of unsound mind), and to realise that it is not only

YOUR

duty, but to your interest to get the knowledge of how this disaster can be averted, and help to spread that knowledge? It is your

BIRTHRIGHT

to receive an ample supply of all the things necessary for maintaining health and happiness and a complete freedom from soul-rotting fear of insecurity.

\* \* \* \* \*

On this page is an Elector's Demand and Undertaking form, framed for use in Victoria, which provides you with the means of instructing your Member to convey your DEMAND to Parliament that it Abolish Poverty. Parliament exists to carry out your orders. Sign the Demand form, and post it into the address given, when it will be allotted to its correct electorate.

Council Meeting held in the elections feeling" and the rooms on Tuesday evening revealed that there has been no agreed that the Abolish Poverty idea falling away of enthusiasm. was steadily permeating the Representatives present responded community, and that some measure to the call for renewed activity, of pride is permissible on viewing following the lull of the "after the frequent use of our slogans and

TAXATION (A SIGN OF SERVITUDE) and

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phrasings by organisations, politicians and press. It was decided to carry out a more active publicity campaign in the form of leaflets, stickers, stamps, and, later, advertising in the country papers. Groups will immediately set in motion an agreed-upon systematic collecting programme to secure a regular flow of revenue to meet the expenses of the publicity campaign. The "Home Meeting" was strongly recommended as being the medium for most effective work. Addresses to clubs, societies and organisations to be undertaken on every available occasion. Members are recommended to join various organisations, so as to be able to carry our message to the individuals of an organisation. Special efforts to be made to contact youth movements. The meeting can claim to have been of very great importance, and results will very soon become visible.

Addresses. —Mr. Bruce Brown will address the Collingwood Branch of the C.Y.M.S. next Monday evening. He is guaranteed an audience of fifty young men. On the following Wednesday evening he will address the Prahran Branch of Toc H.

Write to Your M.P.; and don't forget. —The National Insurance Scheme will shortly be rushed through Parliament. Sir Walter Kinnear, advisor to the Commonwealth on the matter, is back in

Australia. "He said today that if the Commonwealth did not put the scheme into operation, its annual bill for invalid and old-age pensions, now £15 millions, would double in thirty years. . . Their payments would take a large slice out of Commonwealth funds."— (Herald, Feb. 7.) So the idea is to relieve Governments of responsibility, and to make the people pay in a form that doesn't look like taxation.

Ask your M.P. why it is necessary to make the people sacrifice portion of their present meagre income to have it returned in the future so as to relieve the Government of its responsibility for the people's welfare? Is a subsistence of from £1 a week (male) or 16/- (female) to be the reward for a life of service? And why a woman less than a man? Is there not enough wealth existing, and latent, in the country to provide a comfortable eventide for its people? Of course there is, and he knows it. Tell him to fight this insurance absurdity, and in its stead have measures brought in that will make the abundance of this country available to its people. Science invention and a bounteous country have provided adequate insurance; and it is your member's duty to voice your demand that all this humbug of taxation and tyranny be ended.

ELECTOR'S DEMAND AND UNDERTAKING.

- 1. I know that there are goods in plenty and that therefore poverty is quite unnecessary and must be abolished.
2. I demand that monetary or other claims to those goods we now destroy and the production we restrict be distributed to every person in Australia, and that taxation be progressively reduced, so that the community may make the fullest use of the country's production.
3. This must not increase prices, deprive owners of their property, or decrease its relative value.
4. In a democracy like Australia, Parliament exists to make the will of the people prevail.
5. So I promise to vote only for a candidate who pledges himself to support in Parliament these my demands.
6. If my present member will not so pledge himself, I will vote to replace him.

Signed..... Address.....

Signed..... Address.....

Signed.... Address.....

Signed..... Address.....

..... Federal Electorate.

Issued by

THE UNITED ELECTORS OF AUSTRALIA (Victorian Division)

(Non-Party.)

McEwan House, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Woodville Group of Toc H was addressed by Mr. M. E. Dodd on February 1. After congratulating the members on the generous "ambulance" work they are doing, the speaker pointed out how the

power to change the cruel economic system lay in the hands of electors. Despite our vaunted prosperity, 15,000 people in South Australia live on about 6/- each per week. The local objectives technique was explained and the idea of making councillors "fill up the hole in the road" was readily apprehended. The suggestion that the basic wage should be paid with or without work by the State, instead of the present niggardly relief payments, met with unanimous approval. This was explained to be a demand for results, and the question, "Where is the money to come from?" was a technical one, regarding methods, which could well be left to experts to solve.

Great interest is being evinced in the meeting to be held in the Town Hall Banqueting-room later this month. The chairman will be Rev. Norman Lade, president of the League of Nations here, and also president of the Inter-Church Council for Social Research, which has just issued its report on "The Causes of Poverty."

The speakers are as follows: Rev. Dr. Swan will speak on "The Christian Challenge to the Industrial Crisis." Rev. A.E. L. Sanders will revel in "The

MENZIES-APOSTLE OF SACRIFICE

By H.A.H.

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

As apostles of sacrifice the leaders of the U.A.P. have a wonderful reputation. With them prosperity is always just "round the corner." So, when Robert G. Menzies (who bids fair to oust J. A. Lyons as the titular figure-head of the aforesaid party), spilled the beans in the following passage, from his article in the Melbourne Age of February 1, we were not surprised.

Writing on the Anglo-American Trade Treaty Mr. Menzies delivered himself thus:—

"It may turn out in the present case that Australia's contribution may not (in a material sense) be great, though its importance is enormous. Having regard to the state of Australian trade with America, there may well be prospects of some immediately compensating benefits. But be that as it may, I do want to emphasise that a long-range view is essential. The prize is so great, the possibilities which an Anglo-American Treaty opens up so significant, that by making a little sacrifice today we may, and I believe will, bring about a more abundant growth in the future."

The prize is so great—a little sacrifice today, more abundant growth in the future! We knew it. Always something in the future. But what an apostle of sacrifice we have in R. G. Menzies! What a paragon of self-denial to whom we can uplift our eyes as a noble and virtuous example. Casting our minds back to the formulation of the Premiers' Plan, with its clarion cry of "equality of sacrifice," we find R. G. Menzies loud in its praise.

Well we—farmers, shopkeepers, workers and businessmen—made sacrifices (dumb fools that we were), but what of R. G. M.?

Since the years when he was loud in his praise of that spawn of distorted intellects, what has he done? He became elevated from the State Parliament House to a position in Federal Cabinet (by what merits I do not know) and drew the accompanying salary. A trip to England, with a fat fee thrown in, and, on top of this, the same gentleman has collected a nice little list of directorships on public companies, which must surely bring him in some considerable remuneration. Imagine then, our apostle of sacrifice billed to speak at Wesley Church on the merits of prohibition, helping himself to the fullest extent from a cask of beer in the pulpit. That is a fitting analogy and gives you an idea of the fitness of this gentleman for the task he has in hand, in preaching a policy of sacrifice. Then, again, did Mr. Menzies, when offering himself for election at Kooyong, speak of sacrifices? Not that we are aware of otherwise would the electors of Kooyong have selected him as their representative? We think not although we are well aware of the fact, though many people are still unaware, that plenty exists for everyone. What a fine opportunity for the electors of Kooyong—

Sing a song of plenty, To sacrifice is rot; Did I but live in Kooyong, I'd show R. G. what's what.

Demoralising Effects of the Ration System." Rev N Giles will present "The demand for Employment or the Payment of the Basic Wage for All." Mr. E. H. Hergstrom will outline the Electoral Campaign in "The Methods Necessary for Bring this Demand into Effect." Rev. Norman Crawford will be at home when speaking on "Christian Social Advance," a Church movement in England.

"FAILURE"

"The production of all kinds of foodstuffs had been steadily increasing; markets were glutted and producers were faced with ruin; at the same time, careful enquiries in a number of countries had shown how extensive was the failure to satisfy normal nutritional requirements. Indeed, while owners of food stocks were unable to find remunerative markets, some parts of the world were suffering from famine; in others, large sections of the population were suffering from serious malnutrition."

League of Nations Report on Nutrition